

**Honours:**

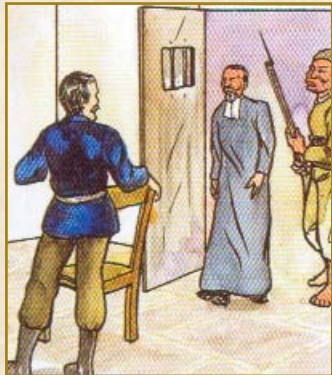
1902: Member of the Academy of Madagascar

1903: Medal of Civil Merit

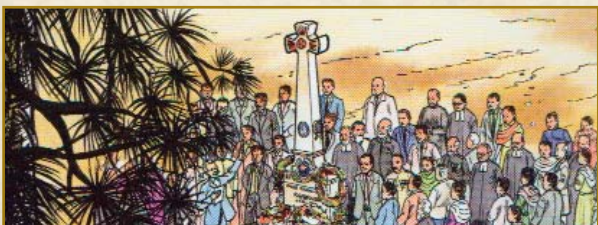
**Imprisonment:**

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1915, he is imprisoned because of an unfair accusation.

He will be released, after being exonerated, on February 18, 1916.



Pilgrims around his tomb.



The message:

Brother Raphaël was:

- A religious - apostle
- A scholar - educator
- A peacemaker - enlightened man



Blessed Brother

Raphaël Rafiringa

a brave and inspired leader





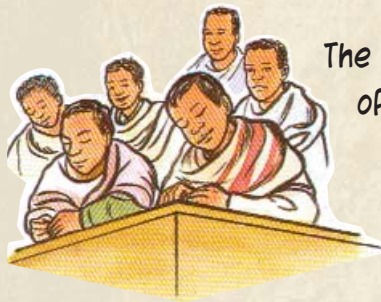
# HIS LIFE

His family belongs to the upper class, but pagan.



His father is captain of the royal blacksmiths.

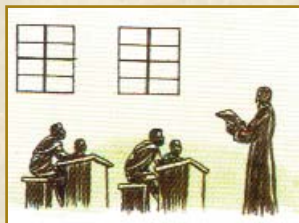
In the year 1866 the Brothers of the Christian Schools open a school in Antananarivo.



The little Firinga is one of the first pupils.

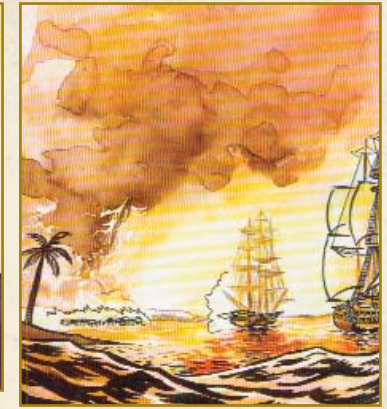
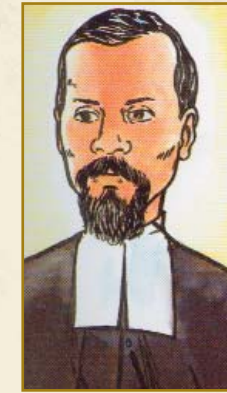
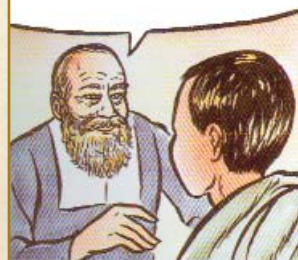


He asks for Baptism and then he seeks to become like his teachers.



- 1856 Born at Antananarivo.
- 1866 Attends the first school opened by the Lasallian Brothers in Madagascar.
- 1869 He is baptized and takes the name of **Raphaël**.
- 1876 He asks to enter in the Congregation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.
- 1879 He makes the Annual Profession.
- 1883 The foreign Missionaries are expelled and he, unique religious of the Country, is elected **President of the Catholic Union for all Madagascar**.
- 1889 He makes his Perpetual Profession.
- 1902 He is named **Member of the Academy of Madagascar**.
- 1903 He is honoured with the **Medal of the Civil Merit** for the success of his efforts to normalize the relations between France and Madagascar.
- 1919 He dies on May 19 at Fianarantsoa.
- 1933 His remains were translated to Antananarivo.
- 2009 He is declared **Blessed**.

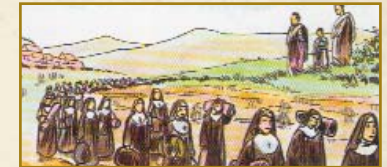
You want to be like me?!...



1883

Missionaries are expelled and Brother

Raphaël is elected Chief of the Catholics of Madagascar.



He teaches...

he works...



he writes books, poems, ... he composes music...

