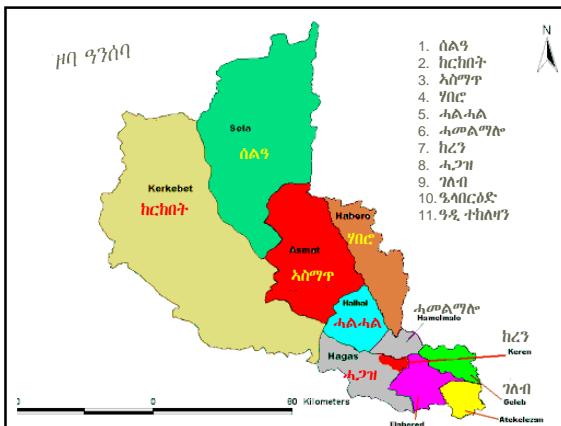


• **INTRODUCTION**  
Eritrea is a country in the Horn of Africa.

Eritrea has 4 Million people: Christians and Moslems.

- In Eritrea one unique blessing and historical fact is the harmony and the peaceful co-existence the Religions.
- It is a beautiful place, with mountainous highlands, semi-desert lowlands and with the Red Sea coastline.



**The historical factors  
that lead to the establishment of the  
Catholic Eparchy of Keren.**

1. the existence of Christian Community:
2. the coming of the MISSIONARIES:

**1. Vincentian Missionaries 1851-1894**

1. The appointed Mons. Bianchieri (1860-1864) St. Justin de Jacobis as **coadjutor and Apostolic Vicar to Keren** area .
2. Mons. Bianchieri after some time of missionary activities proposed to St. Justin de Jacobis that **Keren should be the center to a new ecclesiastical circumscription**. St. de Jacobis without hesitation accepted and approved of the idea as "God inspired".

**2. the capuchin missionary period (1894 – 1930)**

1. a new Apostolic Prefecture of Eritrea, with Fr. Michele da Carbonara its spiritual leader his See being in Keren.

The move of the See to Asmara in 1911

- In accordance with this trend of self-rule, already in 1928, Mons. Celestinio Cattaneo had assigned Abba Zereghaber, parish priest of Keren, as Protopresbyter for the district of Bogos.
- Thus, in 1930 Abune Kidanemariam Kasa was elected and appointed first Pro-Vicar and later Ordinary for the Catholics of Gheez rite.

# The establishment of Catholic Eparchy of Keren

- Pope John Paul II, by the Apostolic Constitution "**Communitates in Orbe**" **21st of December 1995**, with its first Eparch H.B. Abune Tesfamairam Bedho, erected the Catholic Eparchy of Keren.

