



Since 1868... 150 years and counting

THE MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

Nº 3, 2019

Africa Report



"I watch the sunrise... I watch the sunset..." Lord, may we be always close to you so that our departed be always close to us.

Photo MAfr JNV

In death as in life, we are one



Dear Friends,

November is the month of the year when we remember and celebrate with great respect our loved ones who have gone before us. Sharing in this fundamental Christian belief grounds us in the now and makes us anticipate our reunion with them when the time comes for us to meet with our creator.

With these good memories welling up in our minds, it is befitting to recall and meditate the words of the beautiful hymn: "I Watch the Sunrise" by John Glynn that talks about the Lord being with us throughout the day and night. "I watch the sunset, fading away... I feel your presence near me." "I watch the moonlight guarding the night... Your peace is near me..." We believe

that in life and now in death, our faithful departed still hold the strong ties of friendship and affection with us because they do not unravel with death. So, let us not give into the sadness of the separation but on the contrary, let us celebrate their lives and especially the bond that grew between us because in death as in life we are one in the same Lord.

It is what the lyrics of Glynn's hymn invite us to contemplate as we relive the precious moments we shared with them. We are eternally united with them in the Lord because God is always with us: "For you are always close to me, following all my ways. May I be always close to you, following all your ways, Lord." May the eternal peace of Lord rest upon our loved ones now and forever.

Father Barthelemy Bazemo, MAfr
President



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“Do this in memory of Me...”

This November, we remind you of a traditional way of helping the Missionaries while commemorating our beloved departed. While death separates us and makes us grieve, hope and peace of heart can be found in the celebration of the Eucharist. We read in the Catechism of the Church: “The Eucharist also unites Heaven and Earth. Many who have lost a loved one may experience closeness to that person while meditating the death and resurrection of Christ. These feelings may be a result of our awareness that those who died are alive in God. Thus our nearness to the Resurrected Christ in the Eucharist brings us nearer to our departed as well. ... When we participate in the offering of the Eucharist, we are united not only to the faithful alive here on Earth, but also to those alive in the Glory of Heaven. ... This is why the Eucharist, the Mass, is traditionally offered for the faithful departed.”

Since 1868, the Missionaries of Africa have strive to ‘live the Gospel’ among the different peoples of Africa, women and men, children and elderly, all of them facing the struggles of life. Your generous support makes this ministry possible. Suggestions are found on the last page of every Newsletter.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1331-1371

Is it possible to keep a link, to “communicate” with those who are gone to the Other Life? Since the beginning of Humanity, even hundred of thousands of years before Jesus Christ, our Human Ancestors practiced rituals to keep us in communion with the departed.

A Ritual in African Traditional Life

Libation is a ritual pouring of a liquid. It is offered to honor and please the Creator, the Spirits, and the Ancestors, the Humans, living on Earth as in Heaven, as well as the environment. And those present take communion from the drink. Nowadays, libation is found throughout the African World, in and out of the Continent of Africa. Libation were part of ancient Judaism: “And Jacob set up a Pillar in the place where he had spoken to God, a Pillar of Stone, and he poured out a drink offering on it.” Book of Genesis 35:14. Libation was also practiced in ancient Egypt, in the Greek and Roman World, as it is today among the Asians (in China with rice wine or tea), and the First Nations of the Americas.

(from different sources)

GOOD NEWS FROM UGANDA

THREE WATER TANKS PROVIDED TO THE CONVENT

The Daughters of Our Lady of Fatima, in Ndeba, Kampala, Uganda.

Water is life! And, without it, life is difficult when you live in town! The Sisters had to fetch water or pay for it. With the help received from the Development Office of the MAfr, Washington DC, our Sisters are now able to harvest clean rain water from the roofs of our house. We had put a little budget aside to buy the tanks and the plumbing accessories. But we needed your help. This project was recommended by the Archbishop of Kampala and by the Superior of the Missionaries of Africa in Uganda. Many thanks! God bless you!

Sister Solome Beinomugisha, DOLF



GOOD NEWS FROM TANZANIA AND NIGERIA



Usagara, Mwanza, Tanzania Harvesting rain water

The Superior of the Missionaries of Africa in Tanzania, Fr. Francis Kangwa had written to our Development Office: “The Sisters are in a very dry area of Tanzania. For sure this assistance would be of great help to them and the people around them.”

Acknowledging that the project has been completed, Sister Benedicta Anselm send us many photos and wrote: I am grateful and happy to present to you our report with photos. Our Sisters presented this project together with the village leaders of the area. We wanted to extend our services to the people of Usagara. They lack water. We lacked water. People walk for long distances looking for safe water. Our Sisters are responsible for the maintenance of the borehole. The local manpower are helping with safeguarding the water installation. Water is life! By having clean and safe water, the people are free from water diseases.

Our aim has been achieved. We have harvested rain water and the tank is full. We sincerely appreciate your kindness and cooperation in solving the shortage of water in our area. You have supported us in our most basic need: clean water.

Sister Benedicta Anselm,
Evangelizing Sisters of Mary

PHOTOS SENT BY SISTER SOLOME, UGANDA. BY SISTER BENEDICTA ANSELM, TANZANIA. BY FATHER EMMANUEL, NIGERIA.

Polchi, Bauchi, Nigeria Church and Parish Hall Roofing

Dear Missionaries of Africa,
Development Office,
Washington, D.C.

On behalf of the Catholic Community of Polchi (Bauchi Diocese, Nigeria), I sincerely express our collective sentiments of appreciation for the grant given to us, which enabled us to finish the roofing of our new church building. This gesture has given us the possibility to celebrate our liturgical functions. Our faith is deepened and strengthened by this act of generosity and fraternity.

Our community is young. It is situated in a farming area. Farming is the main source of income. People are not too well off. In the old church, a majority of people had to stand outside the church during mass and other church activities. The people were motivated to build a new church. In the course of the work, the community more than doubled the grant received from you. Attached to this mail are photos of the various stages of the work (on the photos we read We assure you of our prayers as you continue to support the service of the Gospel in Africa and in the entire World. Thanks and God bless!

Rev. Father Emmanuel Yasikkam Obidiah
Diocesan priest, Pastor of Polchi





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Missionaries of Africa, Inc.
Development Office
1622 21st. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-1003

Any questions, please call our
Development Office:
1-877-523-4662

**The Charitable IRA Rollover is a federal law, consult your tax preparer for your state regulations.*



WAYS TO GIVE TO OUR MISSION

- Join our Friends of Hope Monthly Giving Plan.
- Memorial Gifts in memory of a loved one.
- Celebrate a birthday, wedding or anniversary with a donation to our works in Africa.
- Donation of stock: appreciated securities, stocks, bonds or annuities provide the same benefit as a cash gift.
- Life Insurance - consider naming the *Missionaries of Africa* as a beneficiary.
- Bequests – an estate gift to the *Missionaries of Africa* will continue our mission works.

For more information, contact:
1-877-523-4662

The Africa Report
is published four times a year
by the
**Society of
Missionaries of Africa, Inc.**
1622 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-1003
(202) 232-5995

Series 10, Vol. 91
No. 3, 2019