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# MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

No. 1, 2020

## The Africa Report



The Resurrection of Jesus (JESUSMAFA.com)

"On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women ... went to the tomb." Luke 24

### Hope in times of uncertainty!



Spring 2020

Dear Friends,

We are facing unprecedented times of uncertainty following the severe outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019, commonly known as COVID-19. This crisis has raised fears and anxieties about our wellbeing and the safety of our world. Unfortunately, some families are already grieving the loss of a loved one, and we don't know how long this situation will last and its potential consequences for all of us.

We are shaken to the very core of our existence as drastic measures adopted by our civil and religious authorities deeply constrain our lives. However, amid

these moments of anguish, anger, or sadness, there is room for hope in our capacity to break the cycle of infection and be part of the solution. We have the responsibility to do our part to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Sharing in this sacred call makes the people we care about and our community stronger.

It is my sincere hope that the celebration of Easter will bring consolation and comfort to all who have been affected by this crisis. May the eternal peace of the Lord rest upon you and your loved ones.

Yours in the Risen Christ,

Rev. Barthélemy Bazemo, M.Afr.  
President

## Our Mission

Since our founding in 1868 by Cardinal Charles Lavigerie, the **Society of Missionaries of Africa** has worked tirelessly throughout the vast African continent implanting the Gospel, providing relief, and aiding in the development of men, women and children. We continue to remain faithful to that call to share the life and mission of Jesus, and to give witness to the Gospel in Africa and among Africans wherever they may be.

One way that we are working to help alleviate poverty and deprivation, that are still quite widespread throughout Africa, is through funding projects that foster self-reliance and human dignity. In this issue of our newsletter, we focus on projects recently funded in **Burkina Faso, Uganda and Burundi**.

The Society of Missionaries of Africa also furthers its Mission Purpose by providing the people of God in America with the opportunity to offer spiritual and financial support for its religious, social, educational and charitable works and co-workers in Africa. Thank you for all that you do to make our work possible! For more information on the ongoing work of the **Missionaries of Africa**, visit our website at:

[www.missionariesofafrica.org](http://www.missionariesofafrica.org)



## Celebrating Easter throughout Africa

Easter, the time when people around the world remember the Resurrection of Jesus, is celebrated in a variety of ways around the world. Here are some African traditions and customs:

- In **South Africa**, boxes of Easter eggs, which symbolize new life are collected and distributed to children in underprivileged schools.
- In **Ethiopia**, after Easter Mass, celebrants partake in dances and delicious meals. Both Christians and non-Christians come together to enjoy roasted chicken, goat, and rice dishes.
- In **Ghana**, Easter is synonymous with paragliding, which takes place on the Kwahu mountains in the Eastern region. Dozens of Ghanaians and tourists travel to the region to celebrate the festivities.

**Your financial support continues to make a difference!**

## Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso

### **New Chicken Farm proving to be a sustainable source of food!**

Thanks to your generosity, the *Poultry Project for Self-Reliance* in Burkina Faso, West Africa, has been able to purchase the "starter chickens" and other materials needed to make the program a success. "A few months ago, we received your financial support for our chicken project," Sr. Therese Kindo writes. "It gave us great joy as your help has enabled us to get things going! Now our children are getting the education and food they need -- things that are critical for every child. God bless you for everything you are doing!"

**Sr. Therese Kindo, SAB  
Project Coordinator**



**New chickens for the Poultry Project!**  
Photo courtesy of Sr. Therese Kindo, SAB



## **Kagamba, Uganda**

### **New Hospital Beds!**

"Thank you for the support you have given us to purchase health unit beds and mattresses," writes Sr. Fausta Kyamagusha. Sr. Fausta had written asking for help for the St. Lucia Health Unit in Kagamba, Uganda. "We faced a significant challenge with our old beds -- which were wooden with wire springs that were often broken or in need of repair. Needless to say these were neither supportive nor comfortable for our patients. But thanks to your generous support, we were able to purchase new metal beds, mattresses and pillows."

The St. Lucia Health Unit, where Sr. Fausta works, was founded by a group of Missionary Sisters more than 20 years ago for those in the most remote regions of the country. "People were dying on their way to get medical care because it was so far away," Sr. Fausta explained in her initial letter to us. "The people needed our help -- so we founded a health unit in Kagamba. Now, thanks to you, we have 20 new adult beds and five new beds for children. The patients also used to roll their clothes up in a ball to use as a pillow. Now, we have new pillows for them as well. Thank you so very much!"

**Sr. Fausta Kyamagusha**  
**Health Unit Director**



ABOVE: PHOTOS OF THE NEW BEDS (PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SR. FAUSTA KYAMAGUSHA).



Above: Learning to use sewing machines; Bottom: Students learning basket-making.



## **Ngozi, Burundi**

### **Critical job skills training!**

In the tiny nation of Burundi -- situated in East Africa's Great Rift Valley -- a group of Missionary Sisters had been struggling to help young people find the employment they desperately needed. That's when the Sisters decided to begin training young people in skills such as dressmaking, cooking, shoemaking, and embroidery. Now, thanks to your generosity, young people throughout the community are getting the training they need to develop critical job skills

"We needed tables, sewing machines, and an assortment of materials," Sr. Nathalie Lubungu writes. "Thanks to you, we have been able to purchase what was needed and to expand the training program to accommodate more students. Young people are now using the sewing machines and other equipment to become skilled enough to provide for themselves and their families. We are incredibly grateful to you."

**Sr. Nathalie Lubungu**  
**Project Manager**



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## Charitable IRA Rollover

### Help us continue our mission in Africa!

#### *What is a Charitable IRA Rollover?*

- Charitable IRA Rollover is a permanent provision in the U.S. tax code for donors age 70½ or older to make a tax-wise gift to non-profit organizations, including the **Missionaries of Africa**.

#### *Benefits of Charitable IRA Rollovers*

- Satisfies requirements for annual minimum IRA withdrawals.
- Avoids federal and in some cases, state income tax.\*
- Provides vital and ongoing support to the Missionaries and their missions in Africa.

#### *Guidelines*

- Donors age 70½ or older at the time of distribution.
- Gifts must be transferred directly from your IRA account to the **Missionaries of Africa**.
- Charitable gifts up to \$100,000 can be given each year.

#### *How to make a Charitable Gift?*

- Donors should contact their IRA Bank or broker/administrator to request an IRA distribution transfer to the **Missionaries of Africa**. Instruct your administrator to issue a check to the

**Society of Missionaries of Africa, Inc.**  
Development Office  
1622 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009-1003

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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.*

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### Protecting Your Privacy

The **Missionaries of Africa** do not sell, rent, or exchange donors' names nor donors' contact information.  
We are very grateful to you and cherish your commitment to our mission and service among the people of Africa.



### 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.
- Donations of **stock**, appreciated **securities**, **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.

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