

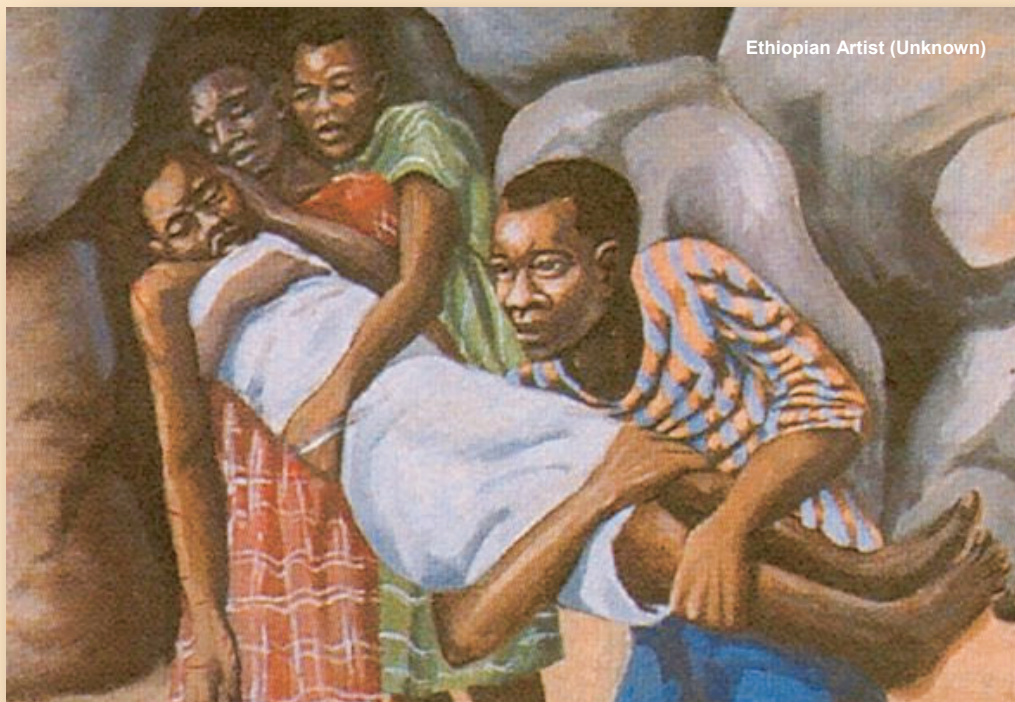


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MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

No. 3, 2020

The Africa Report



Ethiopian Artist (Unknown)

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

"God is our refuge and strength"

Autumn 2020

Dear Friends,

This year has been particularly difficult for all of us. The health crisis sparked by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has disrupted and even upended our lives beyond telling. The outbreak has already produced countless casualties. Many of us have been directly affected or know neighbors or acquaintances who bear the dramatic consequences of this invisible enemy. We are hurting and cannot wait to see the end of this tragedy. In these difficult moments of grief and human suffering, it is vital to foster and show solidarity with those whose lives and livelihoods have been shattered by the pandemic.

Every year in November, we remember the precious memories of our loved ones who have gone before us. It is the occasion to recall the blessings of the beautiful years we shared with them. This remembrance season gives us

the opportunity to celebrate and surround our beloved departed with prayers, especially through the Eucharistic celebration, as we accompany them on their last journey.

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 the words of the psalmist, we have the confidence to assert: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). May the eternal peace of the Lord rest upon our loved ones now and forever.



Sincerely,

Fr. Barthelemy Bazemo, M.Afr.
President

Our Spirituality

The **Missionaries of Africa** draw their inspiration from the tradition of Ignatian spirituality. From the very beginning of our Society's history, our founder, Cardinal Charles Lavigerie, chose Jesuit priests to initiate the first novices into the spirituality of Saint Ignatius of Loyola (founder of the Jesuits). Cardinal Lavigerie had an admiration for the Jesuits and wanted his missionaries to have a practical approach to life and mission, able to unite prayer and action. He wanted them to be "contemplatives in action" -- a phrase coined by Jerome Nadal, an early companion of Ignatius.

Today, the gift of spirituality -- whether demonstrated through formal retreats, prayer or simply by being present to those who are suffering -- is something that the **Missionaries of Africa** bring to men, women and children in need. This presence, though, is only made possible through the generosity and financial support of individuals such as yourself. For this, we are extremely grateful!

In this issue of our newsletter, we share with you a glimpse of some of the missions that have benefitted from kindness and caring. For more information about our work, please visit our website at:

www.missionariesofafrica.org



Wa, Ghana

Ongoing Training for Missionaries!

A few months ago, Bishop Richard Baawobr, M.Afr., of the Diocese of Wa, Ghana, asked if we could help the missionaries in his diocese get the on-going training and formation that is so critical to effective ministry. "Continuing education and formation is particularly essential in the areas of theology and sacramental ministry, as well as the importance of child protection. Our priests also gain so much by coming together and sharing pastoral experiences. Thank you for making this possible!" (Photo courtesy of Fr. Edward Kuukure)

**Bishop Richard Baawobr, M.Afr.
Wa, Ghana**

Thank you for your kindness and on-going financial support!

Bukavu, DR Congo

New Youth Center is helping to change lives!

"Many of the young people here are forced to work in the mines like slaves," Fr. Bernard Uguex, M.Afr., explained in his letter. "They receive very little pay and must work in very dangerous conditions. We want to build a Training Center that will help teach job skills for carpentry, plumbing and mechanical work." Thanks to your financial support, the Training Center for the young people of Ibanda, Bukavu, has recently been completed and is now operational. "As the trainees finish their apprenticeship and become employed, they will in turn help provide support for the new Center. This has been made possible because of your generosity. Thank you!"

**Fr. Bernard Uguex, M.Afr.
Administrator**

**Top: Worker plastering the exterior
of the new Training Center.**

Bottom: The new Training Center!

**Photos courtesy of
Fr. Bernard Uguex, M. Afr.**



Kasanga, Uganda

Clean water for schools and medical center!

When Fr. Godwine Bwambale wrote to us asking if we could help provide clean water for the schools and medical center in his community, he was desperate. "We have three schools with more than 1300 students and a medical center that averages more than 50 patients a day. We are in urgent need of a source of clean water," he wrote. "Because we are in such a rural area, sources of safe drinking water are in short supply. Can you help us?"

When we wrote to you explaining the water shortage crisis, you responded. Because of your financial support, the people of Kasanga now have a reliable source of safe, clean water.

"We have been able to purchase water storage tanks so that there is a constant flow of safe water for our people. More than 25% of the people in our country do not have access to safe drinking water. You have helped change that! For this, we cannot thank you enough."

Fr. Godwine Bwambale
Administrator



Top: Workers placing a water storage tank on its foundation.



Left photo: Community residents standing in line to fill their containers with clean water!

Top photos courtesy of Fr. Godwine Bwambale. Bottom photo courtesy of Fr. Emmanuel Obidiah.

Bauchi, Nigeria

Finally: A roof on their church!

"When the number of people coming to church here continued to grow," Fr. Emmanuel explains, "we knew that we needed to build a new church. The people here are very poor, so the parishioners did as much of the work themselves as possible -- but we could not afford a roof. Without a roof -- when the rainy season comes -- only a few people can be in the building at a time without getting wet. Thanks to you, that has changed."

Because of the continued caring of friends like you, the parishioners of St. James Pastoral Area have finally gotten a new roof for the church.



St. James' parishioners in front of their completed church!

"You cannot imagine the difference this has made within our people and our community," Fr. Emmanuel continues. "We can now be in church when the rains come or when the sun is too hot to be outdoors. Our people feel like they have been given a new beginning -- a fresh start. Thank you again to all of those who helped make this possible."

Fr. Emmanuel Obidiah
Pastor



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Help us continue our mission in Africa!

Charitable IRA Rollover

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:



Society of Missionaries of Africa, Inc.
Development Office
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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.*

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 SUPPORT 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 support 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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