

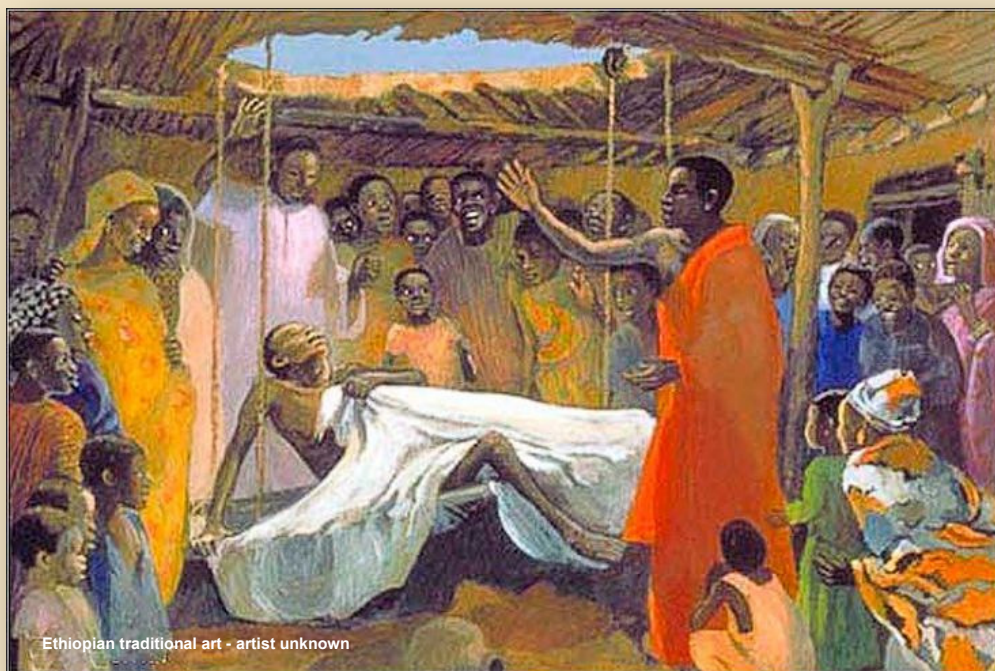


Since 1868... 150 years and counting

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

No. 2, 2022

The Africa Report



Ethiopian traditional art - artist unknown

"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." Luke 5:24

Nurturing the flame of Hope!

A Message to the *Missionaries of Africa* from Pope Francis

"For this General Chapter, you have chosen to work on *mission as prophetic witness* I want to tell you that I was very pleased to hear that you have lived these days "with gratitude" and "with hope." This is beautiful. Looking at the past with gratitude is a sign of good spiritual health; it is the *deuteronomic* attitude that God taught his people (cf. *Dt 8*), cultivating grateful remembrance of the journey the Lord has had us take. And this gratitude is what nurtures the flame of hope. Someone who does not thank God for the gifts he has sown along the way — albeit tiring and at times painful — does not even have a hopeful heart, open to the surprises of God and trusting in his providence. In particular, this spiritual attitude is decisive to allow to mature the seedlings of the vocation that the Lord inspires with his Spirit and his Word. A community in which one knows how to say "thank you" to God and to one's brothers, and in which one helps the other to hope in the Risen Lord, is a community that attracts and sustains those who are called to it. So, keep going in this way: with gratitude and hope!" *Pope Francis to the Missionaries of Africa, June 13, 2022. Photo and text courtesy of Vatican Media.*



A special letter from our President

Summer 2022

Dear Friends,

In May-June this year, a few dozen delegates of the *Missionaries of Africa* met in Rome for our General Chapter. This gathering that takes place every six years represents a unique and spirit-filled moment in the life of our Society. It is always a time of intense prayer and dialogue to deepen our charism and discern the signs of the times for a mission oriented toward the needs and aspirations of God's people.

In light of the world's unprecedented crisis aggravated by an aggregation of factors like the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the effects of global warming, the impact of the Russia-Ukraine geo-strategic war, and the galloping inflation affecting consumer prices, Africa, more than ever, is at the crossroads and dramatically affected. As a result, many communities and households have found themselves in precarious situations.

Economies are collapsing, and the likelihood of direct brutal clashes between farmers and herders for water resources has heightened by the day. Besides the burden of existing protracted conflicts, the rise of violent extremism and terrorism in West Africa and North Africa continue to exact untold sufferings on vulnerable civilians. The East, the Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes regions hosted nearly five million refugees at the end of 2021, twenty percent of the global refugee population. In addition, conflict in the Tigray region in Ethiopia led to the internal displacement of more than three million Ethiopians by the end of 2021.

All this provides context to the challenges of the Church's mission of evangelization, reconciliation, and care in Africa. It calls for solidarity to respond to the urgent needs of the most affected communities. However, there is a need for a long-term strategy to address the structural causes of a system that keeps a continent endowed with abundant natural resources in abject poverty. I hope you will be part of that great dream to offer disadvantaged people better opportunities to build a life of respect and dignity.

Your Missionary Friend,

Rev. Barthelemy Bazemo, M.Afr.
President



Fr. Barthelemy
Bazemo, M.Afr.



Left: Members of the *Missionaries of Africa* meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican during the General Chapter this past May-June. Above: Pope Francis greeting one of the Missionaries.

Photos courtesy of
Vatican Media.

For all that you do to help those in need, thank you!

Bukoba, Tanzania

Rainwater harvesting system for Convent!

"Thanks to your generosity, we were able to buy 5 water tanks and the materials needed to support them. We have now begun harvesting the rainwater from the roof of our main building. Since we live in an equatorial region there are long dry seasons. We want to let you know that now that the water storage tanks have been installed, we should be able to avoid any water problems at the Kagondo Mother House. God bless you for all that you are doing."

Sr. Liberata Kokushumbusha, Administrator



TOP LEFT: WORKERS AND SISTERS UNLOADING THE NEW WATER TANKS. TOP RIGHT: SR. LIBERATA OVERSEEING THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW WATER STORAGE TANKS. LEFT: SCHOOL CHILDREN HELPING TO UNLOAD GUTTERS AND MATERIALS FOR THE NEW WATER HARVESTING SYSTEM!

(Photos provided by Sr. Liberata)

Mbarara, Uganda

New computer lab is changing lives!

"On behalf of Corpus Christi Chaplaincy, we wish to express our deepest gratitude for the support granted to us! We had requested your help in setting up a computer lab to enable students who cannot afford laptops to follow their classes remotely. We also needed to access the internet for research purposes, not withholding the fact that it will help in the formation of those without knowledge in computer."

"Thanks to you and the support of the Chaplaincy, we have fully accomplished what we had in mind to do. Our students now have access to a computer lab, a printer that scans, prints and makes photocopies. We also have access to Wi-Fi internet service for the 50 girls occupying the hostel and for other members of the chaplaincy. What a difference this makes in education! God bless you."

Rev. Fr. Nelson Chinedu Ekeh
Project Director



Photos: Students making use of the new computer lab and other equipment. The new equipment is especially helpful for students who cannot afford their own computer.

Your generosity makes this possible!

A message from our Director of Development

In the Catholic tradition, the month of November is often thought of as *The Month of All Souls*. It is a month when we remember especially our beloved dead. The month begins with *All Saints' Day* on November 1, followed by *All Souls' Day* on November 2, when we pray especially for our deceased loved ones. It is a powerful tradition of the faith deeply rooted in our understanding and belief around death and the promise of eternal life that we have received in Jesus Christ. It is an act of love that we can do for those who have gone before us, marked with a sign of faith, a sign of love and communion in the communion of Saints.

The *Missionaries of Africa* will be offering a very special Mass for your deceased loved ones and family members on *All Souls' Day* and throughout the month of **November**. You are welcome to send us the names of those you would like us to pray for using the enclosed card or email them to prayers@missionariesofafrica.org. Also, as always, please feel free to reach out to me directly at canderson@missionariesofafrica.com.



Christopher Anderson

God bless you for all that you do to support our work!

Help us continue our mission in Africa!

Charitable IRA Transfers

- Donors age 70 1/2 or older can transfer a contribution each year directly from a traditional IRA account. This may satisfy a portion or all of the annual required minimum distribution (RMD) and serve as a qualified charitable distribution for your IRA, which can decrease your tax burden even if you are no longer itemizing deductions.

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



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Development Office
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Any questions, please call our Development Office
877-523-4662 or email info@missionariesofafrica.org

* Always consult your tax preparer for your state regulations.

Protecting Your Privacy

The **Missionaries of Africa** do not sell, rent, or exchange donors' names or 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.
- Make a **Memorial Gift** in memory of a loved one.
- **Celebrate** a birthday, wedding or anniversary with a donation to our works in Africa.
- Donations of **stock, 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 support the ongoing work of the **Missionaries of Africa**.

For more information, call us at:
877-523-4662

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