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MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

No. 3, 2021

The Africa Report



"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." John 11:25

A message from our President: Remembering our loved ones



Dear Friends,

After a series of traumatic events that befell his family during the 1870s, Horatio Spafford turned to poetry. "It is well; it is well with my soul," he wrote expressing his overwhelming grief. The poem has since become one of the most influential and enduring expressions of human sorrow, used in various Christian fellowships across the world. The lyrics evoke the tragedy of death, the grief of separation, the hope and, especially, the anticipation of eternal life when we are reunited with our loved ones.

Here, we are all made aware of the sobering reality that we cannot escape the call to meet with our Creator at the appointed time. This November, as we remember and celebrate with great respect those who have gone before us, we express one fundamental Christian belief that grounds

us in the now and opens us to the dimension of life after death. Embracing this path brings comfort and healing in times of bereavement. In life as well as in death, our loved ones have strong ties of friendship and affection with us because they do not unravel with death. So, let us not give in to the sadness of separation, but, on the contrary, let us celebrate their lives and the bond that grew between us. In death just as in life, we are one in the same Lord. We are eternally united with them in the Lord because God is always with us. May the eternal peace of the Lord rest upon our loved ones now and forever.

God bless you.

Rev. Barthélemy Bazemo, M.Afr.
President

Celebrating All Souls' Day

Each year on November 2nd, many Christians (including Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and Eastern Orthodox) observe *The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed*, also known as "All Souls' Day." We are encouraged to pray for those who have died, especially our loved ones. The prayers offered for these souls assist in expediting the process of preparing them to be in God's Divine Presence. We recognize that few of us ever achieve perfection in this life and, therefore, we die still carrying our tendencies toward human imperfection. The Catholic Church, for example, teaches that "all who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death, they undergo purification so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." It is important to recognize that this *purging* (or "Purgatory") is not a state of punishment but rather *a period of cleansing*. On November 2, remember your deceased loved ones by lighting a candle, attending a church service, or making a charitable donation in their memory. To make a gift in memory of a loved one, visit our website:

www.missionariesofafrica.org

New stone wall for protecting mission buildings is completed!

Society of the Missionaries of Africa

Dear Friends:

As we explained in our initial letter to you, due to brush fires and the subsequent soil erosion threatening the existence of our mission buildings, the need for a stone wall surrounding our mission property was urgent. The fires had already claimed a number of trees and we were growing more and more concerned for the safety of our staff.

Thanks to your generous financial support, we were able to purchase the needed building materials and have been able to finish the wall. God bless you!

**Fr. John Mubanga, M.Afr.
St. Benedict Parish
Wa, Ghana**



Photo provided by
Fr. John Mubanga, M.Afr.

Thanks to you, our work continues!

Kyotera, Uganda

New Textbooks for Students at Mary Immaculate Primary School!



Mary Immaculate School students using their new textbooks!

Photo courtesy of Sr. Leah Kinyua, SMI

Thanks to your ongoing kindness and generosity, students at the Mary Immaculate Primary School in Kyotera, Uganda, are finally getting the books they desperately needed!

"The new textbooks were distributed to pupils in 7 classes," writes headmistress, Sr. Leah Kinyua, SMI. "In some classes, two students share a book between themselves. Nevertheless, they are overjoyed when they get to have the book to themselves. They can read on their own and do assignments with ease. God bless you for making this possible!"

**Sr. Leah Kinyua, SMI
Headmistress**

Kisoro, Uganda

New Solar Panels for Health Center!

In many parts of rural Africa, having a reliable source of electricity is a challenge. Even if service is available, entire communities can still experience *brown-outs* or even a complete loss of power for days on end. Because of this, medical clinics and health centers such as St. Joseph's Health Center in Kisoro, Uganda, are often forced to rely on gas powered generators to keep the lights on and medical equipment operating. But the cost of fuel for running these generators can make them expensive!

"Because of the need to keep life-saving equipment functioning, we do not have the option of not having power," explains Sr. Maria Tumuheirwe, DOLF, a missionary working at the health center. "Because of your financial support, we have been able to purchase solar panels and batteries to keep all of our equipment running. So many lives are being touched by your generosity! No longer do we have to be concerned about losing power and lives being lost as a result of that. God bless you for everything you are doing for the poor."

Sr. Maria Tumuheirwe, DOLF
Bursar

(Photos provided by Sr. Mary Mukanyangezi, DOLF)



PHOTOS SHOWING SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED IN THE MATERNITY WARD (TOP RIGHT) AND FOR IN-PATIENT FACILITIES (TOP LEFT).

Mawelewele, Tanzania

Clean Water for Secondary School

When the Religious Brothers at the SCIM Polytech Secondary School needed water for their students, they weren't sure where to turn. "We knew that we had to find a source of clean water," explains Brother Barnabas Masagamasi, SCIM, headmaster of the school. "But we did not know where we would get the funds to pay for drilling a new well. So much of the water around here is contaminated; it is not safe for us to use. It carries diseases such as typhoid and cholera. We were hoping that you would help us ... and you did!"

"Because of your generous donation, we have been able to drill a new well and install tanks for water storage. On behalf of all of our students, thank you for your kindness!"

Bro. Barnabas Masagamasi, SCIM
Headmaster

(Photos provided by Bro. Barnabas Masagamasi)



Top: New water storage tanks; Bottom: The SCIM Polytech Secondary School.



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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 such as 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 70 ½ 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



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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.

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**, 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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