

# THE AFRICA REPORT

## EXPANDING OUR MISSION: NEW PARISHES BRINGING HOPE

**Father Barthelemy Bazemo, M.Afr.**

**Provincial of the Americas and President of the Missionaries of Africa, Inc.**

The Missionaries of Africa are committed to bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to more people across the continent. This commitment to expansion is at the heart of who we are as a missionary society. Our growth takes many forms, from community centers to schools, but the cornerstone of our mission remains the establishment of new parishes and missions.

A recent example of this expansion is the opening of Good Shepherd Parish in Loroo, Uganda. This new parish, emerging from an out-station of St. Joseph Amudat Parish, was created due to the vast area and significant distance from the original parish. The new parish will serve the sub-county of Loroo, which has a population of 41,000 Pokot people. There are approximately 130,000 Pokot speakers in Uganda, with another 783,000 in Kenya.

The pastor of Good Shepherd Parish is Fr. Jurey Jame Valendez Dela Cerna, M.Afr, a native of the Philippines. Fr. Jurey brings a wealth of experience from his previous work with the Tepeth people in Uganda. Despite the challenges of learning a new dialect and adapting to new tribal customs, Fr. Jurey embraces his new mission with faith and determination. He says, "It is my conviction that this is God's will for me. I am happy with my decision to continue serving the people of eastern Uganda, aware of the difficulties and hardships of starting from scratch in a new parish. I am new to their dialect, building a new shelter, looking for means of transport for pastoral work, and most especially, building a new church for the people of God."

Thanks to your generosity, we have already assisted Good Shepherd Parish by helping to fund their well, which is equipped with a solar-powered water pump. Going forward, we will be assisting with the school expansion and the building of the church itself.

Good Shepherd Parish already has a nursery and primary school, with plans to expand as the children grow older. Given the over 50-mile journey on unpaved roads to the nearest hospital, the parish has also opened a dispensary to provide essential medical services. Additionally, our pastoral outreach efforts include supporting pre-teen and teenage girls who are often victims of forced marriage by rape and female genital mutilation. Encouraging the community to protect these girls and ensuring their education is a critical focus for us.

The opening of new parishes like Good Shepherd is a testament to the enduring mission of the Missionaries of Africa. Each new parish represents a beacon of hope and a center for spiritual and social support. As we continue to expand, we remain dedicated to serving communities, fostering education, and promoting health and well-being.

As an important benefactor of the Missionaries of Africa, you are integral to this expanding ministry. Thank you for your support and partnership in our mission.



*Outdoor Mass with the Pokot people in eastern Uganda.*



# AFRICAN FAITH LEADERS URGE DEBT RELIEF

As the 2025 Jubilee Year nears, African Christian and Muslim leaders are calling for urgent debt forgiveness to address the continent's economic struggles. At a recent meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, representatives from 13 African nations issued a joint statement to global institutions like the G20, G7, UN, IMF, and World Bank. They emphasized that current debt servicing costs, projected at \$90 billion for 2024, are hindering investment in essential services like health and education.

Echoing Pope Francis's calls, the leaders highlighted the need for substantial changes to the global economic system. They recalled the successful Jubilee 2000 campaign, which provided \$130 billion in debt relief and spurred significant poverty reduction. However, ongoing issues like conflicts, climate change, and pandemic impacts continue to exacerbate debt challenges.

The statement urges global lenders to prioritize people and the environment, advocating for forgiving unpayable debts and implementing fair lending practices. It calls for a renewed focus on development resources that do not exacerbate debt burdens.

*Source: Vatican News*



*Traders buy and sell camels in the camel market in eastern Ethiopia. Photo courtesy of Roy Gilham.*

## KABALE, UGANDA SENIOR SISTERS GET HOT WATER



*Installation of insulated hot water pipes at Rushoroza Mother House in Kabale, Uganda*

Thanks to the support of U.S. donors to the Missionaries of Africa, senior sisters in central Uganda now have hot water. The sisters, who are part of the Daughters of Our Lady of Fatima and reside at Rushoroza Mother House in Kabale, are benefiting from having running hot water for bathing and cleaning for the first time. Assistance from the Missionaries of Africa helped to purchase and install solar water heaters, insulated hot water tanks, and new hot water pipes.

Sr. Scholastica Kyobutungi, the Superior General of the Daughters of Our Lady of Fatima, says, "Before the installation of the water heaters, we had to boil water for hot water. The process was not only time-consuming but also physically demanding. We had to spend hours gathering firewood, tending to the fire, and waiting for the water to reach the desired temperature. Now we can turn a faucet."

This improvement in daily living conditions not only enhances the comfort and health of the sisters but also allows them to focus more on their important ministries. The Missionaries of Africa and their supporters are grateful for the opportunity to make such a meaningful difference in their lives.



## ILALWANSIMBA, TANZANIA

### TRUE BICYCLE MESSENGERS



In Africa, the Good News still arrives by bicycle messenger. With a small grant, the parish in Ilalwansimba purchased two dozen bicycles for their catechists to ride out to surrounding mission chapels and nearby hamlets. Catechists like these in East Africa play an important role in their communities, leading communal prayer and teaching the faith. One of the catechists, Samuel Nsonko, says, “The bicycles will help us to go into schools for teaching religion. As well, they will help us to arrive on time because some of us dwell far away from the outstation churches where we serve as catechists. Thus, we thank you so much and assure you of our constant prayers.”

*Father Novatus Safari blesses the new bicycles and the catechists in Ilalwansimba, Tanzania.*

## TAMALE, GHANA

### NEW COMPUTERS ENHANCE LEARNING

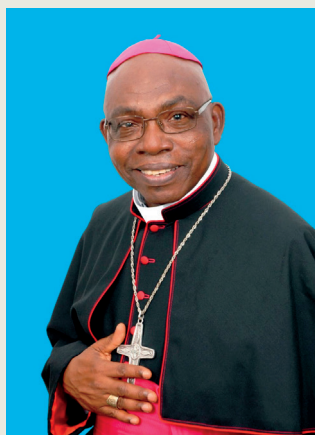
Students at St. Charles Lwanga Roman Catholic School are benefiting from computers in north-central Ghana. The principal, Sr. Margaret Kibola, reports that the computers were installed this past winter, and the updated computer lab is now a place of teaching and learning not only for Information Computer Technology lessons but also other subjects in science and creative arts. The teachers are also using the lab once a week for their own ongoing formation. This has made teaching easier and more interesting for both teachers and learners.

Access to modern technology in classrooms enhances learning experiences, equipping students with vital skills for the future. By investing in education and technology, we foster a brighter, more knowledgeable generation capable of driving positive change in their communities and beyond.



*Students at St. Charles Lwanga School using their new computers for enhanced learning.*

## MISSIONARY OF AFRICA APPOINTED BISHOP OF WA, GHANA



A Missionary of Africa, Father Francis Bomansa, M.Afr., has been appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Wa, Ghana by the Holy Father. The appointment was made on May 22, 2024, and his episcopal ordination took place in August. Father Bomansa has served in various roles with the Missionaries of Africa, including as deputy superior general since 2022.

The Diocese of Wa, located in the Upper West Region of Ghana, was established in 1960 and serves as a vital center for the Catholic faith in the region. Known for its commitment to education, health care, and social services, the diocese works tirelessly to uplift and support the local communities. The diocese is also recognized for its efforts in promoting interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence among diverse religious groups.

# HONORING ALL SOULS' DAY

Each year on November 2nd, we celebrate the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, more commonly known as All Souls' Day. This sacred occasion invites us to remember and pray for those who have passed away, especially our dearly loved ones. Since few of us achieve perfection in this life, our prayers can help prepare the souls of the departed to stand in God's Divine Presence.

On All Souls' Day, we encourage you to honor your deceased loved ones through prayer or a charitable donation made in their memory. To have the names of your loved ones included in our special intentions for All Souls' Day, please visit our website at [missionariesofafrica.org](http://missionariesofafrica.org) or send your request by mail.

If you wish to request a Mass for a loved one or for a specific intention, you may also use the enclosed Mass request card. Your Mass requests support our priests and their essential ministries in Africa, providing spiritual aid and continuing their vital work.



## 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.

### *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:

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

*\* Always consult your tax preparer for your state regulations.*

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

**or visit: [www.missionariesofafrica.org](http://www.missionariesofafrica.org) or email: [info@missionariesofafrica.org](mailto:info@missionariesofafrica.org)**

## PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY

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

**Volume 2024 16 #3 | © Copyright Society of Missionaries of Africa, Inc.**