

THE AFRICA REPORT

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE: TIME FOR RENEWAL AND TRANSFORMATION

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As the Catholic Church embarks on the 2025 Jubilee Year, themed “Pilgrims of Hope,” it is a reminder of the profound impact hope can have on our lives, especially in challenging times. Launched on December 24, 2024, by Pope Francis, this yearlong celebration is a call for spiritual renewal, reconciliation, and solidarity among the faithful, and the message is resonating powerfully across Africa.



A family poses with Missionaries of Africa after a baptism at Saint Joseph Parish, Niamey, Niger. Baptism is a powerful sign of hope, symbolizing new life in Christ.

reflection on hope calls us to view our own lives and communities not through the lens of despair, but through the lens of possibility. Hope can transform the way we interact with the world and each other. It is a power that offers healing, reconciliation, and the chance to start anew.

For many in Africa and around the world, the Jubilee Year invites us to be pilgrims of hope. It calls us to be active in renewing our communities, to seek peace, and to stand with those who suffer. The Church’s focus on hope reminds us that no matter what challenges we face, we can always start fresh with the strength God gives us. The call for solidarity and renewal is not just about spiritual growth but also about addressing the material needs of those struggling in Africa and beyond.



As I reflect on this, I can’t help but think that you, our supporters, are a sign of hope for me and my colleagues. Your kindness helps us carry out our mission in Africa and beyond. Because of your support, we can bring the hope of the Jubilee Year to life. Your generosity enables us to live out the hope we call for in the world. Thank you for being part of this journey and helping us make new beginnings possible for those who need it most. Your commitment makes all the difference.

In Southern Africa, bishops have emphasized the importance of the Jubilee Year in fostering unity and inclusivity. Archbishop Zolile Mpambani and Bishop Joao Rodrigues have highlighted how this moment can bring communities together, reinforcing the missionary spirit of the Church. In Cameroon, Bishop Nkuo has called for a time of renewal and deepening one’s relationship with Christ and one another. This call to reconnect spiritually is particularly poignant in a world that often feels fractured. In many African communities, faith and hope are deeply intertwined, offering strength to those facing adversity.

Hope, however, is more than just a fleeting emotion. Pope Francis, in a recent interview, reminded us that hope is not merely a character trait but a theological virtue. It is “strength to be asked for” from God—a divine strength that enables us to embrace new beginnings, no matter the circumstances. This

AMIDST WORSENING CONFLICT: MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA RESPOND TO THE CRISIS IN CONGO

The city of Goma in the North Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) now lies at the heart of a two-decade-long struggle for control over Western Congo. This conflict, rooted in complex historical, political, and ethnic tensions, has intensified since the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, with various rebel groups vying for control over the region's vast mineral resources and strategic territories. Different factions have been accused of violence, including attacks on civilians and the recruitment of child soldiers, leading to widespread human rights abuses.

The North Kivu Province is rich in valuable natural resources like gold, cobalt, and coltan. It is widely believed that the region's instability is fueled by both internal and external actors, including neighboring countries, which support different factions to further their own economic interests.



Displaced people seeking refuge at Our Lady of Africa Church in Goma, where the Missionaries of Africa have opened all parish buildings to provide shelter and support to those in need amidst the ongoing conflict.

One of the most significant groups involved is the M23, named after the March 23, 2009, peace agreement. In recent years, the M23 has reemerged with renewed strength, seizing control of key areas in North Kivu, which borders Rwanda. The DRC government and local militias have struggled to push the M23 forces out of the North Kivu Province, and the M23 is now attempting to advance into South Kivu.

The civilian population has borne the heaviest cost of this prolonged conflict. With millions of people displaced from their homes, humanitarian conditions in North Kivu are dire. Access to food, healthcare, and basic services is severely limited. The United Nations has described the situation as one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises, with refugees flooding into surrounding areas, seeking shelter in camps and makeshift accommodations.

This winter, the city of Goma, with an estimated population of two million, has been at the center of the conflict. Bishop Willy Ngumbi Ngengele, M.Afr. of the Diocese of Goma, a member of the Missionaries of Africa, reported that "people are still afraid to leave their homes and venture out because security is not fully guaranteed." As a result, schools, churches, and other institutions remain closed. Our members in Goma and neighboring Katoyi report that they are safe and doing their best to assist displaced people.

The Missionaries of Africa in the United States and Canada are actively working to provide aid to our missions and parishes in the Diocese of Goma. With so many displaced people, our parishes have been overwhelmed. Our missions are offering direct services to the victims of war, providing crucial support in the midst of this devastating crisis.

ODRAVU, UGANDA

NEW WATER SYSTEM FOR PARISH AND SCHOOL



Students and parishioners at St. Josephine Bakhita Catholic Parish in northern Uganda now have ample drinking water thanks to a grant from U.S. Missionaries of Africa. The parish added gutters and pipes to collect water into two large tanks, providing a reliable water source for the parish community. Father Tom Amati Walter, the pastor, wrote to say, “Safe water is life! Scarcity of clean water sources is a bad sign in this part of the world. The provision of clean, running water for school children and the church community has finally made life better, and this can be vividly seen here. We feel safe.”

Odravu is in a region of Uganda that is struggling to assist refugees from Sudan and South Sudan. Grants like this are made possible thanks to the generous supporters of U.S. Missionaries of Africa.

The two large water tanks arriving on a lorry at St. Josephine Bakhita Catholic Parish, ready to provide the community with a reliable source of clean water.

KITA, MALI

SOLAR PANEL POWERS MISSION

A new solar power system in Mali is providing reliable electricity to the Missionaries of Africa community at Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Kita. Community director Father Abuh Anthony, M.Afr., reports that the system is working well, offering extra security with reliable lighting while powering computers and other office equipment. He also added that community members are now enjoying cold drinks, thanks to their newly functioning refrigerator.

Mali is predominantly Muslim, with around 90% of the population identifying as Muslim, mostly following Sunni Islam. Christianity is the second largest religion in Mali, with approximately 5% of the population being Christian, mainly Roman Catholics. The Missionaries of Africa have been serving in Mali since 1894.



Electricians unboxing the system control panel for the new solar power setup at Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Kita, ensuring a reliable electricity supply.

MWANZA REGION, TANZANIA

DRINKABLE WATER FOR SISTERS AND PARISH



A parish community now has a reliable source of drinkable water thanks to the U.S. donors of the Missionaries of Africa. The Benedictine Sisters, who serve at Nyamhongolo Parish in north-central Tanzania, reached out to the Missionaries of Africa for help with water issues affecting the school and convent. With the support and guidance of local members, the sisters were able to expand the project to meet the water needs of the entire parish and the surrounding households.

In May, a borehole was drilled, lined, and a well was installed. Piping was added to fill the 10,000-liter water tanks already on-site. In the past, these tanks were filled by rain during the rainy season and by trucked-in water during the dry season. The new well will eliminate the need to purchase trucked-in water.

Parishioners at Nyamhongolo Parish using water from one of the tanks now filled by a new well.

Archbishop Renuus Leonard Nkwande, Archbishop of Mwanza, wrote to express his gratitude for the assistance that made this water project possible and promised to “pray for the benefactors who contributed to these water projects.”

MONTHLY GIVING, LASTING HOPE: FRIENDS OF HOPE

This Lent, we invite you to join our **Friends of Hope** monthly giving program and become one of the **40 new donors** helping to provide ongoing support to communities across Africa.

Your monthly gift brings essentials like **clean water, food, healthcare, education, and the message of Christ** to those who need it most. By committing to a monthly donation, you ensure that our mission continues to reach vulnerable communities with consistency and care.



We are thrilled to announce that a generous donor will **match the first month's gift** for the next 40 new Friends of Hope, doubling the impact of your generosity. This means that your contribution will go even further in providing life-changing resources to our brothers and sisters in Africa.

Becoming a Friend of Hope is easy and flexible. You can sign up by returning the enclosed form, scanning the QR code, or visiting our website to set up your monthly gift. You can adjust or cancel your gift at any time.

Join us in making a lasting difference this Lent. Together, we can transform lives and bring hope where it's needed most.

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?

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1622 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-1003

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