



SUPPORT THE  
Solidarity Fund for the  
**CHURCH IN  
AFRICA**

“DO NOT BE AFRAID TO BE  
A PROPHETIC VOICE! DO NOT  
BE AFRAID TO PREACH WITH  
CONVICTION! BRING THE WISDOM  
OF THE CHURCH, ENSHRINED  
PARTICULARLY IN HER SOCIAL  
TEACHING, TO BEAR [ON SOCIETY].”

—POPE FRANCIS, ADDRESS TO  
KENYAN BISHOPS, APRIL 16, 2015



Dear Father,

The Church in Africa is marked by a vibrant spirituality that makes it a source of peace, justice, and reconciliation. However, the people of Africa also face incredible challenges like poverty, the high incidence of disease, food shortages, and migration. The Church needs our solidarity as it confronts such challenges while developing greater self-sufficiency in the midst of amazing growth. Pope Francis underscored the need for the Church in Africa to become more self-reliant when he addressed the Malawi bishops, saying that as the Church “continues to mature, it is imperative that the strong foundations laid by generations of faithful missionaries be built upon by local men and women evangelizers” (Nov 6, 2014). The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa supports those projects that ensure the people of Africa have the support they need to be nourished in faith.

With so many people in Africa on the move, providing pastoral care to meet their spiritual needs is often difficult. In Angola, this is true for migrant and refugee communities as well as people whose livelihoods keep them moving, such as fisherman and truck drivers. Creating fellowship among various groups, ethnicities, and tribes is crucial in order to avoid tribalism, discrimination, and even racial violence.

To address these needs and foster growth in the community, and with a grant from the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, the bishops are providing training and formation for lay leaders in every diocese. These leaders attend seminars and workshops that equip them to return to their communities to welcome immigrants and help them find a home in local parish communities. After attending a seminar, one participant expressed his gratitude, saying, “Thank you for yet another moment of grace.”

Your help is needed to continue supporting projects like this one. Please encourage your pastors to use the promotional resources mailed to them, including a bulletin flier, parish appeal language, posters, and collection envelopes. **The most important thing you can do to help promote the Solidarity Fund is to ask your pastors to speak about the needs of the Church in Africa during Mass.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bevin Kennedy in the Office of National Collections at 202-541-3365 or [bkennedy@usccb.org](mailto:bkennedy@usccb.org). Thank you for your support of this collection.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, CSsR  
Archbishop Indianapolis  
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Africa

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# SimpleSTEPS

Here are five simple steps for promoting the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa:

- 1 Use** the bulletin announcements, parish appeal, collection envelopes, and posters that have been provided to educate your parishioners about the collection and the people it supports.
- 2 Insert** the flier for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa into your bulletins.
- 3 Preach** about the challenges to living their faith that many Africans face on a daily basis and the work being done by the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa to assist them.
- 4 Announce** the collection during Mass. This is the easiest and most effective way to help make the collection successful.
- 5 Pray** as a community for the Church in Africa, that God will give both spiritual and material sustenance to relieve the burdens of those who suffer.

## ParishAPPEAL



### English

The people of Africa are joyous and faith-filled but they also often face challenges due to poverty, the high incidence of disease, food shortages, and migration. The Church in Africa journeys with people gifted with a vibrant spirituality and is a source of hope and peace. The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa provides an opportunity to stand with the people of Africa as they face these challenges and to support them as they build lasting foundations of peace and reconciliation.

### Spanish

La gente de África es alegre y llena de fe pero, a menudo, también enfrenta desafíos debido a la pobreza, a la alta incidencia de enfermedades, a la escasez de alimentos y a la migración. La Iglesia en África acompaña a personas dotadas de una espiritualidad viva y es una fuente de esperanza y de fe. El Fondo de Solidaridad para la Iglesia en África brinda una oportunidad para estar en solidaridad con los pueblos de África mientras enfrentan estos desafíos y para apoyarlos mientras construyen unas bases duraderas para la paz y la reconciliación.

# Bulletin ANNOUNCEMENTS

## English

### **The Week before the Solidarity Fund Appeal**

Next week, our parish will take up a collection for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. While the Church in Africa is growing, many still lack access to basic resources and pastoral care. Many suffer due to high rates of poverty and unemployment, illiteracy, and poor education. The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa supports pastoral projects that foster lasting peace and reconciliation in a continent often marked by division and tension.

### **The Week of the Solidarity Fund Appeal**

This week, we are taking a collection for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. This collection is an opportunity to stand with the people of Africa and support pastoral projects that are so needed on this continent. Projects include support for migrants and communications efforts, building of new churches, and formation for priests and religious. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection.

### **The Week after the Solidarity Fund Appeal**

Thank you for your generous support of the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. Your contributions will provide pastoral care and support to the people of Africa as they face the many challenges that come from high poverty and unemployment, the high incidence disease, and migration. Your donations will fund workshops, retreats, catechesis, and other projects that build the faith of African communities. Please visit [www.usccb.org/africa](http://www.usccb.org/africa) to learn more about the projects supported by the Solidarity Fund. Thank you!

## Spanish

### **La semana antes de la Colecta para el Fondo de Solidaridad**

La próxima semana, nuestra parroquia realizará una colecta para el Fondo de Solidaridad para la Iglesia en África. Aunque la Iglesia en África está creciendo, muchos aun no tienen acceso a recursos básicos ni a un cuidado pastoral. Muchos sufren debido a la alta tasa de pobreza y desempleo, al analfabetismo y a una educación deficiente. El Fondo de Solidaridad para la Iglesia en África apoya proyectos pastorales que promueven la paz duradera y la reconciliación en un continente que, a menudo, está marcado por divisiones y tensiones.

### **La semana de la Colecta para el Fondo de Solidaridad**

Esta semana se realizará la colecta para el Fondo de Solidaridad para la Iglesia en África. Esta colecta es una oportunidad para respaldar a los pueblos de África y para apoyar proyectos pastorales tan necesarios en ese continente. Los proyectos incluyen el apoyo a los migrantes y a los esfuerzos en el campo de las comunicaciones, la construcción de nuevas iglesias y la formación de sacerdotes y religiosos. Por favor, en oración, piense en la manera de contribuir en esta colecta.

### **La semana después de la Colecta para el Fondo de Solidaridad**

Muchas gracias por su generosa contribución al Fondo de Solidaridad para la Iglesia en África. Sus contribuciones brindarán cuidado pastoral y apoyo a los pueblos de África mientras ellos enfrentan los muchos desafíos que surgen a raíz de la pobreza y el desempleo, la alta incidencia de enfermedades y la migración. Sus donativos financiarán talleres, retiros, catequesis y otros proyectos que cimientan la fe en las comunidades africanas. Por favor, visiten [www.usccb.org/africa](http://www.usccb.org/africa) para informarse más acerca de los proyectos financiados por el Fondo de Solidaridad. ¡Muchas gracias!



# SOLIDARITY FUND FOR THE CHURCH IN AFRICA

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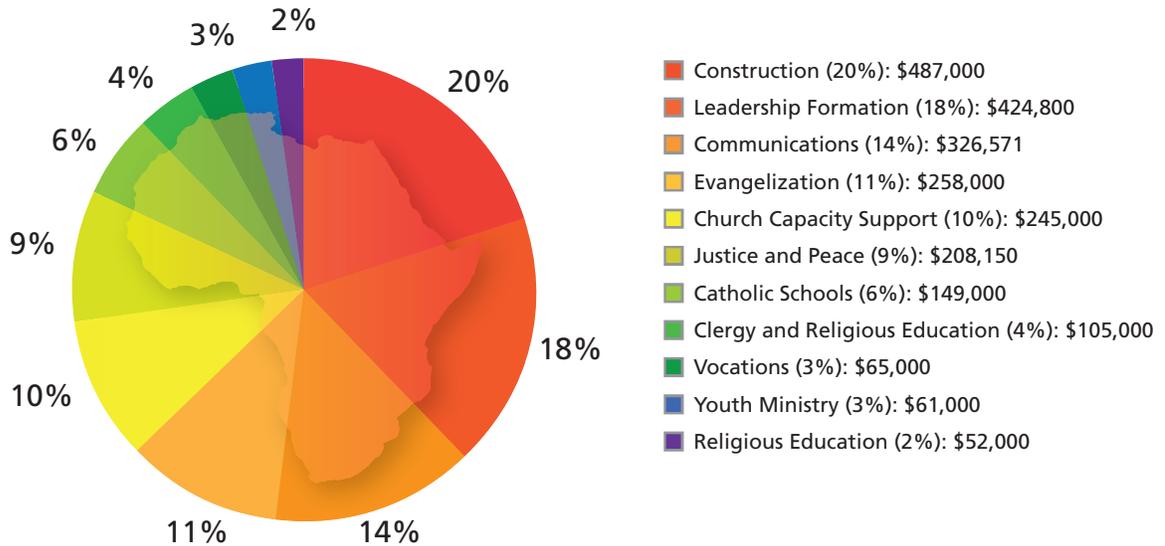
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## 2014 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

TOTAL GRANTS: 95

TOTAL GRANTED: \$2,381,521



**2016 COLLECTION INFORMATION INSIDE**

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