Dear Diocesan Director,

People living in areas affected by ethnic and religious conflict, as well as people whose professions keep them from home for extended periods, often lack access to the stable communities and supports that allow their faith to flourish. In the Central African Republic, where catechists have fled or even perished from ethnic and religious conflict, people urgently need well-formed, trained catechists. Similarly, fishermen in Kenya, who work far from their families and are often marginalized, critically need access to pastoral ministry.

With your generous support, the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa enabled the Archdiocese of Bangui in the Central African Republic to host training workshops for over 1,200 catechists and also to print training booklets to help form faith leaders in a country affected by violence, poverty, and a shortage of priests. Your support also helped train fishermen, as well as clergy and lay leaders who minister to them, in seven Kenyan dioceses. These training workshops help ministers address the pastoral needs of the population of fishermen, who are especially susceptible to workplace injury, alcoholism, and isolation.

We need your help to promote the collection for the Solidarity Fund and to share the stories of those who benefit. **Four effective ways you can support the collection are to mention it at Mass, tell this story, use the parish appeal or bulletin announcements inside, and use the additional resources, including web ads and a social media tool kit, available at www.usccb.org/africa/collection.**

If you have additional questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or at ngermain@uscchb.org. Thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

[Signature]

Nicole Germain  
Assistant Director, Promotions  
Office of National Collections