



## Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

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

Dear Communications Director/Editor,

In countries throughout Africa, the Church carries out its mission not only through the dedicated efforts of priests and religious sisters and brothers, but also through the work of lay catechists and prayer leaders. In Zambia, the Diocese of Solwezi equipped lay leaders with training and information they need to better serve their neighbors. With support provided by the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the diocese conducted training seminars in four parish districts in 2024, which allowed more than 200 participants to gather without needing to travel long distances. In their preferred language, they learned about topics including liturgy, Scripture, and charitable works of mercy.

Over 35% of the seminars' participants were women, including Mary from the Kabompo district, who came to understand Scripture and church history more deeply so that she can confidently explain Catholic teaching to her community—including non-Catholic Christians who have questions about the relationship between Catholic doctrine and Scripture. Another woman, Catherine from the Zambezi district, came away from the seminar equipped with understanding and confidence to address questions from community members who told her that a woman should not stand before men to teach about faith. Mary, Catherine, and more than 200 other men and women participants returned to their homes with the conviction and understanding to freely share their faith in Jesus with their families and friends.

Your diocese's support for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa makes possible success stories like these and helps dioceses and episcopal conferences throughout Africa to identify and address the pastoral needs of the people they serve.

Please use your publication(s), website, social media channels, and other outlets to talk about the Solidarity Fund's support of formation programs that empower lay catechists to share the Gospel with their neighbors. Free resources, including an editable sample letter from your bishop, web ads, and a social media tool kit, are available for download at [www.usccb.org/africa/collection](http://www.usccb.org/africa/collection).

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or [mhren@usccb.org](mailto:mhren@usccb.org). Thank you for your support of the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa.

Gratefully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Hren".

Margaret Hren  
Assistant Director, Promotions