



## Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

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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 Diocesan Coordinator,

Through its Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, the Catholic bishops of the United States echo Pope Francis’s call to dismantle divisions and barriers based on indifference and fear and build “attitudes based on a culture of encounter, the only culture capable of building a better, more just and fraternal world” (Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, September 13, 2014). Often, migrants and refugees find themselves on the margins of society and do not receive care and support because of others’ indifference, defensiveness, or fear. The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa encourages the culture of encounter by supporting many projects to ensure that migrants and refugees are welcomed and respected.

Despite the vast number of valuable natural resources, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of the world’s poorest countries. Many do not have access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation or to basic social services, such as education or health care. The illiteracy rate in the country is high and especially affects women. In addition, many migrants and war refugees immigrate to the DRC, straining already sparse resources.

Through a grant from the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa (SFCA), the Naomi Center in Kisantu can provide more vocational training and faith formation for young migrants and illiterate mothers. Kisantu has a high population of migrants and war refugees from bordering countries, and so the center works to create opportunities for young mothers as well as vulnerable migrants to increase literacy and develop human values that offer hope for a dignified life. With the additional funding from SFCA, the Naomi Center will offer courses in literacy, sewing, and life skills to bolster self-esteem and job expertise for 140 women.

In order to fund projects like this, the collection needs your help. Please encourage your parishes to use the posters, fliers, and bulletin announcements provided. **Speaking about the collection at Mass is the most important thing parishes can do.** Additional materials, such as ads and web banners, are available at [www.usccb.org/africa](http://www.usccb.org/africa) under the “Collection Resources” tab on the left.

For more information, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or [bkennedy@usccb.org](mailto:bkennedy@usccb.org). We truly appreciate your support of the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa.

With gratitude,

Bevin Kennedy

Assistant Director, Promotions  
Office of National Collections