

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

SOLIDARITY FUND FOR THE CHURCH IN AFRICA

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Something I learned from my service as chairman of the US bishops' Subcommittee on the Church in Africa is that African Catholics live their faith with joy and commitment in admirable and inspiring ways. Their dedication to serving God and one another is seen in the ministries they enact with your help through the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa.

Because of your gifts this past year, African dioceses in some of the poorest nations on earth are doing amazing pastoral work. The following four projects are just a small sampling of what your gifts made possible when you offered them to God through the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa:

- In the Central African Republic, your support enables teams of lay evangelists on bicycles to distribute Bibles and rosaries, organize catechetical classes, and hold special events that bring the Gospel to life for families in parishes that are difficult to access.
- In Togo, your support for a peacebuilding initiative is helping young people to counter extremism and violence in a region marked by sectarian violence.
- In Uganda, Catholics are celebrating the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope by learning about the teachings of Vatican II and how they apply to some of the greatest spiritual and social problems confronting humanity today.
- And in Kenya, where the Christian foundations of marriage are becoming obscured by competing societal pressures, you are supporting a nationwide, grassroots effort to build loving, enduring marriages anchored in the teachings of Jesus.

These are the works of a strong Church and strong people—strong in faith, hope, and love. You have supported them in the one thing that they



lack: material resources. You have become their partners in faith. I hope that as you read these accounts, you will be moved to continue to give to the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa and to emulate what our brothers and sisters in Africa are doing in the name of Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Peter L. Smith
Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Africa

2024 USCCB SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CHURCH IN AFRICA

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THROUGHOUT AFRICA—IN NATIONS WHERE THE CATHOLIC FAITH

is growing rapidly—your gifts to the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa help the continent’s bishops to fulfill the mission of Christ. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops sponsors this annual collection that in 2024 supported 96 ministries identified as top priorities by bishops of the Church in Africa with more than \$2.6 million in grants..

Each project below was designed to be widely replicated through a “train the trainer” model of instruction. Thus, as the Church launches new initiatives for catechesis, evangelization, and social-pastoral outreach, new leaders rise up and prepare to guide others.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

In the Central African Republic, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, an order of religious sisters, are using a Solidarity Fund grant to train mobile street evangelists who can reach 12,500 families in 33 parishes spread across six districts of the Archdiocese of Bangui. The archdiocese includes not only the nation’s capital but also secluded rural areas that are not easily accessed due to a lack of roads. This grant brings the Church to the youth of these areas, by equipping volunteer evangelists with bicycles and pastoral skills.

The \$21,000 grant covered the cost of bicycles, Bibles, rosaries, and printed materials, as well as food, transportation, and other expenses associated with training the 20 initial volunteers, who are now training others.

TOGO

The country of Togo, a narrow strip of land on Africa’s west coast, has for decades suffered from political and economic instability. The Diocese of Dapaong in the far north of Togo is about 12% Catholic and serves a region affected by violence and the aggressive recruitment of youth by jihadist terrorists. A Solidarity Fund grant

requested by the Togolese bishops' conference is supporting a successful diocesan outreach project to train community leaders and young people and to establish local youth clubs, where students learn the values and practice of peace, reconciliation, and mutual respect. This \$21,200 grant intensively trained 80 community leaders plus 100 adolescents and young adults from 20 parishes, and it supported the creation of numerous youth clubs in schools and churches. The initiative is built around applying Scripture and Catholic social teaching to promote social cohesion in communities where people have lived in fear and mistrust of one another.

UGANDA

To celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, the Catholic Church across Uganda has been helping parishioners prayerfully discover—or rediscover—the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

With a \$22,000 grant from the Solidarity Fund, the Uganda Episcopal Conference organized four two-day conferences around the nation to help Catholics understand what Vatican II says about the issues of contemporary life. Participants reviewed its messages about Scripture, liturgy, and the Church. They learned about the Council's guidance on human rights, religious freedom, interfaith relationships, and other crucial topics. Overarching themes included conversion, forgiveness, mercy, and following Christ—all under the umbrella of the Jubilee of Hope.

All 19 dioceses sent at least 10 leaders to the conferences—including clergy, religious, and laity. Those leaders returned home with a mandate to replicate the conferences locally.

KENYA

Thanks to a grant from the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, all 27 dioceses in Kenya are participating in a marriage renewal ministry inspired by Pope Francis' 2016 apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (*On Love in the Family*). With stressful conditions and non-Christian influences negatively impacting Kenyan families, the top priority of the Kenyan bishops is to help all couples build a strong, loving marriage.

The outreach began with a national gathering for more than 200 lay leaders in marriage ministry, organized by the National Family Life Office of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops. Presenters included experts on family issues, such as a clinical psychologist and family therapist, as well as a canon lawyer. The national conference was followed by four workshops in the four ecclesiastical provinces of the country.

The \$39,450 grant included lodging and meal expenses, hall rental, and facilitator stipends for the five events. The prayer of the bishops of Kenya is that couples will experience their marriage as a place of love, hope, and holiness where their children are safe and loved—and that they will experience their parish as a place where families support one another in their marriages.

SOLIDARITY FUND FOR THE CHURCH IN AFRICA

Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Other Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ending December 31, 2024.

REVENUES

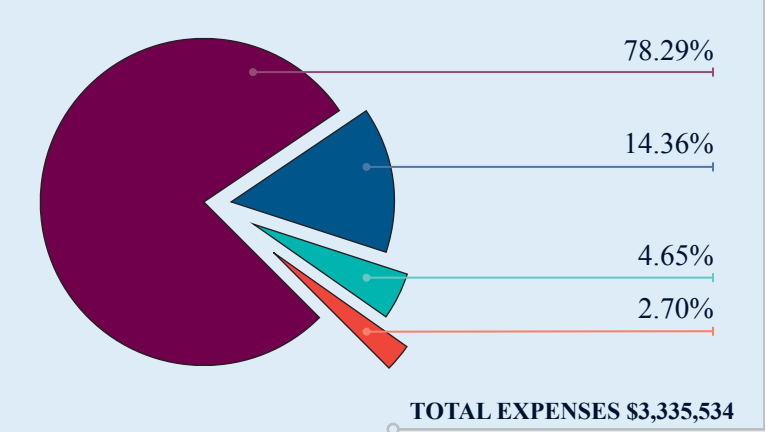
National Collections Contributions*	\$3,702,026
Income on Investments	\$222,462
Total Revenue	\$3,924,488

*Includes diocesan Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa collection remittances and direct individual and institutional contributions.

EXPENSES

Grants and Donations*	\$2,611,460	78.29%
Program Costs	\$478,832	14.36%
Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	\$155,052	4.65%
Administrative Expenses	\$90,190	2.70%
Total Expenses	\$3,335,534	100%
Total Grants & Donations	\$2,611,460	

*Grants approved in 2024 totaled \$2,607,960. Grants and donations in 2024 totaled \$2,611,460, including payments and amendments to grants approved in 2024 and prior years.



Changes in Net Assets from Operations	\$588,954
Non-Operating Activities:	
Unrealized Gain on Investments	\$157,858
Changes in Net Assets	\$746,812
Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year	\$3,739,661
Net Assets at the End of the Year	\$4,486,473

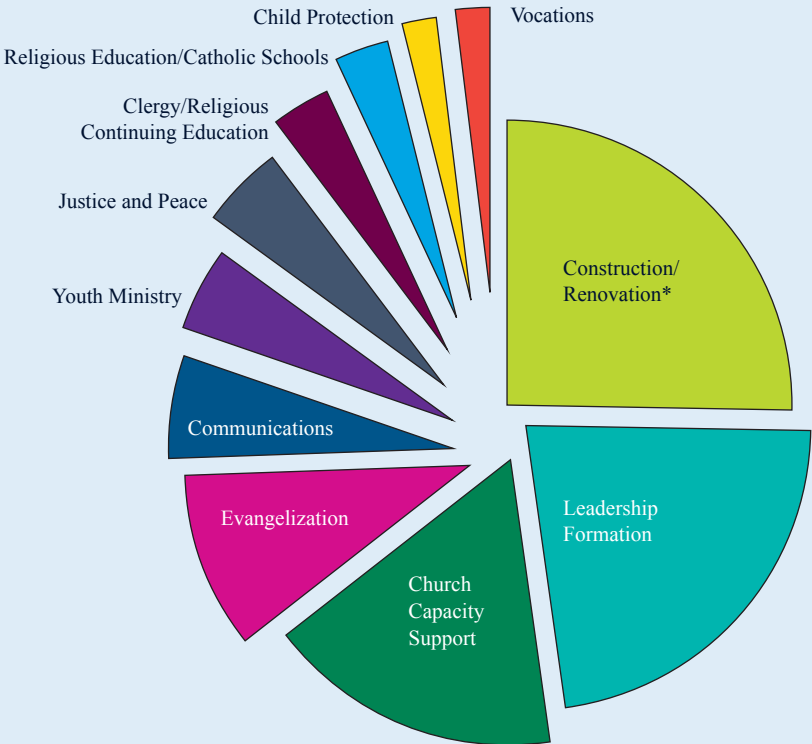
2024 DISTRIBUTION OF APPROVED GRANTS

Total Number of Grants Approved: 96

Total Amount Approved: \$2,607,960

PROGRAM AREA	NUMBER OF GRANTS	GRANT AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Construction/Renovation*	20	\$662,000	25.38%
Leadership Formation	20	\$588,760	22.58%
Church Capacity Support	18	\$433,700	16.63%
Evangelization	12	\$264,300	10.13%
Communications	6	\$149,300	5.72%
Youth Ministry	4	\$124,100	4.76%
Justice and Peace	5	\$120,400	4.62%
Clergy/Religious Continuing Education	4	\$84,800	3.25%
Religious Education/Catholic Schools	2	\$83,900	3.22%
Child Protection	3	\$51,800	1.99%
Vocations	2	\$44,900	1.72%
TOTAL	96	\$2,607,960	100%

* Construction grants primarily fund rehabilitation and renovation of existing, deteriorated structures.





To support the Solidarity Fund with an online donation, please use this QR code or visit #iGiveCatholic at <https://www.igivecatholic.org/story/USCCB-CA>.



Thank you for your support!

For more information about the USCCB's work with the **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** and around the world, please visit usccb.org/africa.

Or write to
Office of National Collections
3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017

