



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

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Dear Communications Director/Editor,

In Mozambique's northern Cabo Delgado Province, a multiyear conflict between government military forces and militants affiliated with the Islamic State group has resulted in approximately 6,000 dead and 1 million displaced. For the estimated 825,000 Catholics in the region's Diocese of Pemba, the upheaval caused by war and violent attacks targeting Catholics has intensified the people's pastoral needs while also impeding the diocese's capacity to meet them. To address these needs, the diocese formulated a pastoral plan to provide spiritual care and access to the sacraments for internally displaced Catholics as well as Catholic faithful in areas not regularly served by priests.

Using funds received from the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, the Episcopal Conference of Mozambique coordinated with the Diocese of Pemba to develop and begin implementing its pastoral plan. This crucial support enabled the diocese to convene two pastoral councils last year. In these councils, parish priests, along with nuns and lay people in diocesan leadership roles, joined the bishop to determine how best to minister to people facing persecution and insecurity. The diocese also organized a formation event for 70 nuns and nearly 40 priests who were engaged in missionary work in conflict-affected areas.

Your diocese's support for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa makes possible success stories like these by helping 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 priests, sisters, and 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.

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

Gratefully in Christ,

Margaret Hren
Assistant Director, Promotions