



## Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

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

**“And so Africa . . . is called to joy.”**

—Saint John Paul II, *Ecclesia in Africa*

**Dear Diocesan Coordinator,**

In the first year of his pontificate, Pope Francis addressed a concern for the family in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. He said: “The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis, as are all communities and social bonds. . . . The weakening of these bonds is particularly serious because the family is the fundamental cell of society” (no. 66). In an effort to shore up these bonds and contribute to the support and growth of African families, the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa supports many projects that benefit family life, women, and children.

Angola has become a hub of migration, both for neighboring African populations displaced by armed conflict or poverty and for native Angolans moving to urban areas in search of a better life. But upon arrival these traveling people find themselves on the periphery of society since they are often undocumented and unable to speak the local language. Mostly women and children, these people face an extreme sense of abandonment and struggle for survival. If they are lucky, some find odd jobs selling fruit and vegetables along the edge of the street.

In an effort to reach out and bring Christ’s love to these people, the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa awarded a grant to the Episcopal Commission on Migration of Angola and São Tomé, an organization created in 2006 to offer pastoral and social care. This grant will provide training for lay ministers in 15 dioceses who offer help and services to the refugee and migrant populations.

In order to support projects like this, the fund needs your help. Please encourage your parishes to use the posters, fliers, and bulletin announcements. **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](http://www.usccb.org) (search “Church in Africa resources”).

For more information, please contact me at 202-541-3346 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  
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