



## Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

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Solidarity Fund for the  
**CHURCH IN  
AFRICA**

**Dear Communications Director/Editor,**

Religious sisters have always been in the forefront of ministry to the poor, of health care and education, and of advocacy for peace and justice in the communities they serve. They are especially prominent in the countries that constitute the Association of Consecrated Women in Eastern and Central Africa (ACWECA). With nearly 35,000 sisters serving in 10 countries—where they work among the most poor and vulnerable, even in remote regions far removed from large cities—ACWECA is strategically poised to work for justice and peace at a grassroots level. However, due to a lack of clear structures and strategies, as well as violence in some parts of the region ACWECA serves, these member sisters are undertrained and underutilized.

To expand its work on issues of justice, peace, and integrity of creation, ACWECA applied to the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa for a grant to develop and implement a program to train the sisters in Church teachings on human dignity, respect for human life, and care for creation—and to do so in a way that reduces poverty and increases food production. The grant enabled ACWECA to bring together representatives from each country for workshops that enriched the sisters' understandings of Church teachings and gave them practical skills to combat human trafficking, observe national elections, and advocate with governments to develop and implement policies that advance and protect human life and the natural environment.

When your diocese participates in the collection for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, your support helps religious sisters, dioceses, and bishops' conferences across the continent to grow a culture of respect for human dignity and the goodness of creation that imitates Christ's love for the poor. Your (arch)diocese's support of the collection for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa trains religious sisters to minister effectively to those whom they are called to 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 give religious sisters the skills to minister to those who are poor and neglected. 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,

Margaret Hren  
Assistant Director, Promotions