



Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

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

I should no longer say that I have neighbors to help,
but that I must myself be a neighbor to others.

—Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 81

Dear Diocesan Director,

In February 2019, presidents of bishops' conferences from around the world met with Pope Francis to discuss and reaffirm the Church's commitment to protecting children and other vulnerable people from sexual abuse by clergy, consecrated religious, and other Church officials. Inspired by this historic event and funded by a grant from the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, the National Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of Congo (known as CENCO) organized a workshop for all 50 of its bishops and its eight major superiors of men's and women's religious congregations to discuss how to implement measures proposed by the Vatican.

The bishops of Congo are committed to having open, frank discussion and to adopting bold actions to rid the world of the scourge of child abuse. Their commitment stresses that prevention of abuse is not limited to only certain places but is a concern for Church leaders everywhere. With support from the Solidarity Fund, CENCO is addressing head-on the urgent issue of the protection of minors. Your participation in the collection makes possible this and other vital pastoral ministries throughout Africa.

We need your help to promote your local collection for the Solidarity Fund and share the stories of those who benefit. **You can help the collection by encouraging pastors to highlight it at Mass and use the bulletin announcements, sample letter from your bishop, and social media tool kit** available at www.usccb.org/africa.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or ngermain@usccb.org. Thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Nicole Germain
Assistant Director, Promotions