



Solidarity Fund for the  
**CHURCH IN  
AFRICA**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



## **Subcommittee on the Church in Africa**

### **Chairman**

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, CSsR,  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

### **Members**

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Archdiocese of New York

Bishop Gerald R. Barnes, Diocese of San Bernardino

Bishop Peter F. Christensen, Diocese of Boise

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, Diocese of Tucson

Bishop Robert W. McElroy, Diocese of San Diego

Bishop Michael Mulvey, Diocese of Corpus Christi

Bishop George V. Murry SJ, Diocese of Youngstown

Bishop Joseph N. Perry, Archdiocese of Chicago

### **Consultants**

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick,  
Archdiocese of Washington

Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, OFM Cap.,  
Archdiocese of Boston

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley,  
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ,  
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Mr. Patrick Markey

Rev. Andrew Small, OMI

Mr. Donald Rogers

Mr. Fritz Zuger

### **Staff**

Ms. Mary Mencarini Campbell, Executive Director,  
Office of National Collections

Mr. Richard Coll, Director, Catholic Home Missions



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

I am pleased to present to you this annual report of the activities of the Subcommittee on the Church in Africa for the year ending December 31, 2015. This year marks my first year as chairman of the subcommittee, and I am honored to serve in this capacity. I have seen firsthand how rapidly the Church on the African continent is growing and how much our brothers and sisters need our support to provide necessary ministries to the faithful.

Young people comprise the largest portion of the African Church. African Catholics display a joyful, tenacious faith but frequently lack the resources necessary to provide for basic pastoral needs. Your support to the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa helps many dioceses bridge that gap and assist young people in their life with Christ.

During his visit to Kenya in 2015, Pope Francis said to young people, "Let the great values of Africa's traditions, the wisdom and truth of God's word, and the generous idealism of your youth guide you in working to shape a society which is ever more just, inclusive and respectful of human dignity." The generosity of Catholics across the United States has made it possible to help foster faith and build a more just society on the African continent.

Thank you for your continued support. As you read this report, know that it is through your gifts that these programs are possible. Your gifts make a real and lasting impact for all those who benefit. Thank you for your generosity. May God continue to bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, CSsR  
Archbishop of Indianapolis  
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Africa



In Africa, the burgeoning Catholic population faces many challenges such as lack of infrastructure, continuous migration, and severe poverty. The people are joyous and faith-filled but often do not have access to programs to support them in their faith journey. The Subcommittee on the Church in Africa funds projects that provide pastoral support to dioceses across the African continent to address the spiritual needs of the people who live there.

### **Zimbabwe: Empowering Children Through Religious and Moral Education**

Catholic education is important not only to help children grow in knowledge and understanding but also to help strengthen them spiritually. In Zimbabwe, little funding exists to support strong Catholic schools and parishes. With a grant from the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, schools received funding to provide religious education for children. With your help, children have developed spiritually and grown in their Catholic identity.

### **Congo: Family Ministry**

Newlyweds face challenges as they begin their lives as married couples, and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it is no different. A grant from the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa provided training sessions for lay leaders to minister to new couples. With your support, newlyweds are finding the support they need to live their marriage vocation in the Catholic faith.





### **Tanzania: Alternative Energy for Conference Center**

In Tanzania, the power supply is inconsistent and often inadequate to meet the needs of the people. Because of this, a national Catholic conference center struggled to provide consistent training and events. In order to better serve the faithful, and inspired by the call of Pope Francis to show care for creation, the Tanzanian bishops' conference decided that solar power would be the best option to both meet their needs and show proper stewardship of our planet's resources. A grant from the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa provided these solar panels, ensuring a constant power supply and a smaller impact on the earth.



### **Ethiopia: Care for Refugees**

As refugees from Eritrea flee to Ethiopia, the pastoral care of this vulnerable population becomes a challenge. As these Eritrean refugees grapple with the reality of finding a new place to call home, chaplains work to help them deepen their relationship with Christ and find peace and hope in him. A grant from the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa helps to provide retreats, workshops, bible studies, and liturgies, giving refugees the space and support they need to pray and find their spiritual home.

**Thank you** to all who have contributed to the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. Your gifts make a real difference in the lives of Africans seeking to live out their faith. It is through your generosity that we continue to stand with Africa and spread the gospel message to those who long to hear it.

## SOLIDARITY FUND FOR THE CHURCH IN AFRICA

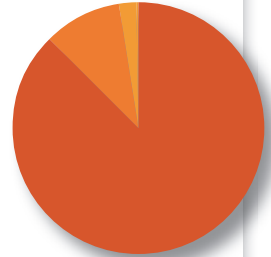
Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Other Changes in Net Assets  
for the Year Ending in December 31, 2015

### Revenue

National Collection Contributions:	\$2,548,573
Income on Investments:	\$118,168
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$2,666,741</b>

### Expenses

● Grants and Donations:	\$2,317,629	87.7%
● Program Costs and Administrative Expenses:	\$262,590	9.9%
● Promotions and Fundraising Expenses:	\$62,381	2.4%
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$2,642,600</b>	<b>100%</b>



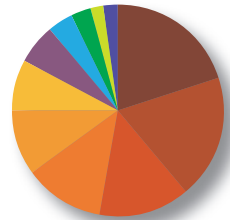
Changes in Net Assets from Operations:	\$24,141
Non-Operating Activities	
Unrealized (Loss) Gain on Investments:	(\$129,065)
Changes in Net Assets:	(\$104,924)
Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year:	\$2,898,535
<b>Net Assets at the End of the Year:</b>	<b>\$2,793,611</b>

See the complete USCCB financial report at [www.usccb.org/about/financial-reporting](http://www.usccb.org/about/financial-reporting).

## 2015 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

Total Number: **96** | Total Amount: **\$2,317,629**

Program Area	Grant Count	Grant Amount	Percentage
● Leadership Formation	17	\$ 463,584	20%
● Church Capacity Support	23	\$ 387,221	17%
● Evangelization	14	\$ 376,450	16%
● Construction	8	\$ 288,305	12%
● Justice and Peace	10	\$ 235,669	10%
● Communications	8	\$ 187,100	8%
● Clergy and Religious Education	6	\$ 150,000	6%
● Youth Ministry	5	\$ 112,500	5%
● Catholic Schools	3	\$ 81,800	4%
● Religious Education	1	\$ 20,000	1%
● Vocations	1	\$ 15,000	1%





For more information regarding the USCCB's work with the **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** and around the world, please visit [www.usccb.org/africa](http://www.usccb.org/africa) or write:

**Office of National Collections**  
3211 Fourth Street, NE | Washington, DC 20017

Copyright © 2016, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All rights reserved.  
Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2015, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City State.  
Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Photos: © Ernst Ulz, © Jim Stipe/CRS, Theodose Bahati/CRS, © Kim Pozniak, © Sara Fajardo/CRS.

