

THE AFRICA REPORT



Kuko

THIS IS A GLOBAL EFFORT

Father Barthelemy Bazemo, M.Afr.
Provincial of the Americas and President of the Missionaries of Africa, Inc.

The global nature of the Missionaries of Africa can sometimes be overlooked. While our primary mission is to bring faith to the people of Africa, our members and support come from all over the world.

I'm reminded of this since I'm writing from our parish in Queretaro, Mexico, after visiting Casa de Los Mártires de Uganda, the Missionaries of Africa formation house in Guadalajara. Currently, we are guiding six seminarians through their studies with the support of three formators for the academic year 2024-2025. Our educational approach emphasizes a traditional college seminary curriculum from a missionary perspective. Students receive language instruction in English and French, in addition to their primary studies conducted in Spanish. This multilingual aspect is integral to our charism, as Missionaries of Africa are expected to be proficient in three or more languages. In fact, one of the primary reasons for my visit to Mexico is to improve my Spanish, which will be my sixth language.



Members of the community at Casa del Nuestra Señora de Africa, the Missionaries of Africa parish in Queretaro, Mexico. From left to right, Father Fidel Del Muro; visitors from Washington, Father Bob McGovern and Father Barthelemy Bazemo; Father Cyriaque Mounkoro; Fater Frank Kalala; Father Rafael Azevedo and Father Ismael Mandez.

One of our seminarians here, Ruby Alexander Ruiz Guadalajara, has a remarkable story. A native of Honduras, he was raised in a Mormon home after the death of his mother when he was three. In 2008, at 18, he immigrated to Mexico and discovered the Catholic faith through the charity that the Church was providing to immigrants. He began working for the Church, and in 2011, he was baptized. In time, Ruby felt a missionary calling and was introduced to the Missionaries of Africa by a diocesan priest in Guadalajara. In 2018, he became a candidate for us and began his studies. Currently, Ruby is mastering his French and, in the fall, will continue his formation journey at the novitiate in Samagan, Burkina Faso.



Bringing faith and Christian charity to Africa is a global effort. As a young seminarian, I never envisioned my global role with the Missionaries of Africa in the United States. I'm sure Ruby never imagined his priestly journey would bring him to my home country of Burkina Faso. Today, I feel blessed to be a voice for the Missionaries of Africa, the people of Africa, and the Catholic mission as part of this global organization.

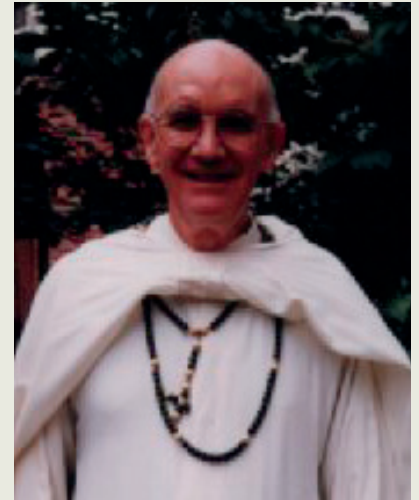
In the Gospel of Matthew, the Lord tells his followers at his Ascension to "...go and make disciples of all nations." Today, his followers come from around the world, and yet we still have much work to do.

REMEMBERING FATHER BILL MORONEY

Father William Francis Moroney M. Afr. (1935-2024) passed away peacefully at home in Nairobi, Kenya on February 17, 2024.

A Chicago native, Father Moroney commenced his priestly journey with the Archdiocese of Chicago at Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, before entering the Society of Missionaries of Africa in 1958. His priestly formation took him to Alexandria Bay, New York, and Carthage, Tunisia, culminating in his ordination in 1961.

Post-ordination, he pursued further studies in sociology at Loyola University in Chicago before embarking on a dedicated service as a teacher and pastor in Tanzania. Between 1972 and 1976, he returned to Chicago to serve as the community superior of the Missionaries of Africa in Chicago. In 1977, he returned to Tanzania, contributing seventeen years to ministry, including serving as the regional provincial of East Africa. In 1994, he was elected superior of the Missionaries of Africa in the USA and played a crucial role in the merging of the USA and Canadian provinces into the North American Province. Following service in France from 2000 to 2006, he returned to East Africa, continuing his impactful roles in pastoral, provincial, and formational leadership.



Father Moroney's influence on his fellow Missionaries of Africa was profound. Peers admired his steadfast leadership in provincial offices in both the USA and East Africa. Younger members fondly remember him as a compassionate formator both in France and Kenya during their journey to priesthood, appreciating his quiet but friendly demeanor that fostered trust. His natural instinct to support fellow missionaries, dating back to his time as a novice, led to leadership roles throughout his life.

Given the love Father Moroney harbored for people of Africa it wasn't always easy for him to accept assignments in the USA, yet he consistently answered the call to return home when needed. Unsurprisingly, upon retirement in 2023, he chose to spend his remaining years in East Africa.

Born to James and Agnes Moroney, he is survived by his sister, Marilyn (Moroney) Ginnane, and her family. Funeral services were held on February 21, 2024, in Nairobi.

Donations to the Missionaries of Africa in Father Moroney's memory will be utilized to support projects in East Africa. Contributions can be made at www.missionariesofafrica.org or by mail to Missionaries of Africa, 1622 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.

FATHER BAZEMO NAMED PROVINCIAL

Effective July 1, Father Barthelemy Bazemo, M.Afr, will assume the role of Provincial of the Americas for the Missionaries of Africa. He will succeed Father Réal Doucet, M.Afr, of Montreal, who is completing his six-year term. Father Bazemo will continue residing in Washington, DC, and remain President of the Society of Missionaries of Africa, Inc. Congratulations to Father Bazemo on his upcoming role!

The Province of the Americas for the Missionaries of Africa includes the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



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DAMONGO, GHANA

ENHANCING SECURITY AND SAFETY

In the dynamic north-central region of Ghana, the Sisters of Mary Immaculate (SMI) are embracing the practical advantages of a new solar power system, generously provided by our U.S. donors.

For the convent's six dedicated sisters, who are also teachers in local schools, the acquisition of a reliable power source for lighting and appliances has been a godsend. In the face of challenges posed by an erratic electrical grid, the sisters navigated steep electricity bills and frequent disruptions.

Now, with the installation of a comprehensive solar power system, the sisters can enjoy a steady and sustainable energy supply. This transformative initiative not only enhances the sisters' quality of life but also reinforces security and safety by providing reliable lighting. As esteemed members of the community, the sisters lead by example, illuminating the path towards a brighter and more secure future for the students they serve.



Workers install solar panels at the Sisters of Mary Immaculate convent in Damongo, Ghana, bringing sustainable energy to the community.

MPIGI, UGANDA

QUENCHING THIRST: WATER FOR A LEGACY SCHOOL



Students at St. Mugagga Nkozi Primary School in Mpigi, Uganda, access water from newly installed tanks.

In a rural setting in the Archdiocese of Kampala, the 650 students at St. Mugagga Nkozi Primary School now have an adequate water source for the first time in many years.

The school primarily relies on a cistern system to collect rainwater from its rooftops. With the student population growing, the old system became insufficient. With your support, three new 10,000-liter water tanks were installed, though the process included laying foundations due to each tank's weight of over 2,200 pounds when filled.

Established in 1934 by the Missionaries of Africa and now under the stewardship of the Brothers of St. Charles Lwanga, also known as the Bannakaroli Brothers, the school stands as a legacy of 90 years of missionary education. We are privileged to renew our support of for the people in Mpigi by helping to address the crucial need for more water at St. Mugagga Nkozi Primary School.

THIKA, KENYA

SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL CARE

Mary Help of the Sick Mission Hospital has expanded its 120-bed facility in southcentral Kenya by adding new HDU/ICU units. These units offer continuous monitoring of patients' vital signs, including heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, and neurological status. The specialized hospital beds and related equipment were provided through a grant from the Missionaries of Africa in the U.S.

Mary Help of the Sick Mission Hospital is more than just a hospital; it is a cornerstone of the community. It provides affordable prenatal and postnatal care, nutritional education, child immunization, and family planning services. Each day, the hospital serves over 200 women, offering prenatal care, lab work, examinations, and a special care nursery. Additionally, the hospital operates a nursing school that educates nurses and midwives, producing over 60 graduates each year. This educational aspect significantly enhances the hospital's mission.



New HDU/ICU beds at Mary Help of the Sick Mission Hospital in Thika, Kenya, ready to support specialized care.

KASULU, TANZANIA

CONTINUAL TRANSFORMATION OF SCHOOL BUILDING



Converting a garage into a shop classroom at the continually improving Youth Center in Kasulu, Tanzania.

In 2012, the Missionaries of Africa in Kasulu, Tanzania embarked on a mission to revive a closed school, transforming it into a vital Youth Center that provides both social services and education. Initially, aid was provided to restore the school building and make it functional once again. However, the community didn't stop there. Over the past decade, with the generous support of donors in the United States and Germany, we have been able to expand the services at the Youth Center, reaching a growing number of young people.

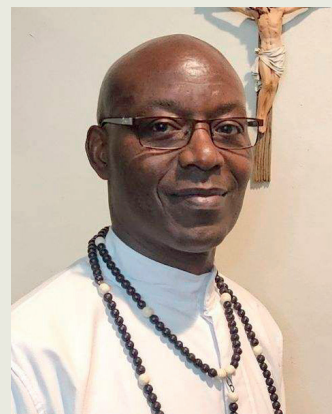
This year, we take pride in supporting the conversion of a garage into a new industrial art classroom. This endeavor exemplifies our commitment to the continual enhancement of facilities, ensuring that the Youth Center remains a dynamic and versatile hub for learning and growth.

The future of the young people in Kasulu is bright due to the educational opportunities offered by our ever-expanding Youth Center. Your ongoing support is crucial to making transformations like these possible, empowering communities and creating lasting positive impacts.

WELCOME TO FATHER HENRY!

Rev. Henry Byamukama, M.Afr., has joined the pastoral team at Our Lady of Light Parish in New York as a parochial vicar. Father Byamukama hails from Isingiro in western Uganda and first joined the Missionaries of Africa in 1990, taking his final vows in 2000, and being ordained in 2001. His prior assignments included serving in Canada, Zambia, Tanzania, Ireland, and Uganda.

Our Lady of Light Parish, established in 2008 in St. Albans, Queens, was formed by merging St. Catherine of Siena and St. Pascal Baylon into one parish. The Missionaries of Africa assumed responsibility for staffing the parish in 2020.



DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

REFRESHING PARISH NEWS



On Tanzania's coast at Sts. Joachim and Ann Catholic Church, parishioners are already reaping the benefits of a recently drilled water well. The initiative, undertaken in November, has become a source of joy and sustainability for the community.

Under the leadership of their pastor, Fr. Venkateswarlu Stephen Esanapalli, the parish is delighted to share that the well is now providing ample water to meet the needs of the church, school and the rectory. In a spirit of generosity, surplus water is being shared with their neighbors as well.

Before the installation of the well, the parish faced the challenge of filling water tanks through costly water truck deliveries. With the newfound self-sufficiency brought by the well, these challenges are now in the past.

Well drillers diligently working at Sts. Joachim and Ann Catholic Church.

COUNTRIES WE SERVE:



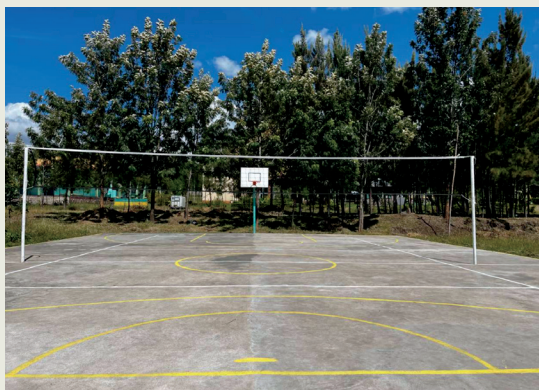
KOMBOLCHA, ETHIOPIA

REBUILDING AND PEACE



The transformation of the Selam Youth Centre in Kombolcha stands as a testament to the resilience and unity of the community. This vital space, once marred by conflict, has been reborn, welcoming young minds from various backgrounds and beliefs to its rebuilt recreational facilities.

Previously, the Selam Youth Centre served as a hub for learning, providing a library, computer access, and recreational activities to the young adults attending colleges in Kombolcha. However, during the Tigray War, the center fell victim to chaos as rebel forces overran Kombolcha. The Selam Youth Centre was not spared; it was looted and turned into an armed camp. The basketball court, once a symbol of shared joy, became occupied by artillery, in stark contrast with its original purpose of fostering peace.



The freshly built basketball court signifies the transformative journey underway at the Selam Youth Centre.

Last year, our missionaries returned to Kombolcha, aiming to resurrect the Selam Youth Centre as a place to foster peace. For the priests, restoring peace began with recreating normalcy and providing a healing space for the young people who had endured the trauma of war. It is with your invaluable support that we were able to rebuild the Selam Youth Centre, facilitating not just a physical transformation but also nurturing the emotional recovery of the community.

Your generosity has played a crucial role in this remarkable journey, enabling not only the revival of the Selam Youth Centre but also supporting similar transformations across Africa in the past year. Together, we are sowing the seeds of hope, compassion, and unity, honoring the people of Kombolcha and fostering a brighter future for the entire continent.

OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO

SAFE SPACE RENEWED

The Centre d'Etudes, le Pelican (Center for Study, The Pelican) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, has undergone a remarkable transformation, thanks to the generous support of donors of the Missionaries of Africa in the U.S.

Director Augustine Rotshak Gonsum is delighted to announce the completion of extensive renovations, breathing new life into the computer room and other areas of The Pelican. The refurbishments included repairs to exterior and interior walls, rejuvenating floors, and refreshing paint throughout the building's wing. Additionally, funds provided facilitated the acquisition of 25 new chairs and the upgrade of 10 tables, and the enhancement of the facility's infrastructure, including an improved internet connection.

Founded in 1992, The Pelican serves as a vital study space in a neighborhood of Ouagadougou rich with schools. Its premises provide students with a secure and tranquil environment, offering respite and safety after school hours and on weekends. Over the years, the institution has evolved, expanding programs to cater to young individuals beyond the formal school setting.

This renewal not only revitalizes the physical space but also reinforces The Pelican's commitment to fostering education, community, and safety for Ouagadougou's youth. The Missionaries of Africa extend heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated donor whose support significantly contributed to The Pelican's positive transformation.



At the Centre d'Etudes, le Pelican in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, new floors and furniture elevate the computer room's transformation.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB

Christopher Anderson
Director of Development

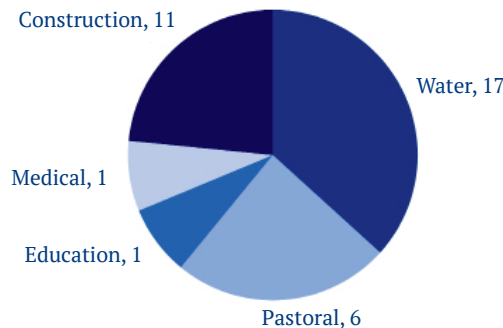
In December, thanks to your unwavering support, I had the privilege of informing thirty-seven project leaders in Africa that they would be receiving grant funds from the United States. Personally, delivering the news to hardworking missionaries about our assistance in providing clean water or fixing a leaky roof is always a source of joy for me.

While space limitations prevent most of these projects from being featured in our newsletters and appeal letters, each one stands as a testament to the profound impact of your generosity. Although we can only offer a glimpse of the work made possible by your contributions, we are excited to share a sampling of the diverse projects we've committed to supporting, as showcased in the simple chart categorizing the projects by type.

Upon sharing this positive news with our contacts for various projects, Father Delphin Mabaka, a dedicated Missionary of Africa serving in Nigeria, responded with heartfelt gratitude: "Good evening Mr. Anderson, thank you so much for this information. We thank all of you. God bless your benefactors!" Thanks to your support, we will enhance the safety of Father Mabaka and the other missionaries at our formation house in Nigeria by installing new lighting powered by solar panels.

The ongoing commitment of our donors is truly a blessing, making a significant impact on the lives of many in Africa. We eagerly anticipate keeping you posted by featuring some of the transformative projects that your generosity continues to support.

DECEMBER'S PROJECTS BY TYPE



WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION . . .

- Join our Friends of Hope monthly giving plan.
- Make a Memorial Gift in memory of a loved one.
- Celebrate a birthday, wedding or anniversary with a donation to our works in Africa.
- Donations of stock, securities, bonds or annuities provide the same benefit as a cash gift.
- Life Insurance: consider naming the Missionaries of Africa as a beneficiary.
- Bequests: an estate gift to support the ongoing work of the Missionaries of Africa.

Charitable IRA Transfers

Donors age 70 1/2 or older can transfer a contribution each year directly from a traditional IRA account. This may satisfy a portion or all of the annual required minimum distribution (RMD) and serve as a qualified charitable distribution for your IRA, which can decrease your tax burden even if you are no longer itemizing deductions.

** Always consult your tax preparer for your state regulations.*

How to make a Charitable Gift?

Donors should contact their IRA bank or broker/administrator to request an IRA distribution transfer to the Missionaries of Africa. Instruct your administrator to issue a check to:

Society of Missionaries of Africa, Inc.
Development Office
1622 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-1003

For more information, call us at: 877-523-4662

or visit: www.missionariesofafrica.org or email: info@missionariesofafrica.org

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