



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
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16 February 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of **March 3rd**, parishes in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will take up the annual collection to support the *Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa*. You may wonder how is this collection different from those that provide funds for disaster relief, food, shelter, and safe drinking water? Despite the physical needs of people in Africa, the Church has nearly tripled in size in the last 30 years. That growth means more pastoral leaders are needed to meet the social, spiritual, and psychological care of individuals and families.

When you support the collection for the *Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa*, your contribution helps the Church reach out to the people most in need and bring them pastoral care. In 2023 the U.S. Bishops' subcommittee on the Church in Africa awarded 75 grants totaling over \$2 million to provide funds for leadership formation, vocations, evangelization, youth ministry, and justice and peace.

Though the Church in Africa is rich in its response to the call to follow Jesus as disciples, it needs your help to carry out the mission. Your generosity will ensure that priests, religious brothers and sisters, and lay leaders have the knowledge and tools to provide compassionate care to our vulnerable brothers and sisters.

May God bless you for your generosity.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

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