

Rising to the Challenge in Rumbek

Bishop Stands Tall in Efforts to Heal, Unify and Educate

Bishop Christian Carlassare credits “divine mercy” for surviving a violent attack during a tribal conflict in April 2021, only a month after his appointment as the new Bishop of Rumbek. In fact, he says it has only strengthened his resolve to serve the people of God in South Sudan.

“Now I understand there cannot be peace and unity without mercy and compassion,” Bishop Christian said. “Let’s overcome the dichotomy between friend and enemy. Let’s recognize that we all belong to the same nation and work for unity. Love and compassion for one another will also demand that we care for our land and use resources for the benefit of all.”

Bishop Christian perseveres, and he will now play a crucial role in coordinating SRF’s wide-ranging support efforts in Rumbek Diocese.

Rumbek is home to:

- The Loreto School for Girls, a primary and secondary school providing much-needed education to girls aged 5-20
- The Missionaries of Charity, run by the House of Hope to provide physical and spiritual care to the needy in the spirit of their founder, Mother Teresa
- St. Bakhita’s school, operated by the Spiritans to educate tomorrow’s leaders in the region
- The Malo Leprosy Colony, recently profiled on Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) News, which delivers shelter and comfort to some 5,000 people struggling with the debilitating effects and social stigmas of their condition

“Divine mercy inspires me to continue my ministry with humility and joy,” reflects Bishop Christian, who has spent more than 17 years in the region. Through your continued support of SRF, he will be blessed with important resources that will allow him to continue delivering the Lord’s grace.



Funding in Action: Forging Economic Empowerment for those afflicted with HIV



Since its founding by the Comboni Missionary Sisters in 2004, the HIV Support Program in Nzara has provided a merciful haven for children, men, and women with HIV. Its purpose is to create a space where those afflicted can be cared for away from the stigma and abandonment of society.

Through healthcare, nutrition and education, the program develops a skilled and informed next generation. They provide follow-up to ensure medicines are administered consistently, and not only teach about nutrition, but deliver it by providing the children with two meals a day.

The organization goes beyond food programs and healthcare. More importantly, it works to try to stop the perpetuating stigma about HIV by educating parents and communities. Each year, they also provide school fees for up to 400 orphans and vulnerable children from grades K-8, an opportunity these children would simply never have otherwise.



With funding received from SRF, the Sisters have expanded their efforts even further in 2022, providing vocational training in baking, knitting, tailoring and weaving to people living with HIV—even constructing a 12-tray bakery plant in which over 150 young men and women acquire marketable skills for economic empowerment.

Director Sr. Winifred expressed her gratitude for this funding, noting “Sudan Relief Fund’s encouragement of our activities gave us hope to empower young people living with HIV to acquire knowledge and skills in different fields that can help them sustain themselves by becoming job creators and reducing unwanted pregnancies, idleness, theft, and other criminal acts. Thank you for coming to our support.”

LEAVE A LEGACY TO BE REMEMBERED FOR GENERATIONS

The dire situations for the needy and poor in South Sudan are a reality for the foreseeable future. But your love for these desperate and sick people can live on when you join the Sudan Relief Fund Legacy Society.

You can keep their communities thriving by specifying a legacy gift be made to Sudan Relief Fund as part of your estate plan, in your will or trust or by consulting with your investment advisor, accountant or lawyer.

You can also support them through a donor-advised fund. By contributing to the fund, you receive an immediate tax donation for the entire amount of your contribution. Over time, those proceeds are distributed to SRF as the fund continues to grow tax free.

At Sudan Relief Fund, we are blessed to have such generous donors. Please remember the poor of South Sudan in your legacy planning or by opening a donor-advised fund today. Contact Matthew Smith, V.P. of Development, at 617-604-3042 or visit sdnrlf.com/legacy-society for more information.

LEGACY SOCIETY
SUDAN RELIEF FUND



Providing a Beacon of Hope

For the children of South Sudan, a school provides more than just an education. It serves as a refuge from the daily struggles of a poverty-stricken life, offering safety, community and perhaps most importantly, hope for a brighter future.

In Rimenze, this beacon of hope is offered through the Brothers of Christian Instruction and their establishment of Our Lady of Assumption Vocational College School. The Institute of the Brothers of Christian Instruction is a lay religious institute focused on the promotion of education for over 100 years. The Brothers have lovingly provided a Christian education in 26 countries throughout the world to youth who otherwise had no good schools to go to. In 2019, they had 120,000 students and over 10,000 lay associates who partner with them in their ministry.

Through your continued generosity, SRF has been able to support their effort in South Sudan by

funding classrooms and dormitories in Rimenze for the past two years. And we are committed to do even more in the coming year, partnering with the Brothers to construct two additional classroom blocks, two additional dormitories, and two bathroom blocks to help serve even more children who so desperately need it.



With the continued blessings of God and your generous support, the Brothers can continue to carry out the mission of their founder “to educate the young and to make Jesus Christ better known and better loved.”

A CALL TO TEACH

Training Program Fulfills Vital Need in Secondary Schools

The call to teach is the building block upon which a solid educational foundation is built. But a shortage of education workers remains among the principal reasons that millions of school-aged children in South Sudan are currently receiving no education.

This is why SRF’s work with Solidarity with South Sudan is essential. The jointly funded and operated Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) in Yambio is turning this tide of woeful literacy and education rates by training the next generation of teachers.

SSTC offers students a two-year study program in a comprehensive curriculum of Professional Studies, English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Christian Religious Education, Physical and Health Education, Arts, and Music. Currently, 37.5% of its enrollees are women. And the results have been truly inspirational: to date, 72% of the program’s graduates are currently employed in the education sector.

SRF helped with construction of the college’s buildings and provides ongoing funding for operational costs with the Solidarity with South Sudan initiative, which runs training institutions in both Yambio and Wau.

SSTC’s two-year academic program culminates in comprehensive exams and a nationally recognized Certificate in Primary Teaching. Graduates then spend two-month internships gaining hands-on teaching experience in primary schools around Yambio.

Because of STTC, teachers are bringing the light of literacy and knowledge to tomorrow’s students.

“My children hope to be important people in the future: governors, presidents, doctors,” notes Christine, a grateful mother of two students being educated by teachers from SSTC. “The young generation will take over the country in the near future and if they are well educated, they will fight to end poverty in South Sudan. This can only happen when qualified teachers teach them.”



A MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW SMITH

VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT, SUDAN RELIEF FUND



DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST,

As I traveled to South Sudan this summer, I saw firsthand the needs – and heard directly from locals – about the daunting challenges that lie ahead for the nation and its people. This is still a region ravaged by drought, violence, and disease. I saw the every-day struggles, and they are almost inconceivable.

Yet seeing such incredible need, I was also deeply encouraged. Encouraged by the lives being saved by our partners on the ground, encouraged by the deep gratitude of our South Sudanese brothers and sisters in Christ, and encouraged by the unyielding faith of the Christian community throughout this young country.

With 2022 drawing to a close, I want to express my humble and sincere appreciation for the support you continue to provide to Sudan Relief Fund (SRF) in our mission to bring compassion and hope to the people of this region.

You have gone above and beyond in your generous support of SRF. Thank you!

Throughout my visit, I couldn't help but think of you, our most generous donors, while onsite at our project locations. Schools, hospitals, seminaries, water wells, maternity wards, an eye clinic, and countless other lifesaving projects—a lasting impact only made possible through your partnership with SRF.

I hope you are encouraged by the good work you are accomplishing through your giving, and I ask that you please continue to keep the people of South Sudan in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Matthew Smith

MERCY SOCIETY

SUDAN RELIEF FUND

The Sudan Relief Fund Mercy Society is a group of supporters deeply committed to bringing immediate necessities and long-term hope to the people of South Sudan. If your giving meets or exceeds certain levels, you will be automatically enrolled as a member. Mercy Society members have a fast, lasting impact in helping meet the needs of those suffering in South Sudan. In recognition of their key role in helping to fulfill our mission, Mercy Society members receive exclusive benefits.

To learn more about the Mercy Society, or to make a one-time contribution to Sudan Relief Fund, visit sdnrlf.com/ways-to-give.



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