



A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

Tragically, violent fighting across Sudan is back in the headlines. Our brothers and sisters in Christ there need our prayers now more than ever.

Yet amidst the turmoil that plagues so much of daily life in the country, one can often find uplifting stories that feed the soul and reaffirm our faith that God's blessing can and will be delivered here.

This was demonstrated recently with the stirring scenes of His holiness Pope Francis's visit to South Sudan. The sight of vast numbers of the faithful at every event, and their unbridled joy at seeing and hearing the words of the pope, were deeply inspiring.

I was especially touched by the pilgrimage undertaken by Sister Orla Treacy of the Loreto Sisters who, along with Bishop Christian Carlassare of Rumbek and a procession of 60 young people and 24 adults traveled most of the 250 miles between Rumbek and Juda on foot to see and pray with His holiness.

During the nine-day journey, the pilgrims prayed that Francis's visit would inspire peace—and hoped they would be blessed with an opportunity to meet him, a tall task given the enormous crowds and the pope's rigid schedule on his short trip.

Yet Saturday morning, after his audience with South Sudanese priests, Francis greeted the group outside the Juba cathedral. One of the young people was even able to gift Pope Francis an altar cloth made by some religious sisters of the Diocese of Rumbek.

It is an awesome example of how our faith can be so richly rewarded.

Sister Orla helped establish the Loreto Girls Secondary School, which has become one of South Sudan's premier centers for educating girls. Despite the nation's turmoil, the school has continued to provide enlightenment, shelter and a pathway to a brighter future for thousands of young women.

In still another example of how our faith is so richly rewarded, I am humbled to say that your contributions to Sudan Relief Fund are allowing us to fund \$25,000 in scholarships to the school to provide even more women with the opportunity to learn, grow, and become the future leaders of a prosperous South Sudan.

With God's help, we are truly transforming lives. That, always, is the most inspiring story of them all.

Yours in Christ,

Neil Corkery, President



SUDAN RELIEF FUND

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SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

Bringing the Gospel of Christ, and providing food, clean water, shelter and medical care, to the people of South Sudan

A Pilgrimage of Peace Papal Visit Includes Audience with SRF

His Holiness Pope Francis made a highly anticipated visit to South Sudan in February on what he called a "Pilgrimage of Peace," the first of its kind since the nation's independence and a truly blessed event for the largely Catholic country.

In addition to the Holy Father, the three days apostolic journey included the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, and the moderator general of the church of Scotland, Rev. Dr. Iain Greenshields.

The culmination of the ecumenical peace pilgrimage was the celebration of the Holy Mass by Pope Francis before an estimated 100,000 people. The theme of the homily was centered on peace and reconciliation and called on the political actors to be light and salt of the people of South Sudan, providing a role model for the people to emulate for the common good of the country to grow holistically.

"Even if our hearts bleed for the wrongs we have suffered, let us refuse, once and for all, to repay evil with evil," Francis said. "Let us accept one another and love one another with sincerity and generosity, as God loves us."

Sudan Relief Fund Program Coordinator, Fred Otieno, was on the ground in South Sudan to experience the historic visit and was privileged to be among those chosen to meet His Holiness.

"This invitation to meet the pope was extraordinary," Otieno observed. "After the Eucharistic celebration, I was able to meet His Holiness in the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio. I was able to briefly talk about the evangelization work of the church SRF has been involved in for the last 25 years in Sudan."



"During our time together, I was able to briefly share about the work Sudan Relief Fund is doing to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the people. It was an encounter that I'll cherish for the rest of my life. It's evident the Holy Father cares deeply about the people of South Sudan, and he stands with all those suffering."

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MERCY SOCIETY SUDAN RELIEF FUND

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.

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

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

Educating Teachers to Manage Grief, Trauma Partnership in Juba Fosters Healing for Future Success

Sudan Relief Fund's partnership with the Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) in Juba has helped create self-sustainable educational programs that empower South Sudanese people and children to build a just and peaceful society.

Solidarity with South Sudan's mission is to develop leaders and build the capacity of people in the region to become teachers, health care professionals, sustainable farmers, and more.

In ten years, STTC has graduated more than 700 qualified teachers in Professional Studies, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Christian Religious Education, Physical and Health Education, Arts and Music.

Once in the field, providing education in an impoverished and war-torn nation like South Sudan presents unique challenges and stresses. Students in South Sudan bring a diverse range of adverse experiences into the classroom, caused by poverty, neglect, domestic violence, abuse and experiences of war. Any one of these can compound the effects of the other. Such experiences may cause severe trauma reactions, depression, anxiety, and reduced concentration and motivation for schoolwork.

Many of the teachers in South Sudan have themselves endured hardships, including war experiences and being refugees. To

provide them with the proper tools to recognize and manage these traumas, and ultimately promote student success, SRF has dedicated funding to support STTC's Basic Counseling for Teachers course.

Teachers receive formal training in the basic cognitive understanding of psychosocial factors in children, as well as acquiring practical skill sets in how to reduce the effects of trauma and stress. Teachers are also taught appropriate ways to interact with children in this area of heightened sensitivity.

The effects of loss and trauma on academic functioning is well documented. Children in such adverse situations may react with fear, social withdrawal, a lack of concentration, sadness, depression, sleep problems, aggression, loss of motivation for education and dropping out of school.



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, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Development, at 617-604-3042 or visit sdnrlf.com/legacy-society for more information.



Fighting Back from Nature's Fury The Children of Storm-Ravaged Onjuku School are Struggling

A violent tropical storm rained destruction on Onjuku village in northern Uganda on March 14, wiping out classrooms that served and sheltered the children of the region—a staggering number of whom are South Sudanese refugees. In an area hard hit by poverty and near famine conditions, it was another devastating blow to an already precarious life situation.

Rev. Bro. Samuel Hakim Alberto, Community Superior and Project Manager for the St. Martin de Porres Brothers, reached out to SRF with this devastating news.

"We are deeply affected and feel for the children who urgently need help now," Rev. Alberto wrote. "The children live in extremely simple and inhumane living conditions. Whole streets are under water. The children have been relocated to learn under trees."

As it so often is, God's mercy has been delivered to Onjuku in the wake of the devastation. SRF has approved an emergency funding request of \$25,000 towards rebuilding these classrooms—and

building a brighter future for the children there. Once again, SRF's donors can have a great impact on those struggling to survive in South Sudan, and the refugees who have been forced to flee.

As Rev. Alberto notes, "With your donation, together we can create a safe home for these poor children and future generation of children in need of protection and a better future. God bless you for your kindness."



The Lives You've Saved MOM Hospital Helps Abdu Run Again

Boys will be boys—sometimes with painful results. Thirteen-year-old Abdu Razak was doing just that, running and playing games with friends, when he fell and fractured his leg.

Abdu underwent an operation at El Obeid Hospital in Central Sudan to repair and set the bone. While the operation initially seemed to be successful, it soon became apparent that his injury was not healing as it should. He had contracted osteomyelitis, a serious condition where bacteria infect the bone. Abdu experienced fever, swelling, fatigue, and tremendous pain at the site of the infection.

Left untreated, the condition can lead to the loss of a limb and life-threatening complications.

Typically, strong antibiotics and surgery to remove all infected bone tissue are required to recover successfully.

A few weeks after his injury, Abdu's parents learned about Mother of Mercy Hospital from concerned neighbors who spoke of the care and compassion provided there. Abdu's father pulled his son on the back of a three-wheeled tuktuk for nearly 145 miles across rugged, muddy

terrain to reach the facility where he hoped his boy could find the help he needed.

Upon arrival, Abdu was quickly diagnosed and treated for the condition that threatened his leg and life. He has undergone two surgeries so far and is improving significantly. His leg is saved, and happily, Abdu is expected to heal completely. He's looking forward to getting back to school and resuming a normal teen life.

Both Abdu and his parents are exceedingly grateful to Mother of Mercy Hospital, and supporters of SRF who help fund this beacon of hope. His parents earnestly thank the staff and supporters of the hospital for saving their son from a far worse fate. Because of the right help at a critical moment, a thirteen-year-old boy will soon run and play again, just as young boys should.

