Greetings!

Grateful for the Progress and Success of *Solidarity*.

As 2012 is drawing to a close, it is time for *Solidarity* to look back. It has been a good year, a very busy year, a year which has given us many reasons to celebrate and thank God for the continued generosity of our friends and supporters. During these past twelve months we have seen our programmes in South Sudan develop, mature and expand. We are seeing the significant impact of the training and education given and the development of pastoral workshops in many communities. The needs in South Sudan continue to be enormous, but we in *Solidarity* are ready for the New Year and will do our best to ensure that 2013 sees further progress and success of our programmes.

*Solidarity with South Sudan* (*Solidarity*)

Christmas Appeal - 2012

Christmas Appeal -2012

Message - Fr. Callistus
Veronica, a Solidarity Teacher Training Student from the Nuba Mountains with her newborn son.

"Thank you for coming to be with us" - this was how Solidarity with South Sudan was heart-warmingly greeted when we first started our work in Southern Sudan. Little did we, or anybody else, know that this beginning would become something we today can honestly call;

"A miracle unfolding".

We thank you for being with us in ‘solidarity’ and invite you to continue on our joint journey towards a brighter future of hope for peace for the people of South Sudan.

On our website page www.solidarityssudan.org you will find our Christmas Appeal, Flyer and donation details in five languages, English, Spanish, French, German, Italian. You can also donate on-line by PayPal. Please share our information with your friends, parishes, schools and workplaces. Every contribution counts and will make a difference.

With gratitude,

Sr. Patricia Murray ibvm Fr. Callistus Y.P Joseph cmf
Executive Director Director of Projects
FR. CALLISTUS Y.P JOSEPH cmf
Director of Projects

Dear Friends of Solidarity,
Greetings from Juba, South Sudan

Solidarity with South Sudan has grown in the last four years. Many would say that we have grown very fast. The greatest gifts we have in Solidarity are our committed members.

No other Teacher Training programme in South Sudan has reached so far and wide as Solidarity-delivered teacher training in Malakal, Yambio, Leer, Rumbe and Agok. Our members reached out to the neediest without compromising the standard that this Nation requires to lay the foundation for its growth and progress. Solidarity Health Training is providing an outstanding service in preparing well qualified Registered Nurses and Midwives. As our students are exposed to the reality of the health facilities of this country, they become aware of the great need for their service. The recognition that our students are professionally trained with deep compassion for the patients, speaks for itself.

Solidarity Pastoral Services focused this year on promoting the Post-Synodal document, "Africe Munus", and Catholic Social Teachings as foundational values for Nation building.

Solidarity Community Farming Projects had bumper harvests this year contributing to the food security of the country.

We are very grateful to our partners who have generously contributed towards our endeavors. I believe Solidarity is an example of how global partnerships can make development possible.

Thank you,

Father Callistus Y.P Joseph CMF

Educational Challenges in South Sudan
Solidarity's Response

The Situation

A recent United Nations IRIN article reported how South Sudan has struggled to meet the demands for education. There are not enough schools, not enough teachers, not enough resources. A study by the South Sudan office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports that 70% of children between six and seventeen have never set foot inside a classroom and that only one in ten children completes primary school.

A recent study by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), reports that less than 2% of the population has completed a primary school education. "South Sudan is believed to have the worst literacy rate in the world, worse than Mali and Niger, which were the only ones close. Adult literacy currently sits at 27%," reported Jessica Hjarrand, education specialist at UNESCO. Since South Sudan seceded from the North in July 2011, the country has magnanimously struggled to build an education system for its young and to educate the millions of adults who missed out on school during the calamitous Civil Wars. The situation is compounded because South Sudan has switched from offering instruction in Arabic, which is associated with the North, to English - a challenge for most teachers and students. Five decades of war have had an inevitable impact on education in South Sudan.

Solidarity

Training Teachers
Solidarity has taken action to ease the monumental problem faced by the new Government of South Sudan. On behalf of the Sudan Catholic Bishops’ Conference, Solidarity hopes to provide quality teacher training following the curriculum of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS). Highly motivated, competent and effective teachers have been trained by Staff from our two teacher training institutes in Yambio and Malakal. Through Solidarity’s outreach programmes, innovative distant learning techniques make it possible to reach out to teachers in remote areas. One of Solidarity’s main goals is to improve educational opportunities for women and girls.

Solidarity Training Nurses and Midwives

The United Nations ranked South Sudan as one of the ten worst places to be a mother since one in seven women die during childbirth. Life is perilous for the child also; one in five children dies before the age of five. The Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) is a Republic of South Sudan (RSS) recognized institute for the training of diploma level nurses and midwives according to the
curricula developed by the Ministry of Health and Higher Education. The institute in Wau is owned by the Sudan Catholic Bishops’ Conference and was reopened and run by Solidarity at their request. The first intake of students began in 2010. The first programme offered was Registered Nursing (RN) training, the first RN certified programme in the history of the country. Certification requires three and a half years of academic training and clinical rotations. The first group of midwifery students began the State certified programme in 2012.

Solidarity
Affirmative Action

Currently there are 12 women and 40 men enrolled in the RN program. In Midwifery there are 10 women and 11 men. These 73 students are from 8 of the 10 States and different tribes in the Republic of South Sudan and from the Abyei and Nuba Mountain regions. Solidarity is actively seeking to enroll a greater number of women and is working with local communities and schools to offer pre-service training for women in order to encourage them to enter
the nursing profession. In 2012, Solidarity began some special affirmative action programs directed primarily at women. A major challenge is to assist current teachers to improve their knowledge of English and to obtain the recognized qualifications. This is an urgent priority, especially for Arabic-trained teachers who could otherwise find their future students more proficient in English than they are.

**Solidarity with South Sudan in the Media**

*Catholic religious help South Sudan train badly needed nurses, midwives*

*By Paul Jeffrey*

Catholic News Service

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*Please click here to access this article on-line.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Solidarity’s work in education and the health-care professions would be impossible without the magnificent support received from our volunteers and our donors. You have helped Solidarity bring the gift of greater opportunity to the people of South Sudan. Thanks to all who are a part of that gift.