

Name _____

Complete Address _____

Email address _____ Phone _____

I intend to donate \$_____ to The Solidarity Fund of Lodwar-Kalamazoo.

I want to designate my gift for

_____ the school scholarship programs ___ girls ___ boys
_____ \$515 (boarding school) ___ \$300 (day students) ___ other amount

_____ the diocesan high school seminary

_____ the water project to repair and improve water access

_____ the new Good Shepherd Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

_____ the Priests Solidarity Fund to support the clergy of Lodwar

_____ use by the Bishop of Lodwar [Bishop's Annual Appeal]

_____ this purpose: _____

Future donations may be sent to

The Solidarity Fund of Lodwar-Kalamazoo (SFOLK)
7632 East ML Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49048 USA



THE SOLIDARITY FUND OF LODWAR-KALAMAZOO (SFOLK)

Whatever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers, you do to me. (Matthew 25:30)



In the past few years, the relationship has grown between the Dioceses of Lodwar, Kenya, and Kalamazoo, Michigan. This follows a long relationship between Lodwar's former bishop, the Most Rev. Dominic Kimengich, and a benefactor from Kalamazoo, Mary Agnes McGrail. That relationship later included St. Joseph Parish (Kalamazoo); and trauma recovery work in Lodwar by Sharon Froom and Fr. Kenneth Schmidt, both of the Kalamazoo Diocese.



Later, Kalamazoo's Bishop Paul J. Bradley, Msgr. Michael Hazard



(Vicar General), and Fr. John Peter, MSFS, made a pastoral visit to Lodwar; and then Fr. Joseph Ekalimon, Lodwar's Vicar General, spent his sabbatical in the Kalamazoo Diocese.

More recently, a priest from the Kalamazoo Diocese, Fr. Bruno Okoli, has provided priestly ministry in the



Diocese of Lodwar; and Fr. Albert Kemboi Tuitoek, a priest of Lodwar, serves in the Kalamazoo Diocese. Now the Diocese of Lodwar and the Diocese of Kalamazoo are led by the Most Rev. John Mbinda and the Most Rev. Edward Lohse. Both desire to preserve the sister diocese relationship.

In 2018, a publication brought to the attention of the Kalamazoo presbytery the great financial difficulties experienced by the priests in the Lodwar



Diocese. They responded by establishing a Priests Solidarity Fund, which makes financial resources available to the priests of Lodwar, who then determine how best to receive, distribute, and use these contributions. In 2021 The Solidarity Fund of Lodwar-Kalamazoo was created as a non-profit corporation for the support of the Diocese of Lodwar, its ministries

and schools, as well as its clergy. Gifts to the Solidarity Fund qualify as tax-deductible contributions.

Bringing Hope to Those in Need

The Diocese of Lodwar is located in Turkana County, Kenya. It is one of the poorest counties in that country, in which 65% of the Turkana people are nomadic pastoralists. The Diocese is also the site of the United Nations' Kakuma camp, home for over 300,000 refugees, many of whom are fleeing wars in their homelands.

The presence of the Church is helping in a very big way to change the minds and perceptions of the people of Lodwar towards the ways of peace. It is very clear that only when educated, evangelized, and imbued with Christian values will there be hope for the future and a lasting peace in their hearts, in their homes, and with their neighbors.

To ensure that students get a quality education Bishop Dominic established two secondary schools in the diocese, one for boys and another for girls, managed privately by the Church. The goal is to set high standards so that these students will get the best education possible, enabling them to compete with other students in the country for the few vacancies available in colleges. A good moral education with discipline and performance standards gives them hope for the future. Improving standards can make a real impact and help create the nation's leaders of tomorrow. Indeed, most of Kenya's leaders have been educated in Catholic missionary schools.



The Good Shepherd Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, are a religious congregation formed by Bishop Dominic to serve the Diocese of Lodwar.



IMPROVE ACCESS TO WATER by repairing water access points