****

Many common illnesses and injuries cannot be solved with a pill. Surgical intervention is often the only treatment that can alleviate disabilities and reduce the risk of death from common health issues. Yet in low-income countries, like Bolivia and Paraguay, most people cannot access safe and affordable care. Rooted in the principles of Catholic social teaching, Solidarity Bridge responds to this concrete reality. And on this Mission Cooperation Sunday, we invite you to partner with us to provide lifesaving care.

Solidarity Bridge is a lay mission of the Archdiocese of Chicago. We seek a just, compassionate, and interdependent world, where the health needs of those most vulnerable are prioritized and medical professionals have the necessary resources to serve their communities. In a spirit of solidarity, we partner with communities in Bolivia and Paraguay to increase access to safe, affordable surgery and other essential healthcare. Together, we operate four year-round programs in general surgery, gynecologic surgery, heart surgery, and neurosurgery. Medical mission trips support our year-round programs, bringing US doctors and nurses to Bolivia and Paraguay to work with local medical personnel. Through focused training, key equipment donations, and strategic partnerships, we are helping the most vulnerable patients access safe and timely surgical care.

Today, our work is more important than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic is straining the already fragile health systems in Bolivia and Paraguay. And, as patients are forced to delay needed surgeries, their conditions worsen and their procedures become more complex. While our international travel may be paused due to the pandemic, our outreach, care and support for those who are suffering continues. Through our local partners we are providing resources and support to our partner hospitals and accompanying patients in need of critical care. By building bridges of solidarity, our mission of healing continues to transform lives. Thank you for supporting this work!

Learn more about this mission at [www.solidaritybridge.org](http://www.solidaritybridge.org)