**THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF ST. BERNADETTE-**RAINWATER HARVESTING TANKS CONSTRUCT IN TANZANIA 2020.

Dear brothers and Sisters,

My name is Sr. Gaudiosa Fidelis. I am originally from Tanzania East Africa, and I belong to the Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette. First of all, I would like to thank your Excellency Bishop, your beloved Pastor, *and* the Director of the *Mission Office* for inviting me to speak to you. It is a privilege and a great honor to do in the mission appeal in this parish. I would like to thank God for the Gift of lives, and for your involvement in the church. Today, I would like to share with you and tell you what we do in the missions, so that you may be part of our efforts.

The Franciscan Sister of St. Bernadette was founded in 1958 in the diocese of Rulenge-Ngara as a diocesan community by the Late Bishop Alfred Lanctont, a White Father, (today Missionaries of Africa) from Canada. Our community has 220 professed members. Its purpose is to spread the Good News by rendering pastoral and social services especially taking care of orphans, HIV/AIDS victims, the sick in hospitals, lepers, widows, widowers, women, children, youth, and teaching schools.

At present, the great challenge we have always faced is getting enough money to support St. Bonaventure English Medium School to construct rainwater harvesting tanks. Our new school is facing acute shortage of water mostly in the dry seasons. In this period, the sisters and other workers are forced to walk long distances to search for water for our orphans and other children whom we serve. However, it is difficulty to carry a lot of water 2 miles away on the head. Therefore, we carry little by little thus wasting a lot of time. We believe that this effort of constructing rainwater harvesting tanks will reduce the shortage of water and costs. We are relying on your support its accomplishments

 It is for this reason that we would like to ask you today to be part of this effort. We understand that through baptism we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord. We are a family. As members of one family, we are called upon to support one another wherever we are through prayers and financial assistance. My problems and concerns are yours and yours are mine. That is what family members do. They hold hands, uplift one another, and move forward together.

We would like to invite you to be generous and support us as we try to give hope to the hopeless and power to the powerless. Our mission is to construct rainwater harvesting tanks for unprivileged children to have enough water during the dry season. We cannot accomplish our goal without generous contributions from people like you. We thank you in advance for your anticipated generosity which will be very highly appreciated. We assured you our humble prayers in this difficult time of the COVID-19. Thank you for your attention and God bless you. You are most welcome to Tanzania.

Let me now share with you a song in my native language of Swahili. It is a song we sing with the orphans every day to remind them that God loves them. The translation is: God is love. He loves his people and He love us. *Mungu ni pendo apenda watu Mungu nipendo anipenda (Sikilizeni furaha yangu Mungu ni anipenda* (x2). I invite you to watch a short video for ministries: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1phJpLy5LFUqRbmokQdbWyXkQ8DDCQVN7/view>