**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KABALE- UGANDA**

**Missionary Cooperation Plan**

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My name is Fr. Frederick Byaruhanga, I serve as Diocesan Representative of the Diocese of Kabale (Uganda). I’m also honored to serve those who served as a VA hospital chaplain. Today’s liturgy presents us with the miracle of Jesus’s marvelous generosity—the Good News being proclaimed to those in great need—the 5000 who were fed with not only bread but also God’s amazing grace! We also witness the fulfilment of the words of Prophet Isaiah (1st reading)—"All you who are thirsty, come to the water. You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat.” This is, indeed, the heart and soul of Christ’s mission of evangelization and discipleship—that from our love, kindness and compassionate care, all people will come to taste the goodness of God. In the spirit of mission, therefore, and on behalf of Kabale Diocese, I’m humbly appealing for your financial help to enable us make Christ present to those in our mission diocese sitting on the margins and are crying with hunger, disease, desperation, destitution, and lostness.

 Kabale Diocese is one of the 19 dioceses in Uganda located in the southwestern corner of the country—about 280 miles from the capital city of Kampala. We serve a population of about 1.5 million people, and 750,000 are Roman Catholic. The vast majority of the people we serve are located in rural, underserved, and mostly remote areas of the country. Most critical among the challenges they face is healthcare. Leading causes of death in Uganda include neonatal disorders, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, lower respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, congenial defects, ischemic heart disease, stroke, road injury, and malnutrition.

 To address the above daunting challenges, Kabale Diocese is in the process of developing a hospital for the rural poor—Our Lady of Good Health Hospital Rushoroza. Through the gracious generosity of many, we have managed to complete the initial phase--outpatient department, minor operating room, medical/ surgical ward and small delivery/maternity unit. We are transitioning into the next phase for which we are seeking assistance, a phase that comprises of children’s ward, dental, ophthalmology, radiology, medical laboratory units, and expansion on emergency room, operating room, maternity unit, and ambulance services. Our one and only ambulance is 15 years old and almost beyond repair.

We are also seeking assistance to support our long-term Kabale Diocese Orphaned and Vulnerable Children Program, a program I personally helped to establish maintain active involvement. Through our foster home care program, we provide out-reach support to orphaned children the vast majority of whom have lost both parents and are left all alone to fend for themselves. We provide them with shelter, school tuition, clothing, and healthcare. We are currently supporting 540 children out of well over 20,000 greatly in need of help. One of them was ordained a priest last year. What a blessing!

Additionally, as evangelization and spiritual care remains our core mission, we continue to struggle with the high cost of formation/training of seminarians and catechists. We are in the process of building diocese-wide small Christian communities for primary/grassroots evangelization an effort that relies heavily on priests, religious, and catechists.

Those who will directly benefit from your generous giving include the sick, the disadvantage orphans, and the faithful in general (evangelization/spiritual growth). And to make matters worse for those in rural remote areas, the coronavirus has brought so much anguish to so many of them—to the least. Your generosity with, therefore, come as a Godsend lifeline to many!

We are so ever grateful for your gracious and most generous outreach support to the church in the missions, people whose names you don’t even know. What a difference you make! Your hearts are, indeed, deeply felt—and we are eternally thankful!

May the Good Lord reward abundantly and keep you safe.

Most gratefully,

Rev. Frederick K. Byaruhanga

Diocesan Representative