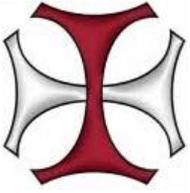


# DIOCESAN MISSION APPEAL, SUMMER 2021



## CROSIER FATHERS AND BROTHERS

My dear brothers and sisters, I am Father Hubert Kavusa, of the Crosier Fathers and Brothers, also known as the *Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross*. I was born and raised in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), formerly called Zaire. I am now serving the people of God with my Crosier brothers in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Crosier Order – or the *Order of the Holy Cross* – is one of the oldest religious orders in the Roman Catholic Church. We were founded by Blessed Theodore de Celles in **1210** in what is now the diocese of Liege, in Belgium. Our mission is **to keep the Gospel alive and proclaimed as we touch suffering with hope**. Today, over **800 years** since our foundation, we Crosier Fathers and Brothers are serving the people of God in Europe, North America, South America, Asia, and Africa. In the midst of these difficult times of COVID-19, I am here today to share a message of hope. I am here today to tell the story of our mission in Africa, namely in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and invite you to support us as we strive to touch suffering with hope.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the **second-largest country in Africa** and one-fourth the size of the US. The Congo is an extremely rich country with a superabundance of natural resources like diamonds, gold, silver, copper, oil, water, forest... There are some 86 million Congolese (let me correct that: there are

now some 80 million Congolese. About 6 million people have died in the last 20 years as a result of war and its consequences - poverty, violence, hunger, sickness...).

The Congolese population is desperately poor. Nearly 70% of the Congolese population lives below the poverty level, subsisting on less than \$2 a day. You will certainly ask me: **Why is that? Why are people so poor in such a rich country?** The main reason why the Congolese population is so poor is that the country never had responsible political leaders since independence. Over the years, corruption and war have destroyed the country; those who are in power don't care about the common good; they don't care about the wellbeing of the people.

As a result, the Congo is one of the countries with the largest number of children out of school. Millions of children – *especially girls* – from very poor families do not go to school because their parents cannot afford tuition or because there is no school around. Thousands of boys and girls have been recruited by rebel groups as child soldiers.

We Crosiers believe that education is a **fundamental right** for every child in the world. We believe that all children deserve quality and affordable education. We also believe that education is a critical means to instill a new culture, the culture of peace and reconciliation, and so put an end to the cycle of violence and poverty in the DRC.

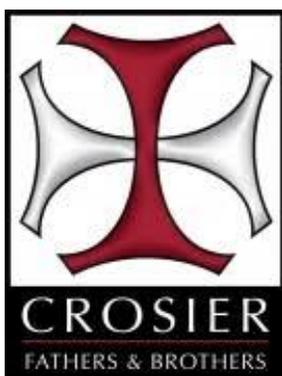
This is why, besides our many services in parishes and hospitals, we Crosiers are building a K-12

Catholic School in the city of Butembo/DRC. This school will serve approximately **1,600 children, boys and girls**, from low-income families, including refugees and displaced families. The first of 4 phases of building the new K-12 catholic school started last May. In order to complete this project, our goal is to raise **\$1 million**.

The Crosier Fathers and Brothers in the Congo are dependent on the outside for support. The economic situation of the country does not give us any real opportunity for self-support. We cannot achieve our goal to build a new school without the help of generous people like you. This is why I am asking for your support today. I am here in the name of thousands of uneducated children in Butembo. I am here on behalf of the Crosier Fathers and Brothers in the Congo to *ask for your help*. I am here to invite you to partner with us in building a new school in Butembo. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of many children in the Congo. Together, let us give them a chance for a better future. Please consider making a donation for our K-12 school project in Butembo. There are now **115 Crosiers** in the Congo; 40 of them are in initial formation at various levels. The tuition for a seminarian in the Congo is **\$1,500** a year. Would you consider supporting the education of one Crosier seminarian in the Congo?

In 2015, the Crosier Fathers and Brothers initiated a fund that provides scholarships for vulnerable students in DRC. Thanks to the contributions of generous people like you, **40 students**, boys and girls, who would never get a chance to attend higher education are now studying at the Crosier Holy Cross College in Mulo/DRC. We rely on the generosity of people like you to continue this wonderful ministry and even expand it to more students. As you all know, higher education can be expensive, but it's not the same in the Congo as here in the U.S. If your son or daughter wants to go to a private university, you might pay \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000 a year. The tuition for a college student in the Congo is **\$1,500** a year. Would you contribute to the Crosier Scholarship Fund by supporting one vulnerable student?

There will be a second collection at this Mass. Please make your checks payable to your parish. If you forgot your checkbook, it's no problem. The pastor knows how to get late checks to us. Thank you for helping us to carry out our mission. Thank you for helping us continue the mission of the Church. God bless you in the name of the Fathers, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



## SUPPORT A CROSIER SEMINARIAN!

