



# Friends In Solidarity

## Educational Toolkit

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Sr. Charmaine Krohe, SSND  
School Sisters of Notre Dame,  
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This educational toolkit will introduce you to **Friends in Solidarity, Inc.**, give you a glimpse into life in South Sudan, the projects **Friends in Solidarity** supports and the impact of these projects on the people of South Sudan.

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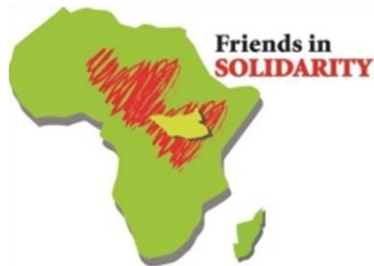
### Prayer card

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# Friends in Solidarity

## All About Us

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**Friends in Solidarity**, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization established in November 2015 to support the work of **Solidarity with South Sudan**. The Members of the Corporation are major superiors of eight US religious congregations and the Board of Directors are religious women and men with an interest in the work being done by **Solidarity in South Sudan**. It has an office sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in Silver Spring, MD. Sr. Joan Mumaw, IHM, is the President and Chief Administrative Officer of the organization. [www.solidarityfriends.org](http://www.solidarityfriends.org)

### Our Mission

**Friends in Solidarity** is a collaborative ministry initiated by Institutes of Women and Men Religious in the United States supporting the people of Africa, especially South Sudan, through capacity building initiatives that include the training of teachers, health care professionals and pastoral teams. Compelled by the suffering of our African brothers and sisters, we are committed to raising awareness of their situation and working in collaboration with the Church in Africa as it accompanies, equips and empowers the people to create a sustainable future where their full human potential may be realized.

### Our Vision

We envision a just and peaceful society in Africa built upon the values of collaboration, inclusivity and solidarity between and among peoples, cultures, generations and nations.

### Model of Ministry

**Solidarity with South Sudan** espouses a unique model of ministry, one of collaboration between congregations of men and women with different charisms coming from a variety of countries. It is inspired by the call of the Congress on Consecrated Life – Passion for Christ, Passion for Humanity, held in Rome in 2004. The Congress invited religious to search for...a new paradigm.....born of compassion for the scarred and downtrodden of the earth – around new priorities, new models of organization and open and flexible collaboration between men and women of good will.

**Friends in Solidarity** is inspired by this call and the model of collaboration.



Joan Mumaw, IHM  
President and  
Chief Administrative Officer



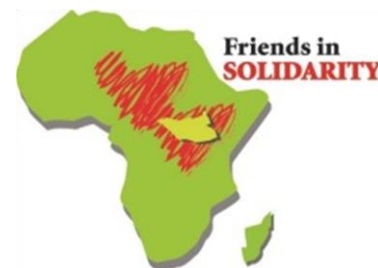
Ann Oestreich, IHM  
Chair of the Board



**Friends in Solidarity**



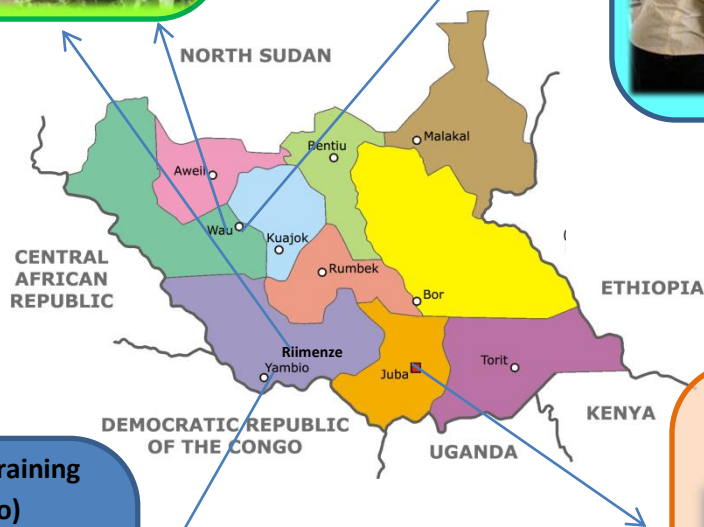
# Projects We Support in South Sudan



## Agriculture Projects (Riimenze & Wau)



## Catholic Health Training Institute (Wau)



## Solidarity Teacher Training College (Yambio)



## Coordinating Office, Pastoral Center & Peace Center (Kit, near Juba)



Communities of Women  
and Men Religious reside in:

- Juba
- Kit
- Wau
- Riimenze
- Yambio



Learn more about these projects  
on the following pages.

To make a donation to support  
Friends in Solidarity, Inc.:

<https://www.solidarityfriends.org/donate>

Solidarity Team: 28 priests brothers and sisters from 17 religious congregations and 14 countries



# South Sudan

## Geography, Demographics & History

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### Geography

South Sudan, a landlocked country, is located in Eastern Africa. Its borders are (Clockwise): Sudan to the north, Ethiopia to the east, Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the south and the Central African Republic to the west.



### Flag Symbolism

Black: African skin  
Red: Bloodshed of martyrs  
Green: Verdant land  
White: Peace  
Blue: Waters of the Nile  
Yellow: Unity of the states



### Topography

South Sudan is mostly covered in tropical forest, swamps, and grassland. The White Nile passes through the country, passing by the capital city of Juba. The Imatong Mountains are in the southern part of the country and its highest peak is Mt. Kinyeti.

The Sudd, the Bahr el Ghazal and the Sobat River swamps provide a significant resource for wild animals, as well as livestock.



Imatong Mountains – Mt. Kinyeti



White Nile



The Sudd Swamp

### Fast Facts

Area: 644,329 sq km, about the size of Texas  
Population: 12,530,717 (July 2016 est.)  
Median age: 17.1 years  
Capital: Juba  
Ethnic Groups: Dinka 35.8%, Nuer 15.6%, Shilluk, Azande, Bari, Kakwa, Kuku, Murle, Mandari, Didinga, Ndogo, Bviri, Lndi, Anuak, Bongo, Lango, Dungotona, Acholi (2011 est.)  
Languages: English (official), Arabic; regional languages include Dinka, Nuer, Bari, Zande, Shilluk  
Religion: Animist, Christian  
Unemployment: 18.5% (ages 15-24)  
Natural Resources: Hydropower, fertile land diamonds, gold, zinc, mica, tungsten, silver, limestone, iron ore, copper, petroleum

Let us pray together that  
Christians in Africa, in imitation  
of the Merciful Jesus, may give  
prophetic witness to  
reconciliation, justice, and peace."

(Pope Francis)





# South Sudan's Tumultuous History

1956

to

2017



1956 – Sudan gains Independence



1980s – Civil War



July 9, 2011

South Sudan becomes an independent nation



2014 – refugee camps



2017 - Famine

- January 1, 1956 Sudan gains its independence after an agreement between the United Kingdom and Egypt.
- 1956 -1972 First Civil War
- March 27, 1972 The signing of the Addis Ababa Agreement ends 16 years of civil war between the northern Khartoum forces and southern Anyanya rebels. Part of the agreement includes the creation of the autonomous region of South Sudan, with Juba as its capital.
- 1983 The Sudan People's Liberation Army is formed and civil war is re-ignited. South is fighting against the government's proposal to re-divide the region and the imposition of Islamic law and militaristic rule.
- March 27, 1995 Sudan's government calls for a two month ceasefire at the request of former US President Jimmy Carter.
- January 9, 2005 The Comprehensive Peace Agreement is signed by representatives from the North and the South. Part of the agreement includes independence for southern Sudan within six years and that Islamic law would not apply there.
- April 11-15, 2010 Sudan holds multi-party elections for the first time in 24 years. Salva Kiir Mayardit is elected president of southern Sudan with 93% of the vote.
- Jan. 9-15, 2011 Sudanese people vote in a referendum to secede or remain part of a unified Sudan.
- February 7, 2011 The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission announces that 98.83% have voted for separation from the North.
- March, 2011 Violence breaks out in southern Sudan between soldiers and rebel groups.
- July 9, 2011 South Sudan becomes an independent nation and five days later becomes the 193 member of the United Nations.
- December, 2013 Civil war erupts as President Salva Kiir accuses his former Vice-President, Riek Machar, of plotting to overthrow him.
- January, 2014 A ceasefire is signed but broken several times over subsequent weeks, and further talks in February fail to end the violence that displaces more than a million people by April.
- December, 2016 A UN commission on human rights says a process of ethnic cleansing is underway in several parts of the country, a claim that President Salva Kiir denies.
- February, 2017 The UN announces famine; 100,000 people are on the verge of starvation and 4.9 million people - more than 40% of South Sudan's population - are in need of urgent help.

In the midst of this suffering, Solidarity with South Sudan & Friends in Solidarity bring Joy and Hope!

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# Friends in Solidarity

## Solidarity Teacher Training College

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### Education – A Great Need in South Sudan

*Solidarity with South Sudan in partnership with  
Friends in Solidarity is responding to this need*

Approximately 26,000 teachers are needed in South Sudan! Sixty years of civil war have stalled all attempts to educate people and to train teachers. Most teachers in the schools have about four years of education! Only 27 % of the population is literate. Only 18% of women older than 24 are literate. Solidarity with South Sudan is committed to raising the level of literacy by training primary school teachers. The Solidarity Teacher Training College (TTC) in Yambio was dedicated in early 2013. A two year residential pre-service program is held from January to November. At the end of these programs, teachers are nationally certified to teach in state schools. STTC was the only college in the country to graduate new teachers at the end of 2016!

In early 2014, the college in Malakal was destroyed in the civil war. As a result, a decision was made to expand the college at Yambio as a national college. Two new dormitories, a library/classroom block, and additional staff housing have been built to accommodate an influx of students. The goal is to provide for 180 students on campus for the pre-service program.

Over 4000 teachers have participated in courses offered through Solidarity with South Sudan. In addition, curriculum materials and certification are now offered to the Jesuit Refugee Service Teacher Training Program in Maban. This program trains teachers coming from the UN Protection of Civilian Sites in the area. **Friends in Solidarity** is committed to helping this happen.



In 2012 Solidarity began affirmative action programs for women. These programs are creating a new dynamic and alerting young women to possible careers in teaching and health care. 50% of students at the Catholic Health Training Institute are now women, up from 20%. About 25% of students at the TTC are women. Most girls never finish primary let alone secondary school.

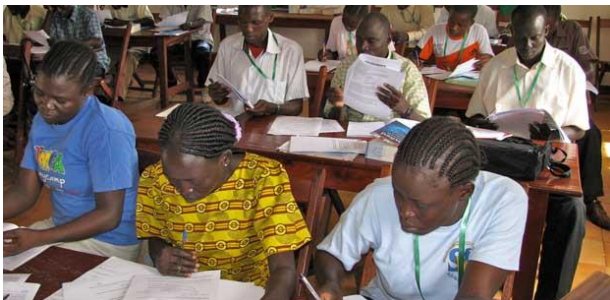
Solidarity Teacher Training College serves a multi-ethnic student population forming leaders for the future of South Sudan.





On behalf of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference, Solidarity Teacher Training College aims to provide quality teacher training following the curriculum of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS), certified by the Ministry of Education through the University of Juba. This training focuses on teachers in primary schools of South Sudan and those intending to become primary teachers. Solidarity Teacher Training College is a leading provider of primary teacher training in South Sudan.

Some eager students are all smiles knowing that these teachers will provide them with a quality education.



The new library at Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio is being fully used and enjoyed by the students at the college. The first term began in January and since then the students have applied themselves wholeheartedly to their studies. Two new tutors have joined the tutorial staff – Br. Jim, a Christian Brother from the United States, and Br. Chris, a Christian Brother from Kenya. California Sister Carolyn Buhs, SNDdeN serves as librarian for the Solidarity Teacher Training College.



Sr. Carolyn Buhs



**Left:** Solidarity Teacher Training College library.

**Right:** Graduation Day 2016 at Solidarity Teacher Training College. Twenty-six newly qualified teachers have now received their certificates and are ready to step into the classrooms of South Sudan and play their part in shaping a new nation.



Due to the civil unrest and danger in South Sudan, a new eight foot high security wall has been built all around the compound of Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio. Even though it is a security measure, our neighbors tell us that it is a sign of progress and development! It surely gives a sense of peace and tranquility in the compound as there is increased privacy. (June, 2017)



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# Friends in Solidarity

## Agricultural Project (Riimenze)

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Solidarity is assisting the people of South Sudan to regain their agrarian skills after many years of civil war. Many of the people residing in Riimenze are displaced from their own homes. In 2014 over 25 acres were cleared by hand and a living fence was planted. Following the clearing of the land food crops were planted, weeded and harvested. Depending on the daily work, between 30 and 80 people are employed. The project enables families to grow enough food to feed their families and a surplus to sell providing funds for sending their children to school. Appropriate technology has been secured with external funding, including walking tractors, oxen and hand grinders. Training in sustainable agricultural methods is provided to nearly 50 families. In the past year additional land was cleared and fruit trees and trees to be harvested for timber were planted providing for longer term sustainability for the project. All this work with local families is helping to build a community in Riimenze.

Five members of Solidarity are based in Riimenze which is currently supporting 6000 people from the area displaced by the current civil unrest. Solidarity is providing seeds and tools for those courageous enough to return to their plots of land to plant during the rainy season. They return to the encampment in the evening for safety. Sr. Rosa from Vietnam directs the agricultural project assisted by Br. Christian from Nigeria. Sr. Josephine from Kenya works with the pre-school and mentors the women in income generating projects. Two other members assist the elderly, children and those with special needs ensuring their healthcare and other needs. A special food supplement is provided by Solidarity to these vulnerable members of the community.



### Major crops in South Sudan include:

Sorghum	Maize	Rice
Sunflower	Cotton	Sesame
Cassava	Beans	Peanuts

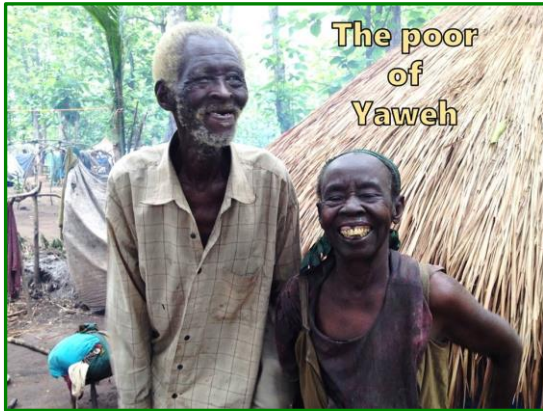
### Small scale crops include:

Coffee	Tea	Sugar
	Tobacco	



## The Situation in Riimenze

Sr. Rosa gives us a glimpse of what life is like for the people she ministers to in Riimenze, South Sudan.



Every day,  
new comers arrive in  
Internally Displaced  
Person's camp after  
several days on foot.



Life is too short and too hard here at this Internally Displaced Person's (IDP) camp. Nine have passed away including two of our staff workers who were tortured, shot and burnt on New Year's Day, 2017.



Martin was roasting termites in front of his shelter at Internally Displaced Person's camp in Riimenze. He was beaten and shot in his left buttock earlier in the year and he could not walk by himself until now.



When we are cold we share the same fire.  
When we are hungry we share the same plate.

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The Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau is one of few centers in South Sudan training registered nurses and midwives. Three year programs lead to certification and graduates have annually taken top honors on state exams. In 2016 it was estimated that of approximately 250 registered nurses in the country over half had graduated from CHTI. In spite of the current ethnic strife engulfing the country, CHTI remains open and functioning. **Friends in Solidarity** provides operational support, the equivalent of scholarships for the CHTI where all students are subsidized to attend this residential facility. CHTI is one of the best training nursing and midwifery institutes in South Sudan if not the best, serving a multi-ethnic student population and forming leaders for the future. It has a great lab, library, computer room, student hostels, food, and tutors from South Sudan as well as Kenya, Uganda, India, the United States and other countries.

South Sudan has only 248 trained nurses for its 12 million people. The vast majority of them are male. CHTI is changing that bleak statistic. The percentage of women has grown from 20% to 50% since the opening of the institute. Just imagine how many lives these scholars will save over the course of their healthcare careers!

**Humble beginnings...** From a bat infested building to a bustling health training institute



2008



2017

Catholic Health Training Institute

**Friends in Solidarity**





**Sr. Sneha**, a Holy Spirit Sister, had just finished her Master program in Nursing and Midwifery when she was asked by her Provincial Superior in Bangalore, India, to join Solidarity with South Sudan to train medical personnel. Sr. Sneha smiles when thinking back, "I had never been out of India and wanted some experience in Africa before starting my teaching job, so I was sent to Karamoja in Uganda. I was there for ten months, longer than I wanted. I felt the urgency; I knew my job was in South Sudan." Sr. Sneha together with Sr. Stella and Sr. Patricia, all ready to teach, arrived in Wau in October 2008 and were introduced to the old Health Training Institute, which had not been used for about 20 years during the civil war.

"Imagine our surprise and horror when we came. There were squatters, bats and filth everywhere. The chairs were broken, many already used as firewood, as were the books from the library. Toilets and sinks were broken. There was not even a place for us to live." Many would have given up right then and there, but Sr. Sneha and the rest of the *Solidarity* team just rolled up their sleeves. Plans were drawn up, and with the help of generous donors the old Health Training Institute was repaired extensively. Thankfully no re-construction was needed initially. The new Region of Southern Sudan wanted to decrease maternal mortality, and the new Registered Nursing curriculum was already in place. "My big worry was whether the students could get enough quality, clinical experience at the local hospitals," Sr. Sneha recalls. "I went around to the local hospitals and health centers and I found possibilities for nurse training. Now we have excellent collaboration with Wau Teaching Hospital, the Daniel Comboni Hospital as well as health centers in Bahr-El-Ghazal and elsewhere."

South Sudan has the  
highest  
maternal mortality  
rate in the world

Looking around the campus of the Catholic Health Training Institute, bustling with life, it is difficult to imagine the scene which met Sr. Sneha and her colleagues when they first arrived. Much hard work has gone into making this transformation possible – and actually also some luck. "I believe we even experienced a miracle," Sr. Sneha laughs. "In order to get back the rights to the buildings, we needed to find the deeds, the official document which proved that the land and the buildings belong to the Catholic Church and Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference." Following 25 years of civil war, burning, looting and general destruction, it was not an easy task to locate this document. The Solidarity team was searching high and low in filth and garbage, dust and broken bricks – until one day in 2009 the document was found in a small box. "This was a day of joy. Nothing and nobody could stop us now."



A nursing student acts as the good-natured patient for four fellow students at the Catholic Health Training Institute. All five are on Mercy Beyond Borders scholarships. They will make the difficult journey from Rumbek to Wau each year, braving armed bandits, flash floods, and bone-jarring roads to return to the country's premier health training college.

CHTI plays an important role in the training of midwives and together with the Ministry of Health we can better address the needs of the mothers, children and families of our new nation, South Sudan."



The Catholic Health Training Institute accepts South Sudanese who are qualified secondary graduates, with no restrictions on the basis of tribe or religion, to train as registered nurses or midwives.

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*Vice Chair*

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**The Solidarity Pastoral team**, based at the Good Shepherd Peace Center at Kit near Juba, is working with the National Pastoral Coordinator to build the capacity of diocesan pastoral teams and catechists. Training of leaders of Small Christian Communities is a ministry welcomed by all who participate in these workshops. In addition, the team is working with the Church and with the Religious Superiors Association of South Sudan (RSASS) providing trauma-healing and peace and reconciliation workshops, training leaders from the various dioceses of the country. Pastoral team members can also be found in the UN Protection of Civilians camps in Juba and Malakal and working with pastors and pastoral agents from the Malakal Diocese, a region decimated by the current war. They seek your support in their ever expanding ministry.

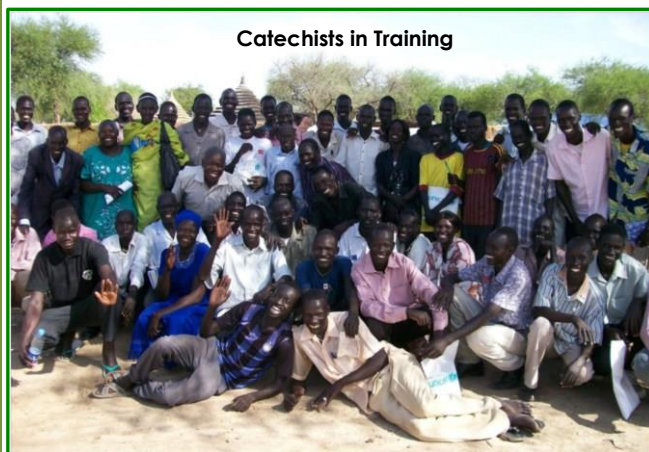


**Trauma Healing Trainers**

### Trauma Healing

Trauma healing is not something new for Solidarity with South Sudan. Since January 2010, we have conducted more than thirty workshops. More than one thousand children, women and men have participated in these workshops.

### Trauma Healing Workshop



**Catechists in Training**



**Women Singing at Sunday Liturgy**



**Praying for Peace**



## Active nonviolence: A way to build lasting peace in South Sudan

*We, members of the Religious Superiors' Association of South Sudan (RSASS), have reflected on active nonviolence and on Pope Francis' letter Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace in the hope to contribute with a positive response to the challenges of South Sudan today. Faithful to our call by God and to the charism of our congregations, we wish to send out this message of nonviolence to all people of good will.*

We have heard from our brothers and sisters some shocking and disturbing news. The country is immersed in violence and in a deep economic crisis. There have been so many killings, raping, burning of houses and looting. Innocent people, including children, have been brutally killed. The rights and dignity of people have been grossly violated. Hundreds of thousands are internally displaced or refugees. Famine is a sad reality and the economic crisis increases hunger. Hatred, bitterness and divisions have also increased. People feel traumatized and helpless. We are concerned that often church personnel have been harassed, intimidated, detained, and some have been killed. This civil war that keeps on revolving is evil and has claimed the lives of too many brothers and sisters and inflicted endless suffering on our people. What have we done to our humanness and the sacredness of life?

Despite all this, we have seen signs of life and hope. There are many good people in South Sudan who, together with many others, are giving a positive response and making a difference in this challenging situation. We have also heard from our brothers and sisters about the insistence, persistence and resilience of the people of South Sudan, that the Church is continuously praying and fasting for peace and reconciliation, has issued messages and pastoral letters to denounce violence and encourage people, got actively involved in the peace talks and is providing shelter, food, education and health care for many people. We have heard also that Church personnel have become a presence of solidarity, peace and hope among communities in war-affected areas, protection of civilians sites (POCs) and refugee camps, that South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) has invited his Holiness Pope Francis to visit South Sudan this year. We have testified that the Religious Superiors' Association of South Sudan (RSASS) has opened the Good Shepherd Peace Centre in Kit to offer trauma healing and peace-building programs and other human and spiritual formation and is fully operating in a peaceful environment.

We cannot forget our dear Sister Veronika Rackova of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS). She was one of our members and a doctor who was gunned down by soldiers while driving an ambulance on the night of 16th May 2016 in Yei. Her mission was to save lives and her sacrifice an action of active nonviolence. She did not die in vain. We offer our solidarity to her community and congregation and at the same time we demand that justice may be done.

*The Gospel and Pope Francis invite us to "dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and to becoming nonviolent people and to building nonviolent communities that care for our common home" (Pope Francis' message for the fiftieth World Day of Peace, 1 January 2017).*



### IN RESPONSE,

- We offer our prayers and solidarity to the victims of violence in South Sudan.
- We want to take a clear stand for creative and active nonviolence and against all forms of violence and threats to life and human dignity.
- We have made an action plan to raise active nonviolence awareness through civic education, media/radio, workshops for mixed groups, games and sports, women groups/desks and the strengthening of family unity.
- We are committed to promote active nonviolence through the celebrations of the Eucharist, unity in diversity and other prayers.
- We encourage our religious brothers and sisters in our communities to make all effort to build peace through active and creative nonviolence.
- We invite our religious leaders to lift up the vision of nonviolence in their preaching and teaching ministry.
- We urge our political leaders to end the war in South Sudan, to respect human rights and to promote a culture of peace and active nonviolence.
- We continue our prayers that justice, reconciliation and lasting peace may prevail in South Sudan.

Given in Kit (Juba), South Sudan, on 28th April 2017

**Friends in Solidarity** is an initiative of US Catholic religious men and women in support of religious working in South Sudan and beyond. It was incorporated in November 2015 as an outgrowth of interest in the work being done by **Solidarity with South Sudan**, a project begun by the International Union of Superiors General and the Union of Superiors General in Rome in response to a request of the Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference in 2006. <https://www.solidarityfriends.org>



**FATHER OF LOVE AND MERCY,**  
**You created our people from every clan,**  
**tribe and nationality.**  
**It is your will that all our people**  
**should live in harmony, peace and unity,**  
**because we are all brothers and sisters.**  
**We ask forgiveness for the times**  
**we failed to live together in peace.**  
**Heal our offenses and help us**  
**to reconcile with one another.**  
**Grant to our leaders your divine wisdom**  
**and help us to promote respect, justice**  
**and true reconciliation,**  
**so that the people of South Sudan**  
**may live in unity and peace.**  
**We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

**SOLIDARITY** with South Sudan  
[www.solidarityssudan.org](http://www.solidarityssudan.org)







Friends in  
**SOLIDARITY**

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Girl in UN camp, Malakal

**SOLIDARITY** with **South Sudan**





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