



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a diocese, we will soon take up a collection for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. As part of its pastoral mission to promote ethical and responsible citizenship, the Church is a voice advocating for free, fair, and transparent elections throughout Africa. After over 35 years under one ruler, for example, Zimbabwe held general elections in July 2018. To help ensure the credibility of this historic event, the Inter-Regional Meeting of the Bishops of Southern Africa (IMBISA) trained and deployed bishops, priests, religious, and lay leaders to be election observers. In Malawi, the local episcopal conference worked to engage faith leaders to develop voter materials, train civic leaders, organize voter registration, and develop media campaigns to pray for and participate in the election process.

Because of your generosity, the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa can aid local leaders working to educate voters and to ensure free and fair elections. Your support is a crucial part of helping the Church to promote good governance in Zimbabwe, Malawi, and beyond.

The Church in Africa needs your help to ensure that all the faithful have access to resources to help them grow in the faith. Please be generous to this collection in your parishes. To learn more about the collection and whom it supports, visit www.usccb.org/africa.

Thank you and God bless.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert E. Guglielmo'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo
Bishop of Charleston

For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/africa.