



July 8, 2021

South Sudan Marks 10 Years of Independence Overshadowed by Violence

~ by Chris Herlinger, Global Sisters Report

Editor's note: This article appeared on the Global Sisters Report website on July 1. The article link was forwarded to Sr. Thérèse Merandi, MSC, who is currently missioned in South Sudan, for her reaction and commentary. Sr. Thérèse responded, "Very true and our lived reality." Her further reflection follows this account.

Jubilation marked celebrations that caught the world's attention 10 years ago when South Sudan formally became independent from Sudan on July 9, 2011, following a protracted, decades-long war of independence.

But this month's commemoration of the 10th anniversary of what is still the world's youngest country is overshadowed by uncertainty, violence and ongoing humanitarian challenges.

"A decade later...pervasive insecurity – in particular intercommunal violence – continues to obstruct the realization of a durable and sustainable peace," the United Nations News Service said in a June 21 report.

Sisters with experience in South Sudan agree and acknowledge these grave disappointments, particularly political and ethnic violence that has killed hundreds of thousands and caused more than 2 million to flee the country. As noted by the International Rescue Committee, South Sudan "enjoyed two years of fragile peace before political rivalry erupted once again into open conflict in 2013, leaving an estimated 380,000 dead and 2 million displaced. 2.2 million people have been forced into neighboring countries."

"Corruption is endemic and intranational conflicts, economic collapse, crime and hunger ravage the population," said Sr. Joan Mumaw, president of Friends in Solidarity, the U.D. partner to Solidarity with South Sudan, a collaborative ministry of religious congregations of men and women.



Girls from different ethnic groups attend the St. Bakhita School in Narus, South Sudan. The school is one of the best examples of people in different groups living peacefully, side by side. Photo: Mercy Without Borders

“Flooding, drought, the pandemic, and you have a national tragedy and perhaps, a failed state,” said Mumaw, an IHM Sister of Monroe, Michigan.

To mark this anniversary, the Global Sisters Report asked sisters of various congregations to reflect and assess where the country stands now on a range of topics. Sr. Bakhita Francis, a Missionary Franciscan Sister of the Immaculate Conception, commented, “In 10 years after independence the country has declined drastically - it has become like stagnant water. The most serious issue is violence. South Sudan has a lot of potential if South Sudanese work together as a people to



Sr. Lacey (c.) with women of various South Sudan tribes and ethnic groups. Photo: Mercy Without Borders

overcome the challenges of political power struggles, nepotism, land grabbing, the feeling that one group is superior to another, ethnic identity, child marriage and revenge killings.

Sr. Marilyn Lacey, Executive Director of Mercy Beyond Borders, commented, “The political leadership is riddled by greed, power-grabbing and corruption. There is, in fact, no real sense of a country at all. Until the various ethnic groups recognize advantages in working with one another instead of continuing the dominant “revenge culture”, there will

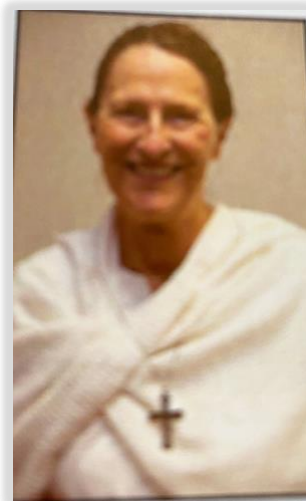
never be peace in South Sudan.” To read the complete article, please click [here](#)

SHARING about Mission and Living in South Sudan

~ a reflection by Thérèse Hope Merandi, MSC

I am part of “*Solidarity with South Sudan*”, the Unions of Superior Generals’ (both female and male) Project for the empowering and capacitating for peace and reconciliation in the country and from within the Church, of a broken, fragmented, conflicted, war-torn people. We are inter-congregational and intercultural communities, priests, sisters and brothers. We are at present in 5 communities throughout the country, serving and responsible for teacher training (in Yambio), health training of nurses and midwives (in Wau), agricultural and food cultivation (in Riimenzie) and Pastoral work in trainings, trauma healing, accompaniment and retreats (in Kit). The administration and Central House is in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

I am part of the Pastoral Team Community in Kit, where my days are filled with groups and individuals seeking accompaniment, directed retreats, a chance to rest and refocus towards peace and unity within oneself and in the precarious reality that the country is passing through.



Thérèse Hope Merandi,
MSC

It is 10 years since South Sudan became the newest and youngest nation on earth, July 9, 2011 - July 9, 2021. In this first decade, civil war has racked the hearts and souls of the South Sudanese. 400,000

people have been killed and more than 2 million sent out into refugee status; 1,200,000 South Sudanese are refugees in the Diocese of Arua, where our Sisters (Albertina, Addise, Gloria, Joseane, Mercedes) have been and are serving in the Refugee Settlements connected with our community in Dzaipi, Adjumani) in Uganda. The reality are two sides of the same coin — the tragedy of Tribal conflict, revenge, corruption, lack of leadership and infrastructure neglect for society as a whole. As in most African realities, the people are hopeful and happy with little, while striving to nourish, build up their families/ clan and educate their children. It is a privilege and grace to be part of this struggle and yearning for “the more”, where values and “*life in abundance*” give significant meaning to my being a Cabrini sister, part of our Cabrini Family who are “*bearers of the love of Christ in the world*”!

A Panoply of Cultures!



Beautiful costumes were on display from the Philippines.

ended with a display and tasting of dishes from various countries. Many thanks to the members of the Cultural Awareness Committee and all participants for making the day such a fun, festive and educational experience as we learned about cultural diversity!

~ submitted by Susan Herveg, Cabrini of Westchester

On June 30th, the members of Cabrini of Westchester's Cultural Awareness Committee organized a Multi-Cultural Celebration to honor the many different ethnic backgrounds of the staff members employed by the nursing home. The festivities began with a parade of flags and traditional wardrobe and



Many Cabrini of Westchester staff members enjoyed the delicious feast of dishes from the various countries such as samosas from India and challah from Israel.



Fr. Ramil Fajardo Named Rector of The National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

We are delighted to welcome to our Shrine team our new Rector Father Ramil Fajardo. His new ministry at the Shrine became effective July 1, 2021.



Fr. Ramil is a well-respected priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago with an impressive background and keen knowledge of our Missionary Sisters and their mission here at the Shrine. He came to know our Sisters during his first assignment at St. Clement Church in Lincoln Park where they attend daily Mass.

He was ordained May 22, 2004. Following his assignment at St. Clement, Fr. Ramil returned to St. Mary of the Lake to pursue advanced studies in Sacred Theology. In 2010, he went to Canada to study Canon Law at Saint Paul University of Ottawa, Ontario and earned a Canon Law Licentiate.

On January 15, 2013, Fr. Fajardo joined Holy Name Cathedral and began his duty as a judge of the Metropolitan Tribunal. In July 2017, he received additional duties as Director of Liturgy and Cardinal's delegate for Saint James Chapel and the Archbishop Quigley Pastoral Center.

We look forward to working with Fr. Ramil as we progress and move into the future with his leadership and vision. The Shrine's Executive Director, Sister Bridget Zanin, MSC and Father Ramil will be diligently working on a new schedule of Shrine events, including confessions, adoration, and other formational programming. As new events are added, details will be posted on our website at cabrinationalshrine.org.

We invite you to The National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini where Fr. Ramil will celebrate Mass on Saturday at 4:00 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. The Shrine is located at 2520 N Lakeview Ave Chicago, IL 60614. ~ submitted by Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC, Shrine Executive Director

Further information may be obtained through our website: www.cabrinationalshrine.org

Weekly Update – Publication Notice

The Update will be published on July 15, 22, and 29.

The Update goes on vacation during the month of August.

Publication will resume on Thursday, September 9.

Prayer requests are always welcome and will be published on Thursdays as they are received.

Cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org



The CLM Corner

This is an occasional feature where we highlight the Cabrini Lay Missionaries and their ministries.

Veronica Hernandez Perez

My name is Veronica Hernandez Perez. I live in Guatemala City. I am 42 years old. I am a parishioner of the San Juan the Apostle Parish. I participate in liturgy pastoral care, pre baptismal talks and formation.

About 5 years ago I had my first meeting with the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Saint Frances Cabrini. I met Sister Juanita and it was her love and enthusiasm that took me on a very enriching and beautiful process. That process helped me make my commitment as a CLM. On June 11, 2021, filled with joy and a desire to serve, I prayed my commitment for 1 year. Two sisters from Barcenas (Guatemala) accompanied me and prepared me for the celebration and welcome.



Veronica Hernandez Perez

I am so happy and grateful to God and to the Sisters for this opportunity to serve with an ideal and with clear objectives. I do all this with Jesus, our Lord, who is the center of my life.

~ submitted by: Veronica Hernandez Perez

Pope Francis Recovering After Surgery

~ by Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

Pope Francis continues to recover after his intestinal operation on Sunday evening. He slept well, had breakfast, read the daily newspapers and got up to walk, according to the latest report from the Vatican released to the press at midday on July 7. It added that “the routine” post-operation medical tests “are good.”

“His Holiness Pope Francis rested well during the night” and “this morning he had breakfast, read some daily newspapers and got up to walk,” the director of the Holy See press office, Matteo Bruni, said in the statement issued to the press.



Mr. Bruni also reported that “the course of his post-operation [recovery] is regular” and “the routine control tests are good.” To read an accompanying article please click [here](#)

A Celebratory Canonization Toast

To duly commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Canonization of Mother Cabrini at the Vatican on July 7, 1946, the members of the Cabrini University community gathered to offer a celebratory toast on this historic occasion. Holy Spirit Library Director Anne Schwelm provided a display of historic photos of the canonization for all to view during the ceremony.

Opening remarks were given by Angela Campbell, PhD, Vice-President of Mission, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Student Engagement. Dr. Campbell expressed her appreciation of and commitment to the Cabrinian mission and the many blessings it has afforded her.

Following her remarks, Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC, Campus Ministry Associate, offered a toast giving thanks for the life of Mother Cabrini and the lay collaborators who continue the Cabrinian mission each day. Cheers!



Photo above: Dr. Angela Campbell presented opening remarks at the canonization celebration.

Photo below: Sr. Christine Marie Baltas offers 'cheers!' and good wishes for the 75th Anniversary.



Photo above: From left: Sr. Grace Waters, MSC and Cabrini staff members Megan Norris and Nancy Douglas offer cheers.

Photo below: From left: Anne Schwelm, Dr. Dawn Francis and Peter Manetas join in the tribute to Mother Cabrini.



Celebrating 75 Years of Blessings!



Save the Date



CABRINI MISSION
FOUNDATION

Annual Gala

October 7, 2021

Metropolitan Club New York
One East 60th Street, New York, NY 10022

Honoring

Chazz & Gianna Palminteri
Philip Foglia, Sr. (posthumously)

First Responder Honorees

Ronald Cole, RRT, Cabrini of Westchester
Kathleen Ann Michels, MS RN CCRN,
New York Presbyterian Weill Cornell
Luzmilda J. Cedeño, Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
Geraldine Flaherty, Sacred Heart Convent

Prayer Requests

Pope Francis

Let us unite in prayer for Pope Francis as he recovers from intestinal surgery. May he heal quickly and soon be restored to full health. As cited in America Magazine, "Pope Francis is touched by the many messages and the affection received in these days, and expresses his gratitude for the closeness and prayer."

Arlene Scanlon

Prayers are requested for Arlene Scanlon, a dear friend of many MSCs, who hopes to be discharged from the hospital in the near future. Please pray for her return to good health.

Champlain Towers Condominium

We continue our prayers for all those affected by the condominium collapse in Surfside, Florida. The operation has now become one of recovery. We pray for those who have perished. Our hearts go out to those families and friends who are coping with the loss of their loved ones. We pray, too, for the safety all those who are working tirelessly on the recovery operations in difficult conditions. And, we offer prayers for the government officials who are managing this crisis. May God give them strength and courage.

With Grateful Hearts

Joe McGee

Rita Ratzlaff's brother, Joe McGee, was diagnosed a year ago with Stage 4 liver cancer. Family and friends have been praying to the Blessed Mother and to St. Frances Xavier Cabrini for him. In an answer to prayer, recently, Joe has been diagnosed as being cancer-free. Their family is thanking their friends and all those who have offered their prayers for Joe. They are most grateful for this miraculous recovery.

In Loving Memory

Sr. Gisella Potenza, MSC

Early on the morning on July 7, dear Sister Gisella, 96 years old, of the Community Cabrini di via Anagni in Rome, returned home to God. May she rest in the eternal peace of God.

