



Africa
Faith &
Justice
Network

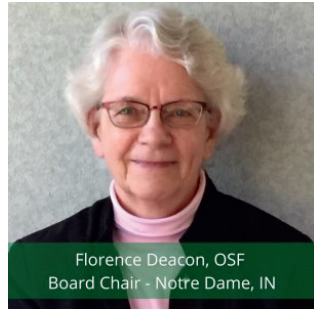
2020 End of Year Report Activity Highlights & Updates



“It is you O Lord who have accomplished all we have done.” (Isaiah 26:12)

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 was a challenging year for all of us. Like many of you, the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) had to adapt to the 'new normal' in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic that took the world by surprise. Upcoming projects and best laid plans were put on hold. AFJN had to shift to an office where regular in-person meetings became virtual. Projects were reimagined to accommodate the restrictions of our new reality.



Even with this new reality, we have been amazed and humbled at how we were able to work with those on the African continent to: continue fighting human trafficking, be a voice for women and children, create new networks, train new leaders, use technology to reach millions of people, and promote accountability and transparency.

The year was also a time of farewells to: Rev. Aniedi Okure, OP, our Executive Director who was called by his order to a new mission; Lucy Huffman who passed away after serving as AFJN's Volunteer Accountant for years; and Rev. Thomas P. Tunney, CSSp, former AFJN Board of Directors Member who served from 2013-2017.

AFJN ended the year by appointing Rev. Nelson Adjei-Bediako, SMA to be the new Executive Director, effective January 2021. Rev. Adjei-Bediako has a strong foundation to build on as he leads AFJN into the future.

As you read through the following pages that highlight our work, I hope you will see how your financial and spiritual commitments, and partnership have made and continue to make a difference in the lives of the people of Africa.

Sr. Florence Deacon, OSF
Chair of the Board of Directors, AFJN

Our Mission

The Africa Faith and Justice Network, inspired by the Gospel and informed by Catholic Social Teaching, seeks to educate and advocate for just relations with Africa and to work in partnership with African peoples as they engage in the struggle for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

Staff and Volunteers

Aniedi Okure, OP

Executive Director

Lydia Andrews

*Communications & Operations
Manager*

Ntama Bahati

Policy Analyst

Barthelemy Bazemo, MAfr

Policy Analyst

Lucy Huffman

Accountant Volunteer

Eucharia Madueke, SNDdeN

*Coordinator, Women Empowerment
Project*

David Mahoney, CFX

Editorial Consultant

Teresa Phillips

MCP Coordinator Volunteer

Will Tyson

*Accountant and Administration
Volunteer*

Fellowship

Rev. John Bosco Lugonja, *Notre Dame University, International Affairs*

Interns

Summer

Philip Brooks (Summer and Fall)

*University of Maryland, International
Relations and Political Science*

Mia Kilpatrick

*Wofford College, International Affairs
and Spanish*

Chazmine A. Moore

*Villanova University, Political Science,
Communications, and Spanish*

Fall

Yousra Ibrahim Hasona

*Doha Institute, Conflict Management
and Humanitarian Action*

Iman Mekonen

*Virginia Commonwealth University,
International Social Justice Studies and
Political Science*

Mariah Omer

*Anabaptist Mennonites Biblical
Seminary, Theology and Peace Studies*

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic A Global Approach

AFJN advocated for a global strategy to tackle the COVID-19 Pandemic. If it is anywhere in the world, it is a threat to everyone. In 2020, AFJN:



Advocated for US support of the issuance of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Special Drawing Rights, special international reserve assets created by the IMF and distributed to central banks in proportion to IMF quotas that can be exchanged for currency, and which are supported by many member states.



Called for additional COVID-19 aid, financial and material, and debt relief to be accompanied with robust accountability and transparency measures to discourage abuse.



Mobilized our network to contact Congress, including Congressional Committees, in support of a Moratorium on Rents Increases. COVID-19 stay-at-home orders prevented tenants, including African migrants who were facing increased financial hardships, from finding competitive affordable housing options thereby locking them into their current lease agreements for another term or requiring them to pay a higher month-to-month rent.



Denounced efforts to use African people as test subjects in vaccine trails as was suggested by Dr. Jean-Paul Mira, Cochin Hospital's Head of Intensive Care in Paris.



Advocated for continued US participation in and funding of the World Health Organization (WHO) after President Trump defunded it and withdrew the US from it. WHO funding and support is essential for Africa's health systems especially during the Pandemic. (Of note: The House of Representatives' budget included WHO funding.)



Denounced human rights abuses that occurred when governments took drastic measures to contain the virus on the African continent. Law enforcement used the new mandates to overstep their power, arresting people and then coercing them to pay bribes for their freedom. On TV and radio broadcasts, the AFJN Women's Empowerment Project discredited misinformation and provided best practices to stop the spread of COVID-19. Also, AFJN used the radio to address the increase in domestic violence against women and children due to the lock-downs.



Advocated for prisoners' rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by speaking with Andre Lite, the DRC Minister of Human Rights, and proposing the release of prisoners with minor offenses, those in detentions awaiting judgement, and those waiting to be granted a presidential pardon in response to the Pandemic. Some prisoners were released by the government.

Food Security Through Agroecology

Africa is still seen as an untapped market for corporate monopolies that control the genetically modified commercial seeds, synthetic



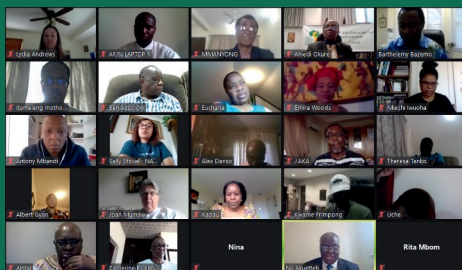
fertilizers, and polluting pesticides. The ongoing takeover of Africa's food system by large agribusinesses is nothing other than neo-agro-colonialism. To decolonize our food system, the food production of small farm holders must improve by using already proven methods. This ensures food security for Africans, preserves Africa's indigenous seeds, and protects Africa's biodiversity from agricultural pollutants.

Actions Taken

- ◇ AFJN advocated for the adoption of multilayer and integrated food production systems. The Songhai Center in Benin has an integrated system model, developed by Rev. Godfrey Nzamujo, OP, that is based on the "Zero Emission Research Initiative" principle which simply means that nothing is wasted. The Center's model was recognized and endorsed by the United Nations (UN) in 2008 as a Regional Centre of Excellence for Africa and a model that could better enhance Africa's Food Security.
- ◇ AFJN opposed the appointment of Ms. Agnes Kalibata as Special Envoy to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit in February. AFJN was one of over 176 organizations, opposed to neo-agro-colonialism, that sent a letter to António

Guterres, the UN Secretary General, calling on him to denounce the appointment since Ms. Kalibata promoted large-scale agribusiness interests against small farm holders while President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

CALAR Initiative A Declaration: Africa Remember Who You Are



The Coalition for Africa’s Liberation and Restoration (CALAR), initiated by AFJN, was launched on Africa’s Liberation Day on May 25, 2020 with the campaign to sign “A Declaration: Africa Remember Who You Are” and pray the “Africa Renewal” prayer to mobilize Africans on the continent and in the diaspora in order to claim their rights and dignity. CALAR works to protect African heritage and resources against those whose actions continue to exploit Africa and subject Africans at home and abroad to all forms of indignities. Many faith-based groups in the US and Africa, including the staff of the Symposium of the

Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar, civil society organizations, and individuals have joined. AFJN continues to collect signatures of individuals and organizations who sign on.



Created by Georgiana Ionescu from Noun Project



Created by Manthana Chaiwong from Noun Project

Peace Initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In their efforts to push for lasting peace, some faith leaders and politicians from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) carried out a major mass-media campaign against their neighbors to the East, namely Rwanda and Uganda, for allegedly abetting the persistent killings in Beni and Butembo with the purpose of annexing part of the DRC or creating an independent country. Upon investigation, AFJN could not authenticate these claims. However, the killings have had internal political, economic, and social causes. They also could be linked to the armed conflict that happened in Uganda more than three decades ago. By assigning outright blame of the killings to “Rwandophones” and “Banyabwisha,” who are citizens of the DRC from the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups, exacerbates the conflict.

Actions Taken

- ◇ AFJN sent a letter to the DRC Secretary-General of the National Conference of Bishops calling attention to this issue and its potential to lead to increased ethnic tensions and possible violence and genocide.

End UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) President, Felix Tshisekedi, continued to face many challenges (some inherited) with over 166 militia groups continuing to rape, steal, and kill in the Eastern DRC, in spite of the presence of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) peacekeeping force.

Actions Taken

- ◇ AFJN met with US Government officials to garner support of MONUSCO's withdrawal after over 20 years in the DRC and denounced the corruption and loss of credibility of the UN's presence in the country.
- ◇ AFJN proposed that MONUSCO transfer capacity to the DRC government by implementing the "co-location" strategy allowing Congolese nationals with experience working for the UN to share their knowledge with various DRC government agencies.



Democracy, Freedom, and the Rule of Law

Democratic Republic of the Congo

This year there were two attempts to undermine the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) Constitution. First, the DRC's Parliamentarians Aubin Minaku and Garry Sakata, introduced three bills that would have put the justice system under the Ministry of Justice (Executive Branch) contrary to Article 149 of the Constitution, that states "The Judicial Power is independent of the Legislative Power and of the Executive Power." The Parliament's choice of Mr. Ronsard Malonda to head the National Independent Election Commission drew a lot of outrage because of his role as a key DRC electoral commission official during the 2019 contested elections.

Actions Taken

- ◇ AFJN mobilized US support of the democratic process in honoring the DRC Constitution through a letter to the Assistant Secretary of State and the US Ambassador to the DRC. They replied affirming their support of:
 - ◇ Using US diplomatic influence to oppose Aubin Minaku and Garry Sakata's unconstitutional reforms
 - ◇ Implementing visa and financial sanctions against authors and reform supporters
 - ◇ Building the capacity of independent media, civil society organizations, and the judicial system

Rwanda

The senseless killing of Kizito Mihigo, the famous Catholic Gospel singer and songwriter, on February 17, 2020, is evidence that there has been little progress in advancing democracy, human rights, and civic engagement in Rwanda. Much of Mihigo's work talked about the 1994 genocide including "The Meaning of Death," which denounced the Rwandan government's retaliatory actions and policies towards those who participated in the atrocity. The current government perspective is that decedents of genocide perpetrators are also guilty for the crimes of their parents and ancestors.



Actions Taken

- ◇ AFJN advocated for the US to stand in solidarity with the people demanding that the Rwandan government opens the political space.
- ◇ AFJN urged the US government to privately and publicly speak up against the Rwandan government and use its influence to demand freedom for those imprisoned unjustly and justice for those who were killed like Mihigo and others.

Senate Human Rights Commission

AFJN is one of the organizations which advocates for the creation of a Senate Human Rights Commission similar to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in the House of Representatives. On November 19, AFJN signed an NGO letter in support of Senators Coons and Tillis' Resolution S.Res.725 which would establish such commission.

AFJN Staff Represented in Two New AdNA Working Groups

- ◇ The Advocacy Network for Africa (AdNA) asked AFJN Policy Analyst Ntama Bahati to create and lead the new Accountability Working Group, whose mission is “to create, shape and lead AdNA’s largely collaborative initiative to deploy accountability tools to contribute to eradicating centuries-old and ongoing exploitation of Africa.” The group’s priority is to prevent illicit financial flows, robbing Africa’s economy of billions of dollars, and to advocate for foreign aid reform, which now keeps Africa economically and politically dependent.
- ◇ Rev. Barthelemy Bazemo, MAfr. was asked to join AdNA’s Africa Security Group (ASG) to propose a security strategy for the Biden Administration that addresses the security challenges of Africa. The ASG submitted their findings in a December report and have requested the Administration to protect the lives of vulnerable people across the continent.

Opposing the US - Kenya Bilateral Trade Agreement

AFJN joined other organizations in opposition to the new US-Kenya bilateral trade agreement being negotiated. The agreement contained a reversal of Kenya’s plastic export restrictions prohibiting dumping of plastic on the continent,

and the dumping of US agricultural products would negatively impact Kenya and neighboring countries markets including market expansion. The current trade agreement between the US and Kenya through the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, though not perfect, is worth keeping.

USAID Evidence Summit Poster Presentation

AFJN participated in the USAID Evidence Summit on Strategic Religious Engagement which was held in Washington DC from October 6-8th, 2020. The Summit addressed “the role of religious community engagement and faith-based organizations in global development, and implications for USAID policy and practice.” We highlighted AFJN’s ‘promising practices’ of education, training, coalition building, and advocacy in Africa. This was an opportunity to showcase the great work of AFJN.

Ending Global Systemic Racism

AFJN’s commitment to serve the people of Africa informed by our Catholic identity and social teaching requires us to be intolerant to all forms of racism, including racial and economic, no matter where and against whom.

Actions Taken

- ◇ Redoubled our efforts to promote good governance in order to improve the livelihood of Africans on the continent and to reduce migration to places hostile to Africans.
- ◇ Sent a letter to the Chinese Embassy in Washington DC, with AdNA, denouncing the ongoing rampant racism against people of African descent in China.
- ◇ Condemned the public and racially motivated killing of Mr. Georges Floyd by police.

African Church Together (ACT) to Fight Against Corruption

Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe makes people blind to what is right and ruins the cause of those who are innocent.” (Exodus 23:8)

Cameroon ACT Project

AFJN continued our partnership with the Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) of the Diocese of Bafoussam, under the leadership of the Most Reverend Dieudonné Watio with the goal to transform the Diocese into a corruption-free zone and be a model for the rest of the country and the continent. In 2019, AFJN began by commissioning research examining the extent of the existence of corruption in diocesan schools and health centers. To end the corruption linked to the government issuance of birth certificates in and around Bafoussam, AFJN and the JPC started an awareness campaign highlighting the importance of keeping vital records and the application processes including legal timeframes following the birth of the child and fees (there are none). Without a birth certificate a person cannot register in school, vote, or work and is stateless. AFJN and the JPC’s collective action on multiple fronts in advocating against corruption had broadened our outreach and continues to make a notable impact in the community.

Actions Taken

- ◆ Continued radio campaigns, townhall meetings in schools

and health centers, accompanied those facing difficulty obtaining vital records, and redoubled our advocacy to government officials.



- ◆ Held a workshop in February at the Babete Monastery to evaluate our efforts and discuss best practices so that those in attendance could do the same at home. The workshop had 81 participants from all areas of the diocesan school system, hospitals, development services, JPC, priests and nuns. The neighboring dioceses of Bamenda, Nkogsamba, Bafang, and Kumbo also sent representatives to learn.
- ◆ Met with diocesan school system leadership ahead of the school year. They reaffirmed their full support and provided the contact information of school inspectors, which helped us coordinate our activities.
- ◆ Hosted 19 field meetings in schools and health centers.

Outcomes

- ◆ The Director of the National JPC of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Cameroon expressed his desire to replicate the model throughout the country.
- ◆ The campaign against corruption has increased the credibility of the Catholic Diocese of Bafoussam and that of

the JPC.

- ◆ There is a decline in the number of requests for birth certificate assistance from the JPC which is an indicator of the reduction of the demand for paying bribes as a condition to obtain vital records.



- ◆ Several participants in the workshop reported successful individual or collective actions against corruption. Two examples are below:
 - A vice principal asked a participant, who attended our first workshop, for 10.000 francs (\$16.60) to enroll each child in her school, the participant refused and through her perseverance she prevailed. She felt educated and empower after our workshop.
 - A parent tried enrolling her child in a higher grade using falsified transcripts but was discouraged by someone who attended our workshop. The Principal was notified and gave the child the chance to take a placement test and enroll at the appropriate level.
- ◆ Leaders of institutions who have heard about the pilot program had approached us for assistance and requested that similar programs against corruption be implemented in

their areas. All but one school inspector have requested that our program be offered to their schools.

- ◆ Parents denounced corrupt practices in schools, making teachers and principals more cautious and on edge knowing they will now be held accountable.
- ◆ During a meeting at Fossang health center, a manager complained about corruption among his staff and asked for our help to root it out.

Liberia ACT Project

The AFJN ACT Project in Liberia continued our work with the Most Reverend Bishop Anthony Fallah Borwah of the Diocese of Gbarnga on promoting transparency and accountability within the diocese and throughout the country. The ACT Project, launched in 2019, initially trained those in leadership roles. During the training, we identified the ways corruption was manifested in families, schools, hospitals, and other basic institutions throughout the country.



Action Taken

- ◆ Although the Pandemic had severely limited our activities in 2020, AFJN held a radio campaign that promoted transparency and accountability in three counties in Liberia, that focused on living out these values within Church institutions throughout the country.

AFJN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

TECNO LCS

Adapting the Mission to the New Normal

We began the year 2020 with great enthusiasm, excited about being physically present with our AFJN Sisters' Networks in Ghana, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Uganda and working to strengthen the networks' advocacy skills and to establish a new sisters' network. Given the COVID-19 travel restrictions, we provided remote mentorship as the sisters applied their advocacy, knowledge, and skills. They carried out in-person and remote advocacy events and they engaged the population using TV, radio, print, and social media on issues of COVID-19 awareness, human trafficking, and domestic, gender and sexual violence. Our sisters' network in Nigeria and Uganda were not deterred by COVID-19 in applying the skills acquired from AFJN advocacy workshops. They tackled the injustices in their communities on their own which demonstrated the power of the sisters to work for change.

AFJN also engaged the youth in Ghana, Nigeria, and Uganda, mobilizing their energy to work with the sisters to change structures of injustice in their communities. The sisters and the youth worked collaboratively to advocate for a better society for women and children. SR CLARE, DHS



Srs. Margeret Kabanyawez, Samerita Mbambu, Mary Biira and Bro. Andrew Gabirano on Radio Jubilee Uganda discussing domestic violence and other forms of violence resulting from the COVID-19 lockdown.

The Project aims at assisting African Women religious in shaping a new vision of their role in society by working to change the structures that keep people in poverty and deprive them of their dignity as God's children. The Project builds and strengthens a coalition of African Women Religious at the local, regional, and continental levels to work for social justice and bring about a needed change.

Prayer to End Domestic Violence

God of infinite goodness, love, and mercy, You created the world that all may live in peace and harmony, free from violence and abuse.

We have failed to acknowledge You in one another, to embrace your non-violent way of life, to speak out against the evil of oppression, and to stand up against injustice. Help us respect the uniqueness of each person, temper our ego to walk humbly with one another, and gently love and protect one another. Forgive us our many failings and aid us in ending domestic violence meted out to women, children, and the vulnerable.

Prince of Peace, today, many of Your children live in fear - fear of abusive relationships and domestic violence. Many are subjected to dehumanizing treatment, suffering physical, mental, and emotional pain in their homes. We beseech You to send your Holy Spirit to melt the hearts of abusers, made stubborn by hatred and selfishness. Loving God we also implore You to heal the hearts that are cold from all the abuse and trauma, hearts that have lost hope, find life meaningless, and feel no self-worth and mercifully restore them to wholeness.

Father we thank You for creating us in Your image and likeness and for the gift of family. May Your Holy Spirit inspire men and women to work selflessly to make our homes places of welcome and unity, to build homes where the dignity and integrity of each person is respected, and where the fullness of life and joy are experienced. Graciously mark our homes again with a deep sense of peace, Your Peace which the world cannot give.

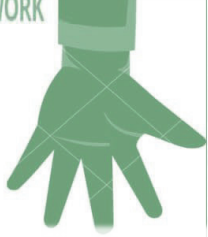
May Our Lady, the Mother of God intercede for all families and the whole world, Amen!

Holy Family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. Pray for us!





Raise your voices against domestic violence, sexual assault, child molestation and abuse



11 THINGS TO KNOW about the Sexual Harassment Bill
#WeStandForJustice
#WSFJ

"We are enlightened, poised, and empowered to be agents of change in our local communities, and the world at large."

Ghana Youth Workshop Group Reflection

POWERED BY OGHARA AFJN GROUP

www.afjn.org
Afjn Oghara Chapter

#WeStandForJustice



**DON'T IGNORE
THE VOICE
OF THE
ABUSED**

SEMINAR! SEMINAR!! SEMINAR!!!

Africa Faith & Justice Network Nigeria
WOMEN AND CHILD JUSTICE INITIATIVE

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Date: Thur. 19th Nov., 2020
Time: 10 am. prompt
Venue: Human Rights Centre Near Eke Awka Market

African Faith & Justice Network Nigeria is with Women and Child Justice Initiative Nigeria at Awka Anambra State

"This workshop is amazing [...] before now, I see cases of rape on television and social media and I feel little concern for the victims, but after this workshop, I feel I have a responsibility to humanity to be part of the movement to end rape and bring about change in society." - Nigeria Workshop Youth

This year the AFJN's Women's Empowerment Project participated in 26 Radio and Television Programs in Nigeria and Uganda with a coverage of up to 30 million people (13 million in Nigeria and 17 million in Uganda) and over 110K reached through print media.

The youth took social media by storm. In Nigeria, the youth created a hashtag #WeStandForJustice and used it to educate the population on issues of gender-based violence (they have 7000 followers). They created fliers highlighting the key points of Nigeria's "Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Educational Institutions Prohibition" Bill and also advocated for a local playground. In Ghana, the youth hosted weekly educational chat sessions educating their peers on gender-based violence, and environmental issues. The empowered youth are excited to do more in-person advocacy when the Pandemic ends.

Multiple virtual and in-person workshops were held including: advocacy trainings of 74 sisters and 363 youth: 38 Ghanaians, 90 Ugandans, and 235 Nigerians. Thirty three Government Agencies (18 Nigerian and 15 Ugandan) were engaged in their advocacy and training efforts. Five new partnerships in Nigeria and six in Uganda were created. With all the trainings and partnership, AFJN was able to have direct outreach with 6,226 people (6177 Nigerians and 109 Ugandans).

Sr. Samerita visits victims-survivors of trafficking sponsored by AFJN to acquire skills to become financially independent.



“I cannot make the mistake of going after listening to these stories.” - Uganda Workshop Participant



Young women learning about human trafficking.



Sr. Theresa Ezewelukwa addressing high school students in Abatete, Anambra State, Nigeria

Advocacy Activities in Nigeria and Uganda

The network of sisters in Uganda and Nigeria applied their advocacy skills and conducted in-person and remote advocacy. The sisters' events trained and strengthened their collaboration with the youth and other nongovernmental organizational staff in practical advocacy. Together they sensitized local and state government leaders, communities, and the masses, confronting them with the harsh realities and negative impacts of human trafficking, gender-based violence, and other social ills on their communities. Examples of how they applied the skills acquired from the AFJN advocacy workshops to tackle these injustices are listed below:

- Sisters went on TV and radio to address the misinformation about the spread of COVID-19, they highlighted proven best practices known to reduce exposure including handwashing, mask wearing, and social distancing.
- Sisters and youth went on the radio to tackle the increasing domestic violence due to the lock-downs. On the programs, they addressed what domestic and sexual violence was and provided information about the resources for help. Many men and women called in asking questions and expressed the need for more such radio programs.
- Sisters held multiple workshops of male and female victim-survivors to address the negative stigma associated with trafficking.

Throughout 2020, the AFJN Women's Empowerment Project continued to bear fruit in advocating for change. The determination of these women demonstrated the power that local people have when they are empowered and when they have acquired the necessary skills to address societal injustices.

Staff and Organizational Member News

AFJN Thanks Rev. Aniedi Okure for Years of Selfless Service

In November, the AFJN Board and Staff threw Rev. Okure a virtual farewell party to thank him for his years of selfless service as AFJN's Executive Director (2011-2020). The event was filled with testimonials from Fr. Aniedi's time at AFJN and his 20+ years in DC. It ended with a toast, where everyone raised a glass, in honor of Fr. Aniedi and with many blessings and well wishes for his future role as the Permanent Delegate of the Dominicans to the United Nations and General Promoter, Dominicans for Justice and Peace. Under Fr. Aniedi's leadership, AFJN's profile was raised on the continent as a organization leading on the delivery of tangible results and empowering the people to be makers of the change they wish to see. We thank Fr. Aniedi for his many years of service to AFJN and pray that God continue to bless him in his new roles.

AFJN Welcomes

- ◆ The **Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ** as our newest Organizational Member.
- ◆ **Sr. Nkechi Iwuoha, PHJC**, to the Board of Directors as representative of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ **N'yella Rogers** to the Board of Directors.
- ◆ **Rev. John Bosco Lugonja**, a Catholic priest from the Diocese of Kasana–Luweero, Uganda who was studying International Affairs at Notre Dame University, as a AFJN Graduate Fellow.
- ◆ **Rev. Nelson Adjei-Bediako, SMA** as 2021 AFJN Executive Director. After an extensive search, in December AFJN's Board of Directors appointed Rev. Adjei-Bediako to lead AFJN. Rev. Adjei-Bediako had served for several years on

AFJN's Board of Directors.

- ◆ **Interns: Philip Brooks, Mia Kilpatrick, Chazmine A. Moore, Yousra Ibrahim Hasona, Iman Mekonen, and Mariah Omer.**

AFJN's Internship Program moved online due to the Pandemic. Virtual briefings on a variety of topics were conducted focusing on US - Africa Policy.

- ◆ **Will Tyson** as Volunteer Accountant and Administrator.
- ◆ **Lydia Andrews** as Communications and Operations Manager.

AFJN Congratulates

- ◆ **Rev. Dr. Barthelemy Baz, MAfr** for successfully defending "Citizen Engagement and Democratic Governance: The Significance of October 2014 Popular Uprisings in the Political Landscape of Burkina Faso" at Howard University.

AFJN In the News

AFJN was featured in US and International media. In Uganda and Nigeria, sisters and youth are using social media platforms to spread the news. AFJN's website, social media accounts, and YouTube channel continue to grow in supporters and relevant content. AFJN was featured in: Nigrizia, The Catholic World Report, America Magazine, AMECEA NEWS BLOG, National Catholic Reporter, Independent Catholic News, Katolicka Agencja Informacyjna, Crux, Kerknet, Catholic Courier, The Tablet Catholic Newspaper, America Magazine, Catholic News Service, Global Sisters Report, Vanguard, Voice of America, Mondo, Misyjne.pl, de wereld moregen.be, Le Soir, Business Wire, and The Guardian Nigeria.

In Memoriam:



Lucy Tyson Huffman, AFJN Accounting Volunteer

On August 27th AFJN said goodbye to Lucy Huffman, a dear colleague and friend, who expressed her gratitude for being part of AFJN and passionately dedicated to the mission. Lucy spent her life making a difference, though she was very humble and would not acknowledge all that she did in service to others. AFJN is so grateful to Lucy's family for allowing us to pray with her and tell her how much she touched our lives and the lives of the Africans on the continent. With the facilitation of AFJN, Lucy made her Final Commitment into the Lay Discalced Carmelite Order shortly before her death.

*“Blessed are they who die in the Lord; they will rest in peace for their good deeds will accompany them.”
(Revelations 14:13)*



Rev. Thomas P. Tunney, CSSp., Former AFJN Board of Directors Member

Rev. Thomas P. Tunney, C.S.Sp. of Bethel Park, a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and former member of AFJN's Board of Directors (2013-2017), died peacefully on October 14, 2020 at Manor Care in Whitehall, PA. He was 85 years old. Rev. Tunney served many years in Africa and in the US, as Pastor, Formator, Seminary Rector, and Region Superior. AFJN is grateful for the many years Rev. Tunney invested in the service of our sisters and brothers in Eastern Africa and for the Congregation of the Holy Spirit's continuous support of the ministry of AFJN.

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Spiritans Missionaries

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Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

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Michael Sean Winters

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Steve Schneck

Tim Alles

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Archdiocese of Cincinnati Mission Office
Comboni Missionaries
Congregation of Holy Cross Sisters
Congregation of the Holy Spirit
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Holy Cross Fathers
Marianist Province of the United States
Maryknoll Society
Medical Mission Sisters
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa
Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit
Missionhurst
Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ*

*Priests of the Sacred Heart
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
School Sisters of Notre Dame: Central Pacific Province
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus & Mary
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Society of African Missions
Society of Missionaries of Africa
Society of the Divine Word
Xaverian Brothers
Xaverian Missionaries*

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*Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Base Communities
The Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities*

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