

CATHOLIC TASK FORCE FOR AFRICA

Africa Faith and Justice Network offices

125 Michigan Avenue NE, Suite 481

Washington, DC 2001-1004

8th October 2010

Most Reverend Bishop Paul Duffy, OMI

Catholic Diocese of Mongu

P.O. Box 910449,

Mongu, Western Province,

Zambia.

Your Grace,

At this moment of economic and social turmoil for the people of Western Province and indeed the entire country of Zambia, we the members of the **Catholic Task Force on Africa** (CTFA) in the United States write to express our solidarity with your diocese and the Catholic Bishops Conference of Zambia. We join the many organizations and individuals who have come out to express their solidarity with you.

Catholic Task Force for Africa is a coalition of Catholic religious communities and organizations seeking to analyze and influence U.S. policy toward Africa based on principles of Catholic Social Teaching. It is composed of a broad variety of Catholic institutions; from Catholic mission sending congregations and societies with missionaries serving in Africa. Our membership consists of staff from international catholic humanitarian organizations working in Zambia and some U.S./Africa advocacy groups. We also have active staff members from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

We have received ground information and have seen media coverage of incidents of threats against you for speaking about the reality of suffering and aspirations for the people your serve. We stand with you in the spirit of solidarity and we continue to explore ways to raise our concerns to relevant offices here in Washington D.C.

We the undersigned individuals and groups stand with you as you speak for the voiceless. Be assured of our continued support and prayers as you persist in speaking on behalf of the poor in Western Province of Zambia.

Yours,

Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x

Contact: director@afjn.org

Africa Faith and Justice Network

Fr. T. Michael McNulty, SJ, Justice and Peace Director

Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)

Fr. John Converset, Justice and Peace Office

North American Province of the Comboni Missionaries

Marie Dennis

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Fr. Michael Montoya, MJ

United States Catholic Mission Association

George Ngolwe – Advocacy Associate

U.S Missionary Oblates Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office

Sr. Margaret Mary Kimmins, OSF

Stephen Price, Washington Liaison, Justice and Peace Office,

Society of African Missions

"We (Synod of Bishops) are aware that many of our families are under great stress. Poverty often makes parents unable to take good care of their children, with disastrous consequence. We call on governments and civil authorities to remember that a nation whose legislation destroys its own families does so at its own detriment. Most families are asking for just what is enough for survival. They have a right to live."

2009 Africa Synod Message by the Bishops – Part IV. The Church in Africa.