



Dear Friends in Mission,

As members of our own Dominican parishes in the diocese, you are already well aware of the charism of the Dominican Friars, to praise, to bless, and to preach. You likely know some facts about our friars' work in the Vicariate of East Africa, where the seeds of the Order of Preachers were sown nearly thirty years ago, in a country where the Catholic Faith is quite new. Christianity was introduced about 150 years ago, and continues to establish its presence amidst a diversity of belief systems and traditional religions practiced by local people.

Our main ministry is promoting our Dominican life among the young people of our Vicariate territory and discerning with them. Young men who have a vocation begin the eight or nine-year formation process, which includes working in our ministries to gain the necessary skills. Student brothers who make Solemn Vows and those who go on to be ordained as priests assume increasing responsibility. The goal is that they will take over various roles, in pastoral ministry and administration.

We have established three communities in East Africa and our parish, St. Catherine of Siena in Nairobi is the only Dominican parish in East Africa. Our friars in Kisumu, Kenya are now serving at a second parish, and we hope is that it will become our full responsibility. In addition, the growing number of worshippers who attended Mass in our community's chapel at St. Martin de Porres led the friars renovate a nearby storage building to hold the burgeoning congregation, which draws the faithful from surrounding areas.

Friars are professors at area colleges and universities, where some also serve at chaplains. Dominican Friars direct the Institute of Social Communication at Tangaza University, training students to work in the media and communications industry. We have a retreat house in Kisumu where friars conduct retreats and days of recollection for priests, religious, and laity and we preach in different parishes around our communities. We are involved with the Church at local and national levels and are developing and expanding the Dominican Laity and collaborating with them in pro-life and social justice ministries.

Our friars do what they can with their own limited means to help the poor who come to their doors. In this pandemic year, many people have lost the ability to make even a meager income due to stay-at-home order and restrictions on travel. Few people have

the ability to work from home. The food supply chain has been disrupted and hunger is a real threat to those who have no stores of food or supplies saved up for these challenging times. Our priory in Kisumu has turned over a large field to a dozen families so that they can plant seed and harvest food for their families.

The legacy of St. Dominic continues in East Africa, where our men in formation and our seminary students are an important part of our hope for the future: a Dominican province of African friars fully participating in our charism and working to build up the Church. We count on your prayers and your generous support in this challenging year so that the Order of Preachers' 800-year history of preaching and serving in the missions continues. Thank you.

In the love of Jesus Christ and St. Dominic,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. David Adiletta, O.P.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fr. David Adiletta, O.P.  
Director, Mission Office