



Message from Sister Mūmbi

Blessed Lenten season. Last year, Ash Wednesday found me having just arrived in Malakal, South Sudan, to visit one of the Solidarity missionaries, Fr. Mike Bassano, MM. That evening, we went to the Protection of Civilians (PoC) camp for the liturgical celebration. Due to prior violence having displaced many people, the PoC camp parish happened to be the largest parish in the diocese, a testament to the magnitude of displacement. I met beautiful people of deep faith, but what was even more poignant was reflecting on the Catholic Lenten practices of fasting/abstinence, penance and almsgiving in such surroundings: fasting when one has no food, almsgiving when one has so little, and penance, when life in such a camp is daily penance. In his homily, however, [Fr. Mike did a beautiful job of contextualizing these practices](#), assuring the faithful that partaking food to ensure one's survival and health is in fact good and godly.

The situation in Malakal and the rest of South Sudan, for that matter, is still dire. The value of the South Sudanese pound decreases with each passing week, and the unreliable climate changes mean that agricultural efforts turn to naught or yield far less than is needed. Elections are also expected later this year, and the hopeful anticipation of the promise of new leadership is also tinged with the anxiety of politicking and the electoral process being riddled with corruption or igniting sectarian and ethnic violence.

In March, I will return to South Sudan, accompanied by Mary Ngugi, our new assistant administrative



officer. We are hoping to take you along with us through social media, with daily posts and updates about our experiences there. Follow FiS on [TikTok](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) and subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel.

Your continued prayerful and financial support is appreciated and needed not only in supporting our religious women and men who have given of themselves to minister in South Sudan, but more so, our South Sudanese siblings, who continue to beat unbelievable odds as they strive to improve their lives and society.

[This video](#) is a great way to better understand South Sudan.

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