

Office of the Catholic Ministries Appeal
Supporting Dramatic Missionary Growth



Soon we will celebrate
our glorious
Independence Day. In
man's aspirations for
freedom, there is also
a spiritual element. It
is a day that we should
give thanks to God
that He has allowed
our spirit to live.

HAPPY 4th of JULY!

THANK YOU!

Through your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal we are able to support programs that help others enjoy religious freedom!

Dembe was keeping a very dangerous secret.

For months she had been visiting a Catholic shrine near her home in Uganda. Pregnant, she nurtured her new-found faith there and decided she would have her baby baptized.

But Dembe came from a devout Muslim family and she knew her change of religion could be disastrous. She eventually told her husband who supported her decision. However, it wasn't long before their families found out and tempers flared. Hers immediately cut all ties while his family quickly turned



everyone in their small community against them.

Soon they were not only ostracized but regularly victimized. Neighbors would curse and throw stones as they walked in the street. Once, while she was home alone, a group of men threw her into a pile of animal dung and mud.

"They told me they'd kill us if I baptized my baby. I was frightened. I knew I had to do something."

So Dembe sought religious asylum in the United States.

When she arrived without her husband, she was still eight months pregnant and the only shelter she could find was in a friend's unfinished basement. A hospital social worker heard her plight and called Catholic Charities' Regina Residence, our home for pregnant women in crisis. There, Dembe was welcomed with open arms and found unconditional love for her and her newborn baby, Maria.

Today, Dembe and her baby are healthy, happy, and enjoying the religious freedom and tolerance of the United States. But she recalls, *"At that shrine they told me that God would find a way to wrap His arms around us. It was true. His arms are the embrace of Catholic Charities."*

Story reprinted from Catholic Charities' March Newsletter - The Mission.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Saint Thomas More Patron of Religious Freedom Pray for Us

God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.

Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome- for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us- this great land will always be

"one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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Religious Freedom Week

Join us, June 22 - June 29 as we pray, reflect, and take action on religious liberty, both here in this country and abroad.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



UPDATE - WAYS TO GIVE



Does your company have a matching gift program?

Corporate matching gifts are a great way for you to maximize personal contributions to the Catholic Ministries Appeal and increase the impact of your gift. To find out if your company has such a program, and if it will match your gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal or one of the ministries within the Appeal, including the Seminary, Diocesan High Schools or Catholic Charities, please call Carol Padrucco at 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

Don't miss the chance to make a charitable IRA gift this year! If you are 70 ½ or older and own an IRA, please consider making a charitable rollover gift before December 31.



You can make a gift directly from your IRA to your parish or the Catholic Ministry Appeal. Your gift will:

- not be included in your taxable income
- satisfy your required minimum distribution for the year
- reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- not be subject to the 50% limitation on charitable gifts

- help the work of the Church

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!!!!

Diocese of Rockville Centre | Catholic Ministries Appeal | 516-678-5800 ext. 296
<http://www.drvc.org/CMA>

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