



DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS  
Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco  
St. Mazzarello Community, Daraja  
Wau – Western Bahr-El Ghazal State Republic Of South Sudan



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Wau, 08/12/2024

**Pre-Province AES, Ethiopia – Sudan – South Sudan**  
St. Maria Mazzarello Community, Wau – South Sudan

## **LETTER OF APPEAL**

Reverence Benefactors,

I am Sister Teresa Pham Mai Hong Van, from the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, currently on a mission at the St. Maria Mazzarello Community in Wau, South Sudan. Wau is a mission centre belonging to the Diocese of Wau, located in the northwestern part of the world's youngest country - South Sudan. Wau is a remote and impoverished village. The population of Wau is ethnically diverse, with around 320,752 people (as of 2011) belonging to the Luo, Fertit, and Dinka tribes. Because of this diversity, Wau has often suffered from ethnic violence. The people mainly survive through farming and livestock rearing. Wau was almost completely devastated during the war, but many residents have returned since the country gained independence from Sudan in July 2011. The lives of the poor are very difficult, lacking in everything. They only farm when it rains (around April to September), and the harvest barely lasts until November-December; beyond that, there's nothing to eat, and they often go hungry from January to May. Wau is poor in every aspect, lacking abundant water sources, with not enough wells to provide for the daily living and activities of the people.

Currently, our community's missionary work is focused on caring for, educating, and training underprivileged children comprehensively from preschool up to 8th grade. Additionally, we provide cultural education and vocational guidance for young girls and older women who can't read or write. We also teach catechism and

help children receive the Sacraments, participate in mass, and practice their faith. Moreover, we've established a Youth Center to offer the children a place to play, develop their talents, and practice prayer every Saturday afternoon in the cheerful spirit of Salesian tradition. We have two primary schools with nearly 600 preschoolers and 2,000 students from 1st to 8th grade. The preschool facilities we're currently using are borrowed from the diocese, and this year we have to return those classrooms to the parish, which means the preschoolers might have to learn outdoors or even take a break from school. We really hope to build some classrooms for them because studying outside with an average temperature of 39 to 43 degrees Celsius is extremely challenging.

Respected Benefactors,

The missionary work of the Church, both in general and specifically in South Sudan, is in great need of assistance from many sources and places, especially your kind attention and enthusiastic involvement in evangelization. We wholeheartedly admire and sincerely thank you for your generous support. Let's join us in contributing bricks, bags of cement, or anything else so that these kids can go to school.

May God, who is rich in mercy, bless you and your entire family with good health, and abundant grace, and especially fill your hearts with joy as you give generously.

Thanks in advance,

Sister Teresa Pham Mai Hong Van