

16<sup>th</sup> Oct., 2008

## **Endorsement Letter for Cross International Catholic Outreach**

### **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

Peace of Christ be with you.

It is with gratitude that I commend Cross International Catholic Outreach (CICO) for the valuable financial support it has provided for charitable activities managed and sponsored by the Catholic Church in Ethiopia, Tigray Region. I can personally attest that this assistance has had significant positive effects on the lives of the poor in the Eparchy (Diocese) of Adigrat.

Briefly reviewing the history of this assistance, CICO provided in 2007 its first grant in the diocese to a program run by the White Fathers to provide nutritional, lodging, educational, and psychosocial support to street children -- girls and boys -- in Adigrat. In that same year, responding to a specific request from me, CICO contributed as co-funder of the construction of a library at the Tsinseta Mariam ("Immaculate Conception") Senior Secondary School . I note with pride that the students of the Tsinseta Miriam Secondary School – that only began classes in its current location in 2004 - have achieved the highest academic scores of all secondary schools in Tigray Region.

Also in 2007, Cross began providing support to two social-assistance efforts of the Daughters of Charity in Tigray Province: (a) a project to construct houses for 10 needy woman-headed families in Mekelle, Dawhan, Alitena, and Adigrat and (b) a project to assist 30 very disadvantaged and/or abused women to start income-generating activities while also providing them psychological counseling.

In 2008 Cross continued its financial assistance to its partners in Adigrat Eparchy – Tigray, and also was able to provide support to a new effort of the Missionaries of Africa in Adigrat: a project of the newly-created "Bruh Tesfa Youth Centre" to give income-generation training and support to young women who are school dropouts, young widows, or single mothers.

In summary, Cross International Catholic Outreach is an extremely valued partner in the ongoing efforts of the Catholic Church in Tigray Region, and in Ethiopia more broadly, to minister to the needs of the poor, whether they are Catholic or belong to another religion or Christian denomination.

With Best wishes for God's blessings upon you and your organization, I remain.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

---

+ Abune Tesfaselassie Medhin  
Bishop of the Eparchy of Adigrat