Tigray Women Housing
Safe Housing for Migrants and Marginalized Families

— Tigray, Ethiopia —

“This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.”

Psalm 34:6
We are a Catholic ministry that mobilizes the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church’s spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.
Project Synopsis

Description
This project will address the growing crisis of impoverished migrants fleeing to a region already home to marginalized families immersed in crushing poverty.

Purpose
To create safe housing and a way out of poverty for abandoned children and families headed by desperately poor women.

Location
The Tigray region of northern Ethiopia.

Our Partners
Daughters of Charity.

Cost
$174,900 for home construction and renovation and training programs.

Highlights
• More than 150,000 migrants have fled to Tigray to escape ethnic violence in other regions of Ethiopia.
• The region already is home to many impoverished families who live on the streets or in shacks that have been slapped together with wooden posts and bits of tin, plastic and tarps.
• The fleeing migrant families and marginalized local families often are led by widows, abandoned women or even children who are forced to raise younger siblings.
• Cross Catholic Outreach partners with the Daughters of Charity, dedicated nuns who have ministered to the people of Ethiopia for many years.
• Hope flourishes as decrepit homes are repaired and new homes are built.
• Women receive entrepreneurship training and loans to start new businesses so they can lift their families out of poverty.
• The sisters urgently need your generous gift to expand their programs and bring God’s compassion to unfortunate migrant families caught in a heartbreaking national crisis.

Sister Medhin Tesfay stands between Alefu Amha and her daughter Workanesh, a mother of five, outside the family’s repaired home. Previously, the home was falling apart, but today it stands strong. “Glory to God,” Alefu said.
The Need

Before the Daughters of Charity entered her life, Gidey and her sons lived on the street for years, often sleeping outside on church grounds. Gidey frequently begged for money when she could not find domestic work. She described those days in one word — “misery.”

Eventually, a government agency moved the family into a home, but it was really a shack. Over time, the walls started to collapse and a leaky roof turned the dirt floor into a muddy mess. Like any mother would do, Gidey grieved not just for herself, but also for the many ways these living conditions would impact the future of her children.

Sadly, Gidey’s story isn’t unusual in the rural regions of Ethiopia. Many women there struggle through life and with worry about the fate of their families. Too often, these women are without support, having been abandoned or widowed earlier in life. As a result, they have few resources — barely enough to feed their children — and see no way to better their circumstances. Uneducated and unsupported, most perform manual labor for a tiny wage and must often resort to begging in the streets with their impoverished children.

Fortunately, the Daughters of Charity have become aware of these hardships. They are now eager to take action, but to succeed, they will need the help of American Catholics. These noble sisters can only build homes for the poor in their community as funds become available through compassionate Catholics like you. By providing a generous gift today, you can empower them to bless another family with a home that is safe and secure. You can restore hope that a better future is possible!

Families in flight

Impoverished families, displaced by ethnic violence, are on the run in Ethiopia. More than 150,000 migrants have fled to Tigray, with many families led by widowed or abandoned women. The government — already dealing with crushing poverty — has set up meager camps where families are crowded into tin structures with no water or electricity. Poor sanitation causes rampant sickness, and mothers live in constant fear for the safety of their children.

With your help, the Daughters of Charity are prepared to extend the welcoming embrace of God to these hurting families. Your generous gift will enable them to expand their housing program, showing suffering people that God has heard their pleas.
Ministry Description

The Daughters of Charity urgently need your help to continue to build new homes… and transform lives.
Their inspired program provides a new future for impoverished women like Hiwot Gebre Ezgi. This mother of two children received not only home repairs but also entrepreneurial training and a loan to create a business raising sheep and goats. By fattening and selling the animals, she has paid for schooling for her children and bought them clothes. She also is saving nearly $2 a month.

“I want my children to reach the highest level. I will improve my life with God’s help,” Hiwot said.

The new business owners learn to save for their family needs, but also to give back to others. Each woman contributes to a social fund, which is used to assist a member who is sick or in need.

With your help, the lives of many more vulnerable women and children will be transformed. The Daughters of Charity are eager to expand their program to reach other displaced migrant families who have fled to Tigray from other parts of Ethiopia.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit and praying for your generous support, the sisters’ goal this year is to:

• Build 18 new houses, complete with kitchen, bedroom and outdoor latrine — the latrines being a first for many families. Eight of the homes will be for migrant families.
• Repair three existing homes by rebuilding walls and installing toilets, doors and windows.
• Buy two simple condo units that the government built that are now vacant because residents could not afford the rent.
• Train 18 housing beneficiaries in business skills, including providing a loan so they can create a business.

That is 48 families who will be touched through your generosity — more than 200 women and children who will know that the worldwide body of Christ cares for them and that the Lord himself loves them very much.

Hiwot Gebre Ezgi and her son enjoy a lighthearted moment in the pen, where they care for their animals.
You can expand the Daughters of Charity’s incredible outreach to the poor through your generous gift today — and the impact of your love and sacrifice with be profound!

The Spirit-filled sisters have heard a call from the Lord to expand their successful housing program, but they need this support to make their ambitious plans a reality. Please help them reach out to desperate Ethiopian families living in makeshift camps. These families have fled there to escape violence, drought or floods in their home regions, but their futures could be much brighter.

With your offering, the sisters will have all that they need to bring joy to migrant families now living in fear. Families now living in crowded, unsanitary camps can receive their very own home with a roof that keeps the rain out, sturdy walls for protection, and their own toilet with a septic system. In this impoverished country, the sisters can provide all of this to a family for just a few thousand dollars.

By supporting the sisters, you will enable them to be the Lord’s hands and feet to continue his outreach of compassion. With impoverished migrant mothers and their children filling makeshift camps, the Lord’s intervention is needed now more than ever. Please help today!

Our Promise to You!
Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2020, the close of our ministry’s fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.