

December 19, 2015

Dear Friends,

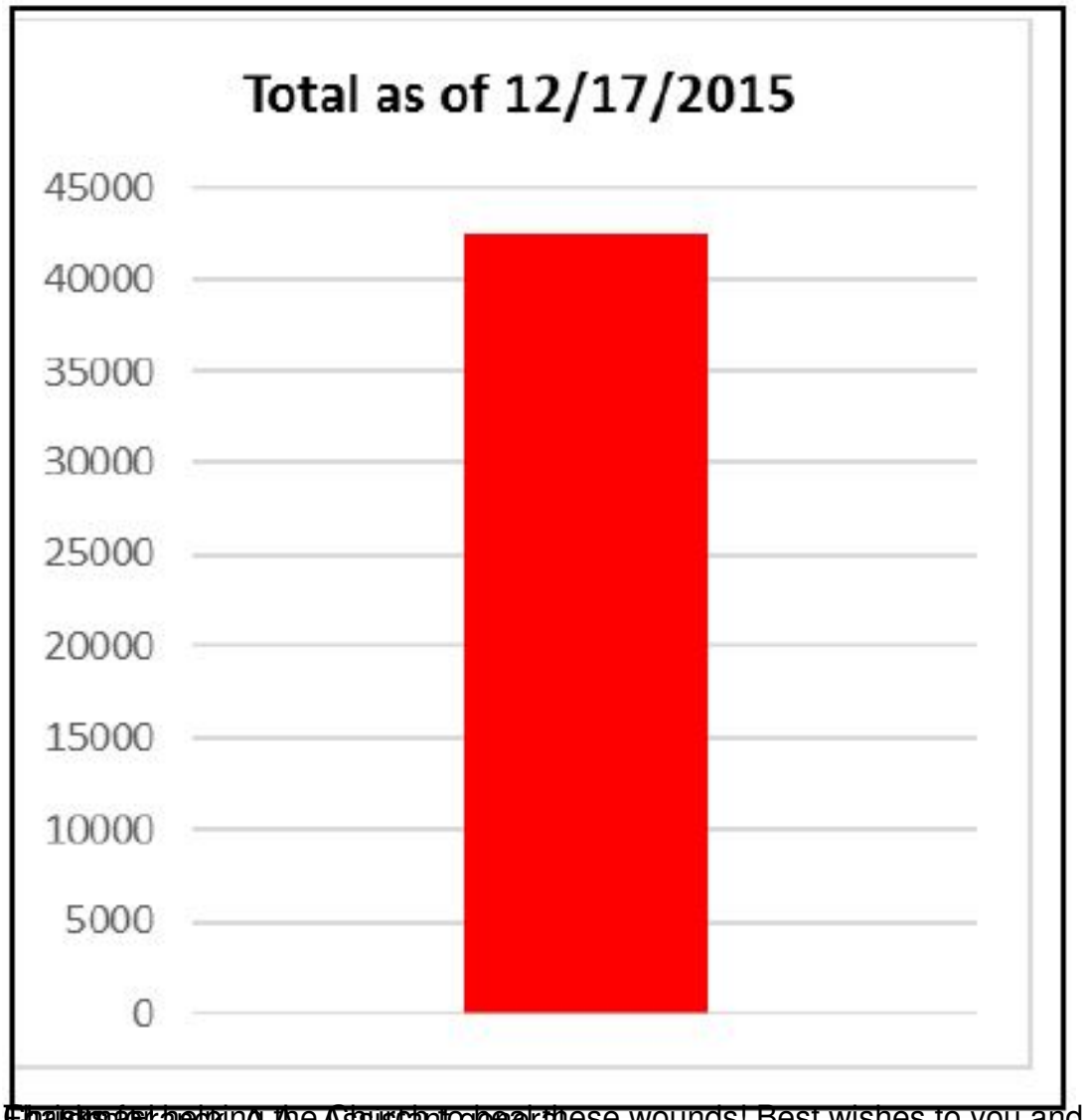
As Christmas approaches, I wanted to send you one final note before the holidays. I have been in meetings of the Plenary General Council of the Assumptionists, the expanded leadership team of the Congregation made up of the permanent members stationed here in Rome (five of us) and the provincials of the six districts of the Congregation. These provincials oversee our day-to-day operations in the 30 countries where we are located. Among those present was the provincial of Africa who is responsible for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the Beni school will be built. In an interview with me, he gives you the latest information about what is happening in this war-torn and forgotten corner of the world and what the latest plans are for the school. I think you will find that the interview is not only enlightening but that it also brings home how urgent this project is.

As many of you know, Pope Francis recently made a trip to three countries in East and Central Africa (Kenya, Uganda, and the Central African Republic). Many advisors tried to dissuade him from making the trip because of security reasons. But he was undaunted, explaining “A Father must go where his children are suffering”. Upon his return, he said, “I saw that where there is need, the Church is almost always present to heal the wounds of those most in need, in whom She recognizes the afflicted and crucified body of the Lord Jesus."



Donations can be sent to:

The Assumptionists
Attn: Beni School Project
330 Market Street
Brighton, MA 02135



[illegible] these wounds! Best wishes to you and yours for a Merry



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