

# STILL TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY

## UPDATES FROM ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, KEREN, ERITREA



**TWINNING**  
LASALLIANS OF NORTH AMERICA & AFRICA  
*Walking Together in Solidarity*



### BACKGROUND

In September 2019, the Eritrean government nationalized St. Joseph School in Keren, meaning it took the school from the Brothers' leadership. Since that time, the Brothers have not been able to serve in the school, and instead have been working to connect with young people in other ways. While COVID-19 has complicated those efforts, the Brothers are committed to continuing to serve young people in the community.



### UPDATE

Prior to the nationalization of St. Joseph School, the school was educating more than 80 needy students at no cost to them. After the nationalization, the government told the students they would be required to pay tuition or leave the school. Since many families were not able to afford the fees, the Brothers identified the students most in need and are helping them to continue their education by paying their tuition. Twinning donations are helping to fund this need.



The Brothers residence is still on school grounds, and they continue to own and manage the school chapel. Many activities that had been taking place when the Brothers were administering the school are still happening, such as Lasallian youth groups for various ages. The Brothers also organize sports, workshops and music lessons outside of school time. At this time, all of these activities are on hold, due to a COVID-19 lockdown in the country.

**"The twinning fund is totally used for the formation and education of the youth at St. Joseph. We feel that this is the time when the youth need the support and accompaniment of Brothers more."**

*-Brother Negasi Gebreab, FSC, Sector Coordinator, Eritrea*

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