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Dear Father,

My name is Immaculée Ilibagiza. I am a Rwandan genocide survivor, a devout Catholic, and the author of three published books illustrating how deep faith in God and the power of His forgiveness can triumph over even the most unimaginable evil. My first book, *Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*, was a New York Times Bestseller and its sequel, *Led By Faith: Rising From The Ashes of The Rwandan Genocide*, has recently arrived in bookstores. But it is the subject of my third book “***Our Lady of Kibeho :Mary Speaks to the World From The Heart of Africa***” that fills my heart with a joy, that I want to share with you, your parishioners and the entire world – Our Lady of Kibeho.

Although the Vatican has declared the apparitions in Kibeho to be authentic, it would not surprise me if you are unfamiliar with the Blessed Mother’s visitations to three Catholic schoolgirls during the early 1980s in this remote African village in my homeland of Rwanda. Few Catholics outside Africa are aware of Our Lady of Kibeho and many powerful messages she delivered there, which Mary said that were meant for the whole world.

Many times in Kibeho, Our Lady pleaded with those present to help her messages known to the world, my book is only a small contribution to Our Lady’s wish. However, it is also for that reason I beg a small favor of you, I implore you to inform your parishioners that **NOVEMBER 28** is when the faithful celebrate the ***Feast Day of Our Lady of Kibeho***.

This feast day has been sanctioned by the Catholic Church since 2001 when the Vatican, after twenty years of investigation, concluded that the visitations and messages from the Blessed Mother in Kibeho were genuine, as genuine as those at Lourdes, Fatima, or Guadalupe. The Holy See formally acknowledged our Lady of Kibeho and the great spiritual fruits contained in her messages. That recognition has made Kibeho the only Vatican-approved Marian apparition site in all of Africa.

You see, dear Father, I lost my earthly family during the genocide, but I was saved by the guidance of Our Lady, by fully embracing the God’s love, and during the 3 months I hid a bathroom with other 7 women, being hunted by the killers, I did as Our Lady told us in Kibeho, I prayed the rosary non-stop, and the chaplet of Divine Mercy. It is through Her intercession that I am alive today and was able to forgive those who murdered my family. Today I travel the globe speaking to people about discovering God in the midst of the bloody genocide and the messages of Our Lady of Kibeho.

A major factor in the Vatican’s decision to officially recognize Our Lady of Kibeho was based on the frighteningly detailed and accurate prediction the Blessed Mother made in 1981 about an unspeakable holocaust that would soon sweep across the country if Rwandans did not truly accept God’s love into their hearts. She urged us to pray the rosary in each village for peace or our country to avoid what was going to happen. Tragically, too few heeded the Lady’s warning. Thirteen years later, one million innocent people were slaughtered in the exact, horrifying manner prophesized by the Blessed Mother. If we have listened to her in Rwanda, a million people who died during the genocide, would be alive today, so many broken hearts wouldn’t have to be, my parents and brothers would be alive.

Despite her apocalyptic warnings about the genocide, most of the messages Our Lady of Kibeho delivered were truly joyous and as comforting as tender words from a loving mother. Her appearances prompted thousands of conversions and multitudes of pilgrims found salvation through God's love, which was always in great abundance during Mary's visits to Kibeho. Her messages also provided important instructions on how best to serve God and stressed the importance of preparing for Christ's imminent return by studying scripture and cleansing sin from our hearts. She provided inspired lyrics for many hymns and taught us the words to forgotten prayers, such as the Rosary of The Seven Sorrows. Unlike the brief apparitions at Lourdes and Fatima, the apparitions in Kibeho lasted for up to eight hours at a time. They were occasions of great celebrations in which I, and thousands of others, sang the songs and danced to music Our Lady offered through her visionaries in so we were better able to live in God's light and glorify His name.

As you can see, I am driven with a great passion to share these messages with the world; for me it is both a duty and a joy. Since the Vatican's recognition of Our Lady of Kibeho, hundreds of thousands of Africans have made the pilgrimage to a newly built Church of The Seven Sorrows and the beautiful new shrine that marks the exact spot where Our Lady appeared.

Years before the site received Vatican recognition, Fr. Gabriel Maindron wrote the first book ever published about Kibeho. In his elegant French he expressed how profoundly moved he was by Our Lady of Kibeho, writing that, ***"If one day the apparitions of Kibeho are approved by the Catholic Church, they will be celebrated as the warmest, most loving visitations of Our Lady in the history of the world."***

Today, Kibeho is becoming a true spiritual center in the heart of Africa. Thousands of faithful Catholics from across the African continent now make a yearly pilgrimage to Kibeho to worship at the new Church of Our Lady of The Seven Sorrows and pray at the beautiful shrine marking the spot where Our Lady appeared. An American Architect has offered to draw up plans for a Basilica based on the dimensions and design Our Lady of Kibeho herself gave to one of the visionaries. I am also donating a percentage of all profits from my new book, ***Our Lady of Kibeho: Mary Speaks to the World from the Heart of Africa***, to assist in the construction of what will become the Basilica of The Queen of Africa. It is my hope the Basilica will become a beacon of faith in a world in desperate need of God's Love. Please help in my quest to serve Our Lady, Her Son, and Our Father to let that light shine a little more brightly by spreading her message and especially by celebrating the ***Feast of Our Lady of Kibeho*** on ***NOVEMBER 28***.

As you pray for all the souls entrusted to your care, know that I will be praying for you. May Our Lady of Kibeho bless you, and bless all your efforts on her behalf.

Yours in Christ,



Immaculée Ilibagiza