

# ModernMARTYRS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

The gift you offer will support these and similar pastoral projects.



## Sarah's STORY



Watch a video about Sarah and her parish.

**MARTYR**

### Sarah Yohanna Madaki

**Pray for us**

Sarah Madaki was born on 23 June 1995. She grew to become a very active member of St Rita's Catholic Parish in Kaduna, Nigeria. On 28 October 2012, Sarah was singing in the choir during Mass when a Boko Haram terrorist launched a suicide car bomb attack, crashing against the side of the packed church. **Sarah, aged just 17, and three other young choir members – Laraba, Samuel and Bitros – were killed** and 356 parishioners were injured. Some lost their eyes and many will carry the physical scars of the shards and splinters for the rest of their lives.

The parish priest, Fr Mike Boni Bazza, who was also wounded described the attack: "Immediately after we shared the sign of peace, I turned to move up to the tabernacle to bring out Holy Communion for distribution to the faithful. I was just about to insert the key when the suicide bomber rammed through the fence of the church, I heard the bang and saw the fence falling. I alerted the congregation, particularly the choir members since the wall was crumbling from that side."

Patience Ishaya John was Sarah's best friend. Patience lost complete vision in her right eye and was left with multiple facial scars. Patience says that despite all she has

suffered, she is not discouraged in her faith, "God wants us to stay here and spread the faith. Sarah inspires me. By the Grace of God, we will live to proclaim His Word and live as an example for others".

After the devastation of that day St Rita's church was rebuilt (with support from ACN benefactors) and the choir restarted their regular rehearsals.

When attacks like this occur ACN is often asked by the local Church to help fund trauma counselling for those who have been impacted by violence. In addition ACN gives support with pastoral programs and the training of catechists.

It is a sign of the faith of the Catholic community that despite the bombing and the high number of victims, the parish of St Rita continues to be full of worshippers every Sunday.

**MAKE A DONATION**

**- in honour of Sarah and in solidarity with the parishioners of St Rita's to care for the Church in Africa. Your offering will provide trauma counselling to those affected by violence, create parish faith programs and train catechists.**