



Transmissions

The Pontifical Mission Societies: The Society for the Propagation of the Faith * The Missionary Childhood Association *
The Society of St. Peter the Apostle * The Pontifical Missionary Union

Let Almsgiving Become a Genuine Style of Life.... Pope Francis and Mr. and Mrs. C

By Dr. Mike Gable, Mission Office Director

In his 2018 Lenten message, Pope Francis writes, *"...the Church offers us, in the Lenten season, the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting..."*

...Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! How I would like us, as Christians, to follow the example of the Apostles and see in the sharing of our possessions a tangible witness of the communion that is ours in the Church! For this reason, I echo Saint Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians to take up a collection for the community of Jerusalem as something from which they themselves would benefit (cf. 2 Cor 8:10). This is all the more fitting during the Lenten season, when many groups take up collections to assist Churches and peoples in need.... When we give alms, we share in God's providential care for each of his children. If through me God helps someone today, will he not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God."

A beautiful local example of the Holy Father's call to support our broader church in mission are anonymous donors, "Mr. and Mrs. C,." For decades they would send the Mission Office \$250 every week to support the work of missionaries from our Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Every year we would switch to another missionary in need which

made a tremendous difference in their ministries. Through their continuing generosity Sr. Evette Ann Seib, CMS, was able to educate people in South Sudan who wanted to be teachers. She also helped her sisters there with resources to feed the hungry and provide clean water.



Sr. Evette Seib, CMS,
in South Sudan



Fr. Joe Thaler, MM in
Nepal

Fr. Joe Thaler, MM, was able to rebuild homes with the poor after the earthquake in Nepal. Kathleen and Brian DeRouen have more resources to serve the families of incarcerated women in West Virginia at Alderson Hospitality House.

Recently Mr. C passed on to God and his heavenly reward. His final act of generosity was a substantial gift in his will to the Mission Office. It will help missionaries to preach the saving Word of Jesus Christ for years to come. While this gift was a surprise to the Mission Office, it was planned by the donors for many years. As one of his son's stated, "Our dad thought of the Mission Office as his ninth child. He would purposely buy the cheapest seats for us at the Riverfront Stadium to see the Reds play so there would be more funds for the mission church." And he noted, "Dad would often say, 'Missions, that's what the Gospel is all about!'"

In this season of Lent and Easter, you too are invited to respond to the Holy Father's invitation and follow Mr. and Mrs. C's example. God's people around the world need your help to hear God's Word. Would you consider a regular monthly donation, including the Mission Office in your estate plans, supporting a missionary, or helping students pay for a mission trip?

For details, call me at (513) 421-3131 x. 2630 or email: mission@catholiccincinnati.org. Checks can be written to, "Mission Office" and mailed to Mission Office, 100 E. 8th St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. God bless you!



Kathleen DeRouen and
guests in West Virginia

"Missions, that's what the Gospel is all about!"

Missioner News

Celebrating Local Mission

The Archdiocese Mission Office once again celebrated a World Mission Sunday Mass, October 22, 2017, with many of the local Catholic diaspora located in the Archdiocese. St. Susanna Church was our most gracious host. Our Communities joined together to pray and celebrate the universality of our Catholic Church. Our main celebrant was Bishop Joseph Binzer. For more photos and captions, go to: www.catholiccincinnati.org/mission and click on World Mission Sunday.



We Support and Promote our Lay Missionaries

Currently, we are aware of 9 lay missionaries from our archdiocese serving in the U.S. or abroad and the Mission Office enjoys supporting them in a variety of ways. If there is someone in your parish serving as a lay missionary for at least a year, please let the Mission Office know so that we might support them as well. The office also provides advice and contacts for Catholics at least 18 years or older who are seeking short or long term service. **Could your parish host a Mission Service Information Night?** The Mission Office would love to come and provide advice and contacts for individuals at least 18 years or older as well as Catholic families who are seeking short or long term service. Contact us at 513-421-3131 X 2632 or mission@catholiccincinnati.org.

Missioner Views

Humble Conversations

By: Teresa Phillips

We have been blessed with the presence for the last few months with Sister Evette Seib, a Comboni Missionary Sister who has spent decades in South Sudan. Sr. Evette is back on home leave after a stressful stint in leadership for her order in South Sudan. The country has been ravaged by war for many years. First was the war with the government of the north. Then, once independence was achieved in 2011, a civil war in South Sudan broke out among tribes.

Sitting with Sr Evette and hearing her talk of her life in mission is a humbling experience. To hear what people survive through, the constant tragedies through which they keep their faith, often makes me think of the strength of my own faith. Could it survive the daily trauma many people face in our world today? The strength of the faith of the people and the lessons of missionaries in situations of extreme trauma strengthen our church and help us to see the Face of God in others.

Processing trauma is always difficult and the many harrowing situations Sister helped her congregation through take their toll. But when I asked Sister what gives her hope, or where she sees any light she replied,



This photo was sent during a time of relative peace. One wonders where this young man is now.

“For me, education is the key to everything. If we want to bring peace to the country, we need education... they have to work together in a classroom.”

The Catholic University of S Sudan has members of all tribes together and they work well. I saw one of the young men I know greet a fellow student of another tribe with no problem. I asked him and he said, when he needs to do study in the (tribal) area from where is friend comes, his friend escorts him. When his friend needs to do study in his tribal area, he escorts his friend. They see the importance of working together. This is my hope.”



Sister Evette and two of her sisters in a small village church.

While Sister has been in Cincinnati, she went to visit Congressman Steve Chabot to discuss the realities on the ground in South Sudan. Connecting with elected officials is very important. They cannot know all details of every issue. Advocacy is an important part of the work of the church. We must speak on behalf of our brothers and sisters around the world. A good place to find advocacy information on Africa is the Africa Faith & Justice Network at www.afjn.org



A small village that is no longer. “What little they had was taken from them.”



Photo on Fountain Square after her visit with Congressman Chabot.

For more information on South Sudan, please contact the Comboni Missionary Sisters through the Comboni Missionaries network at www.combonimissionaries.org or go to www.solidarityssudan.org for news and updates.

Please pray for the people of South Sudan and all people in areas of war and conflict. Please pray the Holy Spirit will enter the hearts of those who foment war and bring them peace.

“We Are Truly Many Members of One Body”

Strengthening Bridges of Solidarity & Faith with Mexican Partners
By Dr. Mike Gable

For nine years, archdiocesan parishes of Immaculate Conception/Holy Family/St. Denis in the region of Versailles, Frenchtown, and Bradford have been developing relationships with various parishes in the diocese of Puerto Escondido located in the southern Mexico state of Oaxaca. The reason being is that many Oaxacans have migrated to various areas of our archdiocese, especially around this parish region, Hamilton and other locations in order to feed their families back home.

So besides attending to the needs of these local immigrants who have settled in our archdiocese, Pastoral Associate, Jane Pierron also invited her region’s parishioners to build bridges of solidarity and faith with their families and relatives back in Oaxaca. As a result, Catholics on both sides of this partnership have come to appreciate each other’s cultures, spiritualities, challenges, joys, sorrows and gifts....not to mention their mutual growth in faith!



The sign explains the general Objective of a parish in Oaxaca: “To strengthen our integral evangelization through the conversion of our actions and attitudes to Jesus Christ and for the construction of a church committed with the poor to promote justice and peace, and to mercifully transform the reality of our people.”

ocese last fall. She also could not comprehend how anybody from Ohio could be interested in them. Edith is growing closer to her Catholic faith and now understands how people from Ohio can care for them and about them. Sometimes I feel like we are going nowhere with this relationship, that maybe the people there see us as a means of getting the material things they need. Thoughts like this help me see God working in God’s own way, that I need to learn to trust more, and to get out of the way and let the Spirit’s fire into our hearts.”



Welcome to Jicaltepec! Poster on the left reads “Brothers and sisters of Ohio, Jicaltepec receives you with open arms.”

Fr. David Vincent of our archdiocese who also reaches out to local Mexicans has visited Oaxaca numerous times. From this past trip he noted that Bishop Pedro Vazquez Villalobos has been growing in his understanding of the aims for a twinning relationship and deeply appreciates the support to develop his catechists and seminarians. While vide-

otaping the bishop’s message to his flock in Ohio, Fr. David explained, “He turned to the camera and spoke from his heart about his care and concern for them. He expressed concern for their fears and for being away from home. Bishop Pedro assured them of his prayers. To see the bishop speak to his flock in such a simple and profound way helped me understand better the role of a bishop with his people and the connection we have with him.”

This being her first parish twinning trip to Puerto Escondido, Marina Dominguez said, “I was not sure what to expect but it was wonderful, very rewarding and educational. We visited the small town of Pinotepa, Oaxaca. A group of people were waiting for us downtown, smiling, and welcomed us with signs. As soon as we got out of the van, each one of them gave us a warm hug and they told us their history.” She added, “We had same experience with in the mountain village of Jicaltepec, where they speak the ‘Misteco’ dialect.



Bishop Pedro at confirmation in the minor seminary in Oaxaca, Mexico



Bishop Pedro of the Diocese of Oaxaca Mexico, ordains an indigenous man to the Diaconate.

(Continued on Page 6)

Social Justice Reflections on Immigration Issues from Missionaries on the Front Lines

by Dr. Mike Gable, Mission Office Director

Blessed John the Baptist Scalabrini (1839-1905) was moved by the Spirit to respond to the subhuman conditions of migrants who were fleeing toward South and North America at the end of the Nineteen Century. In 1887, he founded the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo, today known as the Scalabrinians, in order to serve the spiritual and material needs of migrants. Sacred Heart Church in Cincinnati was founded by the Scalabrinians to support those who migrated here.

Currently this missionary order serves in 30 countries on 5 continents, living in solidarity with the displaced and providing orientation, hospitality, food, medical, social, and legal services and work assistance to migrants. This missionary order also raising awareness in the social media, provides analysis on immigration issues, advises episcopal conferences and governments, and promotes human rights for migrants.

The Scalabrinian Volunteer Program provides formation and orientation for those wishing to serve at least one year at the U.S. border or with parishes in the U.S. For more information contact: progvoluntariado@yahoo.com or contact: Father Aldo Vendramin, C.S., email: missionoffice@scalabrinimissionoffice.org Website: <http://www.scalabrinians.org/website/index.html>

When asked for insights about the current debate about immigration law reform in the U.S., Fr. Vendramin sent an article entitled "Reflections from the Border" by Fr. Pat Murphy C.S. (photo right) who ministers at one of their Casa del Migrante locations at the U.S. border.

In summary, Fr. Murphy states:

Here at the Casa del Migrante daily I am in contact with over 120 men whose lives have been shattered by deportation. For some, it is like a death sentence and they cannot take it. Then they end up on the streets of Tijuana, victims of addictions that will eventually destroy their lives. However about 100 people every month enter our work program and literally begin to reconstruct their new lives. Every single day they inspire me to keep going and try to make a difference. Consequently, inspired by their courageousness I would like to share some specific steps we might all consider.



A delegation from Archdiocese of Cincinnati greeting volunteers at Scalabrini's Casa de Migrante at Guatemala/ Mexico border.

Faith Response:

While I am very proud the U.S. Bishops and individual bishops have taken a prophetic stance for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), we need every single Bishop in every diocese of the U.S. to preach on this very Pro-Life issue. When 800,000 lives are put in jeopardy, it is time for us to be brave enough to accept the criticism. Here at the Casa every day we have young people arriving to escape the violence of their countries.

Everyone says the same thing: If I go home I will be killed. It is quite likely that every Honduran and Salvadoran deported via the cancellation of DACA is receiving a death sentence.

Let us be inspired to action by Pope Francis who calls for all of us to act with four key action verbs in terms of migrants and refugees: Welcome, Protect, Promote and Integrate.

Political response:

We desperately need a political response to the cancellation of DACA and the reform of U.S. Immigration policies. I have no doubt that the U.S. Bishops Justice for Immigrants campaign will offer a lot of opportunities for people to get involved. Please check out their website to see how you can get involved. <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/>

Human Response:

As we think about how we might be judged at the end of our lives, per Matthew 25, we need to realize we cannot simply pick and choose what commands of Jesus we would like to follow to enter the pearly gates. Jesus spent his entire missionary life making people feel welcome and reaching out to those most ostracized by the society. I wonder can we be expected to do anything less.

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Strengthening Bridges (Cont)



Fr. Mike Pucke of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati receives gifts from family members of parishioners in Hamilton, OH.

They were so grateful we came to visit them and they were so proud to demonstrate their church, weaving, cooking, and music. I also got the sense of being around friends and family.”

Fr. Mike Pucke, who has served at St. Julie Billiart Parish in Hamilton, shared, “I made my third trip to Puerto Escondido, more than anything, to connect with family members of St. Julie. Many of our parishioners do not have papers that allow them to be with family members at special times such as weddings, funerals, baptisms etc.

I pray that the presence in Oaxaca of the priest that shares so many of those experiences with folks here might be, in a small way, an emotional and spiritual help to them and their families far away.”

He noted, “While I am not directly involved in a twinning relationship between a parish here and a diocese in Mexico, I am impressed with the ongoing commitment of the parishes in the northern part



Traditional weaving in Jicaltepec, Mexico.

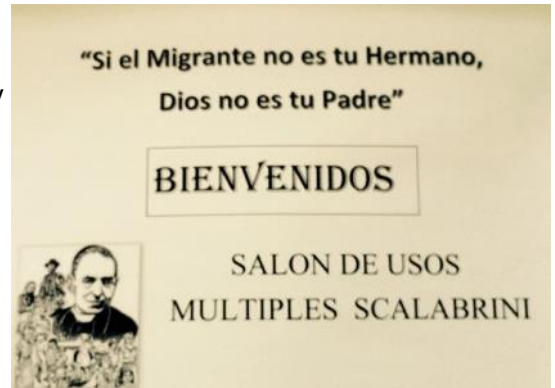
of our Archdiocese of Cincinnati.” Fr. Pucke concluded, “It was a great joy to have celebrated Mass with groups of family members during that week. We are truly many members of one Body.”



Mexican Dancers in Jicaltepec.

Social Justice Reflections (Cont)

It is almost comical to hear so many politicians and people say that our country is based on Judeo Christian Values but I guess when it comes to immigrants and refugees, those values gets buried in the rhetoric of what is legal and what is illegal.



Sign at casa Del Migrante: “If a migrant is not your brother (& sister), God is not your Father.” Welcome.

Now it is time for us to make things right and take action to make some history. Let’s enact a just legislation that welcomes migrants, refugees and dreamers in a way that will truly Make America Great Again. Si se puede.

For more information about reaching out to local immigrants in many ways, go to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Social Services at: <https://www.ccswoh.org/>

To become involved in immigration law reform, contact Tony Stieritz of the Archdiocesan Social Action Office at: www.catholiccincinnati.org

Spirit of Sister Dorothy Stang Award Applications being accepted

Dorothy Mae Stang, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur was murdered in Anapu, in the state of Pará, in the Amazon Basin of Brazil in February 2005. She was outspoken in her efforts on behalf of the poor and the environment.

In 2010, in honor of the 5 year remembrance of her murder, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the Archdiocesan Offices of Mission and the Pontifical Mission Societies, Catholic Social Action, Evangelization & Discipleship, Youth Evangelization & Discipleship, and Young Adult Evangelization & Discipleship, initiated the Spirit of Sister Dorothy Stang Awards.

Nominations for the Spirit of Sister Dorothy Stang Awards in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati are available in February of each year on our website. They are for High School seniors, school faculty, staff and volunteers and parish staff and volunteers. Nomination forms are available email: mission@catholiccincinnati.org or on the Mission Office page of our website:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org>

Ghana Travels: Welcoming, Emotional, Inspirational, Humbling

By Dr. Mike Gable

“The quality of our lives depends on the quality of our relationships.” This was a key message Sabrina Burton-Simonson often encountered during her September 14-29, 2017 trip to Ghana, West Africa. Traveling with her were Rev. Mr. Royce Winters, Rita Winters, four other members from the Church of the Resurrection, Bond Hill in Cincinnati along with Melonise Knight and Mike Gable of the Mission Office.



Thanks to tour guide, Francis Donkor, originally from Ghana, now living in Cincinnati, the group visited five dioceses across Ghana seeking to develop tighter bonds of solidarity with Ghanaians both there and in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. It was an honor for the group to meet Francis' hometown family and the tribal Chief Agyemang Badu Duah (photo above) who spoke passionately about the educational needs of his people.

Sabrina Burton-Simonson noted, “All the churches were full with a wide variety of youth, males and females. One parish we visited stated that the average age of their parishioners was 17 years old! The energy of the choirs was awesome. They ignited the congregation as well and I felt the spirit of their songs.” She added, “We always hear about the shortage of priests here in America. Several of the priests we met there have an average of 11 parishes each. The challenge is that they cannot say Mass every Sunday at all 11 parishes, therefore, they have a ‘Delegate of the Word’ (a lay person that is comparable to a Deacon level) perform Communion Services.

When visiting Bishop Peter Atuahene of the diocese of Goaso, the Cincinnati group attended Mass with over sixty confirmands ranging from ages 13 to 75. The Winters were moved by Ghanaian cultural expression in the mass, which included a procession of the confirmands and offerings of fruit and animals. “As time conscious as we are in America, we were right at home for the 5-hour confirmation Mass with the Bishop Peter” said Deacon Winters. Now back in Cincinnati, he



Bishop Atuahene and the travelers celebrated Confirmation.

they have encountered throughout the centuries. The journey revealed that in being Catholic, no matter where you go in this world, we are united as Christians and as such, we are called to walk in our faith by serving to our fullest potential each day.”

Shadidah Akbar was especially grateful to Fr. Lawrence Tabi of the Obuasi Diocese who arranged a visit to his first cousin, Otumfuo Nana Osei Tutu II, ruler of the Kingdom of Ashanti. “It opened my eyes to a history I never knew existed.”

When Rita Winters asked Ghanaians what they thought of African-Americans like herself, she said, “they feel sorry for us” due to racial discrimination faced in the United States. In addition, the group paid an emotional visit to Elmina Castle. This is the infamous holding pen for enslaved individuals from West African kingdoms before they undertook the Middle Passage to the Americas. Wrote Sabrina Burton-Simonson, “Without a doubt, the most humbling experience was when we toured the slave castle and saw where the men and women were held captive prior to being sold. Hearing descriptions by the guide of how the men and women were treated and physically seeing the environment in which they were held was heart-wrenching.”

Melonise Knight reflected, “As this was my second trip, I was sorry to see in this visit that many lives have changed after the gold mines were closed and thousands lost their jobs. Yet I felt surpassing joy as I was greeted by the ones who were still there. They were elated that I returned to see them again as I had promised. One of the moments that stand out is this photograph. I don't know her name but she came and climbed into my lap. I loved it.” (photo right)

continues to reach out to the local Ghanaian Catholic community and seeks to build a longer term relationship with Bishop Peter and members of his diocese.

Traveler Rachel Ullah, reflected, “Though God is their main focus, it was easy to see how their faith transcended into their daily lives with an abundance of joy, in spite of the hardships and disadvantages



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A Reflection for Easter From the Creed of **Nicaraguan Peasant Mass**

Yo creo en vos, compañero,
Cristo humano, Cristo obrero,
de la muerte vencedor.
Con tu sacrificio inmenso
engendraste al hombre nuevo para la liberación.
Dios está resucitando
en cada brazo que se alza
para defender al pueblo del dominio explotador,

Porque estás vivo en el rancho, en la fábrica, en la escuela,
creo en tu lucha sin tregua, creo en tu resurrección.
Porque estás vivo en el rancho, en la fábrica, en la escuela,
creo en tu lucha sin tregua, creo en tu resurrección.

I believe in you, friend, companion, comrade,
Human Christ, Worker Christ,
Conqueror of Death.
With your immense sacrifice
You begot the new man for his liberation.
God is being resurrected
In each arm that is raised
To defend the people from exploitative domination.

Because you're alive on the farm, in the factory and in the school,
I believe in your unceasing struggle, I believe in your resurrection.
Because you're alive on the farm, in the factory and in the school,
I believe in your unceasing struggle, I believe in your resurrection.



Translated by **Phillip Dunn**, Xavier University student, who completed a Service Learning semester in Nicaragua.