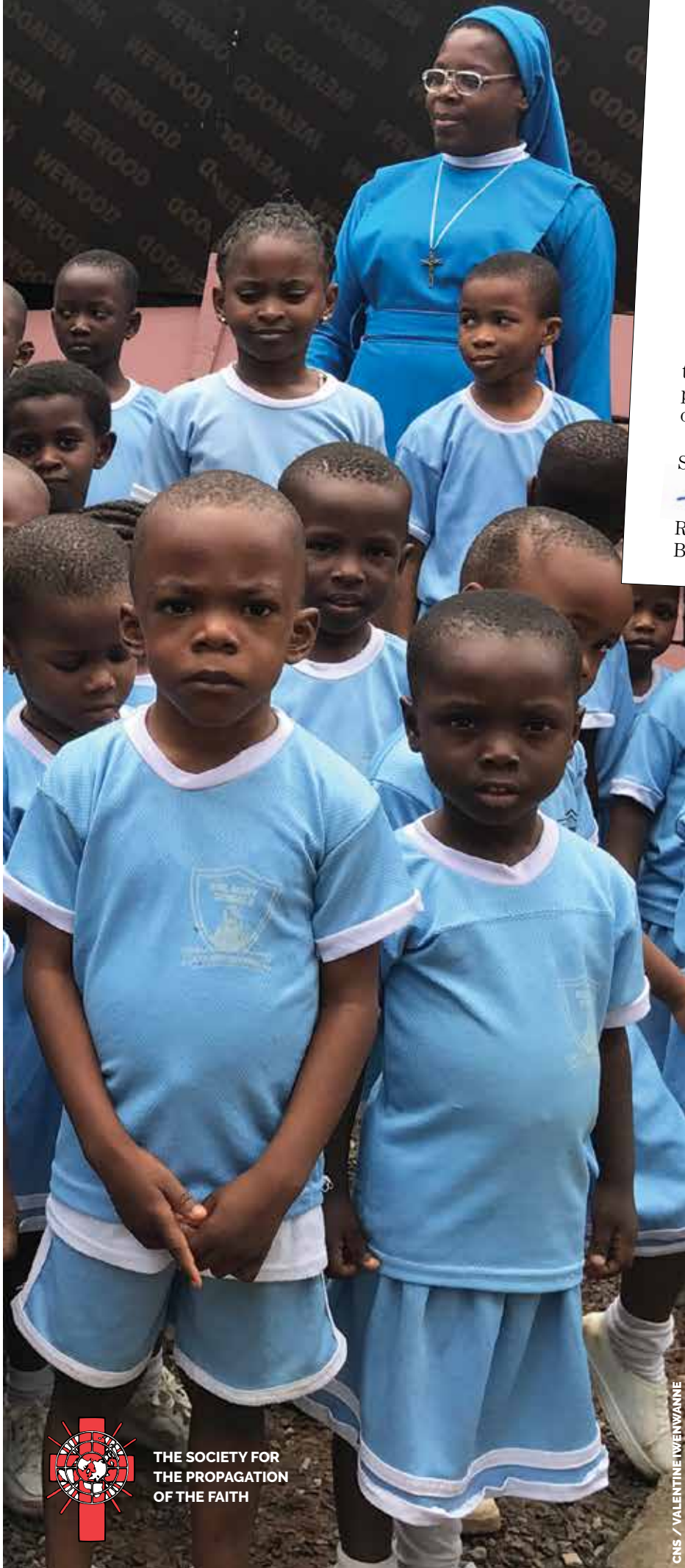


'You Shall Be My Witnesses.'

(Acts 1:8)



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Oct. 23, World Mission Sunday, we join Catholics worldwide in this annual Eucharistic celebration for the Missions of the Church.

Pope Francis reflects on this year's theme: "You shall be My witnesses" (Acts 1:8). He emphasizes the call to every Christian to bear witness to Christ, to participate in a mission of universal evangelization, and to seek strength and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

When you contribute to the World Mission Sunday collection, you make it possible for the Holy Father to provide for the formation of our seminarians and religious men and women. You assist in building the schools and orphanages that care for children in places of difficult accessibility and living conditions. Missionaries can build churches in areas with minimum or no resources. Priests and religious brothers and sisters can buy food and the bare essentials that make it possible to proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the sacraments.

Your prayers and generous support today sustain priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor.

I thank you for your generosity in the past and encourage you to continue the same on World Mission Sunday, this bicentennial anniversary year. Your prayers remain your greatest gift, and your financial support is life-giving to our brothers and sisters in the world's most vulnerable communities.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Robert W. McElroy

Robert Cardinal McElroy
Bishop of San Diego

Ordinary People Called to Extraordinary Christian Witness

By Junno Arocho Esteves



Living out and proclaiming the Gospel are inseparable aspects at the heart of an authentically Christian life and witness, Pope Francis said in his message for World Mission Sunday.

"Every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the Church, the community of Christ's disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ," the pope wrote in his message for the celebration, which will be held Oct. 23.

The theme chosen for the 2022 celebration is taken from the Acts of the Apostles: "You shall be My witnesses."

In his message, the pope reflected on "foundations of the life and mission of every disciple," beginning with the call to bear witness to Christ.

While all who are baptized are called to evangelize, the pope said the mission is carried out in communion with the Church and not on "one's own initiative."

Furthermore, he added, those who follow Jesus are called not only to proclaim the Gospel, but to bear witness to it by the way they live their lives.

"The example of a Christian life and the proclamation of Christ are inseparable," he said. "One is at the service of the other. They are the two lungs with which any community must breathe if it is to be missionary."

Jesus sent and continues to send His disciples out to evangelize the whole world, the pope said, and that has and continues to involve bearing witness to Christ even amid persecution.

Lastly, the pope said the call to bear witness must be "strengthened and guided by the Spirit," especially through prayer "when we feel tired, unmotivated or confused."

Recalling the example of lay and religious men and women who tirelessly worked to promote evangelization, Pope Francis said that "the same Spirit who guides the universal Church also inspires ordinary men and women for extraordinary missions."

"I continue to dream of a completely missionary Church, and a new era of missionary activity among Christian communities," the pope wrote. "Indeed, would that all of us in the Church were what we already are by virtue of baptism: prophets, witnesses, missionaries of the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the ends of the earth!"



THE SOCIETY FOR
THE PROPAGATION
OF THE FAITH

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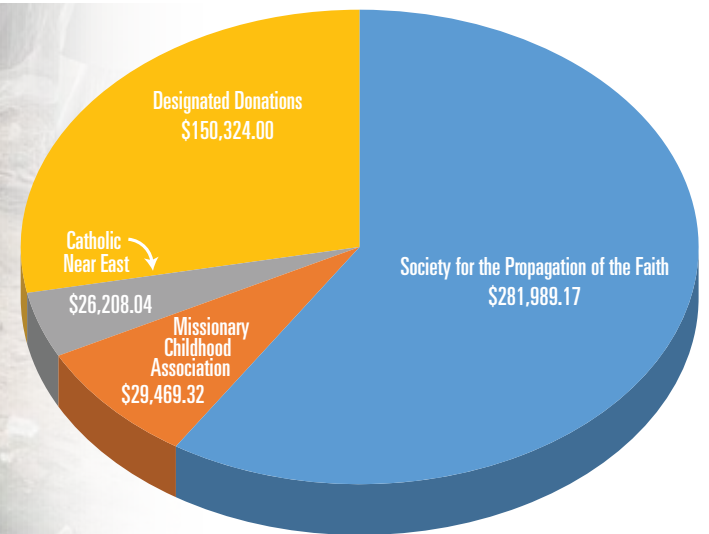


Support the Missions

CNS PHOTO/CHARLOTTE GREENFIELD, REUTERS

Donate online at helptheimissions.org, by phone at (858) 490-8250, or by mail to:
San Diego Diocese, Office for the Missions, P.O. Box 82386, San Diego CA 92138-2386.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES



GRAND TOTAL \$487,990.53

Diocese of San Diego Contributions to the Pontifical Mission Societies 2021

PARISH	TOTAL	MCA*	MISSION SUNDAY
All Hallows, La Jolla	\$3,421.41	\$1,136.41	\$2,285.00
Ascension, San Diego	\$5,397.04		\$5,397.04
Blessed Sacrament, San Diego	\$4,102.90	\$113.90	\$3,989.00
Christ the King, San Diego	\$195.00		\$195.00
Corpus Christi, Bonita	\$1,787.00		\$1,787.00
Good Shepherd, San Diego	\$10,618.27	\$823.27	\$9,795.00
Guardian Angels, Santee	\$2,209.50	\$124.50	\$2,085.00
Holy Family, San Diego	\$7,078.00		\$7,078.00
Holy Spirit, San Diego	\$3,959.00		\$3,959.00
Immaculate Conception, San Diego	\$1,374.00		\$1,374.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Ramona	\$4,646.00		\$4,646.00
Mary, Star of the Sea, La Jolla	\$3,819.98	\$1,655.98	\$2,164.00
Mater Dei, Chula Vista	\$5,647.14		\$5,647.14
Mission San Antonio de Pala, Pala	\$2,304.00		\$2,304.00
Mission San Diego de Alcalá, San Diego	\$9,461.00		\$9,461.00
Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, Oceanside	\$10,963.75		\$10,963.75
Most Precious Blood, Chula Vista	\$2,729.00		\$2,729.00
Nativity, Rancho Santa Fe	\$1,414.00	\$1,113.00	\$301.00
Our Lady of Angels, San Diego	\$1,458.05		\$1,458.05
Our Lady of Grace, El Cajon	\$5,976.00		\$5,976.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Calexico	\$2,877.54	\$491.04	\$2,386.50
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chula Vista	\$5,100.00		\$5,100.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe, San Diego	\$371.51	\$346.51	\$25.00
Our Lady of Light, Descanso	\$750.00		\$750.00
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, San Diego	\$2,673.75	\$1,500.00	\$1,173.75
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, San Ysidro	\$4,602.66	\$943.66	\$3,659.00
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside	\$3,398.00		\$3,398.00
Our Lady of Refuge, San Diego	\$877.00		\$877.00
Our Lady of the Rosary, San Diego	\$1,372.00		\$1,372.00
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, San Diego	\$4,750.00		\$4,750.00
Our Mother of Confidence, San Diego	\$3,457.00		\$3,457.00
Queen of Angels, Alpine	\$1,075.00		\$1,075.00
Resurrection, Escondido	\$1,479.00		\$1,479.00
Sacred Heart, Brawley	\$327.09	\$247.09	\$80.00
Sacred Heart, Coronado	\$4,500.75	\$1,405.75	\$3,095.00
Sacred Heart, Ocean Beach	\$350.00		\$350.00
San Rafael, Rancho Bernardo	\$10,715.00	\$50.00	\$10,665.00
Santa Sophia, Spring Valley	\$3,028.25		\$3,028.25
Santa Ysabel Indian Mission, Santa Ysabel	\$2,255.92	\$2,095.92	\$160.00
St. Agnes, San Diego	\$3,249.00		\$3,249.00
St. Anne, San Diego	\$1,808.00		\$1,808.00
St. Anthony of Padua, Imperial	\$721.00		\$721.00
St. Anthony of Padua, National City	\$643.00		\$643.00
St. Brigid, San Diego	\$4,506.00		\$4,506.00
St. Catherine Laboure, San Diego	\$4,789.00		\$4,789.00
St. Charles Borromeo, San Diego	\$2,595.00	\$300.00	\$2,295.00
St. Charles, San Diego	\$9,679.00	\$1,255.00	\$8,424.00
St. Columba, San Diego	\$6,511.00		\$6,511.00

* Missionary Childhood Association

PARISH	TOTAL	MCA*	MISSION SUNDAY
St. Didacus, San Diego	\$1,903.20	\$248.20	\$1,655.00
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Julian	\$926.00		\$926.00
St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad	\$8,675.70		\$8,675.70
St. Francis of Assisi, Vista	\$4,440.60	\$764.60	\$3,676.00
St. Gabriel, Poway	\$3,045.18	\$600.00	\$2,445.18
St. Gregory the Great, San Diego	\$15,436.50	\$935.50	\$14,501.00
St. James, Solana Beach	\$5,679.50	\$652.00	\$5,027.50
St. John of the Cross, Lemon Grove	\$3,067.00		\$3,067.00
St. John the Evangelist, Encinitas	\$1,025.00		\$1,025.00
St. John the Evangelist, San Diego	\$831.00		\$831.00
St. Joseph Cathedral, San Diego	\$2,115.00		\$2,115.00
St. Joseph, Westmorland	\$250.00		\$250.00
St. Jude Shrine of the West, San Diego	\$3,784.58		\$3,784.58
St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lakeside	\$1,385.00		\$1,385.00
St. Kieran, El Cajon	\$4,923.07	\$592.07	\$4,331.00
St. Louise de Marillac, El Cajon	\$367.00		\$367.00
St. Luke, El Cajon	\$2,285.00		\$2,285.00
St. Margaret Mary, Brawley	\$185.00		\$185.00
St. Margaret, Oceanside	\$1,395.00		\$1,395.00
St. Mark, San Marcos	\$9,520.88		\$9,520.88
St. Martin of Tours, La Mesa	\$11,688.06	\$295.00	\$11,393.06
St. Mary Magdalene, San Diego	\$7,554.65	\$2,258.65	\$5,296.00
St. Mary, El Centro	\$2,670.62	\$2,170.62	\$500.00
St. Mary, Escondido	\$4,938.00		\$4,938.00
St. Mary, National City	\$1,661.00		\$1,661.00
St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Oceanside	\$2,715.03		\$2,715.03
St. Maximilian Kolbe Mission, San Diego	\$289.00		\$289.00
St. Michael, Poway	\$5,437.23	\$25.00	\$5,412.23
St. Michael, San Diego	\$6,781.32	\$20.42	\$6,760.90
St. Patrick, Calipatria	\$406.00		\$406.00
St. Patrick, Carlsbad	\$5,403.00	\$1,700.00	\$3,703.00
St. Patrick, San Diego	\$603.90	\$146.90	\$457.00
St. Peter the Apostle, Fallbrook	\$2,600.00		\$2,600.00
St. Pius X, Chula Vista	\$2,289.70	\$774.70	\$1,515.00
St. Pius X, Jamul	\$560.00		\$560.00
St. Richard, Borrego Springs	\$408.00		\$408.00
St. Rita, San Diego	\$1,405.12	\$520.12	\$885.00
St. Rose of Lima, Chula Vista	\$4,380.50	\$1,235.50	\$3,145.00
St. Stephen, Valley Center	\$200.00		\$200.00
St. Therese of Carmel, Del Mar	\$1,203.00	\$768.00	\$435.00
St. Therese, San Diego	\$4,637.00	\$100.00	\$4,537.00
St. Thomas Indian Mission, Fort Yuma	\$1,004.00		\$1,004.00
St. Thomas More, Oceanside	\$1,654.00		\$1,654.00
St. Timothy, Escondido	\$1,914.00		\$1,914.00
St. Vincent de Paul, San Diego	\$560.00		\$560.00
The Immaculata, San Diego	\$9,354.00		\$9,354.00
Unspecified	\$1,580.20	\$665.20	\$915.00
TOTAL		\$28,074.51	\$487,990.53

Mission Society Founder Nearer to Sainthood

Pauline Marie Jéricot, the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, was beatified May 22 during a Mass in Lyon, France.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, presided over the liturgy, which was concelebrated by many bishops and priests from around the world.

In his homily, Cardinal Tagle told the faithful, “Pauline Jéricot was a woman who loved Jesus Christ, letting Him, the Word of God, live, act, love in her and through her. We see in her a living testimony of the power of love for Jesus, a love that identifies with Jesus.”

Jéricot led a life dedicated to evangelization and the missions. While still in her teens, she founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which supports the Church’s mission-related projects with prayer, animation and finance.

The story of Pauline Jéricot begins in France in the early 19th century, where, in the aftermath of the French Revolution, she was inspired by letters about the missions from her



LEGACY: Events like the Diocese of San Diego’s annual Missionary Childhood Association Mass, celebrated March 29 by Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano at Good Shepherd Church, are part of the legacy of Pauline Marie Jéricot. Beatified on May 22, Jéricot was the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

brother, Phileas. She began to gather small groups together (“Circles of 10”), mostly workers in her family’s silk factory, asking each member of the group to offer daily prayer and a weekly sacrifice of a sous (the equivalent of a penny at that time) for the Church’s worldwide missionary work.

From Jéricot’s vision came the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the first of the four Pontifical Mission Societies. The very first collection for the Propagation of the Faith in 1822 supported the growth of the young

Church in the United States. Today, support from the Propagation of the Faith reaches some 1,100 mission dioceses around the world, in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America and Europe.

“Pauline Jéricot’s vision that started in a small town in France has now become one of the largest missionary outreach organizations to touch all the corners of the earth,” said Brother Dennis Gunn, CFC, PhD, a professor at Iona College, New Rochelle, N.Y. “What an amazing witness of the

power of one person to transform the whole world!”

The Pontifical Mission Societies are active in some 120 countries throughout the world. They work to animate the faithful to a universal missionary spirit, and to gather support for the Church’s work in mission dioceses. There are four Pontifical Mission Societies:

- the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which encourages prayer and support for pastoral and evangelizing programs of mission dioceses from adults, as well as high school and college students;
- the Missionary Childhood Association, which raises awareness about the missions among elementary school children and seeks prayers and support for outreach to children in the missions;
- the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, which gathers help for seminarians and religious novices in the missions; and
- the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious, a spiritual apostolate to form and to deepen the missionary spirit among those called to animate all the faithful in the missionary task.

Relief Center Is Channel for God’s Mercy

Jesuit Father Gil Gentile first encountered Casa de Los Pobres (“The House of the Poor”) in the mid-1980s, and he’s been among its biggest fans and supporters ever since.

Located in Tijuana, Mexico, Casa de Los Pobres is an urban relief center founded and operated by the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. Started in 1941, its mission is to serve the poor by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and caring for the sick.

What makes Casa de Los Pobres such a special place?

“It’s doing directly ... the works of mercy. It’s doing what Jesus told us to do,” explained Father Gentile, who now serves on the board of directors of Casa de Los Pobres USA, a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports the work of Casa de Los Pobres.

“It’s a living, shining example (of the works of mercy), and it’s a community, too,” he said.

At Casa de Los Pobres, there are three dining rooms; a full-time clinic; a “roperia” (clothing room); a patio area; and two chapels, in addition to offices, a convent for the sisters and rooms for guest volunteers.

A hearty breakfast is served every day for those in need; bags of groceries are distributed during a weekly “Bodega Day”; and an annual Christmas food distribution provides about 1,500 families with a bag of food, including chicken, beans, rice, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and candy for the children, not to mention blan-

kets, jackets, shoes, and toys.

Father Gentile said that, because of COVID protocols, meals aren’t currently served in the dining rooms but are being packaged and distributed at the gates. The Franciscan Missionaries hope to open the patio area soon for outdoor dining and, ultimately, the dining rooms.

COVID’s impact has been felt in other ways, too. For instance, the pandemic forced the temporary closure of Casa de Los Pobres’ “roperia,” where people were able to purchase a bag of clothing for only \$0.05.

“They ask for a small donation just to give people a sense that they’re buying the clothing and not just getting a handout,” explained Father Gentile, who said that pots, pans and other household items are also available for purchase there.

But, even with its existing ministries made more challenging since the COVID pandemic, the Franciscan Missionaries have continued to respond to new needs that present themselves.

For example, about a year ago, Casa de Los Pobres welcomed more than 130 Haitian refugees, housing them in tents on a small plot of land that the Franciscan Missionaries own in the “colonia” of Santa Julia. That temporary settlement was lovingly nicknamed “The Haitian Village of Santa Julia.”

“They don’t turn away anybody who comes to them,” Father Gentile said.

The Franciscan Missionaries also own land in Rosarito, where they established

the City of Mercy in 1983. The property is the site of a mental hospital, a convent, and a farm that grows produce and raises livestock, including sheep, pigs, ostriches, and deer.

St. Ignatius of Loyola Mental Health Hospital, located in the City of Mercy, was founded as an in-patient facility. When its directors retired in 2019, the Franciscan Missionaries were unable to find anyone to oversee it for the same modest salary. So, they regretfully closed the hospital.

But, earlier this year, the hospital found a new medical director. It re-opened on Feb. 2 for out-patient

treatment. Once sufficient funds are available, it is expected to re-open as a fully residential treatment hospital.

Casa de Los Pobres is “a place where compassion and mercy are the words of the day,” said Father Gentile, who despite having returned to his native New York, continues to support the organization. Among other things, he celebrates its annual Mass for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and, for his recent 75th birthday, raised about \$3,000 through a Facebook fundraiser.

For more information or to donate, visit casadelospobresusa.com.



“I write to express my appreciation to you for the kind and generous support you continue to give to the missions, especially our archdiocese, even in these hard economic times,” said Archbishop Gabriel J. Anokye of the Archdiocese of Kumasi, Ghana. “In our language, there is a saying that those who share with you when they have little are the same people who will share with you when they have more. Your unflinching support enables us to serve the People of God in their various spiritual and temporal needs.”

The archdiocese’s efforts in primary evangelization include the building of new churches and educational institutions, as well as sponsoring projects that improve the health and well-being of the people, such as drilling water wells and opening clinics in deprived areas.

“These projects require a significant financial base, which we are not able to provide without your help,” the archbishop said.

Unique Program Offers 'Bridge' Out of Slums

For almost 20 years, the Society of the Divine Word has been operating a unique program for poor children in the slums of Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India.

The Bridge School program is one of several initiatives offered through the Divine Word Missionaries' Jan Vikas Society, an organization dedicated to human development.

Father Roy Thomas, who serves as director of the Jan Vikas Society, said the Divine Word Missionaries identified what they believed to be the most marginalized social group in Indore: female "waste-pickers" who eke out a living by roaming the streets, collecting recyclables and any other items that can be sold to support their families.

It was noticed that many of the children of these waste-pickers weren't getting an education, but rather were either working as waste-pickers themselves or were being exposed to the sorts of dangers faced by unsupervised children on the streets, including addiction to drugs and alcohol.

Members of the staff of the Jan Vikas Society conduct a survey every year, going house to house in the slums, to determine how many children are not going to school. They meet with the parents and seek to persuade them to enroll their children in the Bridge School program.

This can be challenging, admitted Father Thomas, because many of the parents are illiterate, don't place much value on education, and appreciate the additional income that comes from their children's waste-picking. The children themselves can take convincing, too, because many enjoy working and are loathe to give up their sense of freedom.



FROM SLUM TO SCHOOL: Father Roy Thomas interacts with students in the Bridge School program, which helps to educate children living in the slums of Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India.

The Bridge School program gets its name from the fact that it serves youth who have either dropped out of school or have never attended and are therefore several years behind academically.

"We are bridging the gap" in their education, Father Thomas said.

He explained that youth attend the Bridge School for one to three years, depending on how far behind they are in their studies. After passing an exam, they are transferred to the proper grade level at one of the country's public or private schools.

The Bridge School program educates about 400 to 500 children every year.

The program currently operates about 20 educational centers, serving children between the ages of 6 and 12. At each of the centers, a trained

teacher works with about 20 to 30 children, who are provided with all of the required materials, including books, notebooks, pencils, school uniforms and even shoes.

Father Thomas said the school schedule is different from that of a more traditional school because its students don't have the experience of attending classes for a full day. At some locations, classes are held in the morning; at others, in the afternoon. But they do not last longer than five hours. And the teaching style is also different.

He said the schools take a "learn with fun" approach that utilizes things like rhymes, games, music and dancing to keep the students interested.

The program also tries to expose the children to a world beyond the slums.

Father Thomas said that, every three months, there are field trips to a police station, post office, bank, or other government agency. Picnics are held once or twice a year. Career guidance and a presentation on the dangers of social media are also annual offerings.

The Bridge School program does not teach the Catholic faith and, because of government restrictions on evangelization and proselytism in India, it is not permitted to do so. The vast majority of the students are Hindus, with some Muslims as well.

Father Thomas said that the Bridge School program encountered some skepticism in its early days, with people wondering about the motives of those running the school and about whether they were seeking to convert the students.

He recalls one incident when, during an educational center's inaugural program, many came to protest the center. He himself was physically at risk.

"If I had remained there for a few minutes more, they would have finished me off," said Father Thomas, who added that the program doesn't experience opposition anymore.

He explained that the majority of the staff is composed of Hindus, who speak up in defense of the program.

Now, two decades in, he said, "We are well-known in the city and people have accepted us."

The program may not preach the Catholic faith, but it lives it through service.

"Jesus said, 'Anything that you do to the least of My brothers, you are doing it unto Me.' So, therefore, whatever we are doing to the poor people, we are doing to Jesus, and we are carrying out His mission."

U.S. Couple Brought 'New Hope' to Cambodia

New Hope for Cambodian Children (NHCC) provides the only full-time residential care program for orphans and abandoned children living with HIV/AIDS in Cambodia.

The program was founded by John and Kathy Tucker, who left their home in central Texas in 1997 to serve Christ by serving the poor. In 2000, while serving with Maryknoll in Cambodia, the Tuckers met children infected by HIV. At that time, there were no pediatric antiretroviral medicines available in Cambodia and, without these medicines, infected children died a slow painful death from AIDS.

The Tuckers raised funds, hired doctors, opened a clinic and launched the first program in Asia to provide these lifesaving medicines.

Many of these children were orphaned when their parents died of AIDS. The Tuckers provided a safe and loving place to live for orphans and abandoned children who had no other housing options.

In 2006, after completing two contracts with Maryknoll, the Tuckers founded NHCC, which expanded

upon their previous work and provided home-based care and antiretroviral medicines in partnership with the Royal Government of Cambodia to eight Cambodian provinces and the capital, Phnom Penh.

Through 2020, more than 2,000 children were provided with home-based care and more than 400 orphans and abandoned children with residential care.

To provide residential care, NHCC purchased land and built "Our Village." About 90 orphans and abandoned children with HIV/AIDS currently live at the facility. Ten children live in each house with house parents. Three houses are grouped together to form a cluster, which has its own kitchen and dining area. Thus, the children live as a family but share meals as a community.

Thanks to the current availability of antiretroviral medicine in Cambodia, women with HIV are no longer infecting their babies at birth and the mothers are not dying of AIDS. So, new children are not being referred to NHCC for residential care.



HOPE-FILLED: Orphans and abandoned children with HIV/AIDS have found safe haven with New Hope for Cambodian Children, a program launched by U.S. couple John and Kathy Tucker.

Our Village has its own international school for students in the first through sixth grades. For grades seven to 12, the children attend the local government school and receive supplemental classes at Our Village for English, math and computer science. Our Village also has a nursery school and a preschool.

NHCC also opened New Hope House in urban Phnom Penh. This facility provides young adults living with HIV a safe place to live and study as they attend university or vocational training. NHCC had about 25 students in university or vocational training during the 2021-2022 school year.