

THE SOCIETY
FOR THE
PROPAGATION
OF THE FAITH



LA SOCIEDAD
PARA LA
PROPAGACIÓN
DE LA FE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We celebrate World Mission Sunday on Oct. 24 this year with the theme “We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20).

This is an important day in the life of the universal Church, fortifying the understanding of our shared call to mission bestowed on us at our baptism.

In reflecting on the theme, the Holy Father shares his zeal reminding us that, “as Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves,” as we “recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel.” He invites us to speak of our faith!

“The global pandemic has brought to the fore and amplified the pain, the solitude, the poverty, and the injustices experienced by so many people,” reminds Pope Francis. As the world gradually recovers from the loss and the challenges that resulted from the pandemic, let us respond with reciprocal generosity. I want to thank you for your wholehearted support and generosity last year even in the midst of these difficult times.

World Mission Sunday once again provides us with an opportunity to respond to the invitation to share what we have heard, seen and experienced. We can speak about our faith and respond to our missionary call — through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on that special day. Your gifts support and 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, serve the poor — and speak about “what they have seen, heard” and experienced.

As we rebuild our lives, let us also reach out in solidarity and support for the mission Church, and the work and witness of missionaries in the pope’s missions. As you do, I offer my sincere personal gratitude for your kind missionary heart, reaching out in love throughout the Mission Month.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Robert W. McElroy

Bishop Robert W. McElroy

“WE CANNOT
BUT SPEAK ABOUT
WHAT WE HAVE SEEN
AND HEARD”

(ACTS 4:20)

“NO PODEMOS
DEJAR DE
HABLAR DE LO QUE
HEMOS VISTO Y OÍDO”

(HCH 4:20)

WORLD DOMINGO
MISSION MUNDIAL
SUNDAY DE LAS
MISIONES

2021

CNS PHOTO/OMAR SOBANI, REUTERS

Christians Don't Form Cliques, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY — Compassion and a constant effort to reach out to others are essential elements of being “missionary disciples,” even in the midst of a pandemic, Pope Francis said in his message for World Mission Sunday.

“In these days of pandemic, when there is a temptation to disguise and justify indifference and apathy in the name of healthy social distancing, there is urgent need for the mission of compassion, which can make that necessary distancing an opportunity for encounter, care and promotion,” the pope wrote in his message for the celebration, which will be held Oct. 24.

The theme chosen for the 2021 celebration is taken from the Acts of the Apostles: “We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard.”

“Our life of faith grows weak, loses its prophetic power and its ability to awaken amazement and gratitude when we become isolated and withdraw into little groups,” the pope wrote.

“By its very nature, the life of faith calls for a growing openness to embracing everyone, everywhere,” he said. “The first Christians, far from yielding to the temptation to become an elite group, were inspired by the Lord and His offer of new life to go out among the nations and to bear witness to what they had seen and heard: the good news that the kingdom of God is at hand.”

Christ calls every believer to share the good news of God’s love and His offer of salvation in Christ, the pope said. “No one is excluded, no one need feel distant or removed from this compassionate love.”



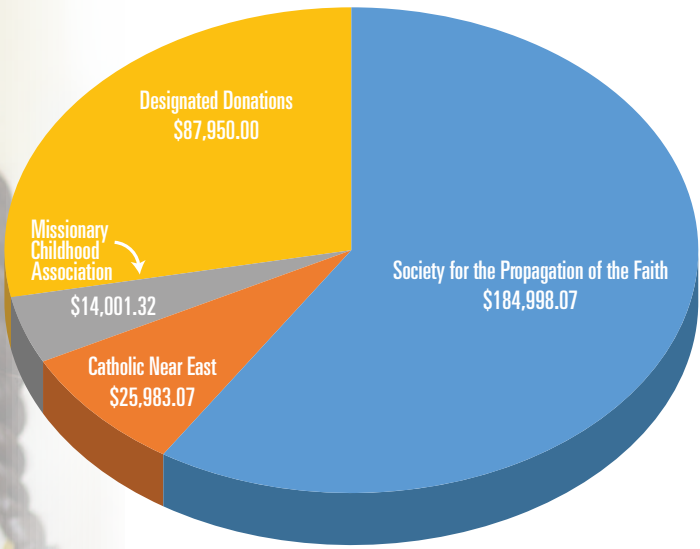
Catholic News Service

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GRAND TOTAL \$312,932.46

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San Diego Diocese, Office for the Missions, P.O. Box 82386, San Diego CA 92138-2386.

PARISH	TOTAL	MCA	MISSION SUNDAY
All Hallows, La Jolla	\$ 2,048.00	\$ 358.00	\$ 1,690.00
Ascension, San Diego	\$ 4,114.27		\$ 4,114.27
Blessed Sacrament, San Diego	\$ 4,082.75		\$ 4,082.75
Corpus Christi, Bonita	\$ 7,407.60		\$ 7,407.60
Good Shepherd, San Diego	\$ 5,997.96	\$ 567.46	\$ 5,430.50
Guardian Angels, Santee	\$ 862.50		\$ 862.50
Holy Family, San Diego	\$ 4,140.00		\$ 4,140.00
Holy Spirit, San Diego	\$ 600.00		\$ 600.00
Holy Trinity, El Cajon	\$ 2,785.00		\$ 2,785.00
Immaculate Conception, San Diego	\$ 835.00		\$ 835.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Ramona	\$ 3,991.00		\$ 3,991.00
Mary, Star of the Sea, La Jolla	\$ 4,359.18	\$ 874.18	\$ 3,485.00
Mater Dei, Chula Vista	\$ 4,298.58		\$ 4,298.58
Mission San Antonio de Pala, Pala	\$ 945.00		\$ 945.00
Mission San Diego de Alcalá, San Diego	\$ 11,116.36	\$ 257.55	\$ 10,858.81
Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, Oceanside	\$ 7,979.17		\$ 7,979.17
Most Precious Blood, Chula Vista	\$ 2,583.00		\$ 2,583.00
Nativity, Rancho Santa Fe	\$ 4,578.50		\$ 4,578.50
Our Lady of Angels, San Diego	\$ 838.00		\$ 838.00
Our Lady of Grace, El Cajon	\$ 6,397.33	\$ 384.33	\$ 6,013.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Calexico	\$ 625.00		\$ 625.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chula Vista	\$ 2,202.50		\$ 2,202.50
Our Lady of Guadalupe, El Centro	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe, San Diego	\$ 2,395.20	\$ 372.70	\$ 2,022.50
Our Lady of Light, Descanso	\$ 240.00		\$ 240.00
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, San Diego	\$ 7,754.30	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6,754.30
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, San Ysidro	\$ 2,225.01	\$ 917.01	\$ 1,308.00
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside	\$ 3,570.00		\$ 3,570.00
Our Lady of Refuge, San Diego	\$ 2,510.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 2,270.00
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, San Diego	\$ 2,315.50		\$ 2,315.50
Our Mother of Confidence, San Diego	\$ 9,175.25		\$ 9,175.25
Queen of Angels, Alpine	\$ 575.00		\$ 575.00
Resurrection, Escondido	\$ 3,929.09		\$ 3,929.09
Sacred Heart, Brawley	\$ 660.00		\$ 660.00
Sacred Heart, Coronado	\$ 15,841.86	\$ 3,711.86	\$ 12,130.00
Sacred Heart, Ocean Beach	\$ 1,574.00		\$ 1,574.00
San Rafael, Rancho Bernardo	\$ 13,991.75		\$ 13,991.75
Santa Sophia, Spring Valley	\$ 4,647.34	\$ 1,116.05	\$ 3,531.29
Santa Ysabel Indian Mission, Santa Ysabel	\$ 35.00		\$ 35.00
St. Adelaide of Burgundy, Campo	\$ 371.00		\$ 371.00
St. Agnes, San Diego	\$ 4,399.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 4,324.00
St. Anne, San Diego	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
St. Anthony of Padua, Imperial	\$ 270.00		\$ 270.00
St. Anthony of Padua, National City	\$ 1,647.46		\$ 1,647.46
St. Brigid, San Diego	\$ 8,700.25	\$ 156.00	\$ 8,544.25
St. Catherine Laboure, San Diego	\$ 9,921.65	\$ 255.26	\$ 9,666.39
St. Charles Borromeo, San Diego	\$ 1,914.15	\$ 319.15	\$ 1,595.00
St. Charles, San Diego	\$ 7,495.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 7,045.00

PARISH	TOTAL	MCA	MISSION SUNDAY
St. Columba, San Diego	\$ 8,663.00		\$ 8,663.00
St. Didacus, San Diego	\$ 1,810.01	\$ 929.01	\$ 881.00
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Julian	\$ 215.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 195.00
St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad	\$ 5,031.58		\$ 5,031.58
St. Francis of Assisi, Vista	\$ 3,340.98	\$ 547.98	\$ 2,793.00
St. Gabriel, Poway	\$ 8,229.09		\$ 8,229.09
St. Gregory the Great, San Diego	\$ 8,846.25		\$ 8,846.25
St. James, Solana Beach	\$ 4,444.00		\$ 4,444.00
St. John of the Cross, Lemon Grove	\$ 1,438.00		\$ 1,438.00
St. John the Evangelist, Encinitas	\$ 4,338.74	\$ 163.74	\$ 4,175.00
St. John the Evangelist, San Diego	\$ 507.00		\$ 507.00
St. Joseph Cathedral, San Diego	\$ 4,287.00		\$ 4,287.00
St. Joseph, Holtville	\$ 20.00		\$ 20.00
St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lakeside	\$ 1,468.00		\$ 1,468.00
St. Kieran, El Cajon	\$ 6,046.70	\$ 304.20	\$ 5,742.50
St. Louise de Marillac, El Cajon	\$ 700.00		\$ 700.00
St. Luke, El Cajon	\$ 4,228.00		\$ 4,228.00
St. Margaret Mary, Brawley	\$ 506.00		\$ 506.00
St. Margaret, Oceanside	\$ 1,614.75		\$ 1,614.75
St. Mark, San Marcos	\$ 5,989.03	\$ 35.55	\$ 5,953.48
St. Martin of Tours, La Mesa	\$ 7,145.52		\$ 7,145.52
St. Mary Magdalene, San Diego	\$ 5,115.35	\$ 10.35	\$ 5,105.00
St. Mary, El Centro	\$ 773.91	\$ 248.91	\$ 525.00
St. Mary, Escondido	\$ 653.50		\$ 653.50
St. Mary, National City	\$ 3,188.99	\$ 398.00	\$ 2,790.99
St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Oceanside	\$ 4,166.77		\$ 4,166.77
St. Maximilian Kolbe Mission, San Diego	\$ 429.00		\$ 429.00
St. Michael, Poway	\$ 9,141.91	\$ 4,414.41	\$ 4,727.50
St. Michael, San Diego	\$ 5,378.75	\$ 971.45	\$ 4,407.30
St. Patrick, Calipatria	\$ 209.00		\$ 209.00
St. Patrick, Carlsbad	\$ 5,065.35	\$ 75.00	\$ 4,990.35
St. Patrick, San Diego	\$ 523.87	\$ 163.87	\$ 360.00
St. Peter the Apostle, Fallbrook	\$ 1,669.75		\$ 1,669.75
St. Pius X, Chula Vista	\$ 3,725.33	\$ 957.33	\$ 2,768.00
St. Pius X, Jamul	\$ 621.77		\$ 621.77
St. Richard, Borrego Springs	\$ 75.00		\$ 75.00
St. Rita, San Diego	\$ 1,926.50	\$ 489.50	\$ 1,437.00
St. Rose of Lima, Chula Vista	\$ 1,450.00		\$ 1,450.00
St. Stephen, Valley Center	\$ 625.00		\$ 625.00
St. Therese of Carmel, Del Mar	\$ 15,393.46	\$ 885.51	\$ 14,507.95
St. Therese, San Diego	\$ 1,315.00		\$ 1,315.00
St. Thomas Indian Mission, Fort Yuma	\$ 1,278.00		\$ 1,278.00
St. Thomas More, Oceanside	\$ 1,523.41		\$ 1,523.41
St. Timothy, Escondido	\$ 3,684.00		\$ 3,684.00
St. Vincent de Paul, San Diego	\$ 791.00		\$ 791.00
The Immaculata, San Diego	\$ 7,949.00		\$ 7,949.00
Unspecified	\$ 1,236.05	\$ 227.30	\$ 1,008.75
TOTAL		\$21,896.66	\$324,926.17

USCCA Builds Bridges Between U.S., China

More than 30 years since its founding, the US-China Catholic Association (USCCA) remains committed to its mission of building bridges between the people of two very different countries.

Jesuit Father Michael Agliardo, executive director, said the USCCA was founded in 1989 in response to a re-opening of China to the outside world.

Upon taking control in 1949, the Chinese Communist Party sought to rid China of all foreign influences, which led it to expel missionaries and sever ties with the Vatican. During the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), when a radical faction within the Party gained control, all churches and seminaries in China were closed.

But, in the 1980s, China entered a period marked by comparatively greater tolerance for religion and interest in international engagement. In response, the USCCA (then known as the United States Catholic China Bureau) was created to help the Chinese Church “get back on its feet” after its decades-long hiatus in normal operations, Father Agliardo explained.

In those early years, the USCCA offered little direct support to Chinese Catholics, but worked primarily to educate U.S. Catholics about the situation in China, said Father Agliardo, who noted that this continues to be a key component of the organization’s mission. He pointed out that its website, uscatholicchina.org, links to news sources representing a variety of perspectives on Christianity in China.

Over the years, Father Agliardo said, the USCCA has established “fraternal ties” with the Catholic community in China, including bishops, rectors, religious sisters and lay Catholics. And, where it can, it works to supply for their needs.



WARM WELCOME: Jesuit Father Michael Agliardo is seen with Chinese youth during the US-China Catholic Association’s study tour in 2018.

A Catholic presence in China goes back centuries, Father Agliardo said. “In fact, the first church in Beijing was built before the Puritans arrived in Massachusetts” in the 17th century.

After the decade-long Cultural Revolution, religion was allowed to operate publicly again. But the Chinese Communist Party still insisted on controlling the nomination of Catholic bishops. This insistence and a lingering distrust of the Party led many Catholics to refuse to cooperate with the government, insisting that their bishops have a papal mandate. Other Catholics tried to work with the government as best they could. This resulted in the formation of a dissident Catholic community, sometimes called “the underground Church,” as well as a Catholic community that operated with

official recognition, sometimes called “the Patriotic Church.”

The two groups were not separate Churches, and both remained in communion with Rome, said Father Agliardo. In some areas, there was no division; in others, division but with amicable cooperation; and, in still others, hostility.

In 2018, the Vatican and China entered into an agreement to ensure papal consent for bishop nominations. The goal of the accord, renewed for a two-year extension in late 2020, was to heal the rift between the state-sanctioned and underground communities. But critics view the accord as appeasement of the Chinese Communist Party.

Father Agliardo stressed that in addition to the question of bishops, the Church in China faces other challenges,

many of which are pastoral in nature. Most important is that, for much of its history, it has been “a rural phenomenon.” But with urbanization, many adults have relocated to the cities to find employment, leaving their parents and children behind in the villages. This has resulted in new difficulties.

For example, Father Agliardo said, there are only seven officially recognized Catholic churches in Beijing — an insufficient number to accommodate all of the new arrivals. Beijing Catholics are meeting in about 40 other locations, none of which are registered with the government as required by law. With their children back at home, it is also unclear how well they are able to pass along the faith.

The USCCA’s contribution to the situation includes organizing study tours to provide Americans with firsthand experience of the Church in China; hosting national conferences featuring international speakers; publishing a newsletter; collaborating with social service and other Catholic organizations in China; and continuing to maintain ties with the Church in China during these difficult times.

The USCCA also recently launched a program called the Campus Engagement Initiative, which involves outreach to the more than 400,000 Chinese high school and university students in the United States each year.

In everything it does, the USCCA continues to prioritize the human connection.

“Personal relationships, I think, are extremely important,” said Father Agliardo. “We are a Church of people who support one another on the journey of faith, and I think that that would be the most important thing that we can do as a Catholic organization.”

‘The Work of God ... Is Being Fulfilled’

The following is a firsthand account of the Church’s missionary work by Father Slawomir Romanowski, a Polish Redemptorist priest serving in the former Soviet Union.

The ministry of Polish Redemptorists in the East was the answer to the “signs of the time” at the time of “perestroika” (the transformation) and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

We have been working in the former Soviet Union for 30 years. At present, we have five pastoral centers in Russia, one in Kazakhstan, five in Belarus, and two in Ukraine. We are happy that we have many young people in our parishes, which gives us hope for the future. Furthermore, we are still facing many difficulties with our construction sites, especially in Togliatti, Russia, and Minsk, Belarus, which are in dire need.

Togliatti is a big industrial city inhabited by more than 1 million people. The parish community here is very dynamic, and the number of parishioners is still

increasing. Because of that, a few years ago, we began to build the pastoral center. The extremely high cost of construction and parishioners’ limited income with the economic situation in Russia for the last few years make it impossible for us to cover all the construction expenses. For that reason, we appreciate all your support, especially the financial help that we can directly transfer towards this project.

Four years ago, we responded to the needs of the Church and took on the additional challenge of creating a new parish in the large district of Minsk. This district is growing and will soon include 20,000 inhabitants. At present, our parishioners are meeting for prayer in a family house similar to the first Christians. We are very hopeful about the future, despite many political difficulties. We have Belarusian Redemptorists and many vocations, which make the parishes stronger, so the authorities cannot remove the ministry.

Despite many difficulties, the work of God in Eastern Europe is being



BUILDING THE KINGDOM: Through the efforts of Polish Redemptorists, construction is underway at parishes in the former Soviet Union, such as this one in Togliatti, Russia.

fulfilled. We cannot even express how much we appreciate and owe our gratitude to you. Your spiritual and financial support is truly fundamental to our missionary work and development of the Catholic faith in the East. All

that we have accomplished so far was made possible thanks to people like you, who were thinking about us. May God bless you all for your missionary spirit and support! We will always keep you in our prayers.

Catholic Minority a Force for Good in Myanmar

Catholics in Myanmar are a distinct minority.

The Southeast Asian country's population is almost 90 percent Buddhist, and Catholics comprise a mere 1 percent.

To put it another way, there are more Catholics in the Diocese of San Diego alone than there are in the entire country of Myanmar, said Sister Leonie Marie, who is familiar with both locales.

Sister Leonie Marie, whose birth name is Nant Thazin Shwe, belongs to the Karen people, a minority ethnic community in Myanmar. She is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis Xavier, a religious congregation that was founded in Myanmar almost 125 years ago. Sent to the United States to further her education, she recently earned a master's degree in Leadership Studies from the University of San Diego.

Despite being small in numbers, the Catholic population in Myanmar has been an outsized force for good.

Myanmar's fragile healthcare system left its people vulnerable to COVID-19, said Sister Leonie Marie. The situation was exacerbated by a military coup staged in February; many doctors, nurses and healthcare workers fled the hospitals in fear for their lives and freedom.

The pandemic and the coup together took a toll on the nation's economy, resulting in a situation in which 3.6 million people are in dire need of food, according to news reports.

The Church's response to the current crisis was to launch the Myanmar Catholic Humanitarian Assistance Initiative. It has been led for the past



NOURISHED BY THE WORD: Sister Leonie Marie, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis Xavier whose birth name is Nant Thazin Shwe, engages in spiritual reading.

19 months by Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, who heads the Archdiocese of Yangon. The initiative has allowed the country's 16 dioceses to coordinate their efforts to address food security, medical assistance and other emergency needs.

In the Yangon Archdiocese, where Sister Leonie Marie has been assigned by her religious congregation, the Church has been challenged by a nationwide shortage of medical-grade oxygen, a lack of hospital beds, and a death toll that has overwhelmed local crematoria.

The archdiocese has provided oxygen cylinders to poor areas and also inspired Catholic business professionals to donate oxygen cylinders and concentrators. In August, the

archdiocese installed an oxygen plant, donated by Australian Mission, with a 120-cylinder capacity.

To address the limited number of hospital beds, the archdiocese set up three care centers in the city — one at a church and two at archdiocesan seminaries — which collectively have admitted more than 400 sick people.

The local Church in Yangon also has played a key role in supplying face masks and hand sanitizer to the populace and personal protective equipment for healthcare workers and volunteers. It has helped to provide home-based care for those with mild forms of COVID-19.

Additionally, the Church has set up an online pastoral portal where

people can find prayerful support and encouraging reflections. An informal counseling portal was also established, and volunteers are being trained to provide counseling.

The Catholic community has done all of this, even as a third wave of COVID in July and August claimed the lives of many priests, consecrated religious, and catechists. On July 22, Bishop John Hsane Hgyi of the Diocese of Patheingyi died from COVID.

Despite the more than 8,300 miles that separate San Diego from Yangon, Sister Leonie Marie said San Diegans can support her archdiocese and its people without leaving home.

"Wherever you are, you are a missionary," she said, explaining that, for example, one's prayers for the people of Myanmar are not limited by physical distance.

For her own part, Sister Leonie Marie will be bringing back to Myanmar the lessons she learned in her Leadership Studies graduate program.

"The country and its people need great healing," she said. "The people of my country had known only one type of leadership: military junta, leading through sheer arm power and inflicting fear. I come from a victimized community. I have seen (that the) spirit of vengeance has brought more sorrows. Alternative leadership is needed."

She added, "My country needs a leadership that is morally oriented towards greater good for a greater number of people. ... I wish to bring social change through creating opportunities through education, especially through primary education in remote villages."

'These People Need Our Continuous Support'

The following is a firsthand account of life in the missions by Bishop Dominic Kimengich of the Diocese of Eldoret in Kenya.

The Catholic Diocese of Eldoret is situated in northwestern Kenya and serves a population of over 700,000 in four counties.

Most of the population lives in remote rural areas in extreme poverty due to lack of regular income, education, and employment opportunities. They survive mainly by small-scale farming to sustain their families. As a result of a poor health system in the country, the majority of the population lacks affordable healthcare, and there is a high rate of terminal illness like cancer and HIV/AIDS. They rely mostly on Catholic-run hospitals for cheaper healthcare.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a countrywide lockdown and curfews. This affected farming and led to the loss of business and jobs. The

diocese has been supportive through its programs in helping those affected by providing food, clothing, and medical needs. There were families in the past year that lost their livestock and were displaced from their homes by floods. The Church made appeals for assistance from various parishes to help these families. The support had been inadequate since they needed to relocate and build new homes and shelters. These people need our continuous support to be stable.

The diocese also shelters abandoned children with disabilities. There are 13 small homes/shelters spread throughout the diocese. Through Our Lady of Hope Children's Home, we serve orphans and vulnerable children; these include abuse victims, pregnant teenagers, displacement cases, and those abandoned due to HIV/AIDS. The diocese provides shelter, food, clothing, education, health care, counseling, and spiritual care. To sustain these programs and needs, the diocese has



BASIC NEEDS: The Diocese of Eldoret operates 13 small shelters for abandoned, disabled and vulnerable children. Homes like the one pictured provide food, education, spiritual care and more.

started farm projects that produce corn and other vegetables, as well as rear chicken and livestock for food and sale to cater for the other needs for these children.

The diocese is blessed with 68 parishes and 900 mission stations served by 172 priests. We thank God for the gift of vocations. The diocese is bless-

ed with 12 transitional deacons and 80 seminarians at different stages of formation. We appreciate the generosity of donors and ask for your continued support for the training of our future priests. We have 247 religious sisters who serve in schools, health departments and pastoral work.

Support the Missions

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