



THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

# 'Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move'

COURTESY OFFICE FOR THE MISSIONS



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Oct. 21-22, the Universal Church celebrates World Mission Sunday. It is an opportunity to remind us of our own call to be missionary disciples.

Pope Francis reflected on this year's theme: "Hearts on fire, feet on the move," inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus in the Gospel of Luke (24:13-35). The Holy Father invites us to kindle the fire of Christ's love in our hearts and to actively share this warmth with the world around us. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we go forth and bring the Good News to all corners of the world.

On World Mission Sunday, we assist the Holy Father to support the Church in the missions by praying for our missionaries and financially supporting their ministry.

Founded by French laywoman Blessed Pauline Jaricot in 1822, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is an essential source of aid for the Church's missionary work, assisting Pope Francis in this task. For the past 201 years, it has extended its arms to support growing Churches globally, reaching more than 1,100 mission dioceses across Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, Latin America and parts of Europe. This assistance bolsters the proclamation of the Gospel; builds Churches; supports the formation of seminarians, religious men and women; serves the poor; and meets essential works to proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the sacraments.

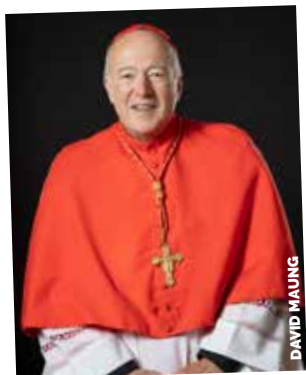
Let us echo this spirit in our parishes, inspiring our congregations to contribute both prayer and sacrifice to these causes.

Embodying this year's theme, I urge you to keep your hearts aflame and your feet moving this World Mission Sunday. Your prayers are invaluable, and your financial support provides life-giving aid to our brothers and sisters in the world's most vulnerable communities.

With gratitude for the generosity you embody for the missions,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Robert W. McElroy*  
Robert Cardinal McElroy  
Bishop of San Diego



DAVID MAUNG

## Mission Begins by Meeting Jesus in the Scriptures and Eucharist

By Cindy Wooden



CNS

VATICAN CITY — Having come to know Jesus through the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, Catholics are called to share with others the hope and joy that come from faith and that endure even when life gets difficult, Pope Francis said.

"What the world needs is the love of God, to encounter Christ and believe in Him. For this reason, the Eucharist is not only the source and summit of the life of the Church, it is also the source and summit of her mission," Pope Francis wrote, quoting the late Pope Benedict XVI.

The connection between the missionary call of every disciple and the gift of Jesus present in the Eucharist was at the center of Pope Francis' message for World Mission Sunday, which will be celebrated Oct. 22.

The theme the pope chose for the 2023 celebration is "Hearts on fire, feet on the move," which he said was inspired by the story of Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus after the Resurrection. The Bible says the disciples' hearts "burned within them" as Jesus explained the Scriptures and how they recognized Him when He broke bread with them, and they set off to share the good news with others.

While Pope Francis often warns against using pressure or coercion to get someone to convert, he insisted that the Church exists for mission and that every person in the world has the right to hear the Gospel.

"Today, more than ever, our human family, wounded by so many situations of injustice, so many divisions and wars, is in need of the good news of peace and salvation in Christ," he said. "I take this opportunity to reiterate that 'everyone has the right to receive the Gospel. Christians have the duty to announce it without excluding anyone, not as one who imposes a new obligation, but as one who shares a joy, signals a beautiful horizon, offers a desirable banquet.'"

A person who has truly encountered the risen Lord necessarily will be "set on fire with enthusiasm to tell everyone about Him," the pope said.

So, for the Catholic Church, "the primary and principal resource of the mission are those persons who have come to know the risen Christ in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, who carry His fire in their heart and His light in their gaze. They can bear witness to the life that never dies, even in the most difficult of situations and in the darkest of moments."

Just like the disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus immediately went to tell others about their encounter with Him, the pope said, "our proclamation will be a joyful telling of Christ the Lord, His life, His passion, His death and resurrection, and the wonders that His love has accomplished in our lives."

Catholic News Service



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## Support the Missions

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PARISH	MISSION SUNDAY	MCA*	TOTAL
All Hallows, La Jolla	\$ 1,580.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 1,805.00
Ascension, San Diego	\$ 4,662.06		\$ 4,662.06
Blessed Sacrament, San Diego	\$ 6,107.00		\$ 6,107.00
Christ the King, San Diego	\$ 430.00		\$ 430.00
Corpus Christi, Bonita	\$ 6,788.00		\$ 6,788.00
Good Shepherd, San Diego	\$ 3,028.00	\$ 1,727.85	\$ 4,755.85
Guardian Angels, Santee	\$ 1,789.00		\$ 1,789.00
Holy Family, San Diego	\$ 4,395.00		\$ 4,395.00
Holy Spirit, San Diego	\$ 1,568.00		\$ 1,568.00
Holy Trinity, El Cajon	\$ 4,593.00		\$ 4,593.00
Immaculate Conception, San Diego	\$ 1,166.68		\$ 1,166.68
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Ramona	\$ 3,907.00		\$ 3,907.00
Mary, Star of the Sea, La Jolla	\$ 7,719.40	\$ 1,657.57	\$ 9,376.97
Mater Dei, Chula Vista	\$ 6,350.11	\$ 28.00	\$ 6,378.11
Mission San Antonio de Pala, Pala	\$ 350.00		\$ 350.00
Mission San Diego de Alcalá, San Diego	\$ 8,253.00		\$ 8,253.00
Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, Oceanside	\$ 9,359.55		\$ 9,359.55
Most Precious Blood, Chula Vista	\$ 1,919.00		\$ 1,919.00
Nativity, Rancho Santa Fe	\$ 15,548.00	\$ 619.42	\$ 16,167.42
Our Lady of Angels, San Diego	\$ 1,670.00		\$ 1,670.00
Our Lady of Grace, El Cajon	\$ 3,391.13	\$ 494.35	\$ 3,885.48
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Calexico	\$ 1,091.00		\$ 1,091.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chula Vista	\$ 3,239.00		\$ 3,239.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe, El Centro	\$ 681.00		\$ 681.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe, San Diego	\$ 5,738.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 5,988.00
Our Lady of Light, Descanso	\$ 430.00		\$ 430.00
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, San Diego	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 135.27	\$ 1,160.27
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, San Ysidro	\$ 2,808.00	\$ 1,738.72	\$ 4,546.72
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside	\$ 2,887.00		\$ 2,887.00
Our Lady of Refuge, San Diego	\$ 900.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 1,125.00
Our Lady of the Rosary, San Diego	\$ 300.00	\$ 202.50	\$ 502.50
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, San Diego	\$ 3,495.00		\$ 3,495.00
Our Mother of Confidence, San Diego	\$ 4,977.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 5,027.00
Queen of Angels, Alpine	\$ 870.00		\$ 870.00
Resurrection, Escondido	\$ 830.00		\$ 830.00
Sacred Heart, Brawley	\$ 1,079.36	\$ 753.37	\$ 1,832.73
Sacred Heart, Coronado	\$ 4,592.00	\$ 3,898.01	\$ 8,490.01
Sacred Heart, Ocean Beach	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 1,147.00
San Rafael, Rancho Bernardo	\$ 9,760.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 9,860.00
Santa Sophia, Spring Valley	\$ 2,095.61	\$ 491.15	\$ 2,586.76
St. Adelaide of Burgundy, Campo	\$ 185.00		\$ 185.00
St. Agnes, San Diego	\$ 3,177.00		\$ 3,177.00
St. Anne, San Diego	\$ 1,460.00		\$ 1,460.00
St. Anthony of Padua, Imperial	\$ 510.00		\$ 510.00
St. Anthony of Padua, National City	\$ 1,047.00		\$ 1,047.00
St. Brigid, San Diego	\$ 13,043.00		\$ 13,043.00
St. Catherine Laboure, San Diego	\$ 10,852.00		\$ 10,852.00
St. Charles Borromeo, San Diego	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
St. Charles, San Diego	\$ 5,322.00	\$ 1,041.80	\$ 6,363.80

\* Missionary Childhood Association

PARISH	MISSION SUNDAY	MCA*	TOTAL
St. Columba, San Diego	\$ 1,189.00		\$ 1,189.00
St. Didacus, San Diego	\$ 1,440.00	\$ 717.63	\$ 2,157.63
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Julian	\$ 80.00		\$ 80.00
St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad	\$ 2,170.00		\$ 2,170.00
St. Francis of Assisi, Vista	\$ 4,262.00	\$ 1,394.64	\$ 5,656.64
St. Gabriel, Poway	\$ 4,505.00		\$ 4,505.00
St. Gregory the Great, San Diego	\$ 18,048.00	\$ 276.57	\$ 18,324.57
St. James, Solana Beach	\$ 4,662.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,162.00
St. John of the Cross, Lemon Grove		\$ 59.13	\$ 59.13
St. John the Evangelist, Encinitas	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,000.00
St. John the Evangelist, San Diego	\$ 737.00		\$ 737.00
St. Joseph Cathedral, San Diego	\$ 2,636.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,136.00
St. Joseph, Holtville	\$ 369.00		\$ 369.00
St. Joseph, Westmorland	\$ 166.00		\$ 166.00
St. Jude Shrine of the West, San Diego	\$ 1,872.00		\$ 1,872.00
St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lakeside	\$ 514.00		\$ 514.00
St. Kieran, El Cajon	\$ 2,470.00	\$ 712.62	\$ 3,182.62
St. Louise de Marillac, El Cajon	\$ 335.00		\$ 335.00
St. Luke, El Cajon	\$ 3,066.00		\$ 3,066.00
St. Margaret Mary, Brawley	\$ 1,010.00		\$ 1,010.00
St. Margaret, Oceanside	\$ 2,376.00		\$ 2,376.00
St. Mark, San Marcos	\$ 10,365.00		\$ 10,365.00
St. Martin of Tours, La Mesa	\$ 6,315.76		\$ 6,315.76
St. Mary Magdalene, San Diego	\$ 4,442.00	\$ 1,775.50	\$ 6,217.50
St. Mary, El Centro	\$ 793.00	\$ 1,536.74	\$ 2,329.74
St. Mary, Escondido	\$ 2,754.00	\$ 502.67	\$ 3,256.67
St. Mary, National City	\$ 1,849.00		\$ 1,849.00
St. Maximilian Kolbe Mission, San Diego	\$ 428.00		\$ 428.00
St. Michael, Poway	\$ 3,310.95	\$ 10,039.69	\$ 13,350.64
St. Michael, San Diego	\$ 6,196.95		\$ 6,196.95
St. Patrick, Calipatria	\$ 565.00		\$ 565.00
St. Patrick, Carlsbad	\$ 3,485.00	\$ 1,348.00	\$ 4,833.00
St. Patrick, San Diego	\$ 742.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,042.00
St. Peter the Apostle, Fallbrook	\$ 10,444.90		\$ 10,444.90
St. Pius X, Chula Vista	\$ 3,946.00	\$ 732.00	\$ 4,678.00
St. Pius X, Jamul		\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00
St. Richard, Borrego Springs	\$ 1,105.00		\$ 1,105.00
St. Rita, San Diego	\$ 1,261.56	\$ 203.33	\$ 1,464.89
St. Rose of Lima, Chula Vista	\$ 2,559.28	\$ 1,686.24	\$ 4,245.52
St. Stephen, Valley Center	\$ 1,440.00		\$ 1,440.00
St. Therese of Carmel, Del Mar	\$ 11,564.56	\$ 1,006.76	\$ 12,571.32
St. Therese, San Diego	\$ 1,941.00	\$ 969.13	\$ 2,910.13
St. Thomas Indian Mission, Fort Yuma	\$ 698.00		\$ 698.00
St. Thomas More, Oceanside	\$ 1,429.00		\$ 1,429.00
St. Timothy, Escondido	\$ 1,819.01		\$ 1,819.01
St. Vincent de Paul, San Diego	\$ 52.00	\$ 1,486.50	\$ 1,538.50
The Immaculata, San Diego	\$ 5,212.00		\$ 5,212.00
Unspecified	\$ 180.00	\$ 4,093.93	\$ 4,273.93
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 316,882.87</b>	<b>\$ 43,857.09</b>	<b>\$ 360,739.96</b>



# Rwandans Aided to Be 'Instruments of Peace'

The Southern Cross



FATHER JOHN BOSCO MUSINGUZI

More than 800,000 people were murdered in just over three months during the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Today, almost 30 years later, Rwandans are “still struggling with the effect of the genocide, how to rebuild their lives (and) have a good future, and to heal from trauma,” said Father John Bosco Musinguzi, who ministered in Rwanda from 2000 to 2006.

Originally from Uganda, he was a seminarian when the genocide took place. As a priest, he felt called to serve in the Diocese of Nyundo, Rwanda, which had been shown frequently in news coverage and where 32 priests had died amid the violence.

Located in northwestern Rwanda, the Nyundo Diocese was established in 1952. It covers an area of more than 2,485 miles. Some 670,936 of the 1.7 million people who live there — 39.4% of the total population — are Catholic.

“The Church in Rwanda needed assistance from neighboring countries. They needed priests, sisters, even lay people who are willing to support the country,” Father Musinguzi said, explaining how he became a missionary. “Rwanda is very close to us, south of Uganda, and I went there ... to support the Church to rebuild itself.”

Father Musinguzi currently serves as a Catholic chaplain at Naval Medical Center San Diego. Though it's been 17 years since he was last in Rwanda, his heart remains with the Rwandan



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people. For 14 years, he has been delegated by the bishop of the Nyundo Diocese to make mission appeals on its behalf in the Diocese of San Diego, as well as in the Diocese of Orange and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

The money he raises has helped the diocese to provide Catholic education, rebuild or renovate churches and medical clinics destroyed during the genocide, provide care at three diocesan hospitals and 14 medical clinics, and make needed upgrades to Catholic school campuses.

Father Musinguzi said that, among the projects that this year's donations will support, is the ongoing transformation of a former Catholic orphanage into a nursery/elementary school.

Between 2012 and 2014, the Rwandan government ordered the closing of orphanages, which had proliferated in the aftermath of the genocide, in favor of a new approach to dealing with orphans.

“People in the country generously responded to the government's appeal and opened the doors of their homes and welcomed orphans,” explained Father Musinguzi, “and this marked the end of orphanages in the country.”

In 2015, the Nyundo Diocese began the process of renovating its vacant orphanage property to serve as a school. That renovation is now 75% completed, and the goal is to be finished by 2025.

The school, Centre Scolaire Noël

Nyundo, currently serves 961 students.

Donations also help to fund the Nyundo Diocese's ongoing programs that assist widows and young single mothers. The diocese provides a two-year vocational training program that prepares these women to become skilled seamstresses, caterers and hair stylists.

In 1999, the diocese began establishing parish associations for widows, where they can find mutual support. In 2003, it created the Association of Catholic Christian Widows of the Catholic Diocese of Nyundo, which is composed of almost 30 parish associations with about 3,100 members collectively.

Father Musinguzi explained that, through all of the diocese's priority projects of human development, the Church seeks to “empower (the Rwandan people) to be instruments of peace and to respect the sacredness of life of a person.”

It is all the more important that they “live in harmony,” he said, considering “what they went through in 1994.”

He credits the Nyundo Diocese's pastoral approach of creating Small Christian Communities (SCC) with playing a significant role in promoting forgiveness and reconciliation in Rwanda. He recalled ministering at a parish that had more than 500 SCCs, each limited to between 15 and 30 families.

“The idea to have small groups,” said Father Musinguzi, “was intended to give everyone a chance to speak about his or her personal inner pains, and struggles for healing, and support for strength to forgive.”

# Trafficked Women Find Hope and Healing

The Southern Cross



SISTER CHRISTINA MACLEAN

With an estimated 27.6 million people currently victims of human trafficking, organizations like Mary's Guest

House have their work cut out for them.

Established in 2005, this ministry of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary provides a home-like environment in San Diego for women rescued from sex or labor trafficking. It offers food, lodging and referrals for a variety of services, including trauma-informed counseling and assistance with legal and immigration issues, medical needs, educational goals and job training.

The seeds for the ministry were planted in the late 1990s, when its director, Sister Christina MacLean, attended a conference about trafficking. She was taken aback by the statistic

that 800,000 to 1 million women and children were trafficked each year.

“That really struck me,” she said.

She immediately started thinking that her congregation, which was founded in the early 19th century to minister to women and children, should be involved in combating this form of modern-day slavery. But it took another six years before she reached out to her superiors, asking for permission to do research and determine how the congregation could help.

In collaboration with Sister Susan Scherkenbach, she discovered that there was a great need for housing for female trafficking survivors. With the congregation's support, the pair opened Mary's Guest House in San Diego, chosen because of its location along an international border and a major human trafficking corridor.

Sister MacLean said the ministry's purpose is “to provide a home where there's a safe environment and where ... hope and healing can take place.”



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There is capacity for only five women at a time.

“But that's plenty, because you're working with people who are very traumatized,” Sister MacLean said.

More than 100 women from over 20 countries have found help at Mary's Guest House, often staying there for about two years.

Sister MacLean recalled a recent resident who had been trafficked by an aunt who had invited her to live with her in the United States. Once there, the young woman was denied any semblance of a social life and was forced to work long hours in a nail salon.

“She eventually came to our place and ... it was like just seeing a flower unfold,” said Sister MacLean, who shared that the woman discovered skills in art and cooking and graduated this year from the University of California, San Diego, with a bachelor's in Biology.

For Sister MacLean, the ministry has been deeply rewarding.

“It's amazing, really, when you see what they go through in order to get their lives back together again,” she said, adding that there have been “women from all different faiths and cultures — and some of them with no faith at all — and yet you see God working in them in unbelievable ways.”



# Mission Trip Opens Eyes, Sparks Gratitude

By Father Soney Sebastian

Every mission journey opens up a vast world of new experiences. There is always a lot to learn and absorb, and much more to appreciate and be humble about.

Here is a sampling of what Sister Eva Rodríguez, Father Yori Sodanango, Mariza Megia and I encountered during our mission trip to Zimbabwe, South Africa and Zambia in June.

**Zimbabwe:** Our first stop was in Bulawayo, the second-largest city in Zimbabwe, where we visited St. Patrick's School. We interacted with the students and teachers at the diocesan school, which educates children from kindergarten to pre-college. Children there are familiar with the Missionary Childhood Association, the international Catholic organization whose motto is "Children helping children," and they listened as Sister Eva shared how their peers in the San Diego Diocese participate in MCA by offering donations, prayers and sacrifices for the missions.

**South Africa:** During our visit to South Africa, a beautiful country still wounded by apartheid, we were housed in the grass-roofed cottages typical of African culture. We visited the bishop of the Diocese of Polokwane, a diocesan boarding school called St. Francis Catholic Academy, and a school for the blind. The latter has nearly 50 students, who are taught to create handcrafted items that can be sold to provide them with income.



**CULTURAL EXCHANGE:** Sister Eva Rodríguez is surrounded by students at St. Patrick's School in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, during an African mission trip last June.

**Zambia:** We visited the Kazangula mission, managed by the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, which is about a one-hour drive from Livingstone, Zambia. In addition to a primary school, there is also a special tuition and feeding program every weekend. While we were there, the older children took part in a Bible quiz that was broadcast live on the local FM radio.

From Livingstone, we went to Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. We visited Holy Family Catholic Parish, located in a village about one hour from Lusaka. Situated in a slum-like area, the parish

also operates a school for children up to the seventh grade. The pastor there is struggling to raise funds to build needed classroom space, while also paying teachers' salaries.

In Kabwe, about three hours from Lusaka, we visited St. Charles Lwanga Parish. The pastor took us on a tour of the parochial school, where we were able to interact with the children and teachers, as well as to a nearby sub-station of the parish with its own school.

We had the unique opportunity to attend a Wednesday evening Mass with inmates of a large prison where about 3,000 people are incarcerated.

We also interacted with seminarians of my religious order, the Society of the Divine Word, who are going through their novitiate program.

The people in the countries we visited were very welcoming. They express their hospitality and respect in many ways, most commonly with a slight bow and the gesture of clapping twice. This is done even before receiving Holy Communion.

For them, every Eucharist is a big celebration. Sunday Mass takes at least three hours with lively music, drums, xylophones and dancing.

The people are generous with what they have. In spite of their poverty, they contribute to the Church both monetarily and in kind.

This recent mission trip served as a powerful reminder that happiness consists, not in having plenty, but in being able to be satisfied with little. The people we met, the children that sang and danced for us, the priests and sisters that took care of us are going to be in our hearts for a long time.

In the near future, we hope to enable others to have a similar experience. The diocesan Office for the Missions is planning a 10- to 12-day mission trip. It is also working with the diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry to put together a mission trip to Zambia and Zimbabwe designed specifically for young adults. For more information on these experiences, call the Missions Office at (858) 490-8250.

# Piarists Felt Need to 'Do Something More'

The Southern Cross



Until two years ago, when the Piarist Fathers' Province of the United States and Puerto Rico established a mission office, it had two mission projects.

Today, it has five.

"We realized that we needed to do something more than what we were doing," Piarist Father John Callan explained.

Projects are now underway in Mexico, eastern Appalachia, Guatemala, Cuba and Puerto Rico.

The oldest of the province's mission projects is in Macuspana, located in the Diocese of Tabasco, Mexico. Over the past 50 years, Piarist priests, seminarians and perhaps more than 1,000 lay volunteers have made annual summer visits to Macuspana. They have constructed two parish churches there, as well as some chapels.

"It's a very, very poor diocese, and the number of priests ... is not sufficient to care for the needs of the people," Father Callan said, explaining that the Piarists oversee the training of lay Catholic leaders who serve in the absence of priests.

Father Callan said the Piarists also have introduced healthcare programs



**HEARTFELT:** Piarist Fathers, with lay volunteers, sponsored a camp last summer for children in Havana and Guanabacoa, Cuba. The Piarists' Province of the United States and Puerto Rico has mission projects in Cuba, Mexico, eastern Appalachia, Guatemala and Puerto Rico.

in Macuspana.

The province's second project is The Piarist School, a tuition-free middle school and high school, established in 1990 in the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, in eastern Appalachia, one of the poorest regions of the country.

In 2021, with the creation of its mission office, the province launched

three more projects.

That January, the Piarists assumed responsibility for a parish and three schools in Cabrican and Huitan, Guatemala, as well as for ministry in 31 nearby chapels.

"A lot of the children weren't even getting one meal a day," Father Callan said.

Now, thanks to donors, students

at all three schools receive two daily meals, 365 days a year.

Donations also have helped improve the technology available to students. The schools now have 12 months of Internet access in newly renovated computer rooms, whereas formerly they were able to afford only one month of Internet per year.

In July of 2021, the Piarists began a project in Cuba, where they administer a parish in Havana and a chapel in Guanabacoa. They also support socio-economic centers in Havana and Guanabacoa. The St. Joseph Calasanz Daycare Center, which is part of the socio-economic center, had its first graduation last summer; there were 20 graduates.

The newest mission project is in Adjuntas in the Diocese of Ponce, Puerto Rico, where the Piarists have run a parish, nine chapels and a school since August of 2021. Families are never turned away from the school, St. Joachim Academy, because of an inability to pay.

When the mission office was first established, the province's leadership decided that all of the office's expenses, including transportation and housing, would be paid out of the province's operating budget.

As a result, Father Callan said, donors can be assured that 100% of their contributions will go directly to one of the Piarists' five mission projects.