

'Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet'

(Matt 22:9)



THE SOCIETY FOR
THE PROPAGATION
OF THE FAITH

COURTESY OFFICE FOR THE MISSIONS



DIOCESE OF
SAN DIEGO



DAVID MAUNG

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Oct. 19-20, the Universal Church celebrates World Mission Sunday. I extend you a heartfelt invitation from Pope Francis as he reflects on the theme "Go and invite everyone to the banquet" (Matt 22:9), inspired by the Gospel parable of the wedding banquet (Matt 22:1-14). This is very timely for us during this final stage of the synodal journey with its motto "Communion, Participation, Mission," reinforcing our primary task as believers to "go and invite" everyone into the Lord's banquet.

It is an opportunity to thank all those missionaries who, in response to Christ's call, have left everything behind to go far from their homeland and bring the Good News to places where people have not yet received it, or received it only recently. Let us not forget that every Christian is called to take part in the Church's universal mission by offering his or her own witness to the Gospel in every context, so that the whole Church can continually go forth with her Lord and Master to the "crossroads" of today's world.

The collections of World Mission Sunday are entirely destined to the universal fund of solidarity that the Pontifical Society of the Propagation of the Faith then distributes in the pope's name for the needs of all the Church's missions. It directly supports seminaries, future religious sisters, catechists, Catholic schools that provide essential education, and healthcare centers that provide essential care, embodying the love of Christ over 1,150 mission territories across Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East.

I urge you, dear friends, to respond generously to this call. Let us unite in prayer for the success of the Church's missionary activities and for the missionaries who dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel. Your generosity is a powerful witness to the love and compassion at the heart of our faith. Let us pray that the Lord may guide us and help us to be a more synodal and missionary Church. As Pope Francis states, "Synodality is essentially missionary, and mission is always synodal."

May this World Mission Sunday deepen our commitment to the Church's universal mission. Together, let us rejoice in the opportunity to share God's love with the world, "inviting everyone to the banquet" of the Lord.

With every blessing in gratitude for your generosity to the missions,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Robert Cardinal McElroy
Robert Cardinal McElroy
Bishop of San Diego

God Calls Everyone to the Happiness of His Kingdom

By Carol Glatz



VATICAN CITY — Mission is tirelessly going out to all men and women to invite them with respect, joy and kindness, to encounter God and enter into communion with Him, Pope Francis wrote in his message for World Mission Sunday.

The Catholic Church, he wrote, "in fidelity to the mission she has received from the Lord, will continue to go to the ends of the earth, to set out over and over again, without ever growing weary or losing heart in the face of difficulties and obstacles."

He also praised the Eucharistic renewal that many local Churches are promoting, saying this "will also be essential for reviving the missionary spirit in each member of the faithful."

"In this year devoted to prayer in preparation for the Jubilee of 2025, I wish to encourage all to deepen their commitment above all to take part in the celebration of Mass and to pray for the Church's mission of evangelization," he wrote.

World Mission Sunday will be observed Oct. 20 in most countries. The text of the pope's message was published by the Vatican Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, and signed Jan. 25, the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

The theme of this year's message, "Go and invite everyone to the banquet" (Matt 22:9), indicates three important aspects of evangelization, the pope wrote: going out into the world; inviting everyone; and indicating God's divine banquet, which is "marked by joy, sharing, justice and fraternity in communion with God and with others."

"God, great in love and rich in mercy, constantly sets out to encounter all men and women, and to call them to the happiness of His kingdom, even in the face of their indifference or refusal," he wrote.

"Let us not forget that every Christian is called to take part in this universal mission by offering his or her own witness to the Gospel in every context," he wrote.

But those bringing the Gospel to everyone must imitate the Lord's same "style." "Not by pressuring, coercing or proselytizing, but with closeness, compassion and tenderness."

"Christ's missionary disciples have always had a heartfelt concern for all persons," he wrote, and the Gospel parable of the wedding banquet says that "the least of our brothers and sisters, those marginalized by society, are the special guests of the King."

Lastly, the pope wrote, "Christ's mission has to do with the fullness of time" and "when all of us will be with Christ at His wedding feast in the kingdom of God."

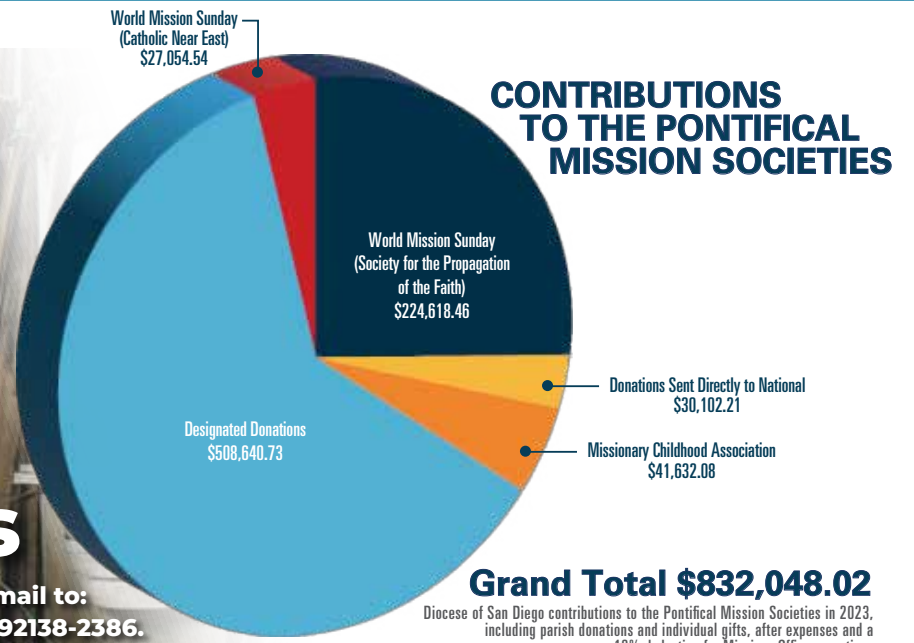
"This fullness of life, which is Christ's gift, is anticipated even now in the banquet of the Eucharist," he wrote, and, "consequently, all of us are called to experience more intensely every Eucharist."

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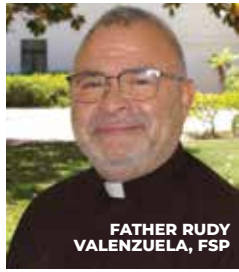
PARISH	MISSION SUNDAY	MCA*	TOTAL
All Hallows, La Jolla	\$ 2,984.23	\$ 844.23	\$ 2,140.00
Ascension, San Diego	\$ 3,240.00		\$ 3,240.00
Blessed Sacrament, San Diego	\$ 4,733.73	\$ 50.73	\$ 4,683.00
Christ the King, San Diego	\$ 311.00		\$ 311.00
Corpus Christi, Bonita	\$ 2,295.00		\$ 2,295.00
Good Shepherd, San Diego	\$ 7,366.03	\$ 1,609.03	\$ 5,757.00
Guardian Angels, Santee	\$ 1,226.00		\$ 1,226.00
Holy Family, San Diego	\$ 3,855.00		\$ 3,855.00
Holy Spirit, San Diego	\$ 4,960.00		\$ 4,960.00
Holy Trinity, El Cajon	\$ 3,980.54	\$ 1,803.54	\$ 2,177.00
Immaculate Conception, San Diego	\$ 1,499.00		\$ 1,499.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Ramona	\$ 2,825.00		\$ 2,825.00
Mary, Star of the Sea, La Jolla	\$ 1,960.13	\$ 1,331.13	\$ 629.00
Mater Dei, Chula Vista	\$ 7,144.74		\$ 7,144.74
Mission San Antonio de Pala, Pala	\$ 1,689.00		\$ 1,689.00
Mission San Diego de Alcalá, San Diego	\$ 9,714.48	\$ 3,064.34	\$ 6,650.14
Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, Oceanside	\$ 13,343.05		\$ 13,343.05
Most Precious Blood, Chula Vista	\$ 3,618.00		\$ 3,618.00
Nativity, Rancho Santa Fe	\$ 7,545.00		\$ 7,545.00
Nazareth School	\$ 1,965.40		\$ 1,965.40
Notre Dame Academy	\$ 556.17		\$ 556.17
Our Lady of Angels, San Diego	\$ 1,003.00		\$ 1,003.00
Our Lady of Grace, El Cajon	\$ 2,307.94	\$ 34.77	\$ 2,273.17
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Calexico	\$ 5,634.62	\$ 2,669.77	\$ 2,964.85
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chula Vista	\$ 2,805.00		\$ 2,805.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe, San Diego	\$ 4,662.52	\$ 167.52	\$ 4,495.00
Our Lady of Light, Descanso	\$ 566.00		\$ 566.00
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, San Diego	\$ 3,345.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,845.00
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, San Ysidro	\$ 5,757.59	\$ 880.59	\$ 4,877.00
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside	\$ 5,263.00		\$ 5,263.00
Our Lady of Refuge, San Diego	\$ 310.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 150.00
Our Lady of the Rosary, San Diego	\$ 778.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 753.00
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, San Diego	\$ 2,840.00		\$ 2,840.00
Our Lady of the Valley (St. Mary), El Centro	\$ 3,473.29	\$ 1,424.29	\$ 2,049.00
Our Lady of the Valley, El Centro	\$ 170.00		\$ 170.00
Our Mother of Confidence, San Diego	\$ 2,804.00		\$ 2,804.00
Queen of Angels, Alpine	\$ 1,015.00		\$ 1,015.00
Resurrection, Escondido	\$ 1,973.00		\$ 1,973.00
Sacred Heart, Brawley	\$ 1,595.92	\$ 170.67	\$ 1,425.25
Sacred Heart, Coronado	\$ 13,891.85	\$ 4,825.85	\$ 9,066.00
Sacred Heart, Ocean Beach	\$ 2,656.00		\$ 2,656.00
San Rafael, Rancho Bernardo	\$ 6,615.00		\$ 6,615.00
Santa Sophia, Spring Valley	\$ 3,199.53	\$ 260.34	\$ 2,939.19
St. Adelaide of Burgundy, Campo	\$ 310.00		\$ 310.00
St. Agnes, San Diego	\$ 3,162.00		\$ 3,162.00
St. Anne, San Diego	\$ 2,147.03		\$ 2,147.03
St. Anthony of Padua, Imperial	\$ 1,300.00		\$ 1,300.00
St. Anthony of Padua, National City	\$ 1,220.00		\$ 1,220.00
St. Brigid, San Diego	\$ 6,313.00		\$ 6,313.00
St. Catherine Laboure, San Diego	\$ 12,716.40	\$ 493.40	\$ 12,223.00
St. Charles Borromeo, San Diego	\$ 1,055.00		\$ 1,055.00

PARISH	MISSION SUNDAY	MCA*	TOTAL
St. Charles, San Diego	\$ 9,170.08	\$ 1,534.37	\$ 7,635.71
St. Columba, San Diego	\$ 1,232.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 1,117.00
St. Didacus, San Diego	\$ 2,339.95	\$ 1,053.95	\$ 1,286.00
St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad	\$ 4,928.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 4,878.00
St. Francis of Assisi, Vista	\$ 1,453.00		\$ 1,453.00
St. Gabriel, Poway	\$ 4,765.00		\$ 4,765.00
St. Gregory the Great, San Diego	\$ 7,096.56	\$ 608.56	\$ 6,488.00
St. James, Solana Beach	\$ 4,432.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 4,057.00
St. John of the Cross, Lemon Grove	\$ 4,244.56	\$ 630.56	\$ 3,614.00
St. John the Evangelist, Encinitas	\$ 3,275.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 2,625.00
St. John the Evangelist, San Diego	\$ 1,773.00		\$ 1,773.00
St. Joseph Cathedral, San Diego	\$ 1,649.00		\$ 1,649.00
St. Joseph, Holtville	\$ 226.00		\$ 226.00
St. Joseph, Westmorland	\$ 94.94		\$ 94.94
St. Jude Shrine of the West, San Diego	\$ 2,793.00		\$ 2,793.00
St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lakeside	\$ 1,837.00		\$ 1,837.00
St. Kieran, El Cajon	\$ 3,373.49	\$ 1,018.49	\$ 2,355.00
St. Louise de Marillac, El Cajon	\$ 985.00		\$ 985.00
St. Luke, El Cajon	\$ 4,584.00		\$ 4,584.00
St. Margaret Mary, Brawley	\$ 3,103.68		\$ 3,103.68
St. Margaret, Oceanside	\$ 2,585.99		\$ 2,585.99
St. Mark, San Marcos	\$ 13,072.00		\$ 13,072.00
St. Martin of Tours, La Mesa	\$ 12,081.99	\$ 2,388.71	\$ 9,693.28
St. Mary Magdalene, San Diego	\$ 4,670.50	\$ 1,113.50	\$ 3,557.00
St. Mary, Escondido	\$ 2,147.40	\$ 257.40	\$ 1,890.00
St. Mary, National City	\$ 2,687.00		\$ 2,687.00
St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Oceanside	\$ 4,068.01		\$ 4,068.01
St. Maximilian Kolbe Mission, San Diego	\$ 387.00		\$ 387.00
St. Michael, Poway	\$ 13,596.40	\$ 8,584.57	\$ 5,011.83
St. Michael, San Diego	\$ 5,978.55		\$ 5,978.55
St. Patrick, Calipatria	\$ 649.00		\$ 649.00
St. Patrick, Carlsbad	\$ 3,880.00	\$ 660.00	\$ 3,220.00
St. Patrick, San Diego	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	
St. Peter (Chaldean), El Cajon	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
St. Peter the Apostle, Fallbrook	\$ 6,182.80	\$ 794.80	\$ 5,388.00
St. Pius X, Chula Vista	\$ 1,921.68	\$ 219.68	\$ 1,702.00
St. Pius X, Jamul	\$ 482.75	\$ 342.75	\$ 140.00
St. Richard, Borrego Springs	\$ 130.00		\$ 130.00
St. Rita, San Diego	\$ 1,094.15		\$ 1,094.15
St. Rose of Lima, Chula Vista	\$ 3,683.53	\$ 1,174.53	\$ 2,509.00
St. Stephen, Valley Center	\$ 3,554.00		\$ 3,554.00
St. Therese of Carmel, Del Mar	\$ 3,247.88		\$ 3,247.88
St. Therese, San Diego	\$ 3,121.40	\$ 1,341.40	\$ 1,780.00
St. Thomas Indian Mission, Fort Yuma	\$ 781.00		\$ 781.00
St. Thomas More, Oceanside	\$ 1,128.00		\$ 1,128.00
St. Timothy, Escondido	\$ 1,596.90		\$ 1,596.90
St. Vincent de Paul, San Diego	\$ 362.85	\$ 362.85	
The Immaculata, San Diego	\$ 5,424.00		\$ 5,424.00
Unspecified	\$ 680.00		\$ 680.00
TOTAL	\$303,238.34	\$47,512.89	\$350,751.23

* Missionary Childhood Association

Clinic Brings ‘Presence of Jesus’ to Sonora

By Denis Grasska



As a priest of the Diocese of Mexicali, Mexico, and a member of the Friars of the Sick Poor of Los Angeles, Father Rudy

Valenzuela ministers to both the body and the soul.

He is not only a priest, but a nurse practitioner with about 23 years of experience.

That resume serves him well in his current role as founding pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico, and as founding director of Clinica Santa Maria de Guadalupe, which is located next-door to the parish church.

The parish and clinic are located in what is currently considered “the most violent city in Mexico,” Father Valenzuela said.

But the charism of the Friars of the Sick Poor of Los Angeles is hope, taking its inspiration from the First Letter of Peter: “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope” (1 Peter 3:15).

And Clinica Santa Maria de Guadalupe has been a ray of hope for more than 15 years.

“Our mission there is not just to provide medical care,” said Father Valenzuela. “Our mission is to be the



LIFE-SAVING: Clinica Santa Maria de Guadalupe provides medical care to more than 35,000 people every year in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico.

presence of Christ among the poor and the sick.”

Father Valenzuela has reminded the clinic’s doctors that anyone can give a prescription to manage diabetes, hypertension, or pain.

“But to be the presence of Jesus, not every doctor can do that,” he tells them.

Clinica Santa Maria de Guadalupe is open every day of the week, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and it treats between 35,000 and 40,000 patients every year.

No one is turned away because of an inability to pay.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Father Valenzuela estimates that the number of patients who either cannot pay or can only contribute a fraction of the cost has risen to about 30%.

Still, the clinic that began as “an outpatient, ‘cuts-and-colds’ kind of clinic” has continued to grow, inching closer to becoming what Father Valenzuela hopes will be a full-service hospital.

The next hurdle for the clinic will be acquiring ultrasound and X-ray

machines. Acknowledging that this is “a really expensive venture,” Father Valenzuela said that the clinic had already put in the leaded walls in advance of purchasing the machines.

Father Valenzuela recounts an incident that took place about a year ago, when a man brought in a baby that had stopped breathing and had turned “blue” for lack of oxygen.

Doctors immediately worked at resuscitating the baby. They discovered that the child had ingested methamphetamines, perhaps left lying around the house by parents who were drug users. The doctors gave the baby medication that would counteract the drugs.

The baby was “barely breathing,” recalled Father Valenzuela, but they were able to stabilize it and to transfer it to a hospital that could take it the rest of the way to recovery. The man who brought the child to the clinic left without ever identifying himself.

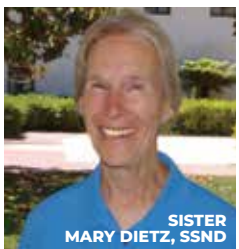
Father Valenzuela sees this situation as evidence that Clinica Santa Maria de Guadalupe has become a well-known and trusted local institution.

“That person, whoever he was ... had the lucidity, the alertness in the middle of his drug addiction to say, ‘I have to take him (to Clinica Santa Maria de Guadalupe).’”

Father Valenzuela believes that the people in the vicinity of the clinic have accepted “that you can take anyone to our clinic and that they will be taken care of, because the Church is present there, Christ is present there, and He’s not going to turn anyone away.”

Sister on ‘Pilgrimage’ to Support Missions

By Denis Grasska



Sister Mary Dietz was educated by the School Sisters of Notre Dame and, inspired by the example of those “gutsy

women,” she too answered the call to religious life.

She was still a novice when she first volunteered to serve in the African missions. But she was considered too young and inexperienced. About six years later, her province was once again looking to send sisters to Africa, and this time her request was granted.

From 1979 to 1981, Sister Dietz taught high school in Sierra Leone.

“It was adventurous, because Sierra Leone was one of the least developed countries,” she recalled. “And so, to get anything, we had to create it. To teach, we had to do it without books, without the usual supplies.”

While English was the official language, it wasn’t spoken in the villages.

“To go outside of the school was to go into another language area,” she

said, recalling that there were 16 languages spoken in the country and she had to learn “how to communicate with my face as much as with my words.”

Though that would be her last assignment in the African missions, she has continued to support them since returning to the United States. In the decades since, she has served as missions director for her province as well as associate director of the Diocese of San Diego’s Office for the Missions and director of its counterpart in the Diocese of Orange.

She continues to make mission appeals at parishes, where she speaks about the needs of the people that the School Sisters of Notre Dame currently serve in Nigeria, Kenya, The Gambia, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

“It’s like a pilgrimage through California, stopping at each church,” she said of making appeals.

“They respond very well,” she added, “and it’s inspiring for me to see their generosity and their dedication to sharing the faith ... It makes me proud to be Catholic.”

Funds raised through the appeals will primarily support the educational



LESSONS: Hillside International School in Mbribrit, Nigeria, is one of the School Sisters of Notre Dame’s many educational ministries.

ministries run by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in all five countries.

Sister Dietz likes to tell a story from her years in Sierra Leone, when a student shocked her with an invitation to visit the Catholic church that he had started in his village. After the four-hour journey, she arrived to see about 200 people, including residents of four surrounding villages, who gathered for worship modeled after the liturgies that

the student had attended at school. The village chiefs asked Sister Dietz to build them a church and a school, but she suggested that they do it themselves.

About six months later, the same student invited her to come back to see the church that the village had already constructed and the school for which villagers were already making bricks. The villagers secured a promise from the priest who served as diocesan superintendent of schools to provide a teacher once the school was ready.

During her appeals, Sister Dietz likes to pose a follow-up question to the congregation.

Noting that several people in the story contributed to bringing the Catholic faith to the village, she asks which is the missionary?

Once her listeners have come up with their answer, she asks, “But what about the invisible one?”

Meeting with their puzzlement, she explains, “It’s you.”

“Mission really begins with the faithful who contribute and make it possible,” she said, “because, without the contributions (of those who remain at home), the rest of us can’t go.”

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Brothers Strive to Make God's Love Known

By Denis Grasska

How do the Brothers of the Sacred Heart measure success?

"We believe that we're successful if young people leave us with a firm belief that God loves them," explained their U.S. provincial, Brother Ronald Hingle.

The congregation was founded in 1821 in Lyon, France, by Father André Coindre. Today, it includes 800 brothers active in about 30 countries. Brother Hingle explained that its charism is "to evangelize the world through the education of youth and young people, and to make the love of God known, especially to them."

For the U.S. province, this evangelization takes three main forms: operating schools both in the United States and in the missions; ministering to the Navajo in Klagetoh, Arizona, where they administer a parish and provide outreach to the poor; and through Iconhome, a shelter for street children in Bogo, Cebu, Philippines.

Altogether, the Province of the United States runs 11 schools and several missions serving the poor in the U.S., the Philippines and England. The province also financially supports and helps to sustain about nine other schools in six eastern and southern African countries.

"Education is a real important way of getting out of poverty," said Brother Hingle, "and many bishops around the world invite us in (to their dioceses)



JUST LIKE MAGIC: Brother Ronald Hingle teaches a magic trick to the street children at Iconhome, a shelter that the Brothers of the Sacred Heart run in Bogo, Cebu, Philippines.

because they know how important education is."

He shared firsthand experience of how determined students at the congregation's schools in developing countries are "to take advantage of what's being offered (to) them and ... try to overcome the obstacles in their lives."

Some of them walk three or more miles every day to attend classes, he said, even in inclement weather.

"They walk out into the night and, sadly, many of their papers get wet because they don't have knapsacks ... to put their notes in," he said, "and all

their days of notes and homework just run off the page.

"But it doesn't (bring) down their spirits," he said. "They come back the next day, ready to go."

In the Philippines, Iconhome provides "sanctuary" to youth who had been "fending for themselves on the street," Brother Hingle said.

It's currently home to almost 20 youth between the ages of 5 and 18.

Brother Hingle said that some of the youth will head off to college and become engineers; others will get scholarships to the Merchant Marine

Academy and join the Navy.

"These are things that these young people would never have been able to do (apart from Iconhome)," he said, noting that their prospects previously would have included parking cars and begging on the street.

"For us, that's a tangible sign that we're making a real difference in these young people's lives."

Brother Hingle said that the Brothers of the Sacred Heart recognize the theological virtues of faith, hope and love, but they tend to arrange them in a different order: First, they show love to the people that they serve; that experience of love leads them to hope and, ultimately, to faith.

Brother Hingle acknowledged the importance of generous Catholics providing financial support for the congregation's mission work.

"Their support really goes a long way, and it matters. Every little bit matters," he said, explaining that Iconhome requires only about \$60,000 in annual operating costs.

"It has a significant impact on young people ... and I think it sets them on a trajectory," he said. "Maybe they're not going to be the richest people in the world, but they're much more competent, they're much more capable, and much more self-assured. They have much greater self-esteem, and I think they can definitely look forward to a much brighter future."

Love Overcomes Polluted Water, Dirt Floors

By Denis Grasska



In 2013, the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Los Angeles launched their Mission of Love.

Through this project, love takes tangible shape in the form of clean water, paved roads, schools and healthcare for poor people living in remote areas of Vietnam.

Sister Josefa Ha and Sister Teresa Thu-Hong Dao, both originally from Vietnam, are members of the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Los Angeles religious order.

"Deep down in our heart, Vietnam is still our motherland, and people there (are) our people," said Sister Ha.

Reflecting on the importance of the Mission of Love, Sisters Ha and Dao painted a heartbreaking portrait of poverty in Vietnam.

Sister Ha said that the Mission of Love primarily assists different tribal communities in the mountains.

Sister Dao said that the people subsist on meager meals of white rice flavored only with saltwater and wild vegetables.

"That's what they eat all the time," she said.

And the people's homes are no more extravagant than their meals.



THIRSTING: Vietnamese villagers have access to potable water, thanks to the Mission of Love project.

Sister Ha said that most of the homes are crudely constructed with bamboo sticks and thatch, without insulation.

"People live on dirt floors," she said. "Therefore, children are always dirty."

Many villagers have looked to polluted rivers and creeks for their water.

"Very bumpy, very muddy" roads have prevented local children from making it to school during the rainy season and have made it challenging for their parents to bring their crops to market, said Sister Dao. In the absence of bridges, children would cross rivers by rope or zipline — "not for enjoyment" — to make it to school.

Since the Mission of Love was inaugurated, this grim situation has nota-

bly improved.

"After 11 years," said Sister Dao, "we have seen so (many) changes in the lives of the people that we serve."

She explained that the main work of the project has involved installing water filtration systems for each village and water tanks at villagers' homes.

The project also has constructed roads, built better houses with cement floors, provided medical care and scholarships, among other things, and currently runs a meal program that feeds almost 2,000 children every Sunday after catechism classes.

"We still have a lot of work to do," said Sister Ha. "However, as a result of the work we have done in many villages, we have seen many changes."

Among them, she said, "Many children are in childcare sponsored by Mission of Love; young boys and girls are able to be in school rather than working in the field or roaming on the mountain. People are able to walk on the new roads, and they can carry their loads of rice and crops more easily. Thousands more villagers now have clean water to drink."

An all-volunteer mission team makes an annual trip to Vietnam to assess current needs and to inspect completed projects.

Sister Ha likened being a missionary to being "an extended hand that God can use to reach out to others." She recalled that, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, the sisters were concerned that the Mission of Love would be among the pandemic's casualties. They opted to trust in Jesus, and their faith was rewarded.

"Through the grace of God and the generosity of people like you, we have kept it going and growing," she said.

"Most of our funding comes from people like you who have come to know us and support us," Sister Ha says to the faithful that she addresses in her mission appeals. "We would like to invite you to be part of Mission of Love today to share your blessings with those in need."

"Together on this mission," she added, "you and I can make a difference in the lives of others."