



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

Touch the World with Your Life

To monthly mission donors: “Thank you for your support!”

On behalf of His Excellency Frederick F. Campbell, the Bishop of Columbus, and Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

The Propagation of the Faith, which is under the direction of Vatican’s Evangelization of Peoples, is the main source of support for the 1,500 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and in some regions of Latin America.

The society does not have any investment or savings. Every year, the funds collected are distributed in total to mission dioceses and mission congregations or mission societies spreading the Gospel in places where people have yet to hear the good news of our salvation.

You can touch the world by leaving a gift to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in your will. Your legacy will live for generations. Your charity will help the Catholic Church to spread the Gospel to ends of the earth. A specific amount may be designated or you can allocate a certain percentage of your estate. A qualified attorney can help you in preparing your will or trust.

Please notify the diocesan Missions Office of your bequest so we can include you in our Bequest Society and keep you updated with our monthly newsletter.

The Cross of Christ is a daily reality in the poverty of the Congo, Haiti, Bangladesh, Brazil, the Philippines, and India, to name a few. Catholics suffer for their faith in Vietnam, Rwanda, Sudan and many other countries. To the Church in these nations and in many others, your gift through your will or trust to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith means life itself. It is a living tribute to you and a lasting hymn of praise to God. It is a lifeline and a sign of hope for our brothers and sisters who cry to God for help.

If concern for the poor and the spread of the Gospel are important to you during your lifetime, a bequest to the society will carry on those principles in a long term tribute to the power of faith.

As the Mission Director for the diocese, I attest that legacies, gifts and bequests left to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith will be used entirely for the missionary work of the Catholic Church. Donors and their intentions remain in the prayers of missionaries the world over. I sincerely thank you on behalf of the Church’s missionaries and the people they serve.

Only when we face our wounded condition can we be healed

Our memory plays a central role in our being.

Our pains, joys, our feelings of grief and satisfaction are ways we remember past events in our lives.

Different people remember a similar illness, accident, success, or surprises in different ways. How we remember past events influences how we perceived things around us.

Most of our human emotions are related to our memory. For example, remorse is a biting memory, guilt is an accusing memory, gratitude is a joyful memory. We perceive the world with our memories.

We tend to dismiss our unpleasant memories. In doing so, they become independent forces that cripple us. When we ignore them, they become feelings of alienation, feelings of anxiety, fear, suspicion, to name a few.

By refusing to face our painful memories we miss the opportunity to change our hearts and grow mature in repentance.

When Jesus said that it is not the healthy who needs the doctor, but the sick (Mark 2:17), He affirms that only those who face their wounded condition can be available for healing and so enter into a new way of living.

God Never Intended Suffering to be a Part of Creation

At 2:00 in the afternoon every day from Monday through Friday, a group of us, employees in various departments working for the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for our own needs, the needs of our families and the needs of the people we know. The list of people in need is getting longer and longer.

As I looked at the list, I thought of what Paul said: "I consider the sufferings of the present as nothing, compared with the glory to be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18). These words do not make sense unless one knows who wrote them.

Paul knew pain. He knew mishaps and tragedies. He was whipped five times by Jewish authorities, each time receiving 39 lashes on his back; three times beaten with iron rods on his body; once apprehended by a crowd who stoned him and left him for dead; three times shipwrecked; three times on a boat that capsized at sea, unsure if he was going to be rescued or not.

Can you imagine what a body would look like after having been stoned, beaten with iron rods, and whipped 200 times on his back? This is a man who knew what suffering is. When Paul wrote this verse to those of us who are feeling the weight of the cross right now and are feeling discouraged, he knew exactly how we feel.

Paul was not telling us that suffering has no effect. To say that would have been ridiculous. Paul knew that our hardships are real. What Paul was saying was that he considered suffering as nothing in comparison with something else; that the suffering of the present cross we are carrying, whatever it is, is nothing

in comparison with the glory of the Resurrection.

Paul could say that because of his faith. It is faith that enabled him to see all of life more clearly; to see that out of love God created everything that is; that creation is totally gratuitous; that we are alive because God freely and lovingly chose to call us into existence; and that God never intended suffering to be a part of creation.

Through the lens of faith we can see that out of God's indescribable love for us, even when we turned our backs on God, God chose to become one of us, and willingly suffered for us, even to the point of allowing His creatures to mock Him, to nail Him to the cross and to kill Him.

Through the eyes of faith we can see that God, who chose to die on the cross for us and to rise for us, has the last word; that a day will come when there will be no sickness, no pain, no sorrow, no tears, no disasters and no death.

Through the eyes of faith we can know that a day will come when our bodies, our lives, and indeed the whole creation, will be gloriously transformed and will participate forever in the wonder of the Resurrection.

Pope Francis' January Prayer Intentions:

That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

Quote:

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart. ~ ***Helen Keller***

A Joke a Priest can Tell:

People find it surprising that there are more Catholic churches in Las Vegas than there are casinos. Visitors forget that residents live lives much like other people in other cities.

So it is not surprising that worshipers give casino chips rather than cash when the collection basket is passed around in church. It is not considered wrong or offensive, as the chips have value and the churches need all the money they can get to carry out their missions.

Since the worshipers donate chips from many different casinos, the churches had to come up with a method to efficiently convert them into cash, so they forged an agreement with the local Franciscan Monastery to consolidate the chips, make an accurate accounting of the amounts from each church, and cash them in at the casinos.

It wasn't long before those who processed the casino bounty were given a most appropriate nickname. They were known as chip monks.

***Leandro (Lany) Tapay, Director
Gina Sergio, Education Coordinator***

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Happy New Year!