



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

# *Don't Look for a Bonfire, You Might Miss a Burning Candle*

***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.

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The evening news is depressing. The reports are mostly dark and gloomy. The political climate of our country is becoming worrisome.

Sometimes I wonder why I even watch the news. It is nothing but thirty minutes of tragedies. A well-dressed man or woman delivers the bad news. They call him or her the "anchor." What an ironic title! Surely our stormy world needs an anchor.

If you do not worry because of the suffering in the world, you are one of the lucky ones. You are one of those who have faith as strong as Abraham's.

I used to consider people who have strong faith "fakes" or "blind." But I have changed my thinking after I have meditated on Paul's description of the pain and suffering he endured in his life. He considered what we suffer now

as nothing compared to what is awaiting us in our Father's house.

We live in a broken world. We are surrounded by sickness, poverty, ignorance, hostility, hunger, to name a few. With bad things happening around us, it is difficult to convince others that God still hears our prayers.

The world is dark, so we ask God for light. To the apostles who were caught by a storm on the dark Sea of Galilee two thousand years ago, the light came as a figure of man walking on water - a man walking on top of waves.

I don't think that the figure was what they expected. Perhaps they were expecting an angel of God flying from heaven to rescue them from the horrifying situation. Or perhaps they were expecting a loud voice from heaven telling the winds to stop. I know that they wanted to be saved. But, how? Nobody really knows what was on their minds.

But I know one thing for sure - they were not expecting Jesus to come walking on water. "It is a ghost!" they said (Matt. 14:26). They were afraid. They knew that the sea was full of ghosts.

Is that strange? They needed help and they saw a ghost. They called Jesus a ghost - a phantom, a hallucination. To them, the figure of a man was anything but God.

When we see gentle lights on the horizon, we often have the same reaction. We dismiss occasional kindnesses as luck or coincidences - anything but God. Since Jesus came in a way they did not expect, the apostles almost missed seeing the answer to their prayers.

We do the same thing. Unless we look and listen closely, we risk making the same mistake. God's lights in our dark nights are as numerous as the stars, if only we look for them.

For a cheerleader who had leukemia, every member of her school's football team that gave her a rose before the game one night was a light in her darkness. For a student who lost her hair as a result of chemo treatment, every member of the student body who shaved his or her head was God-sent to cheer her up. When you suffer, pay attention. Do not miss God's light. Pay attention, God may use you to light someone's darkness.

God will be in our darkness - that's His promise.

But don't look for a bonfire, you might miss the candle; don't listen for a shout, you might miss the whisper. It is in a burning candle that God comes. God speaks to us in whispered promises. When you are in the dark, close your eyes and know that God is closer to you than you think.

***Collection to help Black and Indian ministries in the USA - a letter from the Bishop***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank you for your help in promoting the Black and Indian Missions Collection in your parish the weekend of March 4 and 5, 2017.

Since 1884, proceeds from the collection have been distributed as grants to dioceses supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which would otherwise be in danger of disappearing among the Black, American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut communities of the United States.

These communities exist in almost every diocese in the United States. Missionary priests, religious, catechists, and devoted lay people work tirelessly in parishes, missions and reservations to promote the faith. Through our contributions, we work hand in hand with missionaries who deliver the light of Christ's witness to the impoverished, isolated and long-suffering people in these communities.

In fact for the year 2016, the Diocese of Columbus received a grant in the amount of \$36,500 to support the evangelization programs of our Black Ministries.

Thank you for inviting your fellow parishioners to join me in the missionary work of the Church as the National Black and Indian Collection is conducted throughout the Columbus diocese. Through our prayers and generosity, we share in spreading Christ's Gospel message in Black and Indian communities across the country. Together, let us truly be missionaries through our

sacrifice and the love of Jesus Christ we share.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D.

***The Bail has been Paid. We can now Get Out of Prison.***

Sin puts us in prison; it locks up behind the bars of guilt, shame, deception and fear..

Sin does nothing but shackle us to the wall of misery.

Then Jesus came and paid our bail. He served our time. He satisfied the penalty. He set us free.

Christ died. When we cast our lot with Him our old self died with Him.

The only way to be set free from prison is to serve the penalty. In our case, the penalty is death.

Someone has to die - either we, or a Heaven-sent substitute.

We cannot leave prison unless there is a death.

And the death had occurred on Calvary. When Jesus died, we died to sin's claim on our life. We are free!

***An Appeal for Used Medical Equipment***

The Mother of Christ Hospital in Enugu, Nigeria, would like to receive a donation of used functional medical equipment.

The hospital needs the following : Cardiac/multiparameter monitors, EKG machine, Ventilators, Portable oxygen tanks, Oxygen Concentrate, Defibrillators, Nebulizer machine/tubing, Suction machines, Pulse oximeter, Calf compression devices, oxygen masks/venti-mask, Adjustable cardiac beds, IV poles, Infusion pumps, Wheel chairs, Sphignomanometer, and Bip Ap/Niv mask and machine.

If you know a doctor's office that is or will be updating its equipment and would like to find a home for the old equipment, or if you know someone who is responsible for updating medical equipment in a hospital, please call the Missions Office at 614-228-8603 or email Lany at ltapay@columbuscatholic.org

***Pope Francis' February Prayer Intentions:***

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

***A Joke a Priest can Tell: LOL!***

Leaving the store she could not find her car keys. She realized she had left them in the car. Frantically, she headed to the parking lot. Her husband had scolded her many times for leaving her keys in the ignition; afraid the car would be stolen. Upon reaching the parking lot she realized her husband was right. The car was gone! She called the police and gave her location, the model of the car, color, etc. Next, she made the most difficult call in her life to her husband: "I've left the keys in the car and the car was stolen". There was a moment of silence. Then he said, "Are you kidding me?" Her husband barked, "I dropped you off!" Pausing, she said: "Well then, come and get me". "I will" he retorted, "as soon as I can convince the cop that I didn't steal the car!"

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***Leandro (Lany) Tapay, Director  
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