

## PALLOTTINE MISSION APPEAL HOMILY - 2020

From last week's Parish Bullentine, you were informed about a Mission appeal to be held this weekend. Permit me to introduce myself to you. I am Fr. Balaji Boyalla, A Pallottine from India. I did my early studies in India and then after being ordained a PRIEST, I worked in our Missions and taught in our Seminaries in India. At present, I am Pastor at St Michael catholic Church, Bedford, Texas of Fort Worth diocese, Texas. Fr. Aloysius, a Pallottine Priest was working in the diocese of Fort Worth, was here when I landed in America, I spent my first one month in this parish and I was appointed at Holy Family Fort Worth. I belong to a religious congregation known as "The Pallottine Fathers and Brothers. At the very outset, I would like to thank the Bishop, the Mission Office, the Pastor, Fr. Kris and his Pastoral Team and to you my dear Parishioners for giving us this opportunity to speak to you about our Missions and to appeal to each one of you for your generosity and help.

At one of the parishes where I had been to do a mission appeal, the Pastor there told me: Father keep your sermon short. If you speak less, the people will give you more. Hence, I will do my best, to keep my sermon short.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today I come to appeal to each one of you, for your generosity and help, to help people who are in need of your help and support. As I said, I belong to a Religious congregation, known as the Pallottine Fathers and brothers. Our congregation is founded by St. Vincent Pallotti who was born in Rome in the year 1795. I personally have lived in Rome in the very same house where my Founder St. Vincent Pallotti lived for 16 years. The Pallottines work in 42 countries in the world and we are around two thousand ninety six Priests and Brothers.

Regarding our Missionary work, we try to develop our Mission places. The Pallottines in India work for the development in our mission territories. In these mission places, we help people to know and learn more about God, people who look to us for help in different ways, for example, the education of their children, building homes, digging wells for drinking water. We also have Literacy programs, foster homes for children and adults, women empowerment programs. All this cost money, that is why we come to you my dear brothers and sisters, looking for your assistance in our work. I do understand that we are in a very difficult time with our economic situation, but the sacrifices you will make, will go a long way to help our missionaries who in turn help the poor.

I would like to explain to you what a dollar would mean for the people in the Missions. Every dollar we receive will help a child to eat for a whole day. Every 100 dollar we receive will help a poor family of 4 to eat for a whole month and also educate

a child for a whole year. Every 500 hundred dollars we receive will help us to educate a seminarian for his education and boarding for six months and finally every two thousand dollars we receive, help us to build a house for a poor family of four. Hence, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I come to you seeking your generosity and help.

While I lived in Rome, I did meet have the occasions to meet Late Pope John Paul the second and Mother Teresa they explained the word Mission by two words. "Give and Go". They said that we can give life to the Missions when we go directly and evangelize to the place. But not all of us can be missionaries in that sense. Yet we can also go to the missions by offering what we can, through our prayers and donations. Be sure, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, that any help you give, goes for a very good cause and in doing so, you are being a Missionary and knowing that your love for your neighbor, even if that neighbour, is many hundreds or thousands of miles away.

Thank You in advance for whatever you give, and May God bless you for your generosity and help. Once again my sincere thanks to His Grace, your Bishop and the Pastor Fr.Kris And the Pastoral and to each one of you my dear Parishioners for giving us this opportunity to speak to you about our Missions and to appeal to each one of you for your help and support. May God continue blessing you in everything you do. Amen