



MEDICAL MISSIONARIES OF MARY
Mission Development Office
4425 W 63rd St, Ste 100, Chicago, IL 60629-5565
Tel 773-735-3712 Email: mdommm2014@gmail.com

Dear Parishioners of St John Paul 11 Parish. It is our sincere pleasure to be able to tell you about our Congregation the Medical Missionaries of Mary. We are an international congregation of religious women that was founded in 1937, in Nigeria, with a particular care and concern for women and their babies/children. Presently we live and work in 8 African countries, Brazil, Honduras, Ireland and here in the United States.

Like yourselves, in each of the countries where we live and work, we have experienced many challenges due to the recent Covid-19 pandemic. Some of our communal and personal plans changed and certainly will not be as we expected planned in the days and months ahead - yet we do believe – as we trust - you all do – that God is with us and God will always be with us – in the changes and challenges we face. However for some women, men and children that our sisters care for – trust that God is with them and or will be with them is not easy. For example – in Kenya our sisters work in one of the largest urban slums in the world. Kibera slum is located in Nairobi and is residence to roughly one million people. Basic essentials like food, water and shelter remain out of reach for most people.

Most families live in shacks built with mud walls, corrugated iron sheets or tin with a dirt or concrete floor. Most electricity and the few that have it are illegal connections that pose a great danger to the lives of slum dwellers. As such fire incidences are rampant within this area.

Poverty is written all over Kibera. Most residents of Kibera barely make it past Grade 8. This makes it extremely hard for most people then to land a well-paying job - rendering most as casual workers who live from hand to mouth.

Social amenities and infrastructure is scarce. Playing fields constitute small dusty bare grounds. Good clean drinking water or filtered water is sold which is a struggle for most families to purchase. So dirty or sewage waste water is all too often used.

Or in Honduras one aspect of our sister's work is to visit homes to provide palliative care for women who are dying from cancer. Wheel chairs, walkers, pampers, dressings and other medical supplies are some of the things the sisters and their staff try to provide these patients with so that they may have a better quality of care in their home. Sadly, there is no help from the Government for such patients. In these challenging times for us all – we know from your bulletins that you are a parish that supports those in need with your time, your talents and with your prayers. Might we ask you to tuck the Medical Missionaries of Mary and those we care for and about in your prayers. Our foundress, Mother Mary Martin, said many times in the past "if God wants the work God will provide". Be assured of our prayers as you – St Bartholomew, Holy Cross and St Maximillian Kolbe Churches create a new St John Paul 11 Parish with Monsignor Paul Stefanko and all the parish staff and volunteers.