



Society for the Propagation of the Faith / St. Paul and Minneapolis

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
777 Forest Street St. Paul, MN 55106-3857
651.222.6556 www.centerformission.org

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO 594



Inspired

Stories of encountering Christ in global mission

Spring 2018

"This is a wonderful model of an active Catholic worldview and a way to serve each other through the Gospel message."

By Deacon Mickey Friesen

2018 Journey to India

2019 Trip Opportunity to the Diocese of Vijayapuram, Kerala, India



Please visit our website:
www.centerformission.org
as interesting content is continually added.

Save postage, you can now
donate online by credit card.

If you have received this mailing in error, or would like to discontinue receiving newsletters from us, please contact: Bonnie Curry-Gabel at curry-gabelb@archspm.org or 651-291-4451

Inspired

Spring 2018

Stories of encountering Christ in global mission



A Catholic Worldview: India

*By Deacon Mickey Friesen
Director, Center for Mission*



I learned as a child that "being Catholic" meant that I was a part of a global and universal church. When I was older and

traveled overseas, I discovered that being Catholic meant that I could go anywhere in the world and be able to celebrate the same Mass even in different languages or cultures. It has only been in the recent years that I found being Catholic also meant having a way of seeing the world.

We live in an era greatly influenced by globalization. This refers to the global dimensions of trade, travel, communications and technology.

We are certainly entwined through economics with imports, exports and our markets. This has brought peoples, cultures and belief systems together in ways not experienced in the past. As globalization grows, we also need to grow in our ability to relate to one another on a global scale. Pope Francis said that we need a globalization of solidarity, "The only sustainable future for a global world is one where people can live together in peace by building bridges,

keeping dialogue open and favoring encounter." I believe this is at the heart of a Catholic worldview.

In January, Eric Simon and I had the privilege to travel to the mission Diocese of Vijayapuram in Kerala, which is located in southern India. I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the church there and had on-the-ground encounters with the way they live out their missionary call.

In India, the common way of greeting one another in public or in church is to fold one's hands as if praying and bow. It is rare to shake hands or wave at each other. Often, this gesture is accompanied by a greeting of "Namaste." When I asked about the meaning of this greeting, I was told that Namaste was a form of hospitality and a way of

looking at the world. Namaste is an acknowledgment and honoring of the presence of God in each other. It is a worldview that perceives a guest or visitor as embodying Christ and to be welcomed with grace and dignity. This attitude of welcome and hospitality and seeing God in one another is very close to what we mean when we say our faith is "catholic."

Another motivating aspect of being Catholic that we encountered was the presence of active Basic Christian

Communities. These were intentional groups of 10 to 15 families of parishioners that serve one another and deepen their Catholic faith.

They meet weekly or bi-weekly in one of the member's homes. There is singing, prayer and deepening in the Word of God. The group decides on a leader and secretary

who lead the community. Each Basic Christian Community family will "check in" and discuss who is missing and why. If illness or finances are an issue, the community elects someone to check on the person(s). Based on needs, the community will come



together to help. We even heard about collections in a community of 15 families to help a person build a home to move from a hut. This is a wonderful model of an active Catholic worldview and a way to serve each other through the Gospel messages.

In this newsletter we highlight this Catholic worldview through images of our encounters in our visit to Kerala. We hope that we can each grow seeing with Catholic eyes and serving each other with love and respect.

Serving the global mission activity of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

The Diocese of Vijayapuram 2018 Trip Images



Images from the Diocese of Vijayapuram: Blessing Nursing Students at College, Vijayapuram Social Service Society, Parishes and Worship Space, Family Homes of Tea Pickers, Worship of up to 20,000 at Pilgrim Center, School for Gifted Students, Home for the Elderly, and Visiting Basic Christian Communities

The Diocese of Vijayapuram 2019 Trip Opportunity

By Eric Simon
Mission Promotions Manager

The trip to the mission Diocese of Vijayapuram in Kerala, India was a wonderfully touching and inspiring experience of encountering Christ in mission. I often judge the impact of a mission trip by the spiritual and emotional gifts that I bring back. And I was truly moved by the Catholic worldview and how it was animated as a foundation for daily activities in India.

For example, this trip was clearly important to an understanding of Catholicism and how our faith serves those who are struggling or are on the "peripheries" of society. As we visited with families of tea pickers in two room homes, we were overwhelmed with the graciousness and joy these families in Basic Christian Communities displayed. These are an example of the people supported by grants from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

This is such an important experience for donors to the Center for Mission and Society for the Propagation of the Faith, that we are returning next January - and **you are invited to join us!**

Delegation being formed to travel to the Diocese of Vijayapuram, Kerala, India, January 28 - February 5, 2019.

If you would like to join the delegation: contact Eric Simon, 651.291.4446, simone@archspm.org. Space is limited so if you are interested, contact us ASAP.

