



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

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Inspired

Stories of encountering Christ in global mission

Spring 2022

"In fact, sharing stories of faith is at the heart of mission. ... Missionaries are at the core, storytellers. Faith grows when we share these stories."

Immersion Trip: Jamaica

Our Life in Peru with a Family of Nine

Guyana Mission Activities

Emerging from COVID



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Spring 2022

Stories of encountering Christ in global mission



Stories that Inspire Mission

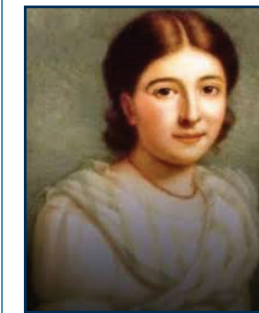
By Deacon Mickey Friesen
Director, Center for Mission



Missionary stories inspire me. I get to hear tales about the Church in mission all over the world and I like to share them with others. In

fact, sharing stories of faith is at the heart of mission. Missionaries choose to leave the familiarity of home and cross many kinds of borders to share the love of Christ with those they meet. Missionaries are at the core, storytellers. Faith grows when we share them.

I remember the story of Minnesota missionaries in Africa who were among the first to bring the Gospel of Jesus to the Maasai people. At first, they did not speak about Jesus, but instead lived as witnesses of the Gospel through their lifestyles and services. News of their charity and activities reached the Maasai chief who asked to meet them. When he asked them to explain why they were so generous in serving others, the missionaries talked about their chief, Jesus, who taught them how to love one another. The Chief was so impressed, he asked to meet this "chief named Jesus." The missionaries explained that "Jesus died 2,000 years ago, but lives in our hearts. We are his witnesses." The African chief responded, "This is such good news. What took you so long to share it with us."



Pauline Jaricot

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith began with this inspiration of sharing and supporting the Gospel messages. This year, we celebrate the individual who inspired this movement of sharing our stories of faith - Pauline Jaricot.

Two-hundred years ago in France, Pauline was personally inspired by the stories of missionaries serving in China. She was determined to reach out in prayer and support for God's mission to the "ends of the earth." She began to gather groups of women who shared letters of mission stories, to pray for the missions and to offer what they could to support missionaries living in difficult and poor circumstances. It was this model of prayer, sharing faith and offering support, that gave birth to a worldwide movement that continues today.

From the commitment and passion of one woman, the global mission of the Church found sustenance and support in what is now the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

On May 22, 2022, Pauline Jaricot will be beatified, a key milestone on the journey towards recognition as a saint of the Church.



First ordained Maasai priest



We continue this movement today as we share mission stories with you in this newsletter. May you be inspired by witnesses of God's mission being lived and shared in our time.

Immersion Trip: Jamaica

By Eric Simon
Mission Promotion Manager

It seems that finally our locations for Immersion trips have opened up after COVID. That means our next trip, encountering Christ in mission, will be to the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica, scheduled for January 28 - February 4, 2023.

This will be an unique opportunity to visit a poor, mission diocese to encounter proud and welcoming people in the mountainous Catholic Diocese of Mandeville.

We will join with Jamaicans in schools, health clinics, housing, orphanages and senior housing managed by the Sisters of Charity. Finally, we will be able to help out in one of the places visited. It will be a moving and unforgettable experience!

If you are interested and desire more information, contact Eric Simon, simone@archspm.org or 651.291.4446.



Our Life in Peru with a Family of Nine

By Tami and Robert Erisman



Robert and Tami Erisman and their family of nine are currently missionaries in the Amazonian regions of Peru through the Family Missions Company. An article about their experiences as new missionaries was in the 2020 newsletter. We revisit them years later. They have been financially aided through the Center for Mission Mustard Seed Grant set up to help missionaries serve in global missions.

It has been a remarkably wonderful and inspiring three years for our family.

When thinking about our time serving the wonderful people of Tingo de Ponasa, Peru, I am overwhelmed

with what we have experienced and learned.

One of the most important experiences we have had

in mission has been encountering Jesus

in the poor. He is the one who has come to our door asking for help for food. He is the one who we pray over for healing. He is our neighbor who shares a meal with us.

Being in mission, we have had to rely more fully on the Lord and deepen our relationship with Jesus. It can be a difficult life at times giving up our comforts like air conditioning, a comfortable bed, and clean water. But living this penitential life in these ways has helped us to live more in solidarity

with the poor, who are our friends and neighbors. It has also allowed us to grow in intimacy with Jesus as we follow his call to be missionaries. He himself was born poor, lived poor and died poor and commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves. We have had to give ourselves completely over to the Will of God and trust in His providence. We are trying to live in this way.

Once while in Cusco, the capital of the region, because Robert was suffering from Dengue Fever, several kids came up and asked for money. Robert told them he had no money to give them but that he could pray with them. This prayer experience created a very positive reaction from the boys.

Recently we hosted a medical mission trip. Not everyone who came was a trained medical professional, so some people assisted with kids' ministry and with prayer ministry.



Our family fits right in

Robert helped and prayed with several people, who claimed healing through prayer. It is amazing how we have been able to witness the strength of prayer and the "miracles" that can occur.

We are often asked about raising a family in mission. Our kids have been transformed through this missionary experience. They have deep friendships and have easily

adapted to village life. They recently traveled back to the Twin Cities to visit, and after some



Good friends

time, were surprisingly homesick and eager to return to Tingo de Ponasa and their friends.

One of the aspects we enjoy most is



Encountering Others

the slowness and simplicity of life. Our family and Robert and I have grown closer and deeper. Our family is less encumbered by outside "noise" and world news. This has given us the "space" to enjoy each other.

We've come to understand more deeply that our primary identities aren't in being missionaries, father and mothers, but we are most importantly sons and daughters of God. Our mission flows out of this identity and puts everything else into a unique perspective. The miracles we witness haven't happened

because we are powerful, but because God is great and He allows us to share His power through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the one who makes us his sons and daughters.

What does our future hold? Right now, we want to remain in mission as long as possible. We would love to share our enriching and inspiring experiences with others and are considering constructing a retreat house in the village that would be available for mission groups to visit, be exposed to mission and train for the experience. It all depends on the Will of God...we can only pray!

Thanks be to God!

Guyana Mission Activities

By Mother Nikopia Klobe



Therese Maryanne Klobe grew up in Edina and attended Our Lady of Grace Grade School and St. Agnes High School in St. Paul. She is

now a SSVM sister. Her community serves Guyana and she receives support from the Center for Mission. She has shared her current encounters with us after we met her in the 2020 newsletter.

There is never a dull moment in our convent, and I remember very clearly when one of my friends exclaimed after I told her I was entering the convent, "Great! When you are bored, remember me, because I am bored here at home too!" How God always surprises us with His constant creativity and love! These last months in Guyana have been quite the adventure of God's faithfulness and St. Joseph's protection.

We were able to begin catechism classes after a long break due to COVID restrictions. Every Thursday, Sr. Kahirapan and I drive one hour each way on a bumpy, muddy road to Red Village which is a community located on the Sand Belt of Guyana. Many Catholics live in this area, but, due to difficult circumstances, are unable to attend Holy Mass on Sundays. So, over 25 children and adults gather outside



Teaching Catechism

of a wooden, two-room stilted home, that is surrounded by sand, a giant mango tree with the bathroom at the back.

Each week the children joyfully play "Ships Across the

Ocean", "Cat and Mouse" and other games in the sand before we gather around the crucifix to pray a decade of the Holy Rosary. Then we have catechism classes. The families are so excited when we arrive to bring the Gospel message and the Good News to the small village.

Last November, we welcomed three novices. They are still in school and Zoom in for their classes. Every Saturday, Sr. Esperanza, Sr. Kahirapan and the novices take the aluminum church boat as Sr. Sea

of Grace takes the wheel and they sail off to visit homes and bring Eucharistic Oratories to remote communities along the Pomeroon River. The sisters check on the health of families and visit non-active Catholics. We have

already seen the fruits of these visits with a recent growth in sacrament attendance. We do have to be creative!

Easter candles are difficult to find here in Guyana, so some of the faithful brought 3 inch PVC pipes and old melted candles and we were able to create nine Easter candles.

On Ash Wednesday, to celebrate Lent, we went to a popular mission at St. Francis Assisi Community in Lima Sands, a village of about 900 near the ocean coast of Guyana. Sixteen missionaries spent their spring break to join us as we went door-to-door to invite families back for Easter sacraments. Children, youth and families enjoyed fun and learning activities in the afternoon. It was a wonderful time for all.



St. Therese Parish

We continue to be amazed at God's generosity as we prepare for His Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Bless all of you who supported our activities in Guyana.

Emerging from COVID

By Eric Simon

The last couple of years have been difficult for all of us. We humbly need your help: to continue our support for missionaries who have sacrificed to go "to the ends of the earth;" to support our partnership communities struggling to flourish; to maintain our mission programs for youth and adults; to support organizations who animate the value of Catholic social teachings in our neighborhoods and much, much more.

The Center for Mission has been able to continue activities by offering our encounters in other ways. For example, the important Papal Encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, was published in October, 2020. In order to offer a deeper understanding of how this document can be lived through Catholic social teachings and impact our lives, five Zoom meetings were offered that included special speakers to present and lead discussions. These were recorded and can be found on the Center for Mission YouTube page at CenterForMissionMSP, videos.

Please consider a donation this spring to help the Center for Mission maintain these programs and activities. The Center for Mission does not receive financial support from any institution or diocese so we rely on you, our donors, to enable us to continue serving the Archdiocese by offering mission encounters. You can use the included envelope or go to www.centerformission.org for more information and other ways to donate. Thank you!!

