



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

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Inspired

Winter 2022

Stories of encountering Christ in global mission



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Winter 2022

"Catholic social mission is catholic as it reaches behind our borders."

Doing Justice

Loving Goodness

Walking Humbly with Your God

St. Symeon the New Theologian Prayer



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Catholic Social Mission: Praying and Acting for Justice

By Deacon Mickey Friesen
Director, Center for Mission



Center for Mission Director since 2001.

Over the last few years, I have seen the connection between what

we do to support the mission of the Church overseas and the mission here at home. The call to bring forth the Kingdom of God in the world does not seem to respect any geography or borders. The only geography that matters is the geography of the human heart. Yet the global mission can illuminate our own situation here at home. This was true for our Blessed Pauline Jaricot.

Pauline founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in France to help Catholics build bridges of prayer, teaching through mission stories and giving to overseas missions. As this movement spread, Pauline began to look at her own situation at home in

France in a new light. Her missionary spirit led her to address some of the social ills of her local area, especially for workers and women. She saw the connection between mission abroad and social mission at home. Pauline realized that God's mission reaches around the world and around the corner.

Since 2018, the Center for Mission expanded efforts to address the social mission of the Church here at home, as well as abroad. We have been building new bridges of teaching, prayer and action on behalf of the poor, the homeless, workers and for God's creation. We are helping Catholics identify, understand and participate in the Church's social mission.



in the way we pray, the way we relate with each other and the way we act to bring forth God's justice to all. The Center for Mission is dedicated to providing bridges of prayer and action to bring God's justice in offering solidarity and mutuality throughout the world.

In this newsletter, we will use the wonderful passage from *Micah* 6:8 to provide structure to what we relate regarding Catholic social mission at the Center for Mission.

"What the lord requires of you is to do justice, to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Enjoy the newsletter as we provide opportunities to build a more just and peaceful world and care for our God's gifts of creation.

In addition, during Advent, we will be sending our annual appeal to donors to specifically support the Center for Mission and our activities, like Catholic social mission, which offer mission bridges for the Archdiocese. We rely on your gifts to continue our mission efforts.

If you have questions, please contact Eric Simon, simone@archspm.org, 651.291.4446.

In this newsletter, we highlight opportunities to learn about and participate in the Church's social mission.



Blessed Pauline Jaricot

Catholic social mission is catholic as it reaches beyond our national borders. There is a deep link between the way we pray and the way we act in the world. The ultimate goal of Catholic social mission is to become more Catholic

Doing Justice

Encounters of Social Mission Activities

By Adam Fitzpatrick/Deacon Friesen
Coordinator, Social Mission Outreach



As Social Mission Outreach Coordinator for the Center for Mission, Adam focuses on activities that bridge individuals and communities in

solidarity with those on the fringes of society. This article is written by Adam and Deacon Mickey Friesen..

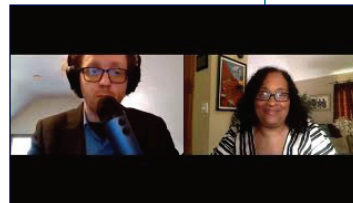
As mentioned above, one of the priorities of God's mission in the Church is to work for a more just and peaceful world and to care for God's gift of creation. This is seen in how we pray and how we act: the two great arms of God's embrace to heal and reconcile the world. It is a both/and expression of God's love.

At the heart of this mission is a conviction about the dignity of all human persons. This is what the Center for Mission social mission efforts represent.

The verse from *Micah* on the front page calls us to conduct ourselves in three ways: doing justice, loving goodness, walking humbly with God.

Doing Justice

The **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**, supervised by the Center for Mission for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, offers opportunities for those who are poor and struggling to find dignity in their lives to lift themselves up and grow and flourish. It is not through handouts



Fratelli Tutti Podcast

but a way for participants to remove unjust barriers and get the skills and resources to live with dignity and responsibility.

Grants from the CCHD collection are given to assist local organizations working to alleviate poverty here at home. It is a way for newcomers and strangers to be fruitful members of society contributing beyond themselves.

Organizations receiving grants are carefully vetted and must align themselves with Catholic social teachings and principles. They are mostly organizations that have been started by poor and struggling individuals themselves and have boards that represent those they serve.



Urban Roots Garden: CCHD Grant

Loving Goodness

Social mission means seeking the common good that all can share. Pope Francis has called us to invest ourselves personally and socially in protecting and preserving the goodness of creation, our common

home. Locally, the Center for Mission is providing opportunities for all to care for God's creation. The ministry of **Care for Creation** mobilizes Catholics to teach, pray and learn about practical efforts to curb energy needs, care for the land and preserve our planet for future generations. (page 3)

Loving Goodness

We Awaken in Christ's Body St. Symeon the New Theologian

We awaken in Christ's body as Christ awakens our bodies, and my poor hand is Christ, He enters my foot, and is infinitely me.

I move my hand, and wonderfully my hand becomes Christ, becomes all of Him (for God is indivisibly whole, seamless in His Godhood).

I move my foot, and at once He appears like a flash of lightning.

Do my words seem blasphemous? Then open your heart to Him and let yourself receive the One who is opening to you so deeply.

For if we genuinely love Him, we wake up inside Christ's body where all our body, all over, every most hidden part of it, is realized in joy as Him, and He makes us, utterly, real.

And everything that is hurt, everything that seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful, maimed, ugly, irreparably damaged is in Him transformed and recognized as whole, as lovely, and radiant in His light, he awakens as the Beloved in every last part of our body.

(from page 2) There have been many events, presentations, and discussions that have provided prayers, advice and calendars for those interested in this Center for Mission ministry. For example, Papal encyclicals *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti* have offered much to social mission through Center for Mission webcasts and documents. All can be located at centerformission.org and our YouTube channel

Walking Humbly with your God

Social ministry, at its core, is a way of being in relationship with God and people. God's great desire is that we live in right relationship with one another and recognize Christ amongst us. Learning how to walk together means learning how to listen, to reflect, to dialogue and seek God's will for meeting the challenges of our time. It means respecting the dignity of others.

The spirituality of social ministry is one of walking together. The Center for Mission is committed to building bridges of solidarity by gathering people together from different walks of life and

sharing with each other, patiently and respectfully. Each year we sponsor an event titled **Journey to Justice** in which those who have received CCHD

grants of support can gather together and share their experiences, their struggles, their growth and their new opportunities for the future.



Enjoying Encounter in Tanzania

Walking Humbly

The movements of doing justice, loving goodness and walking humbly with God lead us beyond ourselves to

walk with our brothers and sisters around the world. To be Catholic means to be universal in the way we pray and the way we act. The Center for Mission is currently working with parishes and the Archdiocese to grow this sense of Catholic communion by the way they develop their own social ministries. Relationships of prayer, support and shared action are stressed to bring about greater dignity, unity and solidarity.

The Center for Mission supports and aids individual parishes and diocesan partnerships that bring Catholics together who may be separated by many borders.

We have experienced the witnesses that Catholics can bring to our divided world at this time. Our faith transcends national borders, economic differences and class and racial divides. The ultimate goals of Catholic social mission is to enhance the flourishing and dignity of all in the way we pray, the way we teach and the way we act to bring forth God's justice.

In the spirit of St. Symeon the New Theologian and Micah, the Center for Mission hopes to welcome the

return of Archbishop Samir Nassar from Damascus, Syria, spring of 2023.

An icon has been written and hangs in the Cathedral of St. Paul to

honor our partnership with the Archeparchy (Archdiocese) of Damascus, Syria.

It has been a very difficult decade for Damascus and Archbishop Nassar as Syria has experienced war and conflict. This has affected the return of parishioners as well as the structural integrity of the Damascus cathedral

and worship spaces.

Our Catholic social teachings encourage us to benefit those who are struggling and in

trouble to provide opportunities for human flourishing all in the spirit of recognizing the dignity of all. Our relationship has been enhanced through the help we have provided the Archeparchy and the blessings and prayers they have provided for us: dignity of each other.



Pollinator Garden at Kateri Parish



Abps Nassar and Hebda



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