



CENTER for MISSION

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

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Inspired

Stories of encountering Christ in global mission

Spring 2026

"Some people give to the missions by going, others go to the missions by giving. Without both, there are no missions" St. John Paul II

Let There Be Peace

Peace Through Partnership

Peace Is Our Foundation



Please visit our website:
www.centerformission.org
to learn more about our work.
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If you have received this mailing in error, or would like to discontinue receiving newsletters from us, please contact: Kim Williams at williamsk@archspm.org.

Inspired

Spring 2026

Stories of encountering Christ in global mission



Let There Be Peace

Deacon Mickey Friesen
Director



The new year of 2026 did not begin peacefully. War continues in Ukraine and

Sudan. Suffering in Palestine continues to be unbearable. Our own country has entered Venezuela, and things remain very tense. There is a temptation to think that force is the only way to address conflict in our world. And yet, we proclaim a savior who is called the Prince of Peace. God's mission in our world is to bring peace to our hearts, peace to our communities and peace to our world. Christ came into our world unarmed and proclaimed a message of God's love and peace to disarm us and heal us.



Missionaries stand as a witness to God's plan for peace by fostering Christian communities in mission lands and seeking out the way of dialogue, solidarity and reconciliation where there is conflict. The Gospel of peace is truly good news for people and places ravaged by war, poverty and civil unrest.



Missionaries try to bring healing to persons and places recovering from war. The church remains to rebuild and restore communities that have been destroyed. Catholic missions are equipping communities with tools to find paths to a more peaceful future and seek reconciliation from past wounds. Missionaries dedicate themselves to work towards increasing *just* living and working conditions so people can recover their sense of dignity, meaning and purpose in their life in order to flourish.

Pope Leo has called on us to be agents of peace and support efforts for peace happening in the world. He has often repeated that Christ's peace comes disarmed and seeks the disarming of many hearts and minds.

The Center for Mission is committed to supporting the church's call to be witnesses to Christ's peace. In this newsletter, we highlight missions dedicated to peacemaking and peacebuilding.



Peace

Peace begins with helping a brother,
Peace begins with stopping a fight,
Peace begins with being polite,
Peace begins with saying, "I apologize,"
Peace begins with making a friend,
World Peace Begins With Me!

by Timothy Goranov Grade 3

Peace through Partnership

Janine Ricker
Global Mission Outreach Coordinator



Our shared Catholic faith is the foundation of our more than 20-year global solidarity partnership with the Diocese of Kitui, Kenya. The unity we find in the celebration of the Eucharist is what continues to fuel this relationship. Every act of the partnership is done with the intention to make Jesus Christ known and loved by choosing to live the Gospel in every moment of our lives. When people from



different cultures and continents can come together to worship, work for peace and justice in their communities, and laugh together as friends, it bears witness to the universality of the Church and the love and fraternity found in the Body of Christ.

The partnership was inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2001 document

"A Call to Solidarity with Africa," in which the bishops wrote: "Diverse peoples must recognize shared interests, values, and obligations despite distance and differences. The promotion of this international common good will help all peoples to live in security and peace." Throughout its history, the partnership has strived toward the mutual sharing of gifts so that Catholics in both dioceses may grow closer to Christ. Our brothers and sisters in Kitui have shared the joy of their faith and deep trust in God's providence, while Catholics in Minnesota have shared material resources to help provide clean water access, food, and other developmental improvements for the people in Kitui. These exchanges have helped bring Christ's peace to all those who have encountered the partnership.



One of the key ways this partnership has grown over the years is through reciprocal delegation visits. Since 2005, Catholics in Kitui and Minnesota have visited one another on a rotating basis every three years to continue to build the partnership. In 2025, a group of 13 delegates from Kitui visited Minnesota to celebrate the 20th anniversary and in 2026, a group of Catholics from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis will visit the Diocese of Kitui to mark the beginning of the third decade of our partnership.



Join Us 2026 KITUI DELEGATION

Experience the Catholic Church in Kitui, Kenya

Encounter your brothers and sisters in our global solidarity partnership diocese of Kitui, Kenya on this life-changing visit.

Cost Includes:

- All transportation to/from Kitui
- All transportation while in Kenya
- All meals and lodging while in Kenya
- Overnight trip to game park

Not Included:

- Airport Meals
- Passport and Visa fees
- Travel Insurance
- Mass Offeratories
- Souvenirs

Information:

- Estimated Cost: \$3,500/person
- June 15-- July 3, 2026
- To register, complete application

Scan for Application

Questions? Contact Janine

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rickerj@archspm.org

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

While there, delegates will attend local Masses and visit schools, hospitals, and small Christian communities to observe and learn about life in Kitui. Along with Diocese of Kitui leadership, delegates will also determine the 2026-2027 goals for the partnership. Upon return, delegates will spend two years volunteering for the partnership, helping to realize the goals established during their trip.

Many past delegates consider their time in Kitui to be life-changing. Our 2026 trip is scheduled from June 16-July 2, and estimated cost is \$3,500/person. If you would like to be a part of our delegation, please contact Janine Ricker at 651-291-4504 or rickerj@archspm.org for more information.



Peace is our Foundation

Kim Williams
Operations Manager



Peace, a core foundation of our Catholic faith, flows from scripture to sacramental life. Peace is at the center of social teaching and

daily discipleship. Peace lies at the heart of what it means to follow Christ. Here at the Center for Mission, we highlight this truth by emphasizing peace not as an absence of conflict, but as the very foundation of our lives rooted in justice, reconciliation, and faithful witness. The Center for Mission builds bridges of peace from our local Church to the global Church through partnerships based on respect and mutuality.



Peace, flows directly from the identity of Jesus as the Prince of Peace. Throughout his ministry he reveals peace as the gift from God that restores right relationship – with God, with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and with God’s amazing creation. We see peace as being inseparable from love and truth. We sustain peace through mercy, forgiveness, and

a commitment to the dignity of every human being. Through our various ministries at the Center for Mission we model peace through lived faith in action rather than as an abstract ideal. Our partnerships with the Diocese of Kitui, Kenya and the Archeparchy of Damascus, Syria unite Catholics from very different regions of the world – as do the sister parish pairings throughout our Archdiocese. Personal relationships break down barriers and help us to realize we are united through our faith.



Peace reinforces Catholic social teaching as a moral imperative focusing on principles such as human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity, and the common good. These core tenants are not optional add-ons, rather they are essential to building bridges of peace. When we, as a society, fail to protect the vulnerable or stay silent in the face of injustice, peace shatters. Through emphasis on leadership and partnerships of mutuality, we begin to address the roots of injustice through education, service, and moral courage. Through Care for Creation/Laudato Si’ Movement, and our support through Christian Sharing grants we strive to mobilize grassroots movements to create a more just reality within our Archdiocese.



Peace is profoundly communal in nature. It must be nurtured in all aspects of our lives, within families, parishes, schools, and ministry daily. Mission outreach highlights how as mission-oriented communities we become models of peace – places in which dialogue drives away division, accompaniment destroys exclusion, and hope dispels fear. This approach reflects the Church’s understanding that peace grows through relationships shaped by the Gospel. Our Mission Cooperation Plan gives every parishioner within our Archdiocese the opportunity to learn about and support mission work throughout the world answering our call to love and serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Peace is ultimately both a Gift to be received and a Responsibility to be lived. Through the Center for Mission outreach, we call believers not only to pray for peace but to become instruments of peace. May our ministries inspire you to affirm that peace is our foundation and essential for us to live lives of witness to the world. By living authentic peace, we become living bridges to the heart of the Gospel itself.