



FRIENDS

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST JAMES THE APOSTLE

June 2023



Life is a Journey...

Dear Friends,

Fr. John Molloy, from Ireland, is an alumnus of the St. James Society, having spent five years on mission with us in Ecuador (2010-2015). Since returning home to Ireland he has maintained close contact with us and each year he endeavors to volunteer some time at one of our mission parishes in Lima, Peru. Back in November he spent three weeks at El Resucitado parish in Lima, Peru. He reports on his most recent visit there:

T.S. Elliott wrote:

*“We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time...”*

Last November I returned to the Parish of El Resucitado, Lima, Peru. My first visit there was in 2006. At that time, Fr. David Costello had recently assumed responsibility for this new mission parish. My initial experience with the people and area back in 2006 is what really inspired me to volunteer for mission service. Subsequently, I joined the Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle and spent five years on mission in Ecuador. Returning this time to Lima was so inspirational as I witnessed the progress and development of the entire parish shantytown area. It was particularly impressive, following the Covid 19 Pandemic. There were some new roads, sidewalks, dumpsters for waste, and some trees and shrubs newly planted. I observed that the people had a strong sense of pride for their home and community. They demonstrated great care for the environment. Over a three-week period, I had the privilege of joining Fr. Isaac and his team at the Parish. Weekend celebrations of Eucharist begin early on Saturday evening and also, very early on Sunday morning!! The Masses, as always, were very meaningful, active and full of participation. Each community is also responsible for providing catechetical instruction and preparation for the sacraments. Needless to say, after Mass, the parish center was buzzing with catechism classes. The rooms were full of young children, catechists, and young adults while even the odd dog attended class too! It does one's heart an enormous good to see the enthusiasm of these people, with their strong desire to be present at their classes, learning from each other about our Catholic Faith!! The congregational singing at the Masses here is inspirational and lifts one's heart and mind to God! To be present where the people live - on the edge of hills, in valleys surrounded by dry dust, rocks, and dry air - with no modern appliances, no running water, always speaks to me: God must be on the side of the poor because when it comes to worship and church the people here would put



us to shame! I always sense the feeling of contentment and appreciation among the parish families. They are especially appreciative of their churches as places of worship because they have a great sense of ownership and leadership, as a people of God. To have seen this parish back when it was founded by Fr. David, and to witness it currently, with its positive progress in the local Diocese calls to mind Cardinal Cushing's words to the first St. James missionary Priests: *"Get in, Get on, and Get out!"*

As I write these few lines, I am now nine months into a new appointment in the Diocese of Killaloe, Ireland, in the town of Roscrea with two outlying parishes, six churches and six Primary Schools. Fr. Antun Pasalic from Croatia and I work as Co-Pastor's and manage the parish to the best of our ability. We also have the help of former Pastor, Fr. Tom Corbett (my former professor of Theology in Maynooth) who is a man of great wisdom, help and guidance. To put the icing on the cake, Msgr. Jim Costigan, a native of the parish who spent all his ministry in Savannah, GA, has returned home in retirement, eager for more work at 84! I feel blessed here because of the people. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said: *"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment" ...*

The parishioners here certainly take us as we are, thank God. They are willing to participate, help and manage the parish and they certainly have a sense of ownership and reality about the future - maybe better than us priests sometimes! Priesthood, like any vocation, is often a challenge. However, with faith and hope in God's providence, we thrive. Aaron Pierre from Wisconsin was a former volunteer with 'Rostro de Cristo' at my parish in Ecuador. We worked together in Monte Sinai, Guayaquil some 12 years ago. Sean Doherty is from Derry, Northern Ireland, and a former volunteer with 'Ray of Sunshine Ireland'. We worked together in Mombasa Kenya. Aaron is a deacon with the Jesuits and will be ordained Priest this summer in Wisconsin. Sean is also a deacon and will be ordained this summer for his home diocese of Derry. I am invited to both ordinations. As we go through life, we discover and are often reminded that we are all connected by God's Providence in so many ways!





The house I live in now is where I first visited the Vocations Director, Fr. Michael Collins, at the time of my discernment to the priesthood. I asked Fr. Michael whether I should join the Diocese or a Missionary Order? He replied: "Join Diocese and you can do both!" How wise and correct he was! Little did I ever think I would be here, serving here on this new mission in Ireland! I sincerely thank the Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle for giving me the opportunity and privilege of serving the poorest of the poor in Ecuador, and more recently in Peru. With our faults and failings, as we learn from the people, I have become a better and more humble priest. As Pope Francis said, *"Life is a journey. When we stop, Things don't go right!"* Another of my favorite mottos is *"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant..."* (Robert Louis Stevenson)

Sincere thanks to Fr. John for his ongoing support of the St. James Society. He is a true missionary at heart. We encourage you to continue to pray for vocations and that more priests will discern the call to spend time on mission with the St. James Society. Currently, two priests are in the discernment process!!

With Every Good Wish in Christ,

Rev. David Costello, Director



**GIVING MADE
EASY**

Please scan QR code to
donate or visit

www.socstjames.com



For the purpose of wills, bequests, and living trusts, our official name is:
The Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle, Inc.

24 Clark Street • Boston, MA 02109 • (617) 742-4715 • e: office@socstjames.com • socstjames.com