



FRIENDS

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST JAMES THE APOSTLE

September 2022



For God Loves A Cheerful Giver...

Dear Friends,

During these summer months our house in Boston becomes even more busy with our missionary priests visiting from Peru for their annual Mission Appeal assignments. Each year we have the opportunity to participate in the Mission Coop of various dioceses around the United States, with the majority of appeals taking place here in the Archdiocese of Boston. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to share a little about our work on the missions as well as soliciting spiritual and financial assistance. It's amazing to think that the support we have received over the last sixty-four years is as strong as ever today. So many of the projects running in our mission parishes...schools, clinics, food kitchens...would be forced to close were it not for the support we receive each year from our Mission Appeals.

Diocesan priests serving the poorest of the poor in Latin America since 1958.

The Catholic Church in the United States has always opened its doors to missionaries and to their needs. Maybe this is because we were considered to be a missionary country up until about 1914. Up to that time, the Church in the United States was dependent on the financial help it received from ‘The Society of the Propagation of the Faith’, and also the numerous priests and religious who arrived on these shores to take up missionary work. We in the United States owe a huge debt to those generous Catholics of Europe, and to the many sisters, brothers, and priests who left their home and family to labor here in this country. Just as Pauline-Marie Jaricot, a young French woman asked the people of Lyon, France to save their money to help the Jesuit Missionaries in the New World, we too ask the same kind of support during our Mission Appeals.

This summer our missionaries will visit parishes in California, Texas, Florida and Massachusetts. Typically, each priest will visit three parishes assigned to him. He will speak at all Masses over the weekend of the Mission Appeal. Visiting different parishes each weekend gives us the opportunity to share what is going on in our mission parishes and it also affords us the opportunity to appeal for help for specific projects. It is my experience that parishioners take an interest in what is going

on in the missions and they respond generously, for God loves a cheerful giver!!

It's always delightful

to meet parishioners who remember when the St. James Society was founded, and they recall a priest who left their parish to go on mission to South America. You can sense the pride they feel in having been part of the story of the St. James Society from the very beginning. It's also special for us to meet parishioners from South America, especially Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia who have moved here to the United States. They are always delighted to speak with us in Spanish and recall their fond memories of home, and in some cases, they recall with much pride having lived in a St. James Society parish down south.



Fr. Michael Sharkey at St. Margaret Mary in Westwood, MA



Fr. Dennis O'Brien, preaching for the Society



Fr. Francis Kwofie preached in Boston

In early June I was delighted to travel to San Diego, CA, to join Fr. Cecilio Morgaga for an important fund-raising event there. Fr. Cecilio is currently based at El Resucitado parish in Lima, the parish I founded back in 2006. As part of the social outreach program there we have a Comedor or Soup kitchen which provides a nutritious meal each day to 120 school children Monday thru Friday. Fr. Cecilio decided to invite family, friends, and former parishioners to an event which he titled: *'Soup and Bread with Me and You, Will Feed Poor Children in Peru'*.

The event took place June 3rd at St. Mary's Catholic Church, National City, California, and began with concelebrated Mass at 6 PM. In attendance at the Eucharistic celebration were Fr. Nemy Sungcad, Pastor of St. Mary's, as well as his parochial vicar Fr. Roger Pingol; Fr. Emmet Farrell, alumnus of the St. James Society, now based in San Diego; and Fr. Romeo Supnet, a Filipino priest friend of Fr. Cecilio. Fr. Cecilio was the chief celebrant for the Mass as it coincided with both his birthday and priestly ordination anniversary. I was invited to give the homily. A fellowship followed at the parish center. Since it was a fund-raising event only soup and bread were served. It was impressive to see the Filipino community come out in force to support Fr. Cecilio and his fund-raising initiative.

An entertainment program followed with songs and dances from the Philippines, presented by individuals and groups, including a number of songs by a group of Filipino priests based in the diocese of San Diego. Fr. Cecilio welcomed all who gathered for the celebration and he expressed his gratitude for their willingness to support him in this fund-raising endeavor. He spoke about the importance of the Comedor at El Resucitado parish



Fr. Cecilio and Fr. David in San Diego, CA





and the great need that exists there to provide a nutritious meal each day to school going children. A collection basket was provided during the event so that all present were able to contribute. The response was both generous and encouraging, a reminder to us once again that God loves a cheerful giver!!

I am grateful to Fr. Cecilio and his many friends and family in San Diego for the invitation to join them at this impressive event. I am most grateful too for the kindness and hospitality shown to me by James and Cecilia Simon, who welcomed me to their home during my stay in San Diego. While in San Diego I took advantage of the opportunity to visit with Fr. Soney Sebastian SVD, Director of the 'Pontifical Mission Societies' of the Diocese of San Diego. We are most grateful for the bond that exists between the diocese of San Diego and the St. James Society, with many priests from San Diego joining us on mission over the last sixty-four years. We are also grateful to Fr. Soney and his staff at the mission office for inviting us to make a mission appeal in the diocese of San Diego each year. We are always grateful for the warm welcome we receive when visiting parishes for fund-raising and mission appeals. It's always great to meet so many priests ministering in parishes here in the United States, and in our home countries, who knew friends and colleagues who served on the missions. We are grateful too for the dedication of so many priests back home. Their commitment as diocesan priests has allowed us St. James priests (who are also diocesan priests) to serve on the missions in South America.

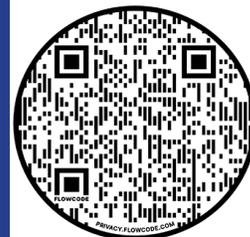
*With Every Good Wish in Christ,
Rev. David Costello, Superior General*



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For the purpose of wills, bequests, and living trusts, our official name is:
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