

EXTRAORDINARY



*'Together
We Are Mission'*



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

20TH OCTOBER 2019



The Irish Catholic



WORLD MISSIONS
IRELAND

A magnificent journey



Missionaries succeed when they make missionary disciples, Greg Daly is told

It won't have escaped the notice of regular readers of *The Irish Catholic* that time and again, whenever there's a crisis somewhere around the world – Venezuela, Sudan, Hong Kong, wherever – Irish missionaries on the ground are able to describe hopes and fears and lived realities of people living in the globe's hot spots.

According to Cashel and Emly's Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly, Ireland's missionary footprint has paid dividends even for the State's diplomatic efforts, with it having played a role in our winning a seat on the United Nations Security Council in 2001.

"One of the things that they found was they had these roving ambassadors from the Department of Foreign Affairs trying to pick up votes who found places in the middle of nowhere that an Irish brother had been teaching in, and literally the Minister for Foreign Affairs had been educated by him, and voted for Ireland.

"We have an extraordinary outreach," he continues. "Not as much as before, but certainly still happening, and then there's a great commitment when missionaries come home, to follow up and support them with issues surrounding the countries they've worked in."

Leadership

A member of the Society for African Missions, Archbishop Kieran's first appointment on being ordained a priest in 1978 was to Liberia in West Africa – he was there when President William Tolbert was overthrown in the 1980 coup.

"That first mission experience I had was a kind of baptism of fire, really," he says. Returning to Rome to study Scripture he was back in Africa in 1984, this time teaching in the seminary at Ibadan in Nigeria. After five years there, he came back to Europe to take a leadership role in own own missionary order.

"I was involved in the administration of my own society, the SMA in Cork, and afterwards in Rome, so I spent most of my time visiting sub-Saharan Africa – most of the countries in sub-Saharan



Bro. Jonathan Ortiz, a member of the Missionaries of the Risen Christ, flags down a vehicle near Sayula in Mexico's Veracruz state. The religious order has provided migrants in a caravan transiting Mexico with medical attention. Photos: CNS

Africa – visiting our missionaries there," he says.

Since 2010 he's been solidly based in Ireland, first as Bishop as Killaloe and then since 2014 as Ireland's southern metropolitan, heading the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly, but the missions have always stayed close to his heart, such that Pope Francis' decision to make this October an Extraordinary Month of Mission makes profound sense to him.

"The Roman tendency is always to mark anniversaries, and this is the centenary year of Benedict XV's papal letter *Maximum Illud*, which came out in 1919," he says. "When you think of the context of the time there you had the war just over – the devastating First World War – you had the Spanish flu still raging in many places, and you had the beginnings perhaps of a sense that the colonial world was coming to an end, that the old borders and the old empires were collapsing.

"I think what Pope Benedict wanted to do at the time was to declare loudly that the Christian message stands apart from any

of these colonial kind of empires. He wanted to reiterate, as he said himself, that magnificent or incredible statement at the end of the Gospel: go, make disciples of all peoples, all nations," he says.

Pope Francis, he says, is sounding that call afresh.

"In his documents he has very much stressed the whole aspect of everybody being missionary, and that we're all missionary disciples, but even more so I think he still doesn't want to take away the focus from that initial thrust of the Church to be outgoing and missionary to all cultures and all societies," he says.

"Where we must be missionary in our own lives wherever we are, nonetheless there is that dimension of the Church that still wants to reach the peripheries, just like he's talking about in the synod on the Amazon at the moment: it's the very edges the Church should be going to."

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Just as Benedict XV had sought to distinguish the Church's missionary

activity from imperial colonialism, so Pope Francis makes a point of challenging cultural colonialism, Archbishop Kieran says.

"He's so correct because it's a different kind of colonialism, in many ways a far more subtle one because it's insidious: it kind of occupies people's minds and thought patterns, undermining their cultural values," he says. "The Pope has consistently tried to highlight that fact because with the globalisation of everything in our world the values of cultures and peoples that have survived for generations and centuries, and more even, are completely undermined. There is that call that people are allowed to be themselves."

Identities

The 2nd-Century Church Father St Irenaeus of Lyons famously said that "the glory of God is man fully alive", and for the archbishop a real challenge of missionaries is – without trampling identities – to help people and communities become fully alive in God.

Our belief as Christians is that what God ultimately wants us to be is his compassionate loving caring children through the mystery of his son Jesus Christ, but it's very much to bring alive and fully alive the people who we work with," he says. Missionaries nowadays tend to have a different concept of mission from decades ago, he explains, with it having something of a two-way character.

"The basic mental thing is that we express our common humanity and our common togetherness in all the struggles of daily life, but even more so as missionaries, we now must be open to how they live their Faith, how they express their encounter with the risen Lord," he says, describing this as a "great enrichment" for people on missionary work.

"There are very few areas now of what we call 'primary evangelisation' compared to, say, 100 years ago," he says. "There are significant areas like China that the Pope is concentrating on, but in many, many areas now you're going to communities that are already there, but communities that have been able to understand and develop their own Faith journeys. That's one of the things about the Amazon synod that Pope Francis is trying to do – to highlight how the people there must be given the opportunity to understand

“Pope Benedict XVI wanted to reiterate...that magnificent or incredible statement at the end of the Gospel: go, make disciples of all peoples, all nations... Pope Francis is sounding that call afresh”

of faith



and experience their own Faith journey."

Not that primary evangelisation doesn't happen even in established mission territories, he adds, pointing out that this can be a real challenge in the huge cities that are springing up in Africa.

"I was back in Nigeria this year for the ordination of one of my students as a bishop in southern Nigeria," he begins, noting how he'd been struck by the size of the cities there. "You really have a world there where people are crying out for a deeper understanding of their spiritual lives and evangelisation. So primary evangelisation, while it is retained in the rural areas, is still very much what Pope Benedict XVI would have said to be in the new marketplaces, to be in the new places where people are encountering each other, and that's the great cities of Africa."

That a former student from Archbishop Kieran's days as a seminary professor should have been ordained a bishop this year is just one example of how the Church in Africa has its own momentum, and the archbishop is clearly proud of how Irish missionary orders have helped foster missionary disciples in turn.

"The local clergy have grown in numbers considerably," he says. "There is phenomenal growth in the cities of Africa, largely of

local clergy. Missionary groups and missionary institutes are now working with – if you like – sons and daughters of Africa who are part of their institutes like my own SMA, and they are engaged in evangelisation, and engaged in the working of the various projects that the Church would have."

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The Pope's 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* is proving very helpful for drawing together the threads of the Church's missionary character and its imperative to work to help the poor and the circumstances in which they live.

"It's a huge project in the big cities, where there is a misuse of so much of the resources of nature and it's something that the Church has to continually challenge," he says. "It effects people's lives – the quality of life that they have, the way they live – and so the Church and missionary institutes give a

real insight and direction to how best to make life for everybody in the community better."

Citing the 'Laudato Tree' project, which seeks to plant a kind of 'green wall' across Africa to stop desertification, Archbishop Kieran says this kind of 'work of mercy' intended to help the poorest where they live is essential to Christian life.

"That is integral to the Gospel, really," he says. "It's at the heart of the care and the compassion for everyone who matters – the missionary preaching of the Gospel is ideal but then people in their communities must be able to activate that in support of themselves and their children and their brothers and sisters, and one of the ways is that extra care of the community world that they live in."

“When we went out we spent a number of months listening and literally watching the culture of Liberia and West Africa before doing anything”

Pointing to how water is sold in African cities in plastic bags that are thrown away, such that “you see a mountain of those small plastic bags in any town”, he says care for our common home in all its facets is vital.

"It's integral to the Gospel and perhaps the great challenge of this particular synod and other synods that will come will be to give people a fuller understanding of what that means," he says.

At the same time, he notes how Pope Francis has maintained that Christian and missionary organisations should not simply allow themselves to become generic NGOs with a religious label pasted on.

"That has become a real challenge because in many ways international agencies are happy to channel different resources through the Church because the Church is usually located very much in the areas that they want to work in," he says. "There is a challenge and a risk to ensure that the balance is kept between proclaiming prayer and living the Gospel, and at the same time carrying out these projects for the benefit of communities; the risk is that that becomes the main focus."

Maintaining that remaining praying communities who witness to the Gospel values is central to missionary identity, he concedes that this is always difficult.

"You're never going to get the balance completely right. I think it has changed a little bit because the international agencies are probably not using Church bodies quite as

much anymore, because they have all different kinds of demands placed on them now, but for a while there that was certainly very strong.

"There are certain areas that governments ignore," he continues, giving as an example small villages in rural areas which aren't given resources.

"When you're in a town that's away up in the rural areas and you see the children having no education, you just want to get them to have a school, you want them to have clean water, and you certainly do all you can through fundraising and everything," he says.

"You're doing all of that because of the Gospel," he continues. "You wouldn't be there unless you really believed. It's Faith takes you there, and Faith will keep you there, and then it's the Faith of the people that will sustain you there when you are there, not only the people that you encounter, but the Faith of the people at home continuing to support you through prayer through contact through welcome when you come home and through resources on your way back.

"It's a magnificent journey of Faith, there and here – it's lived Faith really when people participate in these projects to help."

Commenting on the adage that missionaries succeed when they make themselves redundant, Archbishop Kieran says: "Let's say when he makes everybody else around him a missionary."

He explains: "We would have Nigerians, men from the Ivory Coast, Kenyans, Tanzanians, all working as missionaries in other parts of Africa. You're not doing yourself out of a job, but you are in so far as you make the community that you're with missionary."

Of course, these missionary disciples and communities still need help from countries like Ireland, he says.

"My own society, because we're international, we still have our missionaries, young missionaries, and one of the realities is that while our Irish numbers have gone down and people are aging, we have resources because we have been really tremendously supported by Irish people," he says.

"I can speak for my own Society of African missions, but it's no different for the other societies. And we're still using those resources for the sake of the Gospel who are our missionary personnel. It never gives up. I suppose that one of the aspects of the extraordinary month of mission is to highlight again the importance of the support."

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Noting how his old seminary in Nigeria was sustained with the help of money donated from ordinary parishioners in Ireland and Britain, the archbishop comments on how much help is needed to sustain the giant seminaries that have sprung up across Africa.

"There are 10 major seminaries – or there were the last time I counted – in Nigeria. The numbers have grown extraordinarily. When you're forming candidates

for priesthood, you're trying to form them first of all and most importantly as good priests, spiritually capable of the work that they are being asked to do. Spiritual formation and academic work and all the rest is very important, and discernment and proper understanding on their part of what priesthood is very important."

Ireland, of course, is mission territory itself nowadays, and one striking feature of the Irish landscape in recent years has been priests, brothers and sisters coming from abroad to help preach the Gospel and support the Church here. If Archbishop Kieran could bring one lesson from his missionary experience to bear on this situation, it is that he would encourage people here to allow our new missionary clergy and religious to integrate into our society.

"When we went out we spent a number of months listening and literally watching the culture of Liberia and West Africa before doing anything," he says. "I think one of the important things is that if priests are going to come here to Ireland, whether they come from Poland or Africa or wherever – it doesn't matter – is that they're given the opportunity to integrate gently into our Church life."

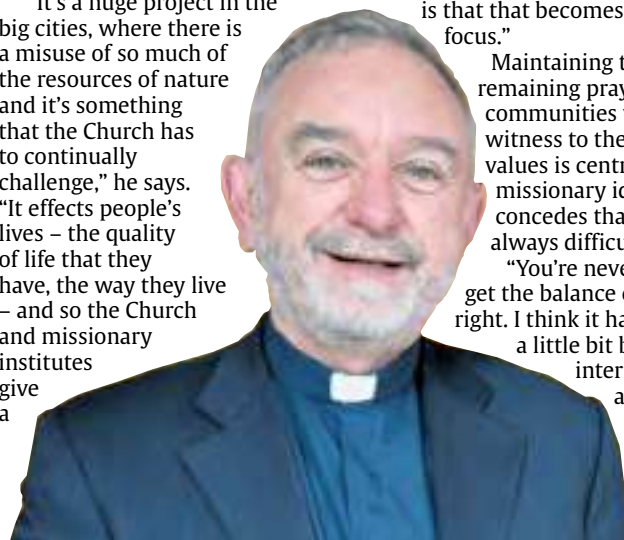
“Missionaries need to be given all the support and the best possible collaboration from people in the parish or the diocese to help them to settle in”

"Our Church life has changed and is changing very rapidly," he continues, "so I think one of the important things is that when we do welcome priests – or like the Columbians who have had lay missionaries working here and religious congregations like the OLAs who have brought in sisters from Nigeria – that we give them the opportunity like we were given to be able to ease into and understand Ireland, to have good people to accompany them."

Stressing the importance of this, he says such missionaries need to be given all the support and the best possible collaboration from people in the parish or the diocese to help them to settle in.

"I'd say that's the first lesson we must learn here – that they're not just coming in but that they're also coming with their own Faith background and their own people's background just like we went from Ireland with ours, and with all our shortcomings."

"We must have an open heart to listen to them, and how they express their faith in the risen Lord," he says. "I think it's very important that we as communities here open ourselves up to be able to integrate them into us. It's important that we don't just take them for granted but that we go out of our way to welcome them, like we were welcomed."



Our Church is a global family and you are a member! The beauty of our faith is the glue that holds it together; we depend on one another, on our shared prayer, solidarity and generosity. This weekend, World Mission Sunday will bring our family together in unified celebration. The day is critical for the future of the Church because it offers practical ways for you to help our brothers and sisters who are struggling. This weekend, every single parish - from the most abundant in the Western world, to the smallest in developing countries - will give what they can, no matter how little, in support of missionary work.

World Mission Sunday collections officially began in 1926 when Pope Pius XI announced it as a papal collection. Now in its ninety-third year, it's a day when the entire Church is asked to offer what it can towards the spiritual and practical needs of missionaries and struggling mission dioceses. Mass contributions offered on World Mission Sunday are essential for the survival of the Church. Collectively they become part of Pope Francis' Universal Solidarity Fund. The Universal Solidarity Fund allows struggling dioceses, many found in some of the most impoverished communities in our Church family, to apply for life-giving funding. Funding applications range from basics such as food and transport for missionaries, to the building of much needed infrastructures, like chapels and clinics, to nurseries and schools. This funding can offer missionaries the means to reach out to vulnerable children through educational, medical and welfare programmes. While also helping train and educate future priests, brothers, sisters, and catechists. Ultimately the generosity offered on World Mission Sunday is not just helping the Church to survive, it's allowing it to thrive by giving local people the tools and skills they need to form and sustain communities of faith.

An Extraordinary Month, celebrating extraordinary people

This year also marks the one-hundredth anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's encyclical *Maximum Illud*. It signalled a new journey to understanding more fully the 'momentous call' of the Lord to 'go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation' (Mk 16:15) To commemorate, Pope Francis declared October the Extraordinary Month of Mission. This special month of prayer and action calls us all to renew our missionary commitment by sharing the Good News of Jesus with all people. Indeed when you also consider the men and women who have dedicated their lives completely to bringing the Good News it is no surprise that the word 'extraordinary' sits so comfortably. These extraordinary people are missionaries just like Fr Michael and Sr Veronika...



Pictured in his mother's home, in Limerick this Summer, Michael holds a treasure to bring back to the children of Zing Parish

TOGETHER

WE ARE

MISSION

Every church, every parish and **YOU** in solidarity

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY SUNDAY OCTOBER 20th

Play your part in the future of our Church by digging a little deeper during Mass collections, and praying a little harder on World Mission Sunday

Ordained in Dublin thirty-nine years ago, Fr Michael Walsh, an Augustinian Missionary, first packed his bag for Nigeria at the age of just twenty-four. Originally from Knocklong in Limerick, he remembers being told during his time as a Novitiate that, 'a missionary's job, is to do him or herself out of a job'. Now based in the Diocese of Jalingo, which he estimates to be about half the size of Ireland, he spends his days 'preaching, hearing confession...and listening'. He recalls when he first arrived in Jalingo, 'there were fifty-three Irish Augustinian priests and brothers.' Today in 2019, 'there are one hundred and twelve Nigerian Augustinian priests and brothers, and four Irish.' Augustinian Missionaries first left for Nigeria in 1939, and by the mid-90s they had succeeded in enabling the local people to build and sustain their own communities of faith. 'When you've done the work, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Church grows by itself', Michael proudly states. A statement that beautifully reflects Pope Benedict XV's hope in *Maximum Illud*, when he said, 'local Church, for local people'.

It is through their gentle and practical actions that missionaries share the pure beauty of their faith.

Fr Michael speaks of a young man called Kenneth, 'from the parish of Zing. Kenneth is crippled, his back is hunched, probably from polio. Unless someone carried him, he could only move by dragging himself on one elbow.' Two years ago Michael helped get Kenneth a wheelchair. However, 'this year, Kenneth showed me his wheelchair's tyres, they were completely worn. I asked contacts in Nigeria to look out for similar tyres, but to no avail. So, on my last visit home I bought a pair from the Irish Wheelchair Association and brought them back with me.'

Growing up in Croatia, Ivana knew by the age of just fifteen that her life was destined for something greater. From that young age she realised she wanted to dedicate her life to serving others. This decision was Ivana's first step in becoming the woman she is today - now twenty-nine, she is Sr Veronika, a

confident and determined Sister of Charity missionary.

In the summer of 2018, Veronika spent time in Ireland living with the Sisters of Mercy in Beaumont, Dublin. She came to Ireland to improve her English ahead of her first missionary appointment, to the village of Buma in The Solomon Islands. Veronika reminisces back to 2005, when she was finalising her decision to enter religious life, ‘I was so inspired by the energy and joy the Sisters of Charity brought. I knew that this was to be my calling in life, to join them.’ ‘I always thought that missionaries were special people, I admired them. Nothing is easy, every job, every vocation is difficult. But to be a missionary, to leave your family, your friends, your way of living – it is truly a great challenge.’ And so, her calling to religious life became an even greater calling. Ivana became Sr Veronika a missionary nun, or as she puts it her ‘vocation within a vocation.’

A year later, Veronika is now in The Solomon Islands. She remarks on her days as being, ‘full of different experiences! Every new day teaches me what it means to be a missionary, and every one is unpredictable. Sometimes driving a pregnant woman to hospital, or accepting families whose houses were crushed by a hurricane. In our community, I mostly work with the young. They are very active and dedicated,

When there is love, it doesn't matter if the umbrella is small! Sr Veronika with girls and boys from the community of Buma



which motivates me to do more. The biggest reward is their simplicity of heart – they don't have a lot, but they are sincerely grateful for every small thing you do. Our days are filled with a multitude of encounters, people, and life stories. Through them all, the Spirit invites us and encourages us, teaches us to be missionaries of compassionate love and instruments of His actions.’

Together We Are Mission

Kenneth and the children of Buma are living, breathing examples of why the selfless actions of missionaries are still needed - and still very relevant.

Although much has changed since the heyday of Irish missionaries, some things remain essential for the missionaries of today – their personal desire to serve others, allied with the generous support of the Irish faithful.



Through the support of Fr Michael, Kenneth gained more than a wheelchair, he gained his dignity

Throughout October and especially on World Mission Sunday, please keep missionaries like Michael and Veronika in your thoughts, hearts and prayers.

To find out more or how you can support the work of missionaries go to www.wmi.ie or call World Missions Ireland on 01 497 2035

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated in every parish on Sunday 20th October. However, if you can, please give now to further play your part in the future of our Church...

YES! I want to help missionaries protect the future of our Church with my donation of

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€25

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☐ I enclose a Cheque/Postal Order payable to World Missions Ireland OR debit my ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

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Return to **World Missions Ireland, Freepost FDN5 268, 64 Lower Rathmines Rd, D6**

How would you like World Missions Ireland to keep you up to date? ☐ Post ☐ Email ☐ Do not contact me

World Missions Ireland is the Church's official charity for overseas mission. It is part of a worldwide network of 120 offices, under the management of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Rome, and it is responsible for the coordination of World Mission Sunday. For more information call 01 497 2035 | www.wmi.ie. Registered Charity number 2318



THE CAPUCHINS

A life of Prayer and Service in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi



OVER 400 YEARS OF SERVICE IN IRELAND

The Capuchin Franciscan Friars were founded in Italy in 1536 with the desire to return to a closer living of the rule of St Francis of Assisi. Capuchins arrived in Ireland in 1616 and since then have become an intrinsic part of the Irish story.

Today in Ireland we have Friaries in Cork, Dublin, Donegal, Carlow and Kilkenny as well as Irish Friars serving overseas in Zambia, South Africa, New Zealand, South Korea and California. Wherever we are found our mission is the same, to be an authentic Gospel presence as Brothers of the People.

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I know if I am called to be a Capuchin Friar?

The process of discovering what God is calling you to is called discernment. It oftentimes begins with a feeling or an experience or encounter that invites and compels us to seek deeper relationship with God, others, and all of Creation. This takes time, patience, prayer and guidance. It requires of us that we open our hearts and begin to trust in God in a whole new way. In many ways, it requires a step into the unknown.

Who can help me discern my vocation?

The Irish Province of the Capuchin Franciscans takes the discernment process very seriously. We are committed to helping men discover their call by means of a comprehensive vocation accompaniment programme. This programme enables people explore the questions they have and to discover some new ones. The aim of accompaniment is to walk with you as a brother as you discern, listen and reflect, offering sound guidance and practical support. Each and every vocation journey is blessed and unique.

Do you wear a habit?

Yes! Capuchins wear a simple brown habit and white cord. The cord has three knots that serve as a reminder of the three vows we profess.

What are the vows that you take?

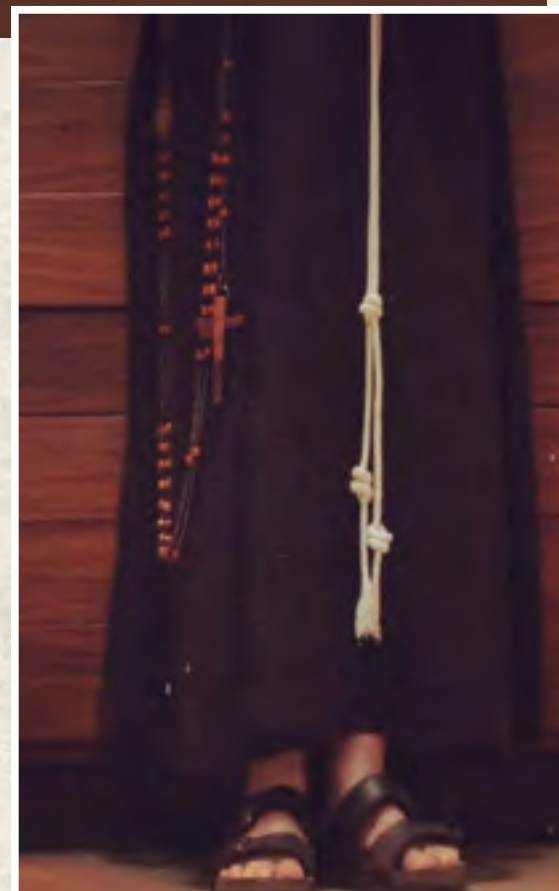
We take three vows: poverty, chastity and obedience. Poverty allows us to develop a deeper respect for the world around us and for all the good things that God provides. Chastity encourages us to live with hearts centred on God and obedience invites us to listen deeply to God's plan for us.

How long does it take to train as a Capuchin Friar?

Our training is known as formation and usually takes between six to eight years. A Friar in formation will study, work, pray and minister while growing into what it means to be a Capuchin Friar in the world today. Formation is an exciting and deeply meaningful time.

Was Padre Pio a Capuchin Friar?

Yes, the Capuchin Franciscan Order are blessed to have many saints and St Pio is certainly one of the best known, particularly in Ireland. Saints like Pio, all went through a time of discernment, in fact it was something they did throughout their lives. As St John Paul II reminds us 'we are all called to be Saints'.



That's great, what do I do now? I'd like to find out some more.

To arrange a conversation with our Vocation Promoter, simply e-mail: capuchinvocation@gmail.com

You can also visit the vocation page of our website www.capuchinfranciscans.ie



Do you believe that our Church is on mission in the world?



Each and everyone of us, by virtue of our Baptism are called to be missionaries today. It is a calling that ignores differences and is blind to borders. It's about setting hearts on fire with the joy, hope, and love of our God. However, it is something that is easy for us to forget. We can allow ourselves to be overcome with minor preoccupations and everyday distractions. With relentless social media updates, fears about global warming, and concerns about the spread of fake news, one could be forgiven if you gave up just a little bit of hope. However, in the face of all this the Holy Spirit is moving and speaking in a gentle, quiet, insistent voice, calling you to something extraordinary. You are being called to mission.

When the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart vocations team were in Panama last January for World Youth Day we heard Pope Francis tell over 700,000 young people

that they were not the future of the Church, but were rather "the now of God". Exciting things are happening in our Church, especially for youth and we have been blessed to have been part of just some of them. Following on from the unforgettable celebrations of Panama, we joined 8,000 teenagers in the SSE Wembley Arena for Flame 3. Our own Archbishop Eamon Martin, Robert Madu, and Jean Vanier offered a fresh perspective for young people focussed on their creation in the image and likeness of God. We guided pilgrims along the ancient pathways of the Camino of Santiago de Compostella to the resting place of the Apostle St James. It was an opportunity to be part of a religious journey that draws people from all over the world and is linked to tradition that stretches back over 1,000 years. In June we helped to lead a festival of evangelisation in one of the busiest city squares in the world. The tens of thousands walking through Leices-

ter Square met people who were witnessing joyfully to their faith. We had an Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament marquee, opportunities for Reconciliation, inspirational speakers, and a day of powerful music ministry. The Holy Spirit is moving.

What is becoming abundantly clear is that you don't have a mission. As Pope Francis says, "each of you is a mission to the world, for each of you is the fruit of God's love". This month as we celebrate Mission in our Church we remember our past, but we also look to the future. In the coming year we are running another young adult pilgrimage along the Camino. We are looking for lay missionaries to work with during summer 2020 in South Africa. We'll also be involved in some of the biggest youth events in Ireland and the UK. You are being called to mission and if you want to be the now of our Church, we'd love to hear from you. Have a look at our website www.mscvocations.ie to find out more.



Walking the Way to Santiago

What does it really mean to be a missionary?

What does it really mean to be a missionary? One of our MSC students shares some of his thoughts.

If you really want to become a Missionary of the Sacred Heart you should know from the start that in your religious life you have to proclaim that God is Love. At the beginning they will teach you that as Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC), we must be convinced of the necessity of a deep interior life that is open to the Holy Spirit, so that we may grow in faith and knowledge of the mystery revealed in the Heart of Christ. This will give us the strength to remain faithful to the mission and spirit of the Society.

They will then ask you to live in our communities with a spirit of family and of brotherhood, formed by kindness and understanding, by compassion and mutual forgiveness, by gentleness, humility and simplicity, by hospitality and a sense of humour. If you want to continue as a missionary, you have to bring God to people, since God is the sole objective of everyone's life.

When you will be a missionary you cannot moralise or simply state what is right or wrong. You have to help people to find God who is love in each and every experience.

When you will visit one of our communities for the first time, you will see that we do not use the bell to tell us what we have to do, but you have to remember your daily duties. The people you meet during the communal prayers in the chapel, or those you meet at table, immediately after will leave for their ministries. When you will finally decide to enter our Congregation, you will need to find your own way of praying and meditating. The fathers will help you to understand that prayer is not only a fundamental element of the spiritual life of a Christian, it is also the foundation and support of community and missionary life. After a while, you will discover that prayer is not only when you have your hands clasped together, but whenever you are carrying out any daily duty: when you go to your ministry, when you write

something on the social media, or even when you rest.

After the vows, the superiors will tell you only that as missionaries we are sent to the world to proclaim the Good News of God who is our Father. They will not tell you what and how you will do it. Rather they will explain that in your ministry you have to use your own creativity with the all people you will meet, showing them with your smile that God is love.

The fathers will not teach you which means can be used to proclaim the Word of God. It will be yourself with your own creativity to understand which way is the best to reach the aim that the Lord has entrusted to you. If you want to commit your life to Jesus and be a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, our vocation guide will be happy to hear from you and help you in your discernment. If you have already chosen your path of life, perhaps you could suggest this article to someone who is searching...It may be a beautiful gift!



MSC Students at the Flame Catholic Youth Festival in Wembley



Fr. Vinnie Screene MSC working in Venezuela



Street Evangelisation in Leicester Square



Fr. Alan Neville MSC at the closing Mass at Panama WYD

If you would like to know more you can contact us by email vocations@mscmisions.ie or by phoning (086) 7857955. You can find further information about the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart on our website www.mscvocations.ie

Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary

When Ruth Chetambe was a little girl she and her elder sister, Beatrice, used to walk across the Cherangani Hills in North-west Kenya with their classmates, down to the little Holy Rosary school in Ortum, the "Hidden Valley." When they arrived each morning Sister Angela Hennessy was there to meet them with warm water to wash their feet and *uji* porridge for breakfast.

Beatrice went on to become a teacher; Ruth is now a Holy Rosary Sister and Matron of Wonji Clinic in Ethiopia.

The wonderful thing about Mission is the way its blessings extend to the next and to further generations. This of course is true of all of life. Bishop Shanahan, founder of the Holy Rosary Sisters, foresaw this when

he gave this very simple instruction to the first sisters starting out. "Teach them the secret," he said, "of God's living love right in the centre of their own hearts."

Eye Camp

Wonji is a general and maternity clinic, two hours south of Addis Ababa. The area is dry and dusty, and people suffer a lot from eye infections, which if untreated can lead to more serious complications. Worried by this, Ruth and her staff decided to hold an annual "Eye Camp", a three-day event for anyone with eye-problems, with fully qualified eye specialists on hand for treatment. Over one thousand people turned up from far and wide. Some needed simple treatments, some surgery. Post-op patients were kept till next day for checking; many rejoiced to receive their sight again after years of suffering. Ruth shares the happiness of a mother and her son, both of whom needed treatment, and rejoices with little Joseph who says, simply,



Holy Rosary Regional Leaders meet at Dalgan.

"Now I can see again!"

That was last year. Another Eye Camp is planned for this month and again a thousand people have registered to attend.

Mission is always dynamic. You never know where it may lead. It arises from the community, from parents who reach out to people beyond their own horizon and whose children grow up to do the same. Volunteers, fellow-workers, supporters, young people who like Ruth decide to give their lives to being missionaries; - the Holy Spirit always at work - filling all who play a part with that special happiness which is the joy of mission.

This August the Leaders from all Holy Rosary Regions met for a week in the Columban Centre, Dalgan Park, Navan, to look at our Mission today, to draw strength from each other and from the well of inspiration left us by our founding members.

The Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary, founded by Bishop Joseph Shanahan in 1924 to bring the gospel to the women of Nigeria, now work in ten regions in Africa, in Brazil, the USA, Ireland and the UK.

Get to know us better.

Visit us at www.msgr.org

Look in on our weekly BLOG at the same address.



The eye clinic, Wonji.



Both mother and son needed eye treatment.



Little Joseph is happy: "Now I can see!"

CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY

Opening The Door to Mercy...

The ministry of the Sisters of Mercy is to be a compassionate presence in our world



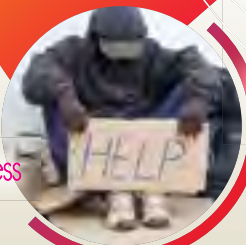
To feed the hungry



To give water to the thirsty



To clothe the naked



To shelter the homeless



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to help us in carrying out our mission?

For information and contact details go to:
www.sistersofmercy.ie



To welcome the stranger



To visit the sick



To visit those in prison



To bury the dead



Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles

By Our Love, Our Missionary Discipleship is Lived

Baptised and Sent

Sr Grace is small in stature and her name defines the manner in which she carries herself. This may lead you to believe that she is shy or reserved. You would, however, be mistaken. Sr Grace's smile draws you in, and when she speaks, it is clear that she is interested in who you are and what you have to say. She is engaged on a level that is not often encountered in today's rushed world.

This was the beginning of a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.

She knew at a very young age that she wanted to be a Missionary Sister. Having lost her mother at the tender age of nine, Grace learned to be independent and she would often go to church alone, not waiting on her father and brothers. This was the beginning of a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.

This heart for the Lord and the calling to be a missionary was underscored when she and her father undertook a pilgrimage to Knock and met an SMA priest on the train. The priest spoke of his work in Africa, showing photos from a magazine. Looking over at Grace, he asked if she might be interested in mission. The young Grace looked away without answering, knowing that her father would not be happy with her answer.

When they disembarked the train, the priest pointed out the address for the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles and told her that if she was interested she could write to them. This was all the encouragement she needed. She penned a letter and received a reply within a couple of days with information about the OLA Sisters. This Congregation was founded in 1876, specifically to answer the call of the West African Missions.

Sr Grace spent many years in Africa after training as a midwife in Manches-

ter. From Ireland to England, Nigeria to Benin, her vocation saw her practicing as a nurse and midwife, training young women in midwifery as well as ministering to the elderly.

Doing what needs to be done

As she reflects on her life as a Missionary Sister, she remarks on how quickly the time has gone by. She has always been a woman of action, a doer, going about her work and moving from one job to the next without pause. This is a trait shared by all the OLA Sisters. They quietly go about their work, doing what needs to be done without fuss their call being to share the love of God through their works.

"As I got older, in my 60's and 70's, I wanted to ease the doing," she says with a wry smile, "but that never seemed to work out."

Sr Grace has recently celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. Sixty years of service to the Lord! "Now I know that I need that quietness and stillness," she says, and shares how she now, finally, takes time out to be quiet, and how, in that stillness, she reads and she prays.

However, being idle is not in her nature and she still travels to town to do errands. On her return to the convent in Ardfoy she shares the stories of her encounters with strangers.

Her experiences with the stranger are rich and layered

Through her recounting of these stories it is clearly apparent that this is a woman who encounters Christ in each person she meets. Of a man she met on the journey from Cork to Dublin she says: "Jesus must have been like this. He looked at things very honestly, he stated them as he saw them, but he had that sensitivity to the individual." The young man had been reading on the train and they struck up a conversation. He made space for her to board the Luas

when he saw her standing back from the crowd, and later sent her a copy of the book he had been reading.

Her experiences with the stranger are rich and layered. Regardless of the mundanity of the interaction, there is an exchange that takes place that is far more than just a conversation, deeper than mere words. It is a meeting of souls. She has a genuine, heartfelt interest in each person she meets, be it the man she met on the train to Dublin, or a woman she spoke with in the optometrists rooms.

This is surely the heart of mission

This is surely the heart of mission. It is an outpouring of love, from one human being to another. It is not something that is forced, but the love and light of Christ that shines forth when we are walking in true faith.

Sr Grace may have lived the better part of her life as a Missionary Sister, but it is not this title that makes her a missionary.

For this Extraordinary Month of Mission, Pope Francis has chosen the theme "Baptised and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World."

Sr Grace is a living example of what it means to be baptised and sent, whether that means going out to the furthest corners of the world, or sitting next to a stranger on a train. Sr Grace is a missionary in the truest sense of the word; she shares the love of Christ with each and every person she encounters be that in a small village in rural Nigeria, or on a train between Cork and Dublin.

This is what we are all called to do, from the moment of our Baptism. To follow Jesus' greatest commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34) Our mission then needn't be the giving up of one life to follow another, our mission is to love, from wherever we are and whatever our circumstance. By our love, our mission discipleship is lived.

www.olaireland.ie
info@olaireland.ie

Ardfoyle Convent, Ballintemple, Cork

Facebook: OLAsisters | Twitter: @OLAireland | Instagram: OLAsistersireland



Sharing in Our Mission

Interested in volunteering overseas?

Email: volunteering@olaireland.ie

Interested in joining our Lay Mission Movement?

Email: Imm@olaireland.ie

Do you feel God is calling you to be an OLA sister

Email: vocations@olaireland.ie

Recovery is Possible Anywhere

Columban missionary Fr Eamon Sheridan is from Drogheda. He writes about a life-giving support programme which the Church offers drug addicts in Myanmar.



Every family in Kachin State in North-eastern Myanmar seems to be affected by drug/alcohol addiction. For over 60 years this area has known only war as the Kachin Independence Army and the Burmese Military battle for control of its resources. As in all conflicts it is the ordinary poor people who suffer most.

People live mostly by subsistence farming or by working in unregulated jade mines. After the latest upsurge in the conflict in 2011, over 130,000 had to flee their villages and now live in camps for

internally displaced people. This area is also the greatest source of heroin in South East Asia with many poppy plantations in remote areas. The drug and jade barons get rich while many poor young people become addicted to heroin and opium.

I first met Zau Lat just over a year ago. He was a volunteer at the Rebirth Rehab Centre in Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State. The centre was founded in 2015 by the Catholic Diocese of Myitkyina to respond to the drugs epidemic. Zau Lat like many young people started experimenting with drugs and alcohol when he was a teenager. He had no work. At 26 years of age he came to the

centre because he was tired of 'using', his life had become unmanageable. His family wanted him out of the house.

At the centre he received the medical treatment he needed and he started taking the anti-retroviral drugs for his HIV+ status. He ate well, attended the sessions and began to gain weight and strength. He relapsed shortly after finishing that first programme. He then started another programme.

I began to meet with him and six other recovering addicts. At these meetings they shared their stories of addiction and the hopeless place it had led them to. They shared their fears about the war and the future. "Wajau (Father) I have messed up my life; I am 27 years of age and I have been a heroin addict for more than 10 years. I have no job, my family doesn't trust me and want me out of the house, and I am HIV+. I came here because I have nowhere else to go and I am afraid I'm going to overdose and die. But I can't seem to stop," Zau Lat told me.

"If you are really tired and are willing to do anything to stop, then there is a solution,"

I told him. I introduced him and the others to the spirituality of the 12-step programme of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, to the concept of powerlessness and the need to surrender to a higher power. I told them that they only had to stay sober for these 24 hours and that tomorrow was another day. Zau Lat and some of the others started to stay sober one day at a time.

Three months ago Zau Lat celebrated one year of sobriety. His life has changed dramatically. He joined a Karate Club and reached brown belt status. He has been employed by the centre as a staff member. He has made amends to his family and just last week he got married. He comes to meetings and is staying sober.

A year ago none of this was possible for him. Now there are over 10 people with one year or more of sobriety. Recovering addicts are helping other recovering addicts and the message of recovery is spreading. Even in the midst of war and hopelessness recovery is possible for those who really want it.



Fr Eamon Sheridan with some of the recovering addicts who are participating in a programme at the Rebirth Rehab Centre in Myitkyina, Myanmar.



After exchanging their vows, Zau Lat and his wife pose for a photo with the priests who concelebrated their wedding ceremony, including Columban missionary, Fr Eamon Sheridan.



A day out for some of the young men who are seeking to recover their life and self-worth and complete their rehab from heroin addiction.

Missionary Society of St Columban, Dalgan Park, Navan, Co Meath. Tel: 046 9021525 | Email: info@columbans.ie
www.columbans.ie

AN EXTRAORDINARY MISSION

MMMs are an international congregation of women religious serving in 13 countries around the world. Sisters come from 20 countries and are trained in a variety of health-related professions. We go to peoples of different cultures where human needs are greatest. Our special concern is the care of mother and child and the fostering of family life.

Raising awareness about human trafficking in a village in Tanzania



To find out more about the work of the Medical Missionaries of Mary come visit us at:

www.mmmworldwide.org

‘The baptismal involvement of all the faithful... in the single mission of the Church’

MMM Associates are people who feel called to embrace the spirituality and mission of the Medical Missionaries of Mary, while continuing their lifestyle and work. Some also participate more directly in our ministries. There are more than 140 MMM Associates in 15 countries around the world.



MMM Associates in Choloma, Honduras, renewing their covenants



Sr. Jacinta Mahakwe, from Nigeria, working with a women's group in Brazil

MEDICAL MISSIONARIES of MARY



MMM

Rooted and Founded in Love



Sisters Margaret Nakafu and Christine Nanyombi, from Uganda, recently made perpetual commitment in MMM.

‘The call to mission is a call rooted in Baptism and addressed to all the baptized. Mission is a “being sent forth”.’



Presentation Brothers 'Engaging with Young People'



Br Patrick and Brothers of the Maiville community in Cork, with students and teachers of the Brebeuf College, Toronto Canada on their 2019 visit to Ireland

The Presentation Brothers is an international religious community of Brothers, founded in Ireland and working in many countries around the world, namely, Ireland, Ghana, Nigeria, the West Indies, Canada, England and USA. The Brothers are hoping to establish a new community in Sri Lanka soon.

The Presentation Brothers is about "Forming Christ in the young." We see our way of life "as a journey in faith and an adventure in hope," a gift that found its first expression in the life and ministry of Blessed Edmund Rice our Founder.

At the heart of our living the "Joy of the Gospel" is a shared life in community, held together by our prayer and celebrations together.

This unity gives us the strength and freedom to assist and support one another and those in our wider community of life.

Our understanding of 'Christian Formation' is holistic and integrated, and it challenges us, by our very lives, to sharing the unconditional love of God for all peoples. The Presentation Brothers today collaborate with others, lay people, the Presentation Family, our Schools Trust, Teachers, students, friends, church groups, organisations, as we seek to continue our Charism of Christian Formation, especially of the youth, poor and disadvantaged, by supporting and encouraging the gifts of one another.

In the strength of our tradition and open to the 'signs of

the time', we must endeavour:

- To renew afresh our witness to Religious Brotherhood in the world, in light of God's love;
- To defend the values of family life;
- To promote reconciliation and unity;
- To respond to the needs of the poor and disadvantaged;
- To be at the service of people, especially young people;
- To care for our common home, the Earth.

The Presentation Brothers, together with lay colleagues, in Ireland, are involved in the following ministries: the Presentation Brothers Youth

Ministry; ERAC, (Edmund Rice Action Camps); PresLink; LEAF, (Leadership, Education and Formation); Youth2000; Chaplaincy; Asylum Seekers and Refugees; Formation and house of studies for new members in Dublin;

We welcome all who wish to come along with us on this "Journey in Faith and Adventure in Hope" with us. We welcome in particular young men interested in embarking on this journey in a committed way. Come join us as 'Pilgrim Brothers with the compassionate Christ in an evolving world.'



Pilgrim Brothers
with the compassionate Christ
in an evolving world

Get more information on our Website:

www.presentationbrothers.org

Connect with us on Facebook; View us on YouTube.

Contact us through our Vocations Director:

Br. Barry Noel, Presentation Brothers Novitiate
Glasthule Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 FH67

E-mail: Barrynoel@PresentationBrothers.org

Phone: 087 7519794



Brothers, family members, Presentation Family and Friends celebrating the First Profession of Br Simon



Br Martin, Br Bede, Br Simon, Ms Anne Cleary, CEO of PBST and young people of the Edmund Rice Camps celebrating the First Profession of Br Simon



Br Simon Fernandes Professing his First Vows as a Presentation Brothers at Mount St Joseph Cork, in August this year



SISTERS OF BON SECOURS

The Sisters of Bon Secours are an International Religious Congregation of Catholic women based in six countries who bring to the world "Good help to those in need". The Congregation was founded by a group of 12 women, led by Josephine Potel, who came together in Paris in 1824 to nurse the sick and the dying in their own homes, demonstrating the healing presence of Christ through their compassionate care.

Although the Congregation's work has broadened since the early days, the core intention stays the same, to bring the healing hand of Christ to all those in need.

One country that the Sisters have an active mission is in Peru. Bishop Cornelius Lucey invited The Sisters of Bon Secours in Cork to become part of the Cork and Ross mission to Peru. In 1966 four Sisters left Cork to journey to a shanty-town on the outskirts of the City of Trujillo, in Peru. In the intervening years many sisters have responded to that call and much has

happened and many lives have been touched by that decision. There has been a continuing commitment by the Sisters. In 1975 the first Peruvian Sister joined the community. Native vocations have continued since that time, and sisters from there are on mission to other countries. Today Sisters minister in health-care, social services, pastoral and community based ministries. In Ireland Sisters of Bon Secours are based in Cork, Dublin and Tralee. Their ministry includes more than just the physical; it is a holistic approach which includes peoples' spiritual, psychological and emotional needs.

We are all called to serve. It is just a matter of finding the way that best suits your interests and talents.

See our website and Facebook page for opportunities to come and spend some time with us in prayer and get to know the Sisters. We regularly host retreat days and prayer events.





St Patrick's Missionary Society

Kiltegan, Co Wicklow, W91 Y022, Ireland. Tel: 059 6473600 Email: office@spms.ie Website: www.spms.org

St Patrick's Missionaries have been sharing the life-giving message of Jesus Christ for nearly ninety years. Our work extends from the Amazon Basin of South America, to the Niger Delta in Nigeria, to the Indian Ocean coast of Kenya. Since 1932 our supporters have made this possible. We involve ourselves in any aspiration that aims to advance people's lives, both spiritually and materially. Our concern is for everyone, but especially for those whose lives are affected by poverty, disease, famine or displacement.

If you would like to support our work,

- Subscribe to our magazine *Africa*
- Join our Mission Circle Family
- Avail of our Occasion Cards
- Order our Christmas Cards
- Order our Catholic Diary 2020.

Contact us at 059 6473600 or visit www.spms.org

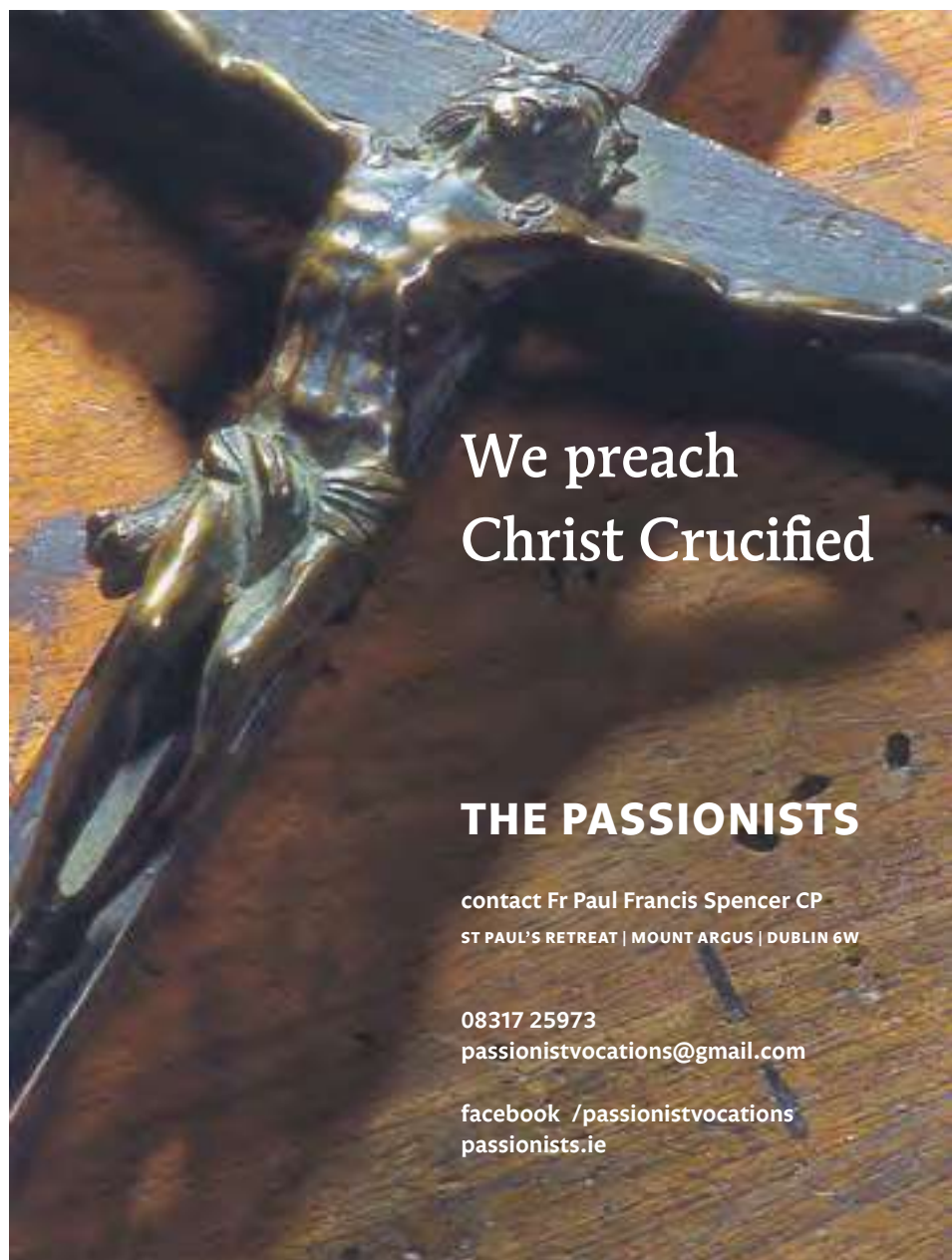


Fr Emmanuel Obi from Warri, Nigeria, ministers in Narus, in the Republic of South Sudan. He works with Small Christian Communities, helps to build schools and assists in the struggle against early girl child marriage.



Fr John O'Callaghan from Limerick, Ireland, ministers in Lodwar, Kenya. "On May 24th pupils from twelve schools from Kanam parish attended a walk that was organised to highlight climate change in the Turkana area. The event was organised by the Ministry of the Environment of the County of Turkana. It was a cooperative event between Church and State and indicates what can be done in future."

Visit www.spms.org today!



We preach
Christ Crucified

THE PASSIONISTS

contact Fr Paul Francis Spencer CP
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A simple but strong message

Paul Francis Spencer C.P.

At the heart of the mission of the Passionists is the conviction that the Passion of Christ is, in the words of our founder St Paul of the Cross, "the greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love." Passionist Missionaries from Ireland have worked in many countries, including Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Paraguay and Argentina. This year our Congregation, which ministers in 65 countries, formally opened its newest mission in Myanmar.

Nowadays, Ireland is more likely to receive priests and religious from overseas than to send religious abroad, but new forms of missionary cooperation mean that the tradition of the Irish Passionists continues to bear fruit through the support we give to the formation of African Passionists.

Kenyan Fr John Muthengi, the new Executive Director of 'Passionists International' which works on our behalf with the United Nations, is the first African to hold

this post and is proud to say that his novice master was Irish! But we must never forget that cooperation is a two-way street: as members of a worldwide community of brothers and sisters, we are called to learn from each other's experiences and cultures.

While much of our missionary effort today involves development projects or advocacy work such as that of 'Passionists International', we cannot lose sight of the primary role of evangelisation in our task as missionaries.

“New forms of missionary cooperation mean that the tradition of the Irish Passionists continues to bear fruit”

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis recalls that "the primary reason for evangelising is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to

ever greater love of him." (*Evangelii Gaudium* 264)

As men and women religious committed to witnessing to the love of God which flows from the Cross, Passionists are called to be people who have experienced God's love and who can share that experience with others.

When Pope Francis met the members of the Passionist General Chapter last year, he reminded them that today's fields of mission are not only geographical. He said: "Your commitment to embrace new frontiers of mission implies not only going to new territories to bring the Gospel, but also addressing the new challenges of our time, such as migrations, secularism and the digital world. This means being present in those situations where people perceive the absence of God, and trying to be close to those who, in any way or form, are suffering."

Ours is a simple but strong message: the love of God is revealed on the Cross, and each of us, religious and laity, can bring love into situations of suffering as Jesus himself has done.



We are women of prayer, committed to working towards a world healed, unified and transformed.

***Ut Sint Unum* - that all may be one – is our Charism.**

Our Charism calls us to grow towards oneness in Christ and to foster right relationships with ourselves, others, God and the whole of creation. In the spirit of *Sint Unum*, we work towards:

- Living God's love for the whole of creation
- Standing in solidarity with those who have no voice
- Responding to the radical call to conversion
- Transforming unjust structures
- Promoting peace and reconciliation
- Embracing diversity

The St Louis Family is made up of Vowed Members, Lay Associate Members and Groups of Benefactors that support our missions.

We were founded in France and now work in nine countries in diverse ministries which can be grouped under the interlinking categories of Community Development, Health Care, Pastoral Care and Education. Our formation houses are in Benin, Ghana and Nigeria.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



EDUCATION



HEALTH CARE



PASTORAL CARE



To inquire about being a vowed or lay associate member or how to support our missions, please contact admin@saintlouis.ie or visit www.stlouissisters.org



Baptised and Sent - the Changing face of the SMA Mission



The 2019 SMA Pilgrimage to Knock celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Family Vocations Community (FVC)



Melchior de Brésillac

After ordination in 1838, the founder of the Society of African Missions, Melchior de Marion Brésillac, worked in his home Diocese until he responded to a call to Mission in India in 1843.

Twelve years later he returned to France. Experiencing the call to establish a new Mission in Africa he gathered a group of five followers and on December 8 1856 at the Marian Shrine at Fourviere in Lyon, France, he committed the new Society of African Missions to the care and protection of Our Lady.

The first group of three priests set sail for Sierra Leone in November 1858. The following year de Brésillac and two other SMA's set out to join

them. In May 1859 they arrived in Freetown, at a time when an outbreak of Yellow Fever was raging.

Within a month five of them, including de Brésillac, had died.

Back in France, in spite of the devastating news, the remaining small group of SMA members led by Father Augustin Planque committed themselves to continue the mission in Africa.



Augustin Planque

Those foundational years of sacrifice and the commitment of those early missionaries was consolidated by the work of generations of SMA's who were called and sent and who are still answering the call today.

June 25th 2019 was the 160th anniversary of the death of the SMA Founder, Bishop Melchior de Marion Brésillac in Sierra Leone, West Africa. At that moment, the face of the SMA was changed forever; the vision which has prevailed was not only that of de Brésillac, but also of his deputy, Fr Augustin Planque.

That vision, shaped in 1856, has been wide enough to welcome many other SMA cultures, including an Irish Province which has produced more than 700 missionaries since 1876, a vision which in 1983 chose to undertake the training of Africans as missionaries to other parts of Africa, and a vision which has valued the contribution of lay people. Lay people have heard the SMA call to mission and have

been Baptised and Sent in a variety of ways.

For sixty years since 1959, the Head Sponsors and Sponsors of the Family Vocations Community (FVC) have sustained priestly formation with their prayers and financial support, expressing their Baptismal call to mission without ever leaving Ireland.

Since 1969, the summer camps in Dromantine have been offering young boys and girls a knowledge and awareness of Africa and the work of SMA. After 50 years, two or three generations of some families have forged a connection with the SMA mission.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, many young teachers, nurses, doctors and engineers went to Africa to work alongside the SMAs in their missionary outreach. More recently lay people have

taken up leadership of key SMA Departments for Laity, Communications and Justice.

Since 2016, the mission of the SMA Irish Province has also included thirty volunteers who have given of their time, gifts and energy to promote the Province's message and deliver its projects on the issue of climate justice. Some are returned missionaries, lay and ordained; others are people who are responding to their own call to mission, in this time and place, as partners in the missionary work of SMA. Each one is essential to the spread of the Gospel through the work they do and the witness they give.

For the past 21 years, the Friends of Africa (FOA) have brought a new dimension to being "Baptised and Sent". Many of the young members have come from families

where parents supported the Family Vocations Community or through attending the summer camps and assisting in their running. Many of them also spend weeks of their summer in Africa, working in education and development projects, to support the people and to learn from them.

A decrease in priestly vocations has not proved fatal to the SMA mission. In addition to more than 100 SMA priests returned to Ireland, the changing face of the SMA Family also includes male and female, old and young, active and retired. All are essential, all have heard the call to mission, all are baptised and sent.



Fr Malachy Flanagan SMA Provincial, presents Certificates to FVC Members - Oct. 2019



FOA Members in Rustenburg South Africa - 2019



African SMA Missionaries



Participants at the Dromantine Summer Camp 2018

Mill Hill Missionaries To Love and Serve



Pope Francis has asked us to use this centenary celebration to revive our missionary awareness and commitment. He declared the theme of this extraordinary Missionary Month as "Baptised and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World".

At the time of the publication of *Maximum Illud* in 1919, the Mill Hill Missionaries had members for over 53 years and were already working in India, Borneo, on the Maori Mission in New Zealand, Pakistan, Uganda, Kenya, Congo and the Philippines. Many of the prefectures or Dioceses had apostolic administrator or bishops who were Mill Hill also. The joy today is that many of these countries, which received missionaries then, are now sending out missionaries today.

In Sarawak, Borneo Bintangor Parish recently celebrated its centenary. Part of the celebration was remembering the gruelling paddling up river of the early missionaries to visit the long-houses. As a pilgrimage, they followed the same route up the Rejang River with a nine-boat flotilla and went to St. Joseph's Parish Nanga Selidap.

Our Missionaries there today are Ugandan, Indian, British, Dutch and Kenyan which is continuing the work established by the Irish, British, Dutch and Tyrolean Missionaries of the past. These young African and Asian members continue to encounter Jesus living in his Church in their work of celebrating the Eucharist, sharing the word of God, in their personal and community prayers. They meet people of other faiths, dialogue on common concerns for justice and

faith, share and continue with living a selfless love as they remain in solidarity with the ordinary Malaysian on a day to day basis.

The love and service lived out by Mill Hill Missionaries has been more testing in recent times. In both East and West Africa as members have shed their blood as Missionaries: In 2000 Fr. John Kaiser an American Mill Hill Missionary was gunned down in Kenya, killers

officially unknown but his work with those displaced by ethnic violence at the time had upset some officials who were not happy with his apostolate. In March 20002 Fr. Declan O'Toole, a young Irish Mill Hill Missionary, shot dead together with two of his staff at point blank range on the road. He

had voiced concern on the brutality and treatment of women, the elderly and children by the army in their disarmament programme in Kotido. Fr. Cosmos Ondari Omboto, a Kenyan born Mill Hill Missionary, only a year and a half ordained, gunned down by government soldiers outside the Parish Church of Kembong, Mamfe in Cameroon on 21st November 2018. All gave their full witness and testimony to Christ on Mission in the World.

The work of drawing people into encountering Christ in their personal lives, alive in the Church, in God's Word, in the Eucharist and prayers that sustain continues today. Those more visible in the forefront today are our Indian, Cameroonian,

Kenyan, Filipino, Ugandan and Congolese members. Now they take on the legacy of places long associated with Mill Hill Missionaries or take on new apostolates within some of the countries where we work or like this year, we began a new presence in Cambodia. More than half of the active members are African and Asian, and they bring that quiet presence of St. Joseph into lived witness in their varied places of Apostolate and all live out their baptismal calling as members of the Church of Christ on Mission in the world.

About us...

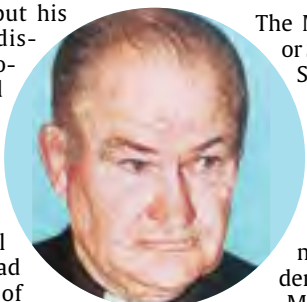
The Mill Hill Missionaries or St. Joseph's Missionary Society have been committed to Missionary work for the last 153 years. The then 34 year old Fr. Herbert Vaughan began his house for the foreign missions with one student at Holcombe House, Mill Hill, London, in 1866. His simple aim for the missionaries was

what we call primary evangelisation. While this remains the focus of the Society, other activities today include interfaith dialogue, urban apostolate, building and working with grassroots communities, Justice and Peace, reconciliation, mission animation and formation. Members live out their charism "to love and to serve" within the diverse environments where they are serving. Today members are serving in Brazil, USA, Cameroon, Congo, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, South Africa, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, New Zealand, Cambodia, Ireland, Britain, Netherlands, Austria and Italy.

For more information: www.mill-hillmissionaries.co.uk



Fr. Cosmos Ondari mhm



Fr. John Kaiser mhm



Fr. Declan O'Toole mhm



Pilgrimage group on the Rejang River



For those who would like to keep in touch and support our missionary work, and receive the three issues of our magazine "St. Joseph's Advocate" plus an annual calendar, contact: St. Joseph's Advocate, Mill Hill Missionaries, 50 Orwell Park, Rathgar, Dublin Do6 C535.