

Mission Connections

Volume #85

Fall 2026



“....that people are more important than things; that being is more important than doing; that God and relationships are at the heart of everything.”

Sr. Janice McLaughlin M.M



From Whom and Where in the World do our stories come from?

Other Religious Orders/Congregations/Lay Missioners & Friends

October 2024, we shared with you the history of Mission in our diocese over the last 100+ years celebrating over **768** missionaries who are either from our diocese, have come to our diocese to minister with us or have become cherished connections and relationships serving in mission together with us. Since then, we have unearthed another **137** missionaries who have connections with our mission heritage. We have done our best to insure that we have not missed anyone, but as you can see, there are many more lay men and women, religious orders and congregations, diocesan clergy and vowed religious that we are blessed to know, love and support. Please let us know of any corrections/additions...need to be made.

Sandra Schaffen-Bahamas
 Dianne Dineen- Costa Rica
 Margaret Heinen-Honduras
 +Marilyn Myerchin Brownell-Hirsch-Uruguay
 Susan Schoenbauer Thurin-Liberia/China/
 Margaret O'Reilly-Nepal
 Betty Burke-Bahamas
 Patricia Kellogg-Bahamas
 Margaret Ward-Bahamas
 Patrice Schmitt (Shakopee)-Teachers for East Africa
 Susan Dirkswager-Teachers for East Africa
 Charlotte Schneider-Honduras
 Paula Muggli (St. Cloud)-Colombia
 Barbara Johnson-Colombia
 Loretta Lorentz-Sierre Leone
 Patricia Vessel-Bolivia
 +Gail M. Paulsen-Mexico
 +Dr. Eileen Sisaye Stommes (St. Joseph)-El Salvador
 +Geoffrey Ainsworth Moran (Minneapolis)-
 Burkina Faso
 +Herman Hinnenkamp (Melrose)-Central America
 Margaret Krell- Bahamas
 John C. Miller- Puerto Rico
 Michael Schlosser-West Indies
 Robert Lenhardt-France/Switzerland/Peru
 Paul Bisek-Thailand/Cambodia
 Joe and Jan Perske-Germany
 David Krotz- Liberia
 Eugene Skelton- Honduras
 Stephen Kurth-Morocco
 George Lavelle-Sierre Leone
 Richard Rolfson-Ghana
 Kenneth Schilling-Liberia
 David P. Volk-Senegal
 Karl F. Wombacher-Cameroon
 Paul Bisek-Thailand
 Alex Miller-Morocco
 Arthur Froehle-Puerto Rico

Benedictine Volunteer Corp 2026

Max Winter (Edina)-Spain
 Aiden Blaser (St. Michael)-Mexico
 Clay Megaw (Monticello)-Mexico
 Robert Adderly (Bahamas)-Newark
 Murphy Setter (Lakeville)-Newark
 Sam Mancino (Maple Grove)-Guatemala
 Joshua Anderson (Hopkins)-Guatemala
 Allan Chu (California)-Tanzania
 Cormac O'Connor (Woodbury)-Tanzania
 Alex Schmitz (Minneapolis)-Italy
 Gilbert Torvinen (Wisconsin)-Italy
 Joe Mechels (Minneapolis)-Rwanda
 Isak Brandt (Eagan)-Rwanda

Fr. Thomas McDermott OP (Nebraska)-Nigeria
 +Sr. Carol Huss MMS (St. Cloud)- India
 +Sr. Marietta Lauer MM (Eden Valley)-Hawaii
 +Sr. Carolissa Lutgen OSB (St. Nicholas)- Puerto Rico
 +Rosemarie Elizabeth Hoyt Weber (St. Cloud)-
 Philippines
 +Eva Foss Hoyt (St. Cloud)- Philippines
 Claire Russell (Litchfield)- Ireland
 Patrick Fitzgerald (Richfield)-Chile
 Paul N. Welle (Bemidji)- West Cameroon
 +John Chromy (New Prague)-India
 Kristin Beniek (Rice)- Ghana
 Alan Thalhuber (St. Paul)-El Salvador
 Bernard (Barney) P. Smith-Botswana
 Kathleen Fridgen (Wheaton)-Honduras
 Rosemary Thurmes (St. Cloud)- Bahamas
 Marilyn Fischer (St. Cloud)- Bahamas
 Lloyd Klapperich (Villard)-Bahamas
 Darved Albert (Wisconsin)-Bahamas
 John Sonsteng (Minneapolis)- Bahamas
 Rodger Ludwig (Parkers Prairie)- Bahamas
 Eugene VanRover (ND.)- Mexico
 Judy Brandl (St. Cloud)- Puerto Rico
 Kathleen Wermerskirchen (Shakopee)- Puerto Rico
 Judy Worms (New Munich)- Bolivia
 John Gallagher-Puerto Rico
 Benjamin Rodriguez-Puerto Rico
 George Neilkirk-Puerto Rico
 Neil Eiden-Puerto Rico
 Patrick Wangen-Puerto Rico
 Gilbert Orr-Puerto Rico
 Jim Wirtz-Colombia
 Kay Brendan- Bahamas
 +Jerry F. Mische (St. Cloud)-AID Philippines
 +Keith J. Bentler (Randall)-Sierra Leone
 Denis Dolan- Colombia
 Robert Fellows- Bolivia
 Thomas Fischer-Pakistan
 Herminio Flores- Panama
 Donald Holec- Uruguay
 Samuel T. Sunt- Nepal
 David Beauchamp- Thailand
 Kenneth Bolce- Bolivia

Other Religious Orders/Congregations/Lay Missioners & Friends



Mission Month—On-Line Auction

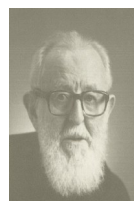
Our 6th Annual Mission Month Fundraiser
opens with bidding on
October 1st 12:01pm-October 31st 12:00pm.
The link to the auction is:

[https://scmo.betterworld.org/auctions/
mission-month-auction-2026](https://scmo.betterworld.org/auctions/mission-month-auction-2026)

Thank you for your continued support of our
ministries!

Benedictine Priests and Brothers

- +Fr. Elias Achatz OSB (South Dakota)–Bahamas
- +Fr. Prosper Mayer OSB (Missouri)–Bahamas
- +Fr. Andrew Leonard Wincewski OSB (North Dakota)–Bahamas
- +Fr. Virgil George Michel OSB (St. Paul)–Palestine/Egypt/Europe
- +Br. Hieronymus Schlosser OSB (Russia) -Bahamas
- +Fr. Bede Michel OSB (St. Paul)- New Guinea/Philippines
- +Fr. Gabriel Roerig OSB (Germany)-Bahamas
- +Fr. Hildebrand Yaiser OSB (Switzerland)-Japan
- +Fr. Stanley Forrest Roche OSB (Iowa)- Korea/Germany/Thailand/Vietnam/Holland
- +Fr. Frederic Frey OSB (Minneapolis)-Bahamas
- +Fr. Ambrose Wittman OSB (Minneapolis)-Bahamas
- +Fr. Raphael Cornelius Haller OSB (Minneapolis)- Mexico
- +Fr. Boniface Axtman OSB (North Dakota)-Philippines
- +Fr. Brendan Francis Forsythe OSB (Iowa)-Bahamas
- +Fr. Leander Roerig OSB (Germany)-Bahamas
- +Fr. Clarus Graves OSB (Howard Lake)-Mexico
- +Fr. Paul Rettenmaier OSB (Germany)-Bahamas
- +Fr. Hildebrand Eickhoff OSB (Scott County)-Bahamas
- +Fr. Anthony Hellenberg OSB (Illinois)-Bahamas
- +Fr. Hubert Dahlheimer OSB (St. Michael)– Puerto Rico
- +Fr. Kevin Neil McCann Jr. (OSB) (New York)– Bahamas
- Br. Christopher Foster OSB -Bahamas
- +Fr. Hyacinth Cismowski OSB (Gilman)-Bahamas
- +(Br.) Barnabus McClatchy OSB (Pennsylvania)– Bahamas
- +Fr. Magnus Joseph Wenniger OSB (Wisconsin)–Bahamas
- +Fr. Ephrem Phillip Kaufmann OSB (Mississippi)– Bahamas
- +Fr. Aidan Andrew McCall OSB (Washington, D.C)– Bahamas
- +Br. Charles Anthony Kirchner OSB (Fulda)– Bahamas
- +Fr. Gall Leonard Fell OSB (Germany)– Bahamas
- +Fr. Blase Schumacher OSB (Iowa)-Bahamas
- +(Fr.) Leonard Dosh OSB (St. Paul)- Brazil
- +Fr. Benito Garza Gonzales OSB –Mexico
- +Br. Urban Pieper OSB (Marystown)– Bahamas
- +Fr. Jose Rodriguez Santiago OSB-Puerto Rico
- +Fr. Bartholomew Letory Sayles OSB (New Orleans)-Bahamas
- +Fr. Joseph Charles Schmerbach OSB-Japan
- +Rev. Aemilius Butruille OSB (Belgium)-Japan
- +Fr. Terence Francis Carroll OSB (St. Clair)-China
- +Fr. Daniel Bangart OSB (Minneapolis)-Bahamas
- +Fr. Stephan Wagman OSB (Virginia, MN)-Bahamas/Korea/Vietnam/Germany/Japan/Panama
- +Fr. Herbert Buerschinger OSB (Wisconsin)-Bahamas
- +Fr. Theophile Brown OSB (Virginia)– Bahamas



Fr. Joseph Schmerbach, O.S.B., and Fr. Hildebrand Yaiser, O.S.B.

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Donations for any of the missionaries or mission connections and our relationships mentioned here may be made in care of the Mission Office.

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So, will you be my friend?

How many of you remember what it was like to find your very first friend? Do you remember how you actually felt as you started the conversation or played tag at recess? This friendship probably began with the first time we entered school or joined similar aged kids on the playground. You hoped that your hair was just right, that you were wearing nice clean shoes, that you didn't say something too inappropriate (though that would have been too big of a word to know in kindergarten!), that you had something that you could share from your lunchbox, that you could hit the ball and run as fast as the other kids,... Up until then, our friends were most likely in our family, maybe our neighbors next door and maybe even a few people we knew from church. We relied on others to help ease us into the art of building a relationship with another human being because how could we really know at age four or five how to make a friend much less be a friend to someone else?

I know for me and maybe for some of you, this was a scary and overwhelming situation and truthfully it was sometimes easier to just play alone. That way I didn't have to be hurt. That was how it was for us as a child and can continue to be that way for us today. The thing is we all came into these situations feeling exactly the same way with feelings of vulnerability and inadequacy, being out of control, appearing lost and yet very intentionally seeking and wanting someone to be our missing piece to our world.

As people who are created by our God to be in relationship with others, to be in community, a friend helps to complete us and make us whole. Friendships unite us and help us to become one in faith, strength and support.

I asked one of our visitors the other day what makes a friend and he said with a smile, "Someone who will listen when the 'chips' are down and will have compassion for your heartaches, probably because they have been through it too. Friends are someone whom you can worship with, celebrate with and shed tears with. Sometimes you might not even know who are your friends." - Michael
These friends that we found in our childhood, our adolescence, our adulthood only asked from us to share our love. Unknowingly, we gave that love and still give that love as we continue to grow in these relationships and develop new ones today.

So who will be my friend tomorrow? Next week? Next month? Next year?

Making a friend requires getting to know someone very intimately by giving them our time and truly listening to their stories. Making a friend means to look beyond color, race, religion, culture and truly getting to know the soul and heart of the individual who is in your company. Making a friend is a very unselfish gesture because it allows us to share the gift of ourselves and the love of Christ with everyone we encounter. Making a friend opens us up to be loved. Making a friend expands our world and fills in the holes of where our spirit and faith might be lacking. Making a friend welcomes a stranger into your life as a brother or sister. Making a friend unites us in solidarity and challenges us to lay down prejudices and negativities. Making a friend encourages us to see our own reflection in the eyes of others. Making a friend requires trust, understanding and compassion. Making a friend is more than just sending a request on Facebook. Making a friend is painful because love is to be given unconditionally. Making a friend would bring great joy to our Father's face.

Elizabeth M. Brown

"Have the courage to lose control...to feel useless...to listen... to receive. Have the courage to let your heart be broken...to fall in love. Have the courage to get ruined for life. Have the courage to make a friend." Dean Brackley, SJ

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

100th Anniversary

'One in Christ, United in Mission'

October 18th, 2026



www.stcloudmissionoffice.com



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World Mission Rosary Day- Friday, October 2nd

The World Mission Rosary was created in 1951, by Archbishop Fulton Sheen, the National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, as a way to "Embrace the World in Prayer." This rosary honors the work of mission, our call to be missionaries, and world unity and peace through its special emphasis on each of the Earth's regions.

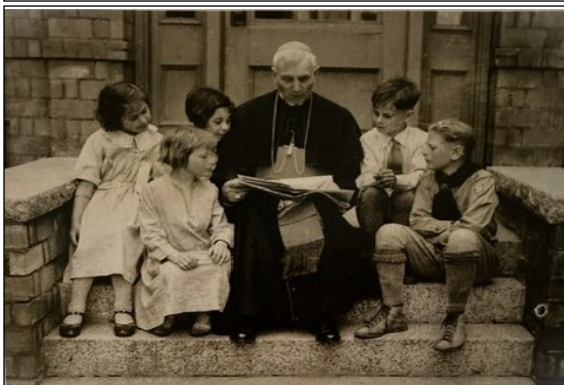
Green - for the forests and grasslands of Africa

Red - for the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the Americas

White - symbolizing Europe, the home of the Holy Father

Blue - for the ocean surrounding the Islands of the Pacific

Yellow - symbolizing the morning light of the East and 'beginning of civilization'



75th Anniversary
World Mission Rosary
Day
Friday, October 2nd, 2026



World Mission Rosaries
 and resources are available
 from the Mission Office at no
 charge, though we do ask that
 shipping costs please be
 covered when ordered. Order
 forms are available on our
 website or please contact us at
 (320) 251-1100.

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