

Mission Connections

Volume #70

Winter, 2023



Stewardship Prayer by Mary Jane Doerr

*I offer this day to you dear God.
Thank you for the blessings you have given me.
May I use these gifts to build your kingdom.
May my actions be a reflection of your love.
May what I do today bring others closer to you.
May my words be kind and gentle and may they bring joy to others.
Today, help me to give back a portion of what you have given me.
I ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.*

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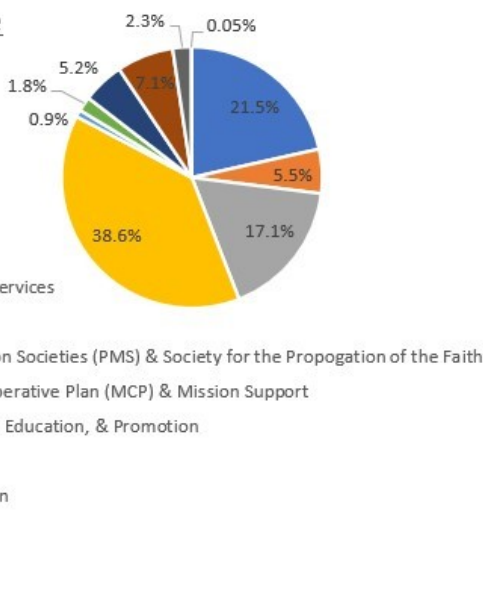
Christmas Greetings
Pg. 4 & 5 —marked with a
star: South Africa, Nicaragua,
Bangladesh, and Ecuador

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

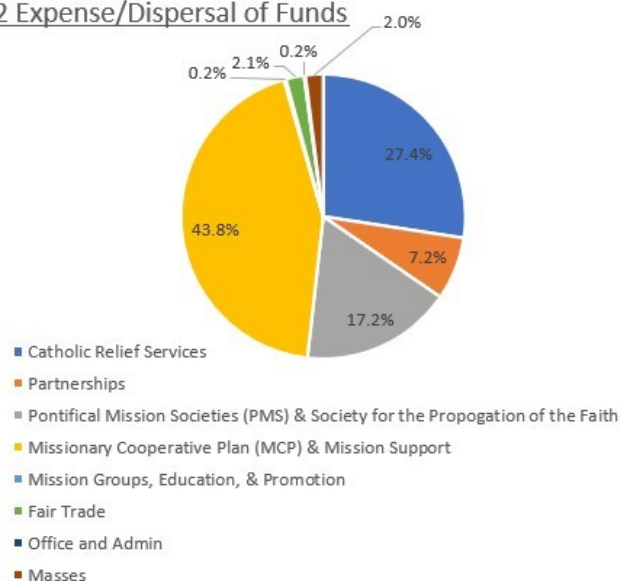
Year End Reports for 2022

2022 was a great year for the St. Cloud Mission Office! We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our amazing donors, supporters, and partners. It is through your continued enthusiasm for Mission that we are able to do all that we do every year. As an office we were able to participate in many webinars, zoom meetings, and in-person events this year. These were such wonderful and fruitful opportunities and we are excited for what 2023 brings us!

2022 Income



2022 Expense/Dispersal of Funds

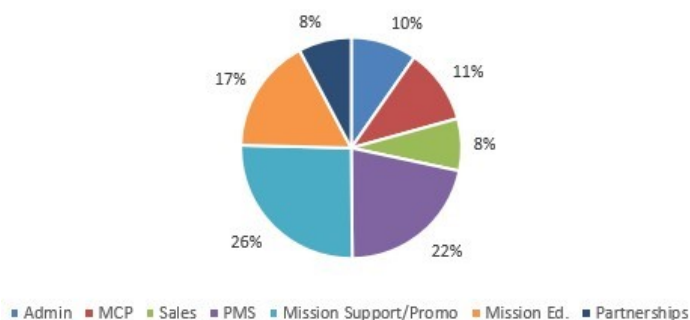


World Mission Rosaries 2022:

- Over 4,000 Rosaries were distributed throughout the U.S., in our diocese, and even a few internationally.
- We only charge shipping reimbursement for World Mission Rosaries as they are graciously donated to us every year. Thank you to everyone who helps us with this wonderful ministry!



2022 Time Spent in Areas of Ministry



MISSION CONNECTIONS is published by the St. Cloud Mission Office, 11—8th Ave. South, St. Cloud MN 56301 (320) 251-1100

It is distributed to the Catholic faithful in the Diocese of St. Cloud and to others concerned with the mission of Jesus Christ and global solidarity and justice. There is no charge for the publication, but tax deductible donations for our educational work are gratefully accepted.

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

**Please direct comments, suggestions and articles to Teresa Trout, at missionofficeeducator@cloudnet.com

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Spotlight on Mission

There are countless mission activities happening all the time both in the St. Cloud Diocese and around the world. All these mission activities are important to the work of celebrating our global Church. In this issue we highlight Jeannie Krush, a member of St. Mary's Cathedral who traveled to the U.S./Mexico Border this past November.

I had been interested in immigration and the crisis at the Border after my retirement from the VA in Jan. 2022. I had read that the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls have been involved with helping at the border and so I called and inquired about an opportunity. I was quickly connected with Rosanne Fisher and told of a couple other people that had also expressed an interest. Soon our little group would be planning our trip, holding meetings, reading podcasts, articles and books shared with us by Sr. Mary Hroschikoski, regarding the many issues and challenges that face the immigrant population.

When we arrived in McAllen, we stayed at the home of Sr. Mary Hroschikoski. The home was spacious for our group and situated in a central location for many of the places we visited. We also visited the home of Sr. Pat Forster, Sr. Mary Dumonceaux, and Sr. Gloria Haider in Mission. I will be forever grateful for the vast knowledge they were able to share with our group as well as their kindness and hospitality.

Our first visit was to the Humanitarian Respite Center started by Sr. Norma Pimentel and run by Catholic Charities. It was inspiring to see so many working tirelessly to restore human dignity to people who have endured so much. We were able to visit

“A Recourse In Serving Equality (ARISE Adelante)” which was founded by Sr. Gerri Naughton 35 years ago. Sr. Gerrie was born in Ireland and as a Sister of Mercy she dedicated her life to justice for immigrants. ARISE has been providing resources and educational programs to strengthen community resident’s individual goals. We had the opportunity to hear the personal border stories of two ARISE staff members. We visited the home of a family who have a daughter that is enrolled in Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The mother was tearful expressing the difficulties of living in the United States illegally and constantly trying to live undetected in a region with heavy Border Patrol presence.

Another experience was visiting “La Casa Del Migrante-House of the Migrant” in Reynosa Mexico. The mission is run by four Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul Sisters.

Sister Edith Garrido, one of the sisters spoke of their mission and gave us a tour of the mission house. The project helped to set up a system for assisting migrants with particular vulnerabilities, specifically pregnant women who are eligible to be paroled into the United States. We had a chance to play with the children and I was inspired by their resilience, hope and joy. It made me think of how often I fail to put my own faith in God’s hands and should be more like the children at the center. All of the migrants have been through so much but continue to move into the unknown with such grace and faith. It was a truly inspiring and moving experience. The visit culminated in a perfect manner, as together with the migrants we celebrated a beautiful Mass led by Jesuit Priests - Fr. Louie Hotop and Fr. Brian Strassburger. Father Strassburger called out several countries and migrants cheered with pride when their country was called. It was truly inspirational. He spoke to them about understanding the hardships they faced, how Jesus also faced hardships, and about hope. A woman from Haiti sang a beautiful hymn in French.

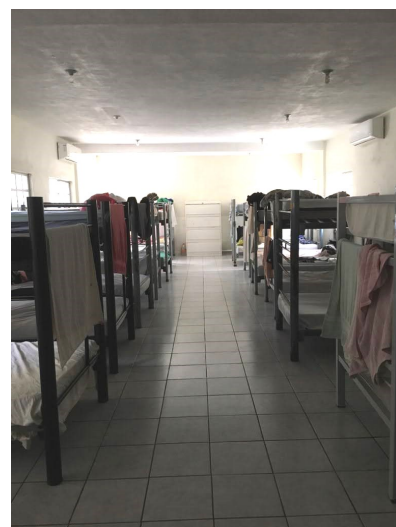
While there we also had an opportunity to experience the beauty of the region. In McAllen we toured La Quinta Mazatlán and visited McAllen History and Culture Museum.

In Edinburg, TX we toured the Museum of South Texas History and visited the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands and World Birding Center. In Mission we attended a Mariachi Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and visited La Lomita Mission built in the late 1800’s by Oblate Missionaries.

There was a great joy in experiencing this border encounter with others that share similar values and have a heart for the under served and disadvantaged. Lasting friendships were made on this trip. Ending this with so much thanks given to the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls living in McAllen and Mission and to Rosanne Fischer for all the work they did to make this Border Encounter an amazing and life changing experience.

Article and pictures provided by Jeannie Krush.

Pictures show the border wall, a border patrol truck, and some of the living quarters for women and children. For more information and resources about the amazing work that is going on at the border, please email missionofficeeducator@cloudnet.com



Christmas Greetings from Our Missioners

Every year, our Missioners send us Christmas and New Year greetings and thank you's for their support received through the Mission Office. In turn, each Winter Newsletter we make room to share some of those greetings with you, as you are an integral part of that support. This page has some of the ones we've received this past December! (All pictures included are provided by the missioners.)

The year 2022 has come to an end and I am grateful to God for blessings of every kind from him that the Christian community entrusted to my care and I have received. It was a good year. I used every opportunity it presented to serve the people of God and to strengthen their faith. In this report, I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of Our Lady of Visitation Parish for the support received from your diocese (St. Cloud) and the programs that were carried out and implemented with it.

To be specific, primary evangelization has been my main focus in the mission in South Africa. Your support has been a special help for reaching out to the community of faith for home visits, visit to the sick, the immigrants, for Sunday and weekday masses. I have done these with joy, love, commitment and zeal. The local communities too on their part have responded positively, people have returned to the church with joy and thanksgiving for the ongoing work.



Additionally, the parish has had formation programs for the 7 Basic Christian Communities, BCC masses, liturgical and catechetical trainings. All these have been vital in strengthening the faith of the Christians and promoting active participation in the life and mission of the Church. On 8th Jan, 2023, 18 children will receive the 1st Holy Communion and 5 will be baptized.

Good formation has prompted the people of God to respond to the invitation of Christ to reach out to those in great need in the parish. The caritas team has been formed in the parish this year. It is a team of 10 parishioners and I. It provides lunch to 57 orphans every Saturday. These orphans are from our parish, non-Catholic churches and Islamic faith. The team also visits the sick, offers food, clothes and shelter to the families in great need.



There is also a support group in the parish. It was formed in June 2022; it is a group of 13 widows and single mothers. They are very poor, so through the support received from your diocese, each of them received small capital to start a small income generating project of selling snacks,

tailoring clothes, keeping chickens, selling food and gas. They meet once a month to pray together, share about the progress of their activities and support each other. Through this simple act of empowerment, they raise an income to support their families and the church. This has brought life and joy in their families and the parish. They too are grateful.

Lastly, a water tank was bought and installed in the church to provide water for the community, the grotto of Mother Mary was repaired and the renovation of the roof of church is also going on. I also gave part of the support from your diocese to aid the parish in buying the water tank and to pay for the cost of the renovation.

The parishioners and I are very grateful to St. Cloud Diocese for the kindness and generous support. Through it, the parishioners are growing in faith, structures of the parish are improving and the needy of the parish are fed and empowered for the better. May God bless and reward you for standing behind us.

Thanks,

Fr. Lawrence Otieno, MHM (Serving in South Africa)



Dear Elizabeth,

Greetings to you and your team in the Mission Office of St. Cloud. Happy/Merry Christmas to you and all the contributors of the many mass intentions and the help you sent for serving the poor.

We hear news of great cold and inconvenience in the Midwest and East of the USA. My hope is that St. Cloud and vicinity are getting off lightly during these days.

I'm in Dhaka city writing this. It is the only occasion in which I get to watch TV. You can imagine the news from North America today – Christmas – all about the record weather you are enduring. It's a bad situation for sure. But not as bad as the bad news from Ukraine. Are there any Ukrainians in St. Cloud I wonder? I hope they are enjoying the support of the nation's Christian Communities.

I hope you and the Team, and all the generous donors can feel the gratitude of the relieved (by you all) needy ones here. At a time of much suffering, e.g., in Ukraine, in the snow bound states of USA, in families everywhere who are finding food purchases exorbitant, consolation is reaching them from the Lord. We belong to God and must continue to trust in that One. That's the wisest way to live. It's hard to fathom how some people, even baptized Christians, can ignore the belief God plants in our hearts. Here, life is miraculous. Problems, we all have, but none as great as the advantages we receive from the Lord. Thank you for your mighty helps! In Christ we find out peace.

Fr. Bob McCahill M.M. (Serving in Bangladesh)

Christmas Greetings from Our Missioners Cont.

Dear and appreciated friends,

From the most intimate of our hearts, we wish all of you many blessings and that this new year is filled with much strength, encouragement, and good health.

The mission in the Ecuadorian Jungle continues with its course of strengthening the communities. We are in the commission to animate the communities, especially of the indigenous Quichuas. This year we have the objective of forming the CEBs in the Sachas Communities, Dayuma, Cañón de los Monos, on November 3rd. They are communities very far from where we live but we will start this new year with encouragement.

The health of the missionaries is fine, my children will help us in this mission, and some more volunteers. When visiting the communities we continue to meet more vulnerable people, the elderly and children in extreme poverty, we have begun to give food every 15 days to about 50 families. A big challenge. We continue to welcome your prayers and blessings.

We send you big hugs.

With love, your brother Glahecer and family (Serving in Ecuador)



To all at the Mission Office, I have received your check. The masses will be said by Maryknoll Priests. The money will go into the Watatulu Education Fund run by Ruth and Roy Meyer. They are doing well.

I am quite well, just getting old. God bless you all.

In Christ,

Fr. Danny Ohmann M.M. (Retired)

Merry Christmas and blessings for the New Year to come.

Much to our joy, we were informed of the donation from the St Cloud Mission Office. What a lovely surprise. At the time of receiving your donation, we only had six donors that had responded. It is very concerning as we try to make plans for our projects knowing how compromised we are on funding. Because of your gift, we will be able to fulfill our lunch room commitment in the elementary school. There are not words other than to say, Thank you very much.

We are aware of the long list of needs tugging on the sleeve of the Mission Office...thank you for honoring us with this gift.

Many continued Blessings

- Mónica Rudowski (Serving in Nicaragua)

Welcome Bishop - Elect!

We at the Mission Office are so excited to welcome Bishop-elect Patrick Neary C.S.C.! With his Ordination right around the corner, we are excited to work with him and help him continue to further the passion for Mission in our Diocese.



*Picture shows Director Elizabeth Brown explaining our partnerships to Bishop - elect. Picture taken by Dianne Towalski.

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Spring Mission Rally!

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 25th! For the first time in 5 years the Mission Rally is back! This year it will be hosted at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples.

This event will go from 8am to 2:30pm.

More information will be posted to our website event page and Facebook page as it gets closer. Feel free to reach out to our office with any questions!

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