

Mission Connections

Volume 62

St. Cloud Mission Office Newsletter

Winter, 2020



A Mission Prayer: For those on Mission

Dear Lord, for those who go out to serve You, whether it be in a foreign land or even just to another area of their own country, please keep their relationship strong with You. Protect our brothers and sisters on Mission, and their friends and family they left behind. Grant your servants the time they need to spend with You. Help us who are living our mission out near home, to be steadfast in prayer. Let us all grow in the virtue of humility, and claim no good works as our own doing. Help us make it possible for all people to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. **Amen**

St. Francis Xavier, St. Damien, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and St. Oscar Romero - Pray for Us!



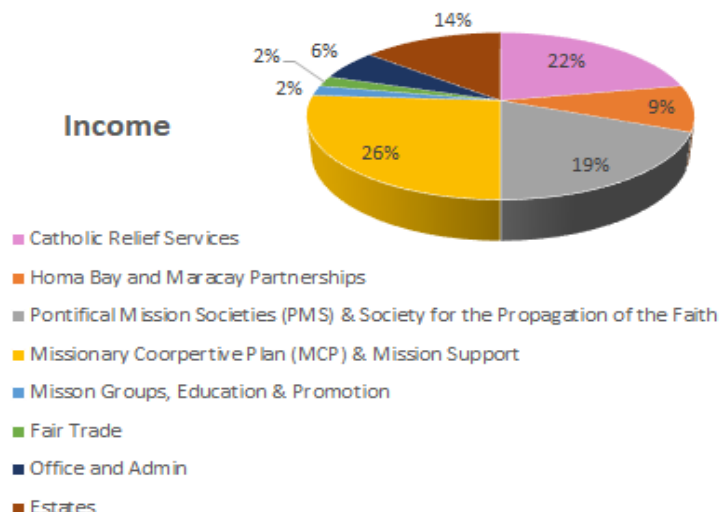
From whom and where in the world do our stories come from?

Year End Reports 2019

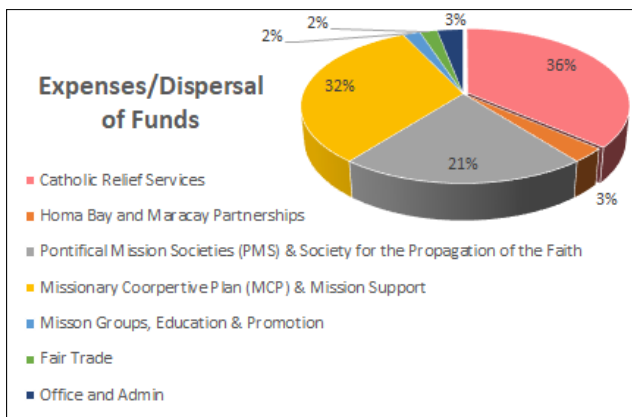
Missionary Updates

We have been working on making an accessible directory of missionaries who are from and who serve our Diocese. The directory will contain short term missionaries (Benedictine Community Volunteers), long term missionaries, deceased missionaries, and retired/returned missionaries. Since 1927, the year the Society for the Propagation of the Faith was established here, we have been a diamond in the rough, with a large number of foreign missioners from our Diocese. We are trying to connect with and find new missioners in our diocese! If you know of anyone serving abroad you can contact us at sydneymission@cloudnet.com. Currently we have 22 recorded, active long term foreign missioners.

Income



Expenses/Dispersal of Funds



Mission Outreach

In 2019, the Mission Office went out into the Diocese about 100 times for:

- Religious ed. classes, fair trade events, VBS, Catholic schools, youth groups, parish events, auxiliary groups, diocesan events and meetings, Learning Over Lunch sessions, community events, committee meetings, panels, and more!
- We organized, prepared, scheduled, and planned the 2019 delegation of 16 people to Homa Bay
- We are working on possible April 2020 delegations for Maracay and Homa Bay



Fair trade items

give TO THE MAX
NOV. 14, 2019

Thank you to all who helped at the Barn Dance, donated their Estates, gave to the Advent Appeal, and Give to the Max Day!

World Mission Rosaries 2019:

This project falls under the Pontifical Mission Societies

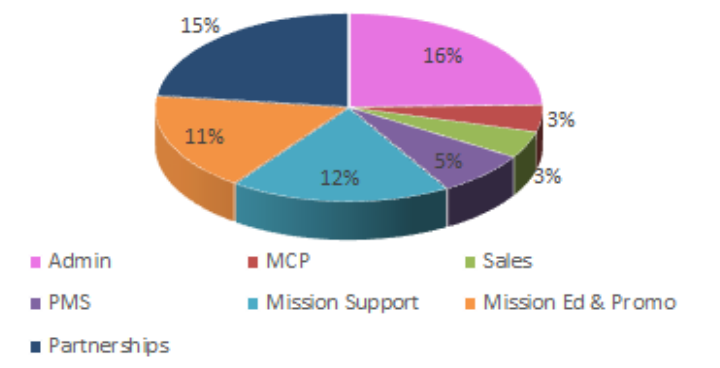
Total Rosaries sent out: 4049

Local (Our Diocese): 656

Fun Facts:

- 1387 rosaries were sent to the US Navy in Venezuela, to be prayed by those they encountered
- Texas alone had 570 rosaries sent to their schools and parishes
- We don't charge for the rosaries. We only ask for shipping reimbursement and that the rosaries are used to pray for our world!

Time spent in some areas 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 missioners or mission connections mentioned here may be made in care of the Mission Office.

**Please direct comments, suggestions and articles to Sydney Athey at sydneymission@cloudnet.com

**The mailing list is managed by Lena Coe, at lenamission@cloudnet.com

**For further information about the work of the Mission Office, contact Elizabeth Neville, at enmission@cloudnet.com



Mission Spotlight: Meet our Missioners

Br. Loren Beaudry
MM



Born: Albertville, MN
Grew up: Elk River, MN
Order: Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
Served: Africa Region; Namibia and Kenya
Currently Serving: Mwanza, Tanzania
Current Mission: working with local NGO's, especially with street children, children with AIDS, and handicapped adults and youth

Fr. Gabriel Joseph Ssenkindo OSB

Born/Grew up: 1963, Mbale in Eastern Uganda
Order: Christ the King Priory Benedictine Community in Tororo, Uganda
Served: Chaplain of Benedictine Eye Hospital; served at Monastery; Associate Pastor of a parish; and Chaplain of a school
Currently Serving: Director of Formation, onsite director of the Benedictine Volunteers, from St. John's in Collegeville



Fr. Gabriel got his Master's at St. John's University in 1999

Becker Family:

Jason, Inge, Isaac(15), Gemma(13), Augustine(11), Bridget(7), and Aviana(4)

Jason Becker

Born: Staples/Browerville

Home Parish: Sacred Heart in Motley

Family Grew up: Various places in MN

Family is currently serving: With Family Missions Company, Peru and now Coopevega, Costa Rica

Mission: Serve spiritual and physical needs of the people they live among, particularly many refugee's from Nicaragua

Served: Belize

What have you gained spiritually from being on mission?

Inge Becker: I have learned to live a life totally dependent on the Lord. I have grown to know the Lord provides, having peace and placing everything into His hands. We don't have an income, there are plenty of fears, living two hours from a clinic... I have to remember "Lord, You have called us here for a reason and a purpose, and I entrust my children to You".



Fr. Fred Timp SVD

Born/Grew up: Freeport, MN

Home Parish: St. Rose of Lima

Order: Society of the Divine Word in Ghana

Served: New Jersey, Kenya, rural areas of Ghana

Currently Serving: Arch Diocese of Accra, Ghana

In charge of Guest House and the Provincial Treasure



Logo for SVD



Read more updates and thank you notes from these missioners and others, on pg 4.

Notes of Gratitude

Greetings to all of you,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you wonderful and cheerful people of the St. Cloud Catholic Diocese. Thank you so much for the Christmas greetings, your kindness and the big donation for my ministry here in Mwanza, Tanzania. You people have been so good to me.

In the year 2020 I have three new ambitions. First, to work in Peace and Justice in the Archdiocese of Mwanza, second, to run a program encouraging people to be people of non-violence and third, to start small businesses using 'Vertical Farming' techniques. That five thousand dollars will be of a great assistance in my work. Many, many thanks.

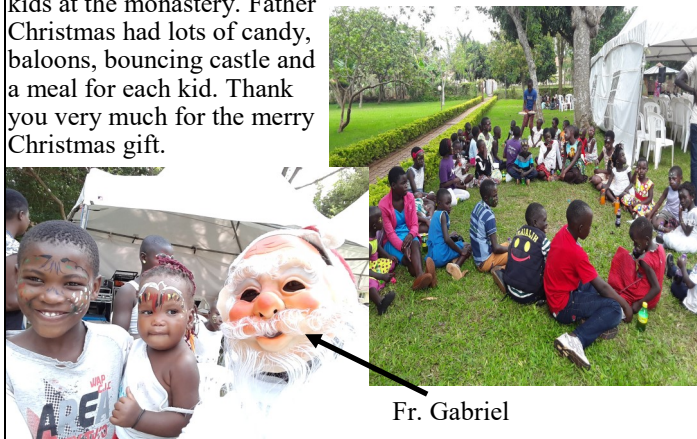


Sincerely yours,

Br. Loren Beaudry M.M.

Dear Beth,

Greetings from Tororo. We had a wonderful Christmas party for kids at the monastery. Father Christmas had lots of candy, balloons, bouncing castle and a meal for each kid. Thank you very much for the merry Christmas gift.



Fr. Gabriel

We could not fit everyone who sent us thank you's on this page!

Dear Elizabeth Lena and Sydey,
 Your wonderFull advent message is very up lifting I Thank you Per That
 Since July 2015 I am living at Maryknoll NY I do maintain in touch with Bolivia. Mostly with Two families, Gigvanka a Family of 8, and Rosa and her grand daughter Veronica. — Br Larry

THANK YOU



From the Franciscan Community Volunteers

A very big THANK YOU, Elizabeth and All,

For the Mass Stipends and Contribution towards our work in Brazil. I still work in two parishes here in Santarem, and do a lot of odd jobs for our Custody, mainly in formation. On Dec. 12, I celebrated 49 years in the priesthood ... and am already preparing for the Golden Anniversary. God and his Mother have been close the whole walk, and I pray the same for you!

Blessings of peace and joy during the Season and the whole Year-2020!

-John Schwieters



Seminarians from the Diocese of Maracay, wishing us a Merry Christmas!

Commemorating Crosier's Time in Papua, Indonesia

For about three weeks in November the Director of the Mission Office, Elizabeth Neville, traveled to Indonesia with Fr. Virgil Petermeier OSC and others. They spent significant time visiting Agats, a providence in Indonesia where the Crosiers and Bishop Alphonse Sowada OCS ministered to the people of Agats for years. For more photos go to the St. Cloud Mission's Office Facebook Page. To learn more about the Asmat Art Museum at the University of St. Thomas go to: <http://art.stthomas.edu/asmat/amaaust>

Onamia, Minnesota – December 22, 2019

Christmas Greetings Beth, Amy, Gretchen, Guy, Victoria, and Jerry,

This first day of winter surprised us today here in Onamia with 32 degree temps on a bright but very white scene. This contrast with tropical Papua made my return a week ago from my thirty-three day journey to Indonesia seem much longer ago. Participation at a five-day cultural festival and the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese of Agats graced me with many reconections with literally hundreds of people I knew from years ago.



Strangely, however, three weeks before arriving there, news broke out, even on Facebook, that I had died. At the Golden Jubilee I met my "sister," Dorothea, (pictured with the headband to the right), from the village of Amborep where I did my pastoral internship 1974-1976. Her parents adopted me as their son. Dorothea told me that when the news arrived about my death, the villagers began wailing and she threw off all her clothes and rolled in the mud just as her elders did years ago to express their grief. Later they did learn from the Crosiers in Agats that the death news was false. Fortunately in that world, if a person has been declared dead but really is alive, that person will have a really long life.

Five of us journeyed to Papua together. (Picture at the Crosier monastery—L-R Guy Wagner, the son of my cousin Susan (Petermeier) and Miles Wagner in Hawaii; I; Beth Neville, the director of the mission office in St. Cloud; Amy Mickelson and Gretchen Burau, two art history professors from St. Thomas University which has the largest collection of Asmat artifacts in the U.S.)

One of our most precious events in Asmat land was a cultural conversation with grades 3-6 of the Sawa Catholic elementary school. Professor Gretchen asked the Sawa students [through me as interpreter] the same questions she had asked the students of St. Peter Claver elementary school in Minneapolis. For instance, "What do you do after school hours?" or "What is your favorite game." We hope to spawn a conversation bridging hemispheres, tribes and races, all toward building our global family. When proposing questions for their American school friends, one Asmat student asked, "On what island is your country?" These conversations are filmed so that eventually the students will be able to see one another. Poor internet connections and time differences prevented live streaming of the Sawa event.

May you be having a good Christmas celebration and great entry into a hope-filled New Year. May you find God as the more clearly present Emmanuel, touching your life in many simple ways, including the playful touch of this Asmat babe with Beth (below) in the Asmat village of Syuru, after a Sunday Eucharist.

Peace, Virgil



Novitiate building near Bandung, Java: seventeen first year and six second-year novices, playful as seen in the picture.



Fr. Virgil with a Muslim merchant who he knew from before. He almost passed Father by with his battery-powered scooter on his way to the mosque for noon-day prayer. Suddenly he recognized Father. He stopped abruptly, greeted him cheerfully and asked to have a picture taken.



One of the most memorable experiences I had was going to the villages of Sawa-Erma. During this short (and hot) trip inland, I was able to see new canoes being carved and decorated for the annual cultural festival. We interviewed a master carver about the future of Asmat art and saw the boats being launched for the first time. Before heading back down river, I was able to purchase two woven mats and baby carrier for the American Museum of Art. - Gretchen





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Looking Forward to Spring

*Spring 2020 will be very busy! We have the possibility of a Homa Bay AND Maracay delegation to St. Cloud! **Tentative** dates for Homa Bay are: April 13th– April 29th.*

Visa appointments are already made for 16 potential delegates.

***Tentative** dates for Maracay are: April 20th–May 3rd. Please pray for these delegations.*

SAVE THE DATE :

Spring Mission Rally – Thursday April 23rd, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Staples, 8am–2pm!

