

# Mission Connections

Volume #67

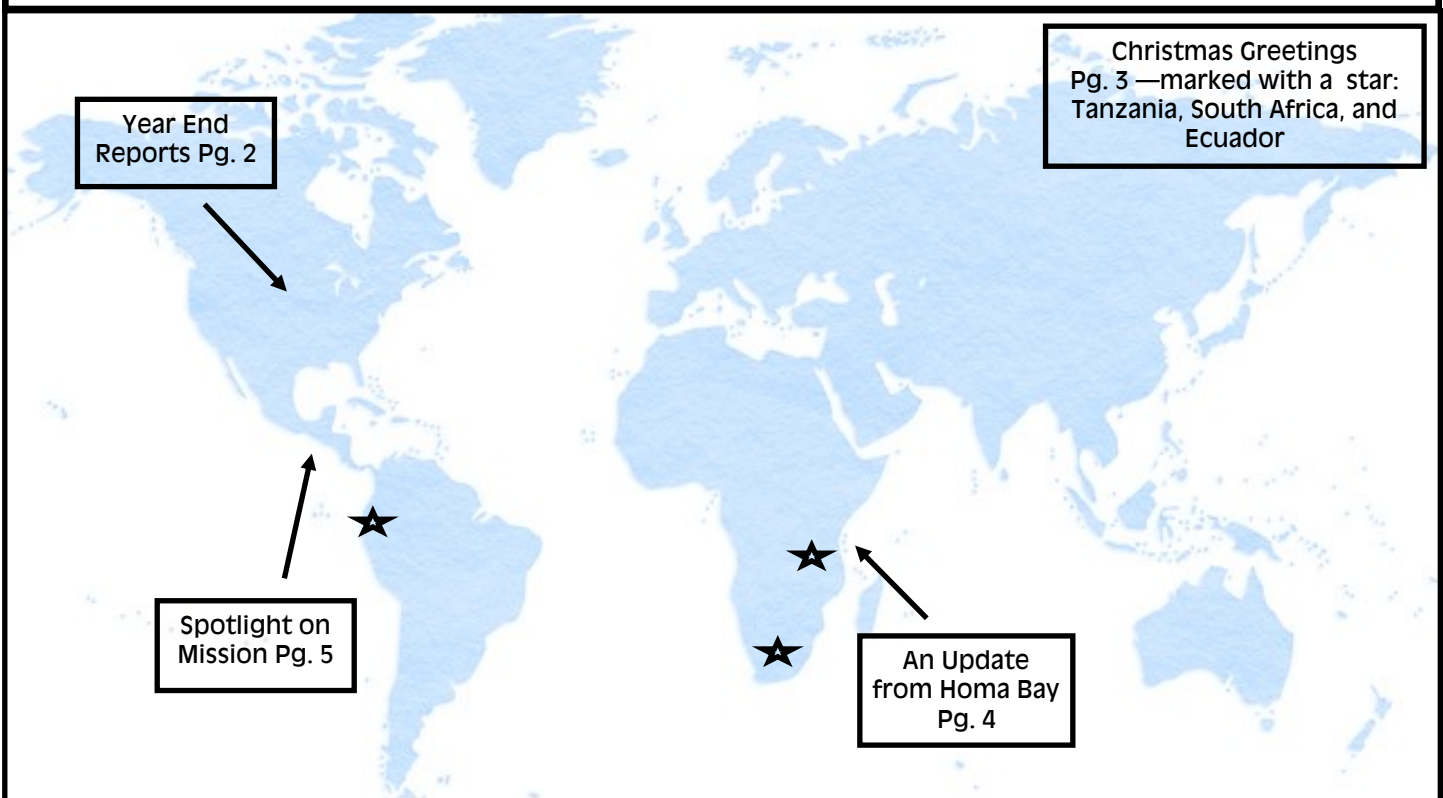
Winter, 2022



## Prayer for Missioners

God, help me to cross human-made borders  
To stand with all your sons and daughters who live on the edge.  
May everything I say and do help them to realize  
How much you love, forgive, and care for them.

- Fr. Joseph Veneroso, MM, *A Maryknoll Book of Prayer*



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

# Year End Reports

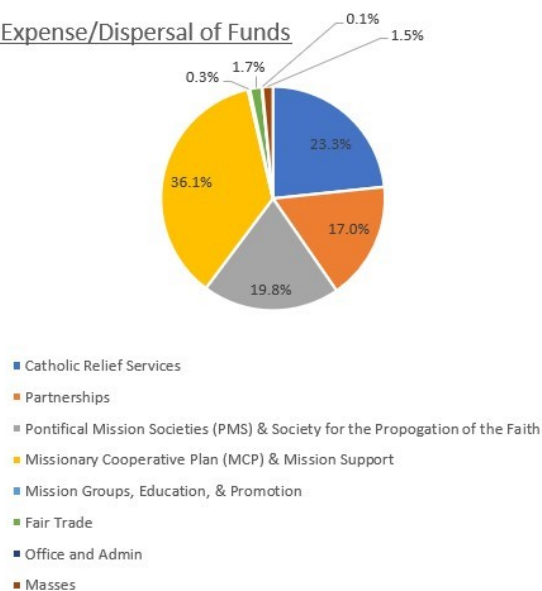
2021 was a great year for the St. Cloud Mission Office!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our amazing donors, supporters, and partners.

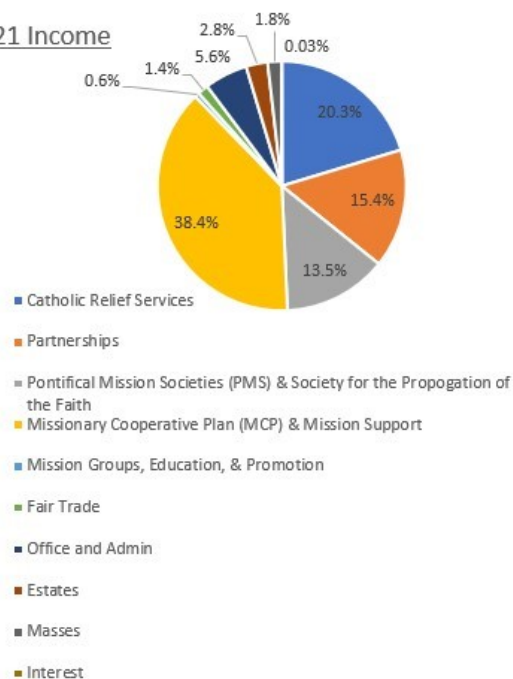
It is through your continued enthusiasm for Mission that we are able to do all that we do every year.

Because of the pandemic we were not able to do as much outreach during the year, but were still able to meet with some wonderful groups and classes. Thank you! As an office we were able to participate in many webinars and zoom meetings and have wonderful and fruitful discussions with many around the world.

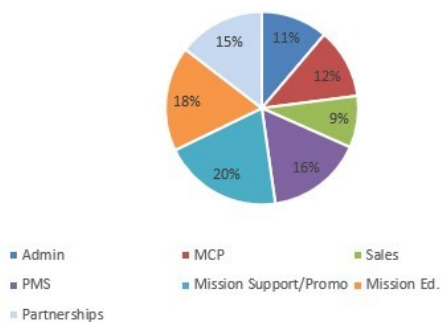
2021 Expense/Dispersal of Funds



2021 Income



2021 Time Spent in Areas of Ministry



## World Mission Rosaries 2020:

- Over 1,400 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.



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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](mailto:missionofficeeducator@cloudnet.com)

\*\*The mailing list is managed by Carolina Walz, at [missionofficemanager@cloudnet.com](mailto:missionofficemanager@cloudnet.com)

\*\*For further information about the work of the Mission Office, contact Elizabeth Neville Brown, at [enmission@cloudnet.com](mailto:enmission@cloudnet.com)

## Christmas Greetings from Our Missioners

Every year, our Missioners send us Christmas 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!

Hello Elizabeth,

Peace and joy to you and all staff members of the mission office. It is my hope and prayer that you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations. We owe a lot to the Lord whose love and care has brought us to see and celebrate the new year 2022. To him be the glory.

Friends and missionary companions, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the prayers and support that you sent for the missionary work in St. Odilia and Our Lady of Visitation churches where I am serving. The community of faith from the 2 churches have also sent their greetings and gratitude for the support.

With the support you sent, we managed to complete the repair of the main door of Our Lady of Visitation Church and build a good shed to protect it from rains and strong wind.

I also bought food for 115 orphans at St. Odilia Koppies Church and fed them on the feast of the Holy Innocents. It was a colorful celebration which started with the mass, lunch, and refreshments for children. The celebration brought joy, life, promoted unity and brotherhood for the Christians in Koppies because orphans from the non-Catholic families also took part in the celebration.

I also got petrol from the support you sent and reached out to all Christians in the two churches for masses, visited the sick and the elderly in this season of Christmas.

The Parish Pastoral Council and I are planning to renovate the leaking sacristy and its floor at St. Odilia this year. The support you sent will also help in this work. Once more thank you very much for your kindness and generosity. Thanks to your Bishop and people of God in your diocese. Their sacrifice and support strengthen and inspire us to bring hope to those entrusted to our pastoral care. I am celebrating the masses for the people of your diocese, staff members of the mission office and the families.

Thanks.

May God bless you.

Fr. Lawrence Otieno, MHM



Dear friends,

Greetings from Mwanza, Tanzania. I thank the diocese of St. Cloud, and you, for a very nice Christmas greeting letter. You people have been so good to me. Many, many thanks.

I wish all of you at the diocese of St. Cloud a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year.

In 2021, The Sacred Heart Brothers of Jesus, and myself, have started an orchard on their farm. We have planted over 120 trees which include: two types of banana trees, mango trees, orange trees, avocado trees and papaya trees. We also installed an efficient wood burning stove, both for the brothers, as well as, for the patients in Bukumbi Camp. Neither place has electricity. In Bukumbi Camp, people suffer from mental illness. Also, in Bukumbi Camp, we were able to make an outdoor sink and table to wash and dry their pots and dishes [see the above attachment].

Another project was to teach primary schools about learning disabilities, such as, dyslexia, ADHD, ADD and Autism. We have had five seminars for teachers and two seminars for parents. For each seminar for the teachers, we invited three primary teachers from nine different schools, two Government officials and a doctor. After the seminar the teachers were instructed to teach their schools what they have learned. So far, we have had a lot of complements on our work.

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits.

Sincerely yours, Br. Loren Beaudry M.M.

Dear Elizabeth,

I pray to God that I continue to find you full of God's blessings. I share with you that we continue to serve in the Vicariate of Aguatico, with many difficulties due to the increase in omnicon. We continue to encourage the community of Ñukanchik wasi (our house), serving the indigenous Quichuas and the settlers. We are happy because the missions are bearing fruit where more people are coming to receive the sacraments. Our children are helping us in the mission, Maria Jose and Jose Miguel, the other is based in Quito with her studies, it seems that she is also going to go to Coca. We are also taking advantage of our stay in Quito to continue advancing with the construction of our missionary center. grateful to you for your prayers and help. Also, count on our daily prayers. a surprise from a distance to those who serve in the office.  
with love your brother, Glahecer Baque.

Dear Beth and all at the Mission Office, I am grateful for your gift! The masses are being said with Maryknoll priests, the generous gift we will use in the Watatulu Education Program. It's being run by Ruth and Roy Meyer. It's going very well. Ruth and Roy are moving back to Minnesota. They will not go to visit the Watatulu this year. God bless you and all at the Mission Office! I pray for you all. Pray for me too!  
In Christ, Fr. Danny

## An Update from Our Partners in Homa Bay

*A few weeks ago we had sent an email asking for updates from Homa Bay on how Covid-19 was impacting their lives. The following includes excerpts from notes from a sister parish meeting at St. Peter's, Oyugis by Everlyne Anyango. Please pray for our partners!*

Covid 19 pandemic has really affected our people in our parish, Our diocese and Kenya as a whole severely in the following areas:

i. **CHURCH ACTIVITIES/FUNCTIONS** -Our churches were closed down making the church not to be able to perform its duties e.g. there were no sacraments being offered to the Christians i.e. Baptism, Holy Communion, Penance, Confirmation and any other sacrament in the Catholic Church.

- Our priests had challenges of people coming to beg for food in the parish, they managed to support many people but still the magnitude was difficult to manage. In this area we thank the Christians who visited our priests and donated food items and money to help them support the needy.

ii. **ECONOMICALLY:** This is the worst area where many people lost their jobs and therefore life became very difficult as a result of low income. There was unemployment due to fear of contracting covid, financial market was indeed affected. There was poor transport system and manufacturing industries brought down.

iii. **SOCIALLY:** - Many families are separated because of low income which has made them not to be able to provide basic needs to the family.

Get together meetings such as weddings birthdays graduations were greatly affected

- People lived solitary life where they don't meet each other, this led to depression hence people taking away their lives and lives of their beloved ones.

iv. **EDUCATION** -Our education system was greatly affected, children stayed home for a long period of time, our school calendar was interfered with hence the government had to re-organize the school calendar, this meant that teachers had to cover several topics in a short period of time and because of this pressure, the children burnt several schools in our country of which most of them are not yet renovated.



v. **EARLY MARRIAGES** - The long holiday led to early pregnancies hence early marriages, quite a number of students did not wait to go back to school.

vi. **STIGMATISATION** - Many covid infected people were stigmatized because they were isolated from people, this led to death of many people. note:

vii. **TREATMENT** -Many people also died because they could not afford covid-19 treatment.

viii. **DELEGATION** – Our delegates could not travel to the US because of travel restrictions.

The church is playing a vital role in helping the government achieve its goal of managing the covid 19 pandemic by encouraging people to follow Ministry Of Health Guidelines and measures to be taken on managing the pandemic. They encouraged: Sanitizing, washing of hands, keeping social distance, being vaccinated (there were a lot of myths /beliefs on this vaccines so our people did not welcome them at first but the government has put tough measures i.e “if you are not vaccinated you don't get government services, ”with this, many are being vaccinated), Avoiding overcrowded places.



*Above: The Sister Parish Team at St. Peter's*

*Left: the new bishop of Homa Bay Diocese, Bishop Michael Otieno Odiwa*

*Right: Bishop Michael with Benedict and Everlyne Anyango*

## Spotlight on Mission



*There are countless mission activities happening all the time 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 Emma Meyer, a parishioner from St. John the Baptist in Meire Grove. She is currently serving at Farm of the Child in Trujillo, Honduras. In last year's Winter Newsletter she wrote about the challenges provided by Covid-19 and multiple hurricanes. Now a year later, we asked for an update on her ministry.*

### *A Year in Review: Emma Meyer*

It's hard to believe that I've been living and serving at Farm of the Child in Trujillo, Honduras for 15 months now. Farm of the Child is a children's home for kids who come from families of abuse and neglect. We currently have 20 children living with us ages 6 months to 17 years. My days are filled spending time with them. Mainly in the form of teaching and tutoring elementary, but also in playing, practicing making traditional Honduran cuisine (aka perfecting the art of tortilla making), and praying in various church events. Every week brings joys and stories, so here are two from this week.



This past week I was making lunch for our missionary community and some visitors. Lunch for 15 is no easy task, so I recruited the help of a thirteen year old for assistance in making flour tortillas. God gave me a good dose of humility as her tortillas came out perfectly round and mine more triangular and a few rectangular. Even after a year of practicing clapping my hands in the tap-tap pattern, this teenager easily showed me up in her tortillas making skills.

One of the beauties of the Finca is living on the beach. Yesterday two of our youngest and newest kids went to the beach for the first time. It was a privilege to hear their squeals of delight after coaxing them in. It was a beautiful hour of splashing, swimming, and rubbing salt water from our faces.

My initial one year commitment to the Farm of the Child was filled with laughter, tears, fun, struggles, and grace-filled moments where I could see the Lord at work. Because of this I've extended my time of service for an additional year and will continue living and working at Farm of the Child until December of 2022.

*\*If you want to know more about Emma's time in Honduras you can find her blog at:  
<https://www.farmofthechild.org/emma>*



*Above: Emma (in the green dress on the right) in her weekly women's group.*

*To the left: two of the classes that Emma teaches on a weekly basis*

**Mission Office/SPOF**  
 11—8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
 St. Cloud, MN 56301

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## CRS Rice Bowl!



Lent is just around the corner! Churches will be receiving their resources in the next few weeks, and now is a great time to start thinking about how you will be participating in this act of solidarity during the season of Lent. The CRS Rice Bowl is a great way to get involved and learn about others across the world!

There are also lots of great resources at:

<https://www.crsricebowl.org/>

## Stay Connected!

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