

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR



Newsletter Lent/Easter 2025

Prayer... Fasting... Almsgiving...



ALSO

- **Profession of Vows**



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Newsletter 2025

Praying with Passion

The primary Lenten exercises are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

About prayer, consider the life of beggars. Perseverance is very strong in beggars: they never give up, never lose hope, but humbly present their need before others, and wait patiently for a merciful response.

When we sin, we experience guilt and shame. Like our First Parents, we stand naked before God, doubting whether God will forgive us. But we should not be like Adam and Eve, hiding from the Lord. We must ask, seek, knock.

Never mind whether or not we will receive what we ask for. The important thing is that a relationship has begun, helping us conquer sin, and freeing us of guilt and shame. It is not always quite so in family life whereby, although the children receive much, it is sometimes without love and the deep, lifegiving relationship that love bestows.

With our heavenly Father, sometimes we feel that God does not answer us because there is no change in what we ask. It feels more like a burden, since we keep repeating the same things. But prayer is not about feeling good with what we want. Prayer is about having a dynamic

relationship with our heavenly Father, who always loves us. Whether we solve a problem or not, whether we receive exactly what we ask or not, whether we have changed or not, we should never give up on prayer.

In the Book of Esther in the Old Testament, the story of Queen Esther takes place during the reign of King Ahasuerus of Persia.



Queen Vashti, his wife, is banished from the court for disobeying his orders. Esther, a young Jewish woman living in Persia, is chosen as the new queen in a beauty contest. Esther's cousin Mordecai, who is a Jewish leader, discovers a plot to kill all the Jews in the empire by the evil Haman, one of the king's advisors. Mordecai urges Esther to use her position as queen to intervene and save their people. Esther reveals her Jewish identity to the king, and earnestly begs for mercy for her people. She exposes Haman's plot and convinces the king to spare the Jews. Where

does she get such courage to face King Ahasuerus?

In her mortal anguish, she runs first to the Lord who empowers her. She becomes a beggar before the king in her passionate pleading to spare her people.

Is it so with us? When in need, our tendency is to run first to someone else before we run to the Lord. In a life of prayer, we must run first to God in our need, then all else will follow: *"seek ye first the Kingdom of God..."*

Like Esther, we are the agents of our prayer, enfleshing what we ask for. And everyone receives in prayer, since God is never outdone in generosity.

This Lent, let us imitate beggars, or Queen Esther, and with persistent faith run to the Lord as our first recourse in the battle for life and salvation.

Fr Hayden Augustine, MOP
Our Lady of Visitation Monastery
Nairobi, Kenya

Official opening of our Generalate House in Rome



A Heartfelt Journey with the Missionaries of the Poor

I was privileged to join 10 parishioners from Holy Infant Parish in Manchester, Pennsylvania to volunteer with the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston. This was my third trip to Kingston and after you have one missionary experience with the MOP Brothers, your heart desires to come back again and again.

As a pastor it gives me incredible joy to be able to bring parishioners to experience firsthand the faith, commitment and zeal of the MOP community. I find the spiritual witness of the Brothers is a source of inspiration and encouragement to live my priesthood in a more joyful and intentional manner. The parishioners that joined me on this trip also had their faith life tremendously challenged, deepened and reaffirmed.

The Missionaries of the Poor centers are places of hope, compassion, and transformation for people from all walks of life. The MOP congregation of Brothers has dedicated itself to serving "the least of our brothers and sisters"—the impoverished, sick, and forgotten. For volunteers who come from near and far, the centers provide an opportunity not only to serve but also to experience profound



Fr. Bill Forrey breaking the Word of God

personal growth and human connection.

Although my group of weeklong missionaries visited all of the MOP centers in Kingston, I kept returning to Bethlehem Children's Home. In one section of the home, children with disabilities lie in cribs or sit in wheelchairs, their faces lighting up at the sight of a new visitor. Volunteering here involves assisting with feeding, playing, and offering comfort. It is humbling to realize how much joy a simple touch or a few minutes of shared laughter can bring. Despite their challenges, the children exude a profound sense of peace, teaching visitors the beauty of unconditional love.

What strikes most volunteers is the spirit of joy that pervades Bethlehem Home. The Brothers and workers transform what could be a place of despair into a haven of love.

deep mark, challenging one's perspective on what it means to serve and to be human.

Leaving Bethlehem Home, visitors carry with them not just memories of faces and moments but also a renewed sense of purpose and a heart touched by the purest form of love—love that asks for nothing in return but gives everything.

One of the most moving aspects of this experience is the joy that radiates from those who have so little. The Brothers at Missionaries of the Poor often remind us that in serving others, we are not just giving, but also receiving something precious in return. Spending time with the poor reveals a remarkable strength and resilience that transcends material wealth, and for many volunteers, it is a humbling reminder of life's true priorities.



The experience often leaves a

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At the centers, life is beautifully simple and purposeful. The Brothers and volunteers live modestly, embracing a rhythm of prayer, work, and service. This simplicity allows everyone to focus on what truly matters—community and compassion. There is a transformative power in sharing a meal with someone who may have been abandoned or in holding the hand of a child who has been cast aside. In these quiet acts of service, volunteers often find a renewed sense of purpose and gratitude that stays with them long after they leave Jamaica.

For those seeking to step outside of their comfort zones and experience a world very different from their own, volunteering at the Missionaries of the Poor centers offers an invaluable perspective. The work can be physically demanding and, at times, emotionally overwhelming, but each volunteer is supported by the strength of the community around them. The Brothers are not only skilled caregivers but also sources of spiritual and emotional guidance for volunteers as they navigate this intense and often



Father Bill Forrey giving a travel blessing to the MOP volunteers

transformative journey.

Leaving the Missionaries of the Poor centers, many volunteers describe feeling as though they have received far more than they have given. They return home not just with memories but also with a deeper understanding of what it means to live with purpose, humility, and compassion. The poor have become their teachers, the Brothers their guides, and Jamaica a place of unforgettable grace.

Witnessing the humility of the Brothers as they wear their signature white robes with blue sash,

hard at prayer and busy at work, serves to make clear the Christian mandate to love God and neighbor. The Brothers live a routine day after day in a rhythm of prayer and compassion that is enlivened by the joy in their hearts. Praying with the Brothers, working with the Brothers, serving with the Brothers, helps me to be spiritually recharged and energized to return to my parish and serve my parishioners with renewed purpose.

When you make the decision to come to Kingston and live with the MOP Brothers know that it is more than an act of charity; it is a journey of the heart. The experience reminds us all that in serving others, we are indeed part of something much larger than ourselves—a shared humanity rooted in love, dignity, and hope.

Father Bill Forrey
Holy Infant Parish
Manchester, Pennsylvania
USA



To God be the Glory!

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last” (John 15:16). Here, Jesus reminds us that our relationship with Him is not based on our own decisions but is a divine calling, initiated by His boundless love and purpose. This calling is not earned by merit or effort but is a gift of God’s grace, rooted in His loving plan for each person.

These young men have come to realize that God chose them. They do not need to strive to earn His love or His calling. They have been set apart for a mission: to live simply, to love deeply, and to serve God by serving the least of their brothers and sisters.

They belong to Him—not because of their own merit, but because of His abundant grace and love. In being chosen, they are called to bear fruit: lives that reflect Christ’s love, bring hope to others, and fulfill His will. This is an invitation to join in God’s work in the world, empowered by His Spirit to create a lasting impact.

As God said in Jeremiah 1:5, *“Before you were born, I chose you.”* His choice of them—even before they knew Him—is a testament to His unwavering love. They can trust that He will guide and equip them for the mission He has given them, walking with them every step of the way. Regardless of how the world defines them, their core identity is



found in being beloved children of God, chosen and cherished by Him. Being chosen by God is more than a blessing—it is a call to live with purpose, grounded in His love, and to bear fruit that reflects His grace and glory.

It is truly inspiring to see young men courageously commit to living the evangelical counsels—poverty, chastity, obedience, and free service to the least of our brothers and sisters. In a world focused on self-indulgence, fleeting pleasures, and individualism, their decision is a bold, countercultural act of faith and courage.

Four of our Brothers, who have made their final profession of vows, have consciously chosen to prioritize the spiritual over the material, and service over self-interest. Their commitment demonstrates that values such as faith, love, sacrifice, and service are not only timeless but vital in our ever-changing world. Their embrace of a life of discipline, simplicity, and dedication—often at great personal cost—reflects their profound love for God and His people.

These young men become beacons of hope, encouraging others to consider their own callings and inviting them to a life of purpose, integrity, and love. By dedicating their lives to Jesus, they embody the transformative power of the Gospel. Choosing Christ often involves surrendering personal ambitions, comforts, and pleasures. It is a profound commitment to serve—whether through ministry, missionary work, or simple, everyday acts of love and kindness.

This is a beautiful reminder that God is always at work, calling hearts to Himself, and that His kingdom continues to grow through those who say “yes” to Him.

As Brothers, we are deeply grateful to God for His gracious calling and for choosing these young men for His divine purpose.

We humbly ask for your prayers, that they may continue to grow in their love for God and for the poor, living out their vows with grace and humility. May they remain steadfast in their mission, embracing God’s holy will with open hearts and unwavering faith.

May their lives bear lasting fruit, reflecting Christ’s love and bringing hope to all they serve.

Fr. Amarjose Dungdung, MOP
Christ the King Monastery
Warangal, South India

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Newsletter

Is the official Newsletter of the Institute of the Missionaries of the Poor.



On February 1, 2025 six MOP Brothers were ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons from the hands of Most Rev. Joseph E. Harris, C.S.Sp., Pontifical Commissary.

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Faith Center's on-going renovations



St. Ephrem Chapel's on-going renovations





On 13 February 2025, three Missionaries of the Poor Sisters professed their temporary vows at Holy Innocents Chapel



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