

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR



Newsletter



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a vocation story
- Our Newest Mission -
St. Vincent & the Grenadines



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Newsletter 2021

40th Jubilee Reflection of a Founding Member

By: Fr. Hayden Augustine, M.O.P.



I give You thanks and praises, Almighty God, for the marvelous gift of vocation You have given us Brothers of the Missionaries of the Poor: the vocation to be followers of Christ!

Truly, “The call to serve the poor is an invitation to happiness!”

I give You God, glory and honor, in Your devoted love for the multitude of us MOP Brothers who have made this awesome journey of joyful service these wonderful, eventful 40 years.

I adore You, Lord: for your faithfulness, even in the face of our own unfaithfulness; for Your strength and courage, even in the throes of our weakness and timidity; for Your pardon and forgiveness, even from the depths of our failures and sins, as we strived and strained to live out our vows as Missionaries of the Poor.

Truly, “The call to serve the poor is an invitation to happiness!”

Father God, You have revealed your power and might in the countless miracles we have eye-witnessed these 40 years of encounter with the poor and needy.

We’ve seen the lame walk!

We’ve seen the sick healed!

We’ve seen the doubter find faith!

We’ve seen the abandoned return to the family of God!

I praise You, Father God, for the blood, the sweat and the tears of your Son Jesus, which have mingled with our own blood, sweat

and tears, have sanctified them and made them gush forth your Kingdom in our lives as Missionaries of the Poor.



Fr. Richard Ho Lung visiting Kenya Mission

Blood that was spilled by our two martyr-novices Suresh and Marco that frightful, fateful night of October 2005.

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Newsletter

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



40th year Founding Anniversary.

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR, JAMAICA

P.O. Box 8525

3 North Street, Kingston C.S.O.

Tel: (876) 948-0280

(876) 967-0341

E-mail: mopja@missionariesofthepoor.org

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR, USA

P.O. Box 29893, Atlanta GA 30359

Tel: (404) 248-1197

E-mail:

mopusaoffice@missionariesofthepoor.org

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR, CANADA

P.O. Box 20070 Southbrook PO

Maple, Ontario L6A 4M4, Canada

Tel: (905) 940-2606

E-mail: mopcanada@gmail.com

“Seeing God in Others”

by: Allan Lane

I first visited the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica in 2016, as both a Catholic and as a humanitarian photographer. I had read Fr Ho Lung's book *Candles in the Dark* prior to coming, so I was very interested in seeing how things were “on the ground.” In general, the residents being cared for were, all things considered, doing pretty well. They were generally pretty content and happy, despite, making it a pretty easy an enjoyable experience for myself and the rest of the volunteers who were there, as the picture below attests to.



A volunteer with the children of Bethlehem Home

However, not everyone was doing so well, this young woman was in a definite struggle. She remained in this crouch, her eyes and head darting back and forth rapidly, seemingly tormented by whatever was going on in her head. I found it difficult to observe.

A young man, a visitor from somewhere in Europe, went up to her and knelt, speaking to her quietly and gently. She was verbally unresponsive, lost in her own mind, but somehow,

someway I felt that his presence was positively felt by her. As much as I enjoyed being there myself and did my own interacting with folks, I remember feeling and thinking that I couldn't do what he was doing, being so completely present to someone who is in such obvious emotional and mental pain. It was hard enough just to take the picture. Thankfully I did.



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MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR - TIMELINE

1981 - 2021

Missionaries of the Poor is a Lay Religious Institute of Pontifical Right.

Founder

1939



Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ho Lung, was born on September 17, 1939 in Richmond, St. Mary, Jamaica. He founded the Missionaries of the Poor.

Brothers of the Poor

1981



July 19, 1981, the Brothers of the Poor was founded by Rev. Fr. Richard Ho Lung, M.O.P., in Kingston Jamaica, W.I.

Pious Union

1982



April 20, 1982, The Brothers of the Poor was approved as a Pious Union by Most Rev. Samuel E. Carter, Archbishop of Kingston, Jamaica.

Missionaries of the Poor

1982



October 20, 1982, the Brothers of the Poor was change into Missionaries of the Poor.

India - Andhra Pradesh

1992



February 8, 1992, the first overseas mission of the Missionaries of the Poor was established in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, State, Southern India.

Philippines - Naga City

1993



September 28, 1993, Fr. Brian Kerr, M.O.P. and Br. Maximo Medina, M.O.P., established the second overseas mission of the Missionaries of the Poor in Naga City.

Haiti - Cap-Haitien

1994



February 6, 1994, two Brothers from the Missionaries of the Poor were sent to take over the administration of the Asile Communal run by the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception (M.I.C.).

Uganda - Kampala

2000



September 29, 2000, Br. Philip Selvaraj, Br. Marc Maurice, Br. Giovanni Luna and Br. Kishore Ekka, set foot in Uganda to establish the first mission of the Missionaries of the Poor in the African Continent.

Philippines - Cebu

2004



February 4, 2004, the Cebu mission was established.

Kenya - Nairobi

2007



2007, Fr. Brian Kerr, MOP, Br. Crispinus, M.O.P. and Br. Vincent, M.O.P. were sent to open mission in Nairobi, Kenya.

India - Orissa

2007



February 27, 2007, the Missionaries of the Poor open mission in Orissa, India.

U.S.A. - Monroe, NC

2008



October 2, 2008, Fr. Richard Ho Lung, M.O.P., together with other 5 Brothers travelled to U.S.A., to establish the Monroe Mission in North Carolina.

Indonesia - Ruteng

2010



June 6, 2010, Br. Emmanuel Kagaba, MOP, Br. Nerlito Dioneda Jr., MOP, and Br. Ronel Babida, MOP, established the mission in Ruteng, Indonesia.

Philippines - Manila

2011



October 1, 2011, was the grand opening of Manila Mission and pioneered by Br. Marc Maurice, MOP and Br. Rogelio Funtanares, MOP.

Haiti - Port-au-Prince

2013



December 2013, the Food for the Poor handed over the Center des Enfants de Jesus to the Missionaries of the Poor.

East Timor

2015



November 2, 2015, Br. Jimmy Pia, MOP, Br. Elmer Dupalco, MOP, and Br. David Masaf, MOP were sent to open the mission in East Timor.

Pontifical Approval

2015



December 8, 2015, the Missionaries of the Poor received the Pontifical Approval.

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

2021



May 17, 2021, Br. Anthony Jjuuko MOP, Br. Oratus, MOP, and Br. Manoj, MOP, were sent to open the mission in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Our Newest Mission

By: Br. Anthony Jjuuko, MOP

Br. Oratius, Br Manoj, and I arrived at St. Vincent on Monday, 17th May 2021. And immediately, we were quarantined for 16 days at Hotel Alexandriana, after which the local Spiritan Bishop Gerald County took us to his residence at the Pastoral Centre at Edinboro, Kingstown.

Without much delay, we began our ministry by accompanying Bishop County on Sundays to various parishes, meeting people, and getting acquainted with them. Also, on Sundays, we attend a soup kitchen where we serve food and drinks to street people. In addition to that, we help packing food packages and then distribute them to those affected by the recent volcanic eruption. Moreover, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are for prison ministry.

We often help unload food containers and other supplies to distribute to the people in the red zone of the volcanic eruption.



Pioneers of St. Vincent & the Grenadines Mission

After some time, we began cleaning and painting what would be our new home. And on Friday 9th July, we moved into our monastery called St. Martin House.

Presently we are waiting for the bishop to settle arrangements with the cathedral administrator and those running the soup kitchen about our work there. Meanwhile, we go with a priest to the red zone - Georgetown and Sandy Bay - to clean a bakery and supermarket run by the diocese. These were covered with ashes and had their roofs destroyed by the volcano. At the same time, we also give out packages.

This Mission is different in nature, busy, but gradually we will shine for Jesus. We are happy to be here, coming at the right time, just after the volcanic eruption. Which then was followed by a hurricane that brought devastation to the island.

Like Jamaica, people are happy though poor, but the population is much smaller than in Jamaica. St Vincent is a mountainous country with narrow roads snaking all around the island.

We want to thank the community for this opportunity to be pioneers on this new venture in building God's Kingdom and His Church by serving His poor. God bless you!



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Sweat that dripped relentlessly as we labored and battled building missions of mercy in ten countries on three continents: Jamaica, India, Philippines, Haiti, Uganda, Kenya, USA, Indonesia, East Timor, St. Vincent.

ness and pride and teaching us the salvific ways of loving and laughing, of sharing and caring, through these 40 years of joyful service at our apostolates and ministries for the homeless, the destitute, and the poor in spirit.

You have saved us Lord!

pose and has opened for us a living and a giving we have never known before.

Father God, please grant us the favor this day forward to continue striving to be your humble, faithful, obedient servants - Missionaries of the Poor - all the days of our life. Amen.



Brothers fixing dilapidated house.



Brothers at Prayer

Tears that were shed by so many of us Brothers and countless others due to mistakes, mishaps and misunderstandings caused by our frail and fragile flesh.

Thank you, God Almighty, for these four decades of stress and strain, of pressure and pain, as we toiled might and main to become loyal sons of Holy Mother Church.

As we charted with our Father Founder Richard Ho Lung the winsome ways of Your wondrous works through the rough and tumble of our own fallenness and the brokenness of our human family.

All praise and thanks to You, Great and Mighty Redeemer, for saving us from our own selfish-

***You have loved us, Lord, with an everlasting love!
You have given us, Lord, something to live for,
something to die for!***

Your Holy Spirit has graced our lives with meaning and pur-



Fr. Richard Ho Lung greeting people from the ghetto.

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The quote that is in the picture comes from Victor Hugo, a French poet, novelist, essayist, playwright, and dramatist of the

19th century, who wrote about the existence of God. When there is so much obvious and needless suffering in the world, and can, like I basically did, shy

Romantic movement. I remember hearing someone else saying in effect that we will never get closer to knowing who God is than through another person.

Many of us at one time or another wonder about or ques-

tion the existence of God. When there is so much obvious and needless suffering in the world, and can, like I basically did, shy away or struggle with being present to someone who is in so much pain.

“To love another person is to see the face of God.”

This young man embodies, to me at least, what it means to see, in effect, the Face of God. His heart and soul saw a need, no matter how difficult it may have been, and gave of himself to the young woman, fully offering himself and offering compassion, care, and love, while seeing both beauty and hope. Remind you of anyone else you might know?

Mission Events: Kingston Jamaica

“This is Where You Belong!”

I am Bro. George Antony Aravind, MOP. My parents are Mr. George Victor and Late Sheela and, I am the only child. My parents brought me up in the Catholic faith and, I grew up in the Church atmosphere among the priests and the Nuns. I attended Mass on Fridays and Sundays and serving at the altar. Later on, I started getting involved in Church activities and then became part of the Youth Group.

There are two religious persons I would like to highlight. I thank God for them. Fr. Anthony Raj, a dedicated parish priest and also very committed to the poor. And Sr. Selva Rani, principal of the St. Joseph High School. She is a person very committed to her works and has a joyful spirit. I admired them for their dedication to

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serving the people. They caused me to join Religious Life.

The priests and religious touched my heart, and with them, I want to serve the Lord. They help me to grow deeper in my faith. Thus I owe them for what I am now today. They changed and

transformed me into a better person and the lives of many students.

I remember one incident, and that was when my mother took me to a home run by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters. And at first, I was not happy, but when I saw their situation, my heart broke down and moved with pity. I was brought to tears by seeing their condition and was moved deeply to help the poor people. From then on I wanted to become a religious, to serve the poor.

Day by day, my desire to become a Religious was getting deeper and deeper. At that time, I was in my 2nd-year college in ANDHRA LOYOLA COLLEGE in Vijayawada, run by the Society of Jesus. I met the Vocation Director of the Jesuits and



Brothers Professing their Vows.

Missionaries of Compassion, but unfortunately, I was not accepted because I was the only child of my parents. So I waited and prayed to God to give me the gift of vocation. One day during the Diocesan Vocation Camp, I met the Brothers from the Missionaries of the Poor. I spoke to them, and I heard a whisper saying, this is where you belong!

From then, my religious journey began. I joined the Missionaries of the Poor on July 4, 2011, in Warangal, India. In the beginning, I went through life-challenging experiences. But also a wonderful and joyful moment working with the Brothers and the Poor. Even though we were from

different states in India I was enveloped with a family spirit, with an atmosphere of fun and laughter. But not all of us in my group persevered. Scripture says, 'many are called but, few are chosen' (Mathew 22:14). Religious life is a call to live a life of holiness, self-giving, and total dedication in the service of God. Our vocation is a plan of God. God has called each one of us to fulfill a specific mission. Vocation is a gift given to us freely by God. It is a call to die to oneself and to embrace the will of God. He calls us to leave everything behind and to enter into a close relationship with Him.

It was the Lord who took me by hand, protected, and shaped me. His Body and Blood nourished me every day. He has blessed and showered his graces upon me abundantly and has done wonders in my life.

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Ordination to the Diaconate



Br. Emmanuel Kagaba, M.O.P., was ordained to the diaconate on July 6, 2021 by Most Rev. Joseph E. Harris, C.S.Sp., Pontifical Commissary of the Missionaries of the Poor.

How to Contact Us:

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR, JAMAICA

P.O. Box 8525
3 North Street, Kingston C.S.O.
Tel: (876) 948-0280
(876) 967-0341
E-mail: mopja@missionariesofthepoor.org

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR, CANADA

P.O. Box 20070 Southbrook PO
Maple, Ontario L6A 4M4, Canada
Tel: (905) 940-2606
E-mail: mopcanada@gmail.com

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR, USA

P.O. Box 29893; Atlanta GA 30359
Tel: (404) 248-1197
E-mail: mopusaoffice@missionariesofthepoor.org