

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR



Newsletter

A Light in the Darkness



ALSO

- A New Monastery
- First Profession of Vows
- Super Typhoon Rolly



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Newsletter 2020

The Star, A Light in the Darkness

No doubt, this year 2020 has been a tumultuous and a turbulent year. Indeed, a very dark time. The year welcomed us with the outbreak of the coronavirus, which has become a global catastrophe. Claiming thousands of lives and disrupting the order of our daily lives. Shutting down business establishments that resulted to job cuts and livelihoods losses and shrinking economies. But the poor suffered the worst.

And as the year comes to a close, we are battered with all kinds of natural disasters from all sides. Earthquakes crushing cities to the ground, devastating hurricanes causing massive floodings and wildfires consuming our habitat and our wildlife.

All we see around us just seems to be chaos and disasters and our world just seems to be plunging in total darkness, without hope and without light. But in the darkest hour of our human experience, there, the star appears. Giving light and hope.

The star guides humanity into the stable of life and fulfillment, where all heart finds rest and where all souls finds peace. The star points humanity into the stable of truth and certainty, where all quests cease and where all uncertainties vanishes. The star draws humanity into the stable of hope and new life, where all the downtrodden finds solace and where all the forsaken finds nest. The star leads humanity into the stable of freedom and emancipation, where all captives finds liberation and where all prisoners finds illumination. The star directs humanity into the stable of healing and restoration, where all the sick are treated and where all the wounded are mended.



The road we travel is dark and risky and without the light of the star, we stumble and fall. The night is long, the darkness grows strong, and without the star to strengthen us, we will diminish and will be vanquish.

One little spark of light can make a big difference to a whole world of darkness. But, what if that little spark is not there? What a world it will be! And what if all of us refuse to shine? What a darkness it will be!

Today, let your star shine ever brighter, especially in the darkest moment of our human experience. For all to find hope and courage, for all to find peace and joy and for all to find light and life. Today, let your star rise ever higher, especially in the lowest moment of our human experience, for all to find comfort and refuge and today, let your star get ever warmer, especially in the coldest moment of our human experience, for all to find warmth and delight.

Today too, let us remember to thank those who have been a star in our lives. Our parents, our siblings, our

guardians and our teachers, our pastors and the many individuals who have been a guiding star in our lives. Without whom we will never be where we are now.

In this dark and uncertain time, look up to the star and you will see, follow the star and you will find and there your hearts will be filled with gladness that you have never felt before and there you will bow down in homage and open your treasures, gold, frankincense and myrrh – the treasures of your very life. And you will never want again for you will find the treasure of great price.

And as the star leads us to the Light of lights. And as the candle-lights fades away and the lamp lights dies away, so too your light and my light will die and disappear when it has fulfilled its purpose so that the One True Eternal Light, the Light of lights will shine eternally, forever and ever. Amen!

A Blessed Christmas to All!

By: **Br. Arnold Ancheta, M.O.P.**

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Newsletter

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Our Cover: Jamaica Mission
Brothers in the streets of the ghetto of Kingston Jamaica.

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A Creative Service

by: Ann Hatton

Here at the M.O.P. Monroe Mission, we are missing our friends from the Hispanic community. We miss praying with them and gathering with them. Many in our community move frequently and so it is not easy to reach out

to them in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Brothers have a small team of steadfast Food Pantry supporters as well as the Order of Malta who continues to fill the Food Pantry shelves and prepare 30 bags of groceries that the Brothers drive around and distribute weekly. We are truly blessed.

We typically host a Thanksgiving Feast each year where we gather for prayer, rosary, and a delicious Thanksgiving Feast provided by our generous supporters. This year will be the first that we will not be hosting the Thanksgiving feast. As of this writing, the number of Covid-19 cases in North Carolina is increasing again, and our governor has placed additional restrictions on indoor gatherings until December 4, 2020. Although this is challenging, we offer this sacrifice as a way to ensure the safety of our Hispanic community, volunteers, and the Brothers.

We are currently planning on a creative way to provide a "drive-through" Christmas event for our Hispanic community. Families will drive through the Monastery parking lot without



Ann Hatton with the Hispanic M.O.P. youths.

getting out of their car, and we will have a small group of volunteers there to hand them a gift bag for their family. This effort would not be possible without the continued support of our generous donors.

We pray for all of the M.O.P. Missions and the Brothers throughout the world. For their humble and loving service. We also pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have lost their lives due to Covid-19. And for those who are now suffering and for those who have lost their loved ones.

We pray for the continued strength to stay faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ in this time of the pandemic and look forward to the time when we will rejoin with our Hispanic brothers and sisters in great joy and thanksgiving.



A New House of God

On September 8, 2020, the Most Rev. David Kamau, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Nairobi, blessed the new Our Lady of Visitation Monastery of the Missionaries of the Poor in Kenya. It was to mark the completion of many years of labor in establishing the new monastery.

In 2007, Fr. Brian Kerr, M.O.P., a founding member of M.O.P., and two other Kenyan Brothers; Br. Vincent Mutiso, M.O.P., and Br. Cyrus Musyoka, M.O.P., was sent to open a mission in Kenya. Their arrival was met with delight by the then local Archbishop Most Rev. Ndingi Mwana Wa Nzeki in the Archdiocese of Nairobi. With the help of the Archbishop, they found a suitable place to start a mission in Ruai Chokaa, a slum area, where people live in utter poverty. They first rented a house, and within a year, they were able to purchase a land. Then, they started the construction of the Mabhati home for the ministry.

By then, the Brothers had already started a daycare center in the area. They have 60 children under their care who came from impoverished families. They provided free breakfast and lunch. They catechized and taught them how to pray. On Sundays, all these children gathered for the Holy Mass, and many of them received the sacrament of



Most Rev. David Kamau blessed the Our Lady of Visitation Monastery in Nairobi, Kenya.

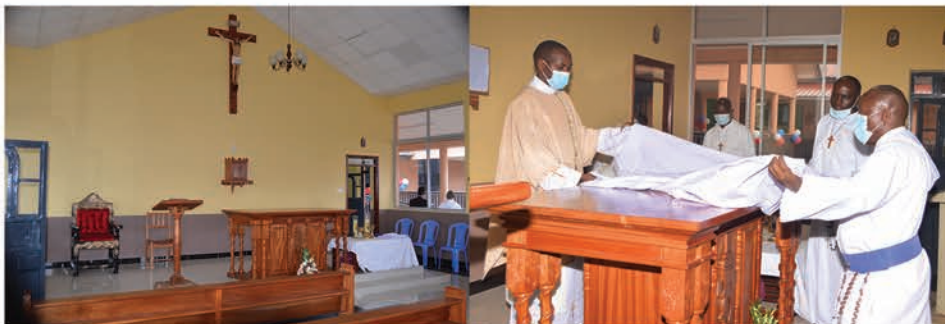
baptism. Right now, there are over 200 children sponsored by the M.O.P. Brothers. Parents of these children, who were live-in partners, have received the sacrament of matrimony through the help of the Brothers.

In 2012, the Brothers opened a home for the disabled and abandoned children. They had first admitted 12 disabled children in the facility, and as time went by, the number increases. In 2016, these children were shifted to the new facility. Now, there are 40 children in

the facility. After then, the construction of the monastery building started, and four years later, the establishment of the new monastery building was completed.

Br. Fidel, who is the local superior of this mission, says, *"It's a great joy for all the Brothers here in Kenya Mission to have come to this beautiful day when we can see the completion of this house of God. It has taken great energy, sacrifices, and prayers for us to come this far. It is through the help of our friends and benefactors who supported us financially so that we can have this new monastery. Thus, to our friends, your sacrifices and prayers are not in vain. Now the Brothers have a place where they can pray and rest"*.

"Finally, as we rejoice at the opening of our new monastery, let us also open our hearts, let it be the dwelling place of our Lord Jesus Christ. May this new monastery from today onwards be a place for people to find solace with God."



Deacon Morris, A.A., and Br. Vincent Mutiso, M.O.P., dressed the new altar in its altar cloth for the first time.

Serve Without Ceasing

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of people have lost their jobs due to the closure of many business establishments. The virus has claimed millions of lives all over the world, and it is continuously affecting the lives of many people.

Nevertheless, the Missionaries of the Poor in North Carolina continue to reach out to the Hispanic communities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Five Brothers are on this mission and Br. Ryan, M.O.P., one of the Brothers, says, "In this most crucial time, these people need us more than ever before."

Despite the dangers of contracting the virus, the Brothers continue to provide food packages to the families in the area. They dropped them from house to house,



Br. Nabore Soreng and Br. Morris Mutua distributing food items to the people.

and those who have a car pick up the food packages from the Brothers. "We do this work with faith, trusting in the power of God, and knowing the dangers it entails. Like our Lord Jesus, who reaches out to those who are in need. Likewise, our Brothers responded to the current situation by reaching out to the needs of the

Hispanic community in the area. And so far, the Lord has been good to us for keeping us safe", says Br. Ryan.

Besides, friends and associates of the Missionaries of the Poor extend their hands in helping the Brothers packing food items. Some have donated a pallet of rice and cornflour. And two parishes St. Thomas and St. Mathew, also collected some food items to distribute to the people.



M.O.P. associate sorting out food items.

Responding to God's Call

Time and again, God-called men and women to be laborers for the Kingdom. Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." (Lk.10:2). Indeed, nine Brothers from the Missionaries of the Poor took their First Profession of Vows, five from India Mission,

and three from Uganda Mission. These Brothers responded to the call of God. They have given their lives to the service of our brothers and sisters, especially to the poor ones. And fulfill the words of Christ as they proclaim the Kingdom of God through their works.



Warangal, India

First Profession of Vows

On the 18th of October 2020, on the feast day of St. Luke, the Evangelist, five Novices of the Missionaries of the Poor, took their temporary profession of vows in Christ the King Monastery, Warangal, India. Namely: Br. Bikash "Mercilino" Kiro, Br. Santosh Kindo, Br. Salin "Ansgar" Lakra, Br. Srinus Kujur, and Br. Bikash Lakra. It was presided by Rev. Fr. Cyprian Toppo, M.O.P.



Kampala, Uganda

First Profession of Vows

Three Novices took their temporary vows, Br. Martin Waita, Br. Steven Kioko and Br. Bernard Otieno, on 17th September 2020. It was presided by Rev. Fr. Joseph Ssali, M.O.P., Novice Master.

"I Give Thanks To You My God"

The goodness, the love, the trust, the mutual respect, and, at the heart of it, the love of God, the love of neighbor, bind us together in this beautiful effort: The building of God's Kingdom here on earth, especially among the poor and forgotten abandoned people.

The Coronavirus has been a testing ground for the Missionaries of the Poor this year. Everyone has been affected by this virus directly or indirectly. So many of our friends and benefactors have told us of cases in their families and friends. But of the thousands that we know, no one has reported any deaths due to the virus. God has been great and wonderful. There have been infections but no fatalities.

Jamaica has been the most challenged: there are seventy-four of our residences, mostly at Faith Center, who were infected. Among our Brothers, fourteen initially were positive at Jesus Redeemer. Some forty-five of our worker-volunteers were held back from work, for fear of the virus.

It was on the news on local television, and there were constant



callers and support, including the Ministry of Health. The Brothers did a tremendous job covering for workers and the Brothers who were short in numbers. Brothers were willing to live at Faith Center and work day and night to provide attention for the residences, who were quarantined.

Now there is a sigh of relief; almost miraculously, none of our homeless or our Brothers who had originally-tested positive were fatalities. None of our workers and volunteers suffered.

During this year we have been praying, especially for guidance and

protection for all our peoples. In one way or another, all of us have been affected, family-wise, friends, churches, businesses, socially.

We must continue to be watchful. But God is great and wonderful. He wants us to trust in Him, to draw closer to Him, and to understand. There is a promise of everlasting life. And, we must be ready for when He comes; He has a marvelous gift that exceeds anything here on earth or anything we can imagine. We will be together with Him in His heavenly kingdom. In the meanwhile, let us be about our Father's business, serving the poorest of people, filled with the gift of hope.

In this season of Christmas we must be grateful. We must be thankful for all the good things of life He has given us. And if there are difficulties, we must also learn to give thanks.

"Give thanks while you are living, while you are alive and in health. You should give thanks and shall praise God, and shall glory in His mercy". (Sirach 17:27)

By: Very Rev. Richard Ho Lung, MOP Founder



Philippines Needs Your Help!

Still picking up from the aftermath of Typhoon Molave – known locally as “Quinta”, news of yet another one filled the airwaves, this time a category 5, capable of destroying everything on its path. By the end of the day Typhoon Goni – known locally as “Rolly” has developed into a super typhoon, making it the world’s strongest tropical cyclone of the year.

At 4:50am, Sunday, November 1, Super Typhoon Rolly (Goni) made its first landfall in Bato, Catanduanes with a lashing maximum sustained winds of 225km/h, uprooting trees, toppling utility posts, smashing through houses and buildings and flattening agricultural landscapes leaving farmers on their knees.

The Northern Region of the Philippines saw the worst when floodwaters rose so rapidly propelling residents to the roof of their houses and leaving them with only clothes on their backs and cry out for rescue.

By 5:00am, Monday, November 2, Super Typhoon Rolly exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility leaving a trail of massive destruction. Our Naga Mission Monastery did sustain some structural damage but



nothing compare to the neighboring community and beyond. Many of our Brothers’ families too have sustained heavy damages to their houses and properties.

Many roads were impassable due to blockage from uprooted trees and toppled utility posts and debris of the

Many roads were impassable, but this did not deter the Brothers from going out to reach out those who are most in need.

massive destruction, but this did not deter the Brothers from going out to reach out those who are most in



need. Giving out food packages, water and medicines to needy families, assessing damages to their properties with the view of helping rebuild their homes and most especially, offering prayers and hope in this most difficult time.

The people of this Island nation have not known a year without devastation. Every year comes with a cost, and this year is one of the worst. As we celebrate this most joyous time of the year, let us remember our suffering brothers and sisters in the Philippines, who only have tears in their eyes at this moment and in this joyous Christmas season, please help us put a smile on their faces.



Brothers loading food packages to be distributed to typhoon victims.



DONATE NOW!


WE HAVE LAUNCH A TYPHOON RELIEF PROGRAM TO HELP OUR SUFFERING BROTHERS & SISTERS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE HELP US REBUILD THEIR HOMES AND THEIR LIVES. SEND YOUR DONATION TODAY TO:

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM: MOP FAMILY



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