



MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR

Easter Season 2017

HE IS
Risen

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Entrance view to Mt. Beatitude Children's Home and Mt. Tabor monastery



From the *founder's desk*

Sin and Forgiveness

My dear Brothers and Sisters, Blessings!

Thank God for Easter! Thank God He has risen from the dead! Thank God that He has called us to communion with His crucified, then Risen body. Yes, all will be well though we are made of clay, weak and so full of foibles.

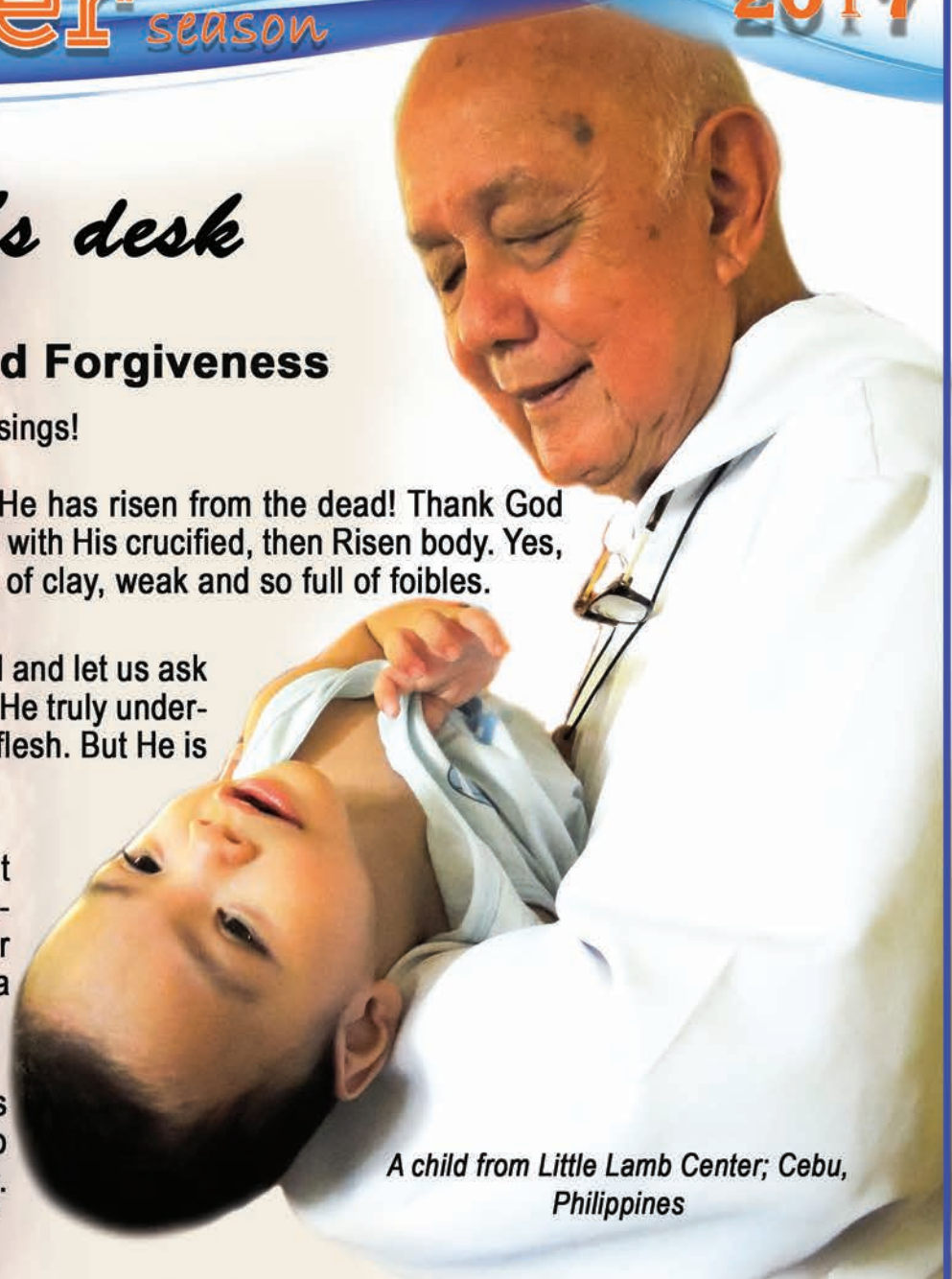
Let us carry our burdens to the Lord and let us ask him to place our fingers in His side. He truly understands us and the weakness of our flesh. But He is risen, truly risen from the dead.

I can't imagine a God who doesn't love the poor. But I also I can't imagine a God who does not heal our souls. The forgiveness of sins is a matter of healing the soul.

Imagine! The scribes and Pharisees hated Jesus and condemned Him to death because He forgave sins. "Who alone but God forgives sins?"

Christ is the Son of God who came down to earth to forgive sins. He saw that this is one of the biggest of problems we all endure. We carry around in our soul sin, guilt, and shame. It is a major burden! It weighs us down. "Which of you is without sin?" asks Jesus of the scribes and Pharisees who had the woman caught in adultery ready to be stoned. But confronted by Jesus, they had to put away their stones.

Guilt and shame leads to condemnation, and, condemnation leads to self-hatred which leads to despair! What a way to live! So Jesus takes away our sins once we confess and beg forgiveness and seek to sin no more.



A child from Little Lamb Center; Cebu, Philippines

ALLELUIA!



Christ is God, He does forgive sins, He died for our sins, and, appointed future men who were sinners themselves to carry on the divine call of Jesus "Whoever's sin you forgive, it is forgiven."

Forgiveness! Forgiveness! Forgiveness! What would we do without a forgiving God! What would we do without forgiveness as part of our culture?

All of us are sinners! Serious sinners with secrets, sins, huge burdens of wrong doing. But also others have wronged us. The cycle of sin and forgiveness must be continued. If not we end up with condemnation of others and ourselves, will not be happy.

But Jesus forgives, even before we beg His forgiveness, He already opens His heart to welcome us before we beg forgiveness. Even the righteous man sins, seventy times seven times per day. Yes! We should admit our sins, correct ourselves and one another. But always with love, and a desire to overcome our sins. Even adultery must be forgiven!

What would have happened in our world if communities did not forgive one another? What would have happened if Jesus did not forgive our sins and take so seriously the disaster sin is, and was crucified and died and, as God, forgive us our sins?

But He forgives us our sins, and, asks us to forgive one another. He wants to lift us from this terrible burden so we can go forward in freedom and build the kingdom of God.

Without forgiveness and the love which issues from it we would be paralyzed and dreadfully unhappy. Let us put aside our hardness of heart. Let us enjoy the wonderful gift of Easter and let us soften our hearts to those we have not forgiven! "Love one another as I have loved you!" "Even unto our own death." Let this be our cross and resurrection at Easter! - Love and forgiveness.

This is why we are alleluia people. To God be the honour, the power, and the glory!

Thank you brothers and sisters! You who have been so faithful to Missionaries of the Poor. Happy and holy Easter! May your family members and friends be blessed!

Easter Joy: The Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ho Lung meets His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle during the staging of the *Messiah Production* in Manila, Philippines

ALLELUIA!

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WITNESSES OF CHRIST

by Br. Johnson Talaban, MOP



aint Paul tells us, *"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain."* 1Cor. 15:14. Through the death and resurrection of Christ our faith is strengthened, renewed and shared. We are called to be witnesses of Christ's resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus should empower us to go through the darkness and the emptiness of the tomb – the fear, hopelessness and the insecurities of life so as to rise with him.

Jesus gives meaning and value to our daily encounters in life. Our suffering becomes redemptive when we unite it with Christ. We have been assured of the promise of Eternal life – Heaven once again is open for all of us by the entrance of the first born of the dead—Jesus, our Lord and our Brother.



Mary Magdalene was weeping outside the tomb looking for Jesus. She looked and looked, she wept and wept, she waited patiently until our Lord Jesus appeared to her and called her by name. A gesture of faith and love.

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

- Luke 24:32

We, the Missionaries of the Poor Brothers and Sisters dedicated to the works of mercy especially the least, the lost and the last in the society; joyfully and patiently meet Christ in the disguise of the poor and the suffering. The poor reveals to us not only the crucified Christ but also the risen and glorified Christ.

In this Easter season, I recalled my experience when I was a Junior Professed member of the Missionaries of the Poor. It was Good Friday when I met this young man at the gate of Good Shepherd Home- one of our homes for the homeless in Kingston Jamaica. He was so dirty, the clothes were *tattered*, he had a urinary catheter on him and the wheelchair wheel was completely worn out and

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Wishing you a Happy Easter!



David, Faith Centre, Jamaica



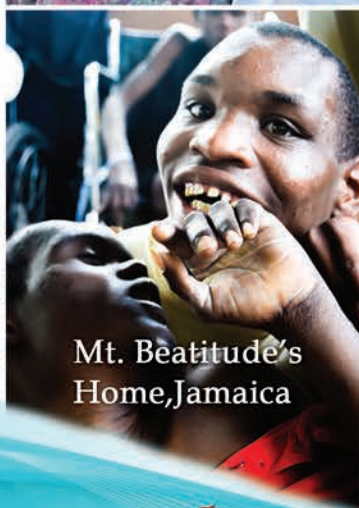
Ricardo, Divine Mercy Apostolate, Naga, Philippines



- Good Shepherd Orphanage
Nairobi, Kenya



Brothers with the children at Bethlehem Home, Jamaica



Mt. Beatitude's
Home, Jamaica



Begu Nhat, St. Joseph's Home
Orissa, India

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A Unique Easter Experience

by Cheryl Codner, Boston MA, USA

This year, my daughter Lauren and I spent Easter week at the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica. On our first day, we were welcomed by an Easter Vigil Mass which was unlike any other mass we have ever attended. The mass opened with a dramatic, flaming, cross zip lining down from a tree to a cross on the ground. It was very symbolic, intriguing and a unique Easter vigil celebration from start to the end.

Our days were so caught up of the overwhelming commitment of the Brothers. We developed a sense of passion in giving and the dedication to serve the poor in the name of Christ from the Missionaries of the Poor. As visitors from another country we didn't know what to expect but we found nothing but kindness and loving compassion from everyone we met. On Easter Sunday we visited Bethlehem home where we prepare the children for mass. There I found that although most of them were severely disabled they were all filled with joy of the Holy Spirit and full of life. They are loved and cared for like family by the Brothers and staff. Although many of them could not express themselves you can tell how much they appreciated all that was done for them. You can see so much in their eyes that you would never find elsewhere- the beauty of Christ, so alive urging you to "place your fingers in His wounds".

The Brothers work tirelessly every day to assure their needs both physically and spiritually and that they know what love is. Brother Matthias reminded us that all the work we did was in God's name- simple but powerful!

As St. Theresa of Calcutta said, "We cannot do great things in this world, but we can only do small things with great love."



Cheryl greets a resident at Faith Centre

We met the founder, Fr. Ho Lung on their Easter break where they had a fellowship games. His words and works are inspirational and humbling. The Brothers and Priests are so varied in their talents and personalities but so united on their work and mission in this life. They all made us feel welcome and part of the community even for a short period of time. Whether he is a beginner or an elder in the order, their common denominator is the loving kindness towards everyone.

This is an experience you must have, because it was so remarkable and life-changing. Certainly, we cannot wait of returning and hoping that there will be more labourers in God's vineyard who will offer life and joy to the most forgotten ones.

HAPPY EASTER!



Spring time of Life

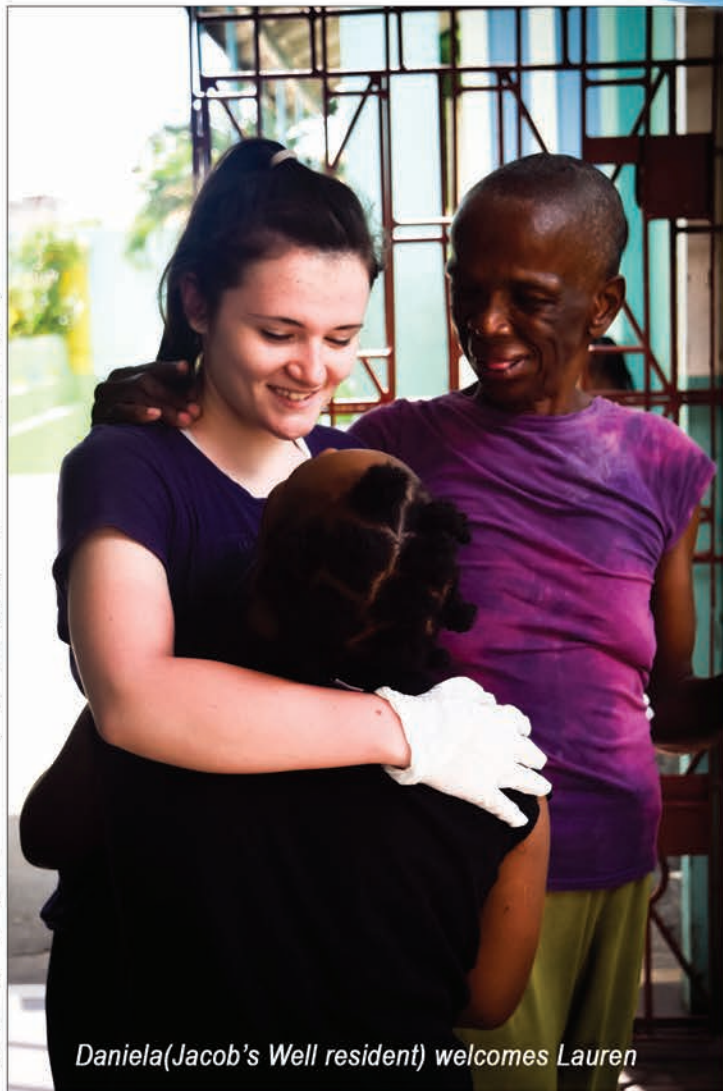
by Lauren Codner, Boston MA, USA

The faith of the Brothers and the residents is contagious. As an aspiring nurse, learning how to dress wounds and working in the pharmacy with Brother Joey at Faith Center or Pat teaching me how to properly dress, feed and clean the children were great learning experiences.

At the centers, the residents are taken care of on a deeper level. It more than just a medical needs, the Brothers and the volunteers show endless love and encourage faith amongst them. They give the residents hope and give them a place to feel at home where they can lay their heads comfortably. Their overwhelming works, whilst maintaining positive attitudes and dedication to their faith will continue to inspire me.

What an inner peace I felt when I saw the children smiling though they have pains and struggles in their condition. The Brothers and staff love the children as their own family. Each encounter with residents bring nothing but gladness and hope in my life. On the other hand, there are these charismatic men with the strength to do the works every single day. In Jacobs Well where hugs and embraces are endless, I received compliments and their stories were memorable one, worth to ponder upon. I made them special by showing that I care for them - through painting their nails, brushing their teeth or washing their face, doing each other's hair, or just having a simple conversation with them. Though they may not remember me, but this experience made me feel humbled and grateful wherever I may be.

This mission trip taught me brand-new things which the world could not offer. In Christ, there is always new and there is always spring time of life. "Indeed, He is risen!" So much to learn and I could not wait to return in this community, for the work is never done.



Daniela (Jacob's Well resident) welcomes Lauren



Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

-John 20:18



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the wheelchair wheel was completely worn out and he was really in a pitiable situation.

He called to me and said, Brother please help me! We were actually hurrying for the Good Friday service at St. Ephraim Chapel. But that words of Christ "I thirst" reminded me when that young man cried out to me. I know deep down in my heart that this was the service that the Lord wanted me at that present situation to attend to the crucified Christ who was present before my eyes. Along with the other Brother we stayed back and gave him shower and while



we were bathing him we noticed that he had a very deep sores on his bottom. We shaved his beard, dressed his wounds and fed him. Then, the words of thank you and a smile on his lips lighted up. Then we went for the service. That day was an experience of the crucified Christ and the peace of the risen and glorified Christ manifested in that young man.

"Our life of poverty is as necessary as the work itself. Only in heaven will we see how much we owe to the poor for helping us to love God better because of them."

- St. Theresa of Calcutta

New witnesses of Christ: Six Novices took their Temporary Profession of Vows on March 26, 2017 at St. Ephraim Chapel, Kingston, Jamaica

Let us be a people filled with the light of Christ, the love of Christ and the life of Christ. If we truly seek Him out we will find him in a beautiful revelation. Let us ask the Lord to open our eyes with the eyes of faith so that we will truly gaze at Him—crucified, risen and glorified. HAPPY EASTER!

SAVE THE DATES FOR THIS LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE:

- Summer Laity Retreat - June 29 - July 2, 2017
- Fall Laity Retreat - November 2 - 5, 2017

*My beloved spoke, and said to me:
"Rise up, my love, my fair one,
And come away."
-Songs 2: 10*



ALLELUIA!

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MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR, USA
P.O. Box 29893, Atlanta GA 30359
(404)-248-1197

E-mail: mopusaoffice@missionariesofthepoor.org

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR, CANADA
P.O. Box 20070 Southbrook PO
Maple, Ontario L6A 4K0, Canada
(905)-940-2606
E-mail: mopcana@gmail.com

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR, JAMAICA
P.O. Box 8525
3 North Street, Kingston C.S.O.
(876)-948-0280/(876)-967-0341
E-mail: mopja@missionariesofthepoor.org