



MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR

MERCY IS LEADERSHIP





From the Founder's Desk

Fr. Richard Ho Lung, MOP

Dearest Friends,

*E*aster Blessings!

Satan's attempts to destroy the happiness and joy of all of us Christians, but we have Christ our victorious and forgiving Christ, our Brother leading us to His heavenly kingdom! God loves us! He loves us! He loves us! Despite our hurting the Lord, all the disciples disappointing Him, and Peter denying Him, despite the wounding, killing, beating, mocking of Him which we caused by our sins. He truly loves us and forgives us!

Despite all the sins whether it be Peter, the disciples, Mary Magdalene, and St. Paul – He allowed all sinners to go forward and bring the good news to all ends of the world. Let us not despair as Judas did! Joy! Joy! Joy! Go out and bring the good news of Jesus' love and care and compassion for all us sinners.

Satan wanting us to sin and for us to follow his way, is defeated! Sadness, negativity, fear will not win out! Jesus Christ is risen and one day we will all rise with Him.


Let us live our lives simply and happily. It's never been more clear than ever for me. God loves us and has made us, to be a light and way to His people.



Mercy is Leadership

by Fr. Peter Marr

Director, St. Augustine Seminary, Toronto, Canada

ne of the common struggles people encounter with faith is the question of suffering. It might be worded something like: "If suffering will not end in this world or in this life, then what is victory over suffering that Christianity talks about?"

When we look at the Easter mysteries we see that Jesus gives us the answer we long for. Jesus was not afraid of suffering and death. In fact, he sought for this final encounter – the confrontation with all suffering and even with death in his own humanity. . On the cross Jesus chose to take his place among the world's poor and wounded.

I recently visited Kingston Jamaica on a mission trip with a group of seminarians and another priest to work with Fr. Ho Lung's Missionaries of the Poor. It's hard to imagine that there is not one person who could or would look after so many people. Yet the world is full of this: Not one person to look after the poorest of the poor, whose lives are crosses every day.

Yet the assurance of Jesus' love in his Passion is what we encountered. We saw so many people with afflictions, caring for each other, helping each other here and there in the little ways they could - even solving potentially difficult situations, like helping each other with disagreements or bad behavior, or a non-verbal resident walking another handicapped resident to the washroom. All of this because they had witnessed the sacrificial love of the MOP Brothers. One of our seminarians observed this, saying-

"Even when you have nothing, you still have something to give." All of their residents are cared for, cleaned, dressed and fed. All of the residents - from the infants to the elderly - know they are loved. They reflected love and expressed friendship and affection for us who had come to visit them because it had first been offered to them – as a sacrifice, a work of love.

The whole Church will benefit from embracing a more active witness of this simple but powerful spirituality. Jesus said, *"Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave... just as the son of man gave his life as a ransom for many."* (Mt 20:26-28)

And so the question, "Where does suffering in this world end?" is answered thus: "Suffering ends where love begins!" This is the message of Jesus' resurrection at Easter: the sacrifice of mercy conquers all suffering. Jesus reveals to us that *mercy is leadership*. In the Eucharist we receive his mercy. Jesus says that as his disciples we all have a role to play in his leadership, that we are all called to the victory of his resurrection and into the leadership of mercy.



EASTER MESSAGE

*Very Rev. Br. Anil Minj, MOP
Superior General*

Dear Brothers and sisters,

"Do not be amazed, you seek Jesus of Nazareth, the Crucified. He has been raised; He is not here [...] but go and tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you.'" Mark 16:6-7

Jesus is always a man of the journey. From divinity He did not hesitate to travel down to earth and take upon himself the broken and yet hopeful image of humanity. As an unborn child He journeyed with his parents from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Not long after he made another journey to Egypt. During His public ministry He practically covered the whole of Galilee. And last of all – He made his unforgettable journey from Jerusalem to Calvary to mark the completion of His missionary activities.

Though He died on the cross in obedience to the will of the Father His seemingly final journey to Calvary was just but an introduction to the beginning of another journey. Like our Lord and Master we must rise from the dead and journey from the tomb to the light of the Easter Morn. Through His resurrection our risen Lord and Savior is inviting us to remove the nails of our sins and to come out from the darkness of the tomb by rolling away the stones that have blocked us in journeying with Jesus and in sharing this journey with each other, in particular with our brothers and sisters in respective communities and with the most vulnerable of God's people such as our residents.

This Easter Season I invite you all to join us in our journey to the light of the new day. The one whom we seek, Jesus of Nazareth, the Crucified, has been raised; He is not here. He is going before us to Galilee. There we will see him.

Alleluia! The Lord is truly risen. Alleluia!

A Dream come true

Joanne Harnett

"If you don't have a dream, how are you going to make a dream come true?" I find this simple maxim very true in life.

As a child I had love for the missions fostered by the Presentation Sisters and my family. I thought I would work in a very poor area of Mexico as a member of that order. But tragedy struck our family and it changed my path. My dad, Maurice, and my brother, Maurice, died 5 days apart. I felt I could not leave and so found another area where I could assist the poor and also be available for my mom, Anna. My mission was to become a Public Health Nurse and to work with low income folks and many needing support, and I loved it! The more challenging the cases, the more I loved it.

Fast forward many years. Fr Ho Lung came to Oakland to speak at a conference. My heart was bursting with JOY and with excitement and a desire to go to Jamaica. I anxiously waited to speak with Fr Ho Lung who said, "Do come, and with your background you would make a difference."

It would be many years before that desire became a reality when a fellow parishioner, Susie Howard, wanted to go. I said, "Let's pray and ask the Lord if I am to accompany you there." The answer was swift and the JOY was overflowing so I knew before I went that I would return. I could not stop singing praises all through the airport upon arrival. Joy, joy, joy was my experience that evening!! The Brothers' night prayers, daily Mass with joyful music, Adoration, joining in chanting the Office was all so wonderful. That was just the start of 16 days.

Then we finally got to the homeless centers. At the Lord's Place, Br. John Paul said he would be changing a dressing. I asked to accompany him and told him that I was a retired R.N. My life changed at that dear woman's bedside. When I saw Cherita crying I just knew I had to do something to help her. God touched my heart. It is strange that now recalling this, after so long, I feel a volcano of emotion erupt within my heart and tears cascade down my cheeks. I spoke with Br. John Paul and told him I felt I must do something to help. He shared that any help I could provide would be most welcome. I sat beside Cherita's bed the day before I left and told her of my desire. She was beaming and so happy and as always dressed so beautifully. I left determined but without a clue how it would all happen. I told her God will guide me. (Continue on Page 6)



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On one of my recent trips I had the pleasure of meeting bright – eyed, joyful Ashane at Bethlehem. He lights up the room with his smile and personality. Brother explained that his hip got wound because he drags himself on the floor. I thought I should find something for him. I hired Lori to help me who knew about the American Wheelchair Mission. They provide containers of wheel chairs. Wow, I thought this is great! I followed up and was advised to ask The Knight's of Columbus at my parish to sponsor the drive. The Knights have sponsored Wheelchair Sundays throughout America. Brothers had told me that they managed to fix broken wheel chairs till someone give new ones.

Fr. George Alengadan, our pastor, gave his consent. As a former Salesian he has a heart for the poor. Wheel Chair Sunday took place in Feb. 2018. When the chairs were delivered to MOP Michael T. said everyone was grateful as they unloaded the chairs and other assistive devices. One Brother remarked, "Now we don't need to use one wheel chair for 6 Residents." He added the Brother's eyes filled with tears. The official and joyful presentation of the Wheel Chairs took place on Feb. 8, 2018 at The Lord's Place. Chris Lewis, Founder and President, his daughter Tia, Michael Terrelonge of local Rotary Club and others were assisting getting the wheel chairs ready for their new recipients. We all assisted them sitting in their new wheel chairs and congratulating them. I shall always be grateful that Chris planned the presentation when I would be present. The emotion I felt seeing the happy recipients, hugging and being hugged by them was indescribable. Realizing this was the culmination of a long process that had come to fruition caused tears of joy and gratitude to God and to the Knights of Columbus, parishioners of St. Joseph's Basilica in Alameda, California who were so generous, and all who helped make it possible to receive 140 bright yellow and black wheel chairs with special features that would cost \$70,000.00 at retail price. I am so grateful for all of the miracles along the path of life. There are no coincidences, just lots of *God-cidences* when we walk with the Lord.



Ever joyful *Ashane* is one of the recipients of Wheelchairs Mission: Thanks to the Knights of Columbus and American Wheelchairs Mission who provided containers of wheelchairs in Jamaica and to the Missionaries of the Poor. Many of the Residents from various homes will be able to mobilize themselves comfortably.



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MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR

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