



MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR

SUMMER 2018



**"JOYFUL
SERVICE
WITH**

CHRIST

ON THE

CROSS"

GONE TO HEAVEN,

BELOVED BROTHER MARC MAURICE

by: Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ho Lung, MOP

No self-consciousness, black as a brother can be, chubby and full of good cheer, Brother Maurice was most beloved in our community. His generosity was without limit; if 12 requests were made of him for the day whether it be driving a truck, picking up food, bringing a homeless to the hospital, brother did it all with good cheer.

"Brother Marc, why are you always happy?" He would burst out laughing "Because God made me so. My parents brought me up Catholic and Christian. There were so many kind priests, sisters, brothers. They were the kindest people. I wanted to be like them." Brother Marc did not waver in his vocation, he entered MOP August 3, 1995 and had a most happy life until the Lord took him May 16, 2018. Though cheerful, he was never giddy, moreover, he was never morose. There seemed to be a smile ready to burst though his face, with a wide smile and full round pearly teeth and gums against that pudding-pan and wide roasted bread-fruit face. Beautiful! Which makes us more sad as we consider him now dead, gone from us, gone to the Father.

Marc had been to Uganda, Africa, while I was General in Jamaica. He was strong, steady, competent and reliable there in Africa as our mission in Kampala was being established in its early stages. Then to strengthen the mission in the Philippines Brother Marc was sent to Manila where he helped to settle us in San Andres Bukid – a big over populated slum. When the home for elderly homeless and little kids who are defective and homeless in Manila was well settled, he came to Jamaica and jumped right into the position of a counsellor in Jamaica part of our new administration under Brother Anil Minj. Br. Anil and his counsellors had the greatest appreciation for this joyful servant of the Lord.

There was a remarkable incident when there was an earth quake and hurricane in Cebu and Tacloban Leyte. Brother Marc spoke to me and mentioned that the earthquake destroyed almost the entire city of Tacloban.. No building was spared in this city. Much of the population was decimated. Brother March got

permission and went immediately, by boat to Leyte. The place was putrid with the smells of corpses. When he got there, he sought out the home of some Catholic sisters who ran a convent and church school in Tacloban Leyte. Thank God they were alive! But the buildings were destroyed. How would they rebuild? Where would they get the money? Brother Marc phoned, and he grieved at their destruction. We would help the sisters. We collected some money in the United States and sent it over to him. He stayed at the site. The sense of death was all around. The sisters were so grateful at his presence.

Slowly they rebuilt. Brother Marc was unobtrusive and humble as he helped them organize their new convent. Then the sunshine came once again.

Now that he has died, I have prayed to him, asking for his help and advise. He should tell Jesus how much we love him and depend upon him. Brother Marc, we are confident, is with the Lord, in His heavenly kingdom. But just in case, we ask the Lord to forgive his weaknesses and sins, since we are all human and need the Lord to forgive us our wrongs.

Brother Marc is from Jacmel, South of Port of Prince, 2 hours away by car from the main city. His town is about 48, 000 people in population. Both his parents are dead, and, he has 2 brothers who are very much in love with the Lord. Marc had too much



sugar in his chubby cheerful body, and, died suddenly with a massive attack. He was surrounded by MOP Brothers when he died in the hospital in Milot, near Cap Haitian; there we have a huge mission for the homeless and destitute.

Brother Marc you have brought good news to everyone you ever met. You were cheerful, joyful and full of Christ. We will miss you, our beloved Brother Marc, until when or whenever. You have completed your mission. Well done brother! Pray for us until we ourselves have finished our mission.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace.
Amen.



MY VOCATION AS A GIFT FROM GOD

by: Sr. Joanna Belmonte, MOP

At present we have 15 Sisters, 11 professed, 3 Novices, and 1 Aspirant. We come from Canada, USA, Uganda, Kenya, Haiti, and Jamaica, and if it God's will I pray one day we will have Sisters from India, the Philippines, and other parts of the world.

Our Holy Innocent Centre home for pregnant women in crisis, is still going strong. Since we opened in January 2012 over 500 women have been cared by our Sisters. And by the God's grace, all having kept their babies.

This past December, we had our first in-house birth at Holy Innocent- Joseph John, beautiful baby boy. Mother Mary was mid wife! We are still fighting against the possible legalization of abortion here in Jamaica. We run an ultra sound clinic every Wednesday afternoon, for pregnant women, so that they can marvel at what is moving in their belly-a very alive human person waiting to be born, and not just a blob as they have been told. We also care for 15 beautiful special- needs girls, 17 crazy but wonderful elderly women, who have been abandoned by society, our eldest being 100 years, God Bless her!

Soup Kitchen is on Tuesday morning, where we cook, do praise and worship, and then serve over 50 hungry, needy people. Saturday mornings is religious education classes for people of all ages. Sunday morning, we throw open our doors for all to join us in a lovely, joyful Sunday mass. In the midst of all this our young Sisters still attend formation classes, making our life busy yet full of fun. God is so good to us, we have to try to do all we can for Him.

At our Kampala Mission, our new convent construction is up and running, and if all goes well, and God allows it should be blessed this coming August. A big Thank You! to all our supporters, because this could not have happened without your help.

Kampala Mission is so important, as it is our second community and a formation house for our African Sisters before they come to Jamaica. There are 2 professed Sisters, 2 novices, 5 postulants, 5 aspirants and 5 candidates soon to become aspirants.

Being a Missionary of the Poor Sister is a challenge, but with our hands in His, we take up our cross each day and carry it for love of God.

Come and visit with us, you are more than welcome!

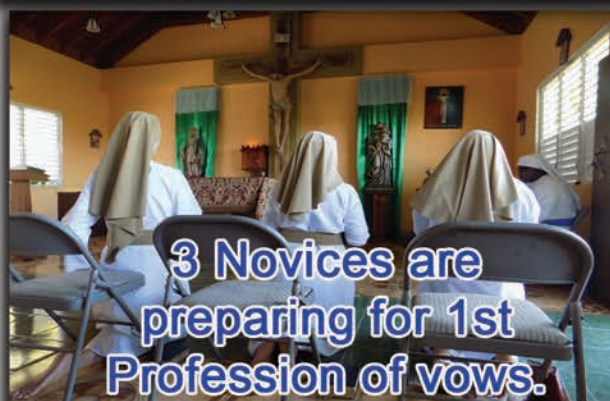
God Bless!



Community in Prayer



Community at Meals

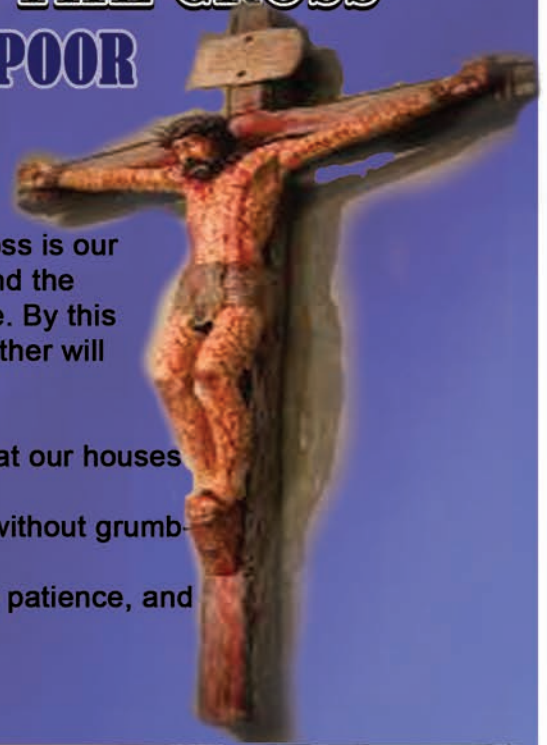


UNION WITH CHRIST ON THE CROSS

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR

The Spirituality of our Institute is centered on the Cross of Christ. United with Him on the Cross, we share in His mission of bringing the good news of God's love and mercy to the poor and the suffering. In attending to them, we attend to the crucified Christ Himself. The Cross is our salvation—the salvation of all mankind. We have a Cross – the poor and the suffering—which we joyfully carry and cling to, desirous of nothing else. By this Cross, our faith will shine, people will be brought to Christ, and the Father will be pleased. Thus:

- We do, and always to do, the most humble and menial of tasks at our houses and our apostolates.
- We do any work assigned to us with a cheerful disposition and without grumbling or complaining.
- We listen to and partake in one another's struggles and joys with patience, and encourage each other in community.



Sister Moya is doing a simple task.



Br. Amit arranging the bed for the residence



GIVE THE BEST LOVE FOR THEM!

by: Alan Lane
North Carolina

A little over a month ago I was fortunate to re-visit the Missionaries of the Poor and their “homeless” residents after my first visit last August. Both times I was struck by the humanity, dignity, beauty, and joy exhibited by so many of these people who, considering their circumstances of mental or physical disability, illness, or social status, would be suffering a level of loneliness that comes from being abandoned and unwanted by family and society.

As a photojournalist I felt the need to capture this unusual phenomenon on film. When I walked into each center, there was an immediate connection, a warmth, which exuded from the residents who allowed me into their space to capture in pictures their “souls.”

I vividly recall, after just being at one of the centers for a few minutes, one of the residents leaning on my shoulder and the other lying on my lap. Nothing was said, and they weren’t asking for anything. They just wanted to share the love that is in them with someone who only wanted to love them in return. It was very moving to me and something I won’t forget, just as when I was tapped on the shoulder by another resident, only to turn around and be given a huge hug. I had wondered if I would be remembered from my first time with them back in August. Instances like these, and the new friendships that were developed, were very affirming.



The camera took a back seat this time, but through the “lens” of my own spirit, I created a unique bond with them. It is amazing just how much attentiveness, love, and genuine concern for others’ well-being that the Brothers provide on a daily basis. Every resident I came across is able to express daily a deep level of reciprocity and openness in their relationships with each other.

Why is it often said about the poor that, “they don’t have anything but they look so happy.”? Is it that they don’t wish for or desire so many of the material things that we who are more fortunate in life have? I would say that first and foremost when people feel cared for, respected and loved, whether

they have or not, what matters is their spirits shine and initiates a desire and ability to return that love ten-fold.

When we volunteer for places like these there might be a tendency to think about what we can give to people we see as less fortunate than ourselves. It is true, that what we have to offer is important and meaningful, and hopefully lasting, but what we receive is indescribable. One can only hope that we carry such experiences with us as we return home, and incorporate them more and more into our daily lives.

Father Ho Lung & Friends Presents **REJOICE MY SOUL!**



ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL
7270 S.W. 120th Street
Pinecrest, FL 33156
(located by S.W. 72nd Ave. Entrance)
Friday, Sept. 28, 2018, 7pm

HOLLYBROOK GOLF & TENNIS
CLUB THEATER
900 Hollybrook Drive
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025
Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018, 7pm



All proceeds for the Missionaries of the Poor who serves the Lord among the poorest of the poor in Jamaica, Africa, Haiti, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, East Timor and the United States.

DONATION: Adults - \$20; Students/Children: \$10.00

For tickets and information:
Visit: www.missionariesofthepoor.org

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

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR, CANADA
P.O. Box 20070 Southbrook PO
Maple, Ontario L6A 4KO, Canada
(905)-940-2606

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR, USA
P.O. Box 29893, Atlanta GA 30359
(404)-248-1197
E-mail: mopusaoffice@missionariesofthepoor.org