



MISSIONZ

Providing for the Pontifical Mission Societies

News

Issue 5 | May 2010

Providing for the Pontifical Mission Societies

Propagation of the Faith

– funds struggling missionaries.

St Peter the Apostle – funds seminarians and religious in mission territories.

Holy Childhood – supports the health & religious formation needs of mission children.



Our French Connection



French Catholics of Lyons funded the start of the Church in New Zealand. The Marist founder Fr Colin sm applied for funds from the then new lay missionary society called the Propagation of the Faith inspired by the fund-raising efforts of the young Pauline Jaricot. It was the donations of working class and better off

Catholics in the 1840's which enabled Fr Colin sm to send French Missionaries in great numbers to New Zealand and the Pacific and to fund Bishop Pompallier and his evangelizing work. This generosity was the main source of funds for the struggling Mission and it enabled the Bishop to get a bridgehead established.

So began the Catholic Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is now Rome based and supports over 1100 Bishops in mainly third world

countries. In cooperation with modern missionary priests, sisters and volunteer lay people they work to instil in minds and hearts the gospel teachings of Jesus as well as improve the subsistent living conditions of so many people.

Your support for Missionz means these missionaries get the tangible support they need to "teach and preach" Christ Jesus. Many depend on your support as much as Bishop Pompallier did in his time in New Zealand.

This "Missionz News" carries many stories and reports of where your support goes. It makes you an associate missionary. Your regular gift when matched with praying for the Missions ensures the practical grind of being a missionary in a foreign culture makes a difference to people's lives. On their behalf I say a big Thank You.



Father Paul G Shannahan sm



Missionz Office

1B/33 Kaiwharawhara Road
P O Box 12322 Thorndon; Wellington 6144
Phone : (04) 472-2210. Email : pmsnz@xtra.co.nz

Missionz is the National Office for the three
Pontifical Mission Societies.

Director

Fr Paul G Shannahan sm. Secretary: Mrs Jo-Anne Carley.

Diocesan Directors

Monsignor Vincent Walker (Dn)
Fr Chris Friel (ChCh)
Fr Patrick Bridgman (Wgton)
Fr Bernard O'Donnell (P Nth)
Fr Richard Pipe (Hm)
Fr Benedict Francis (Ak).

A Kiwi in Rwanda

Not much larger than the size of the Waikato, just south of the Equator in Central Africa, is a small mountainous land with a big history. Suffering a horrendous genocide in 1994 with the loss of almost one million lives, Rwanda is a nation of ten million people with incredible faith, strength and resilience.

In August 2009 I visited Rwanda and spent time working at an orphanage that provides care for orphaned and abandoned children. Many of the parents of these children were victims of the 1994 genocide or of diseases like AIDS – many of the children are HIV positive.

Together with a group of 11 others from NZ and the UK we fund-raised over \$50,000 and turned up with a willingness to get stuck in, and help improve the living facilities there. We discovered 16 orphans aged from 3 to 16 living in one building, half of it used for accommodation and half served as the school classroom. Another



32 orphans spend their day at the orphanage where they get food and schooling. They spend the evenings in foster homes in the nearby village. There was a shack outside acting as a kitchen where the 'Momma' crouched over an open fire on the ground to do the cooking.

Many positive things were achieved during our stay. Such as the existing building being gutted and re-painted, new ceilings and solar lighting installed, the rickety beds repaired and new blankets, sheets and mattresses supplied. The children were issued with new clothing, tooth brushes, toys and school supplies. We purchased a cow so that they will be able to have fresh milk daily. A stone perimeter wall was constructed with rocks cleared from the soccer field, on which real soccer goals were then erected. A new kitchen and dining room was built and stocked with a three-burner gas cooker, pots and pans, plates, tables and chairs. We have recently purchased a 5000L tank and put up spouting to collect rainwater, and showers have been built. I will be returning to Rwanda in May 2010.

The absolute highlight of my experience was the children at the orphanage who greeted me each day waving and chanting my name before launching themselves into my arms for a hug and dragging me off to play. It was very humbling to feel so loved by these precious children who have not known a lot of love in their short lives. They have very few of the material things that we take for granted in our privileged (but not always perfect) lives. However, they could always offer a smile despite their loss, their sadness and their poverty.

I went to Rwanda to work on an orphanage – I came away with so much more. (In November last year, Rwanda became the 54th nation to join the Commonwealth.)

Maria Scott is from a well known family in the Hamilton diocese. She resides at Mt Maunganui.

St Peter Apostle

A “Canvas Seminary” Opens in Haiti



The earthquake devastation that flattened port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti, on 12 January killed 230,000 people left countless homeless.

Beyond the immediate task of distributing aid, consoling the bereaved and celebrating Christ’s presence with the people, there remains the overwhelming task of reconstructing Church infrastructure, said the Apostolic Nuncio to Haiti, Archbishop Bernardito Auza.

One priority is the major seminary. “The earthquake destroyed the old seminary, killing nine seminarians and collapsing all but one building,” said the Nuncio, “This week we are in the thick of the preparations to reopen our ‘seminary in tents’; 21 huge tents as dormitories for 243 seminarians and for staff and professors, and nine tents for classrooms.”

“It’s (cost) almost U.S. \$400,000 but as of now we have no other option than this,” said the Nuncio. “We cannot reconstruct that fast and we haven’t yet acquired a new piece of land where we want to rebuild the new seminary.”

Missionz – as part of the Pope’s Mission Societies supports seminarians, communities and children in Haiti. Every year, money is given directly to each diocese. A big thanks goes to many of you who responded to the low key appeal we launched in January – over \$70,000 was collected and will be sent to Haiti via our Rome offices.

Missionz Supporting Seminarians

The 56 young men at Good Shepherd Seminary in Papua New Guinea received some the \$NZ 75,000 raised here in 2009. Those who supported the Society of St Peter the Apostle (SPA) opt to support both religious novices and seminarians in Mission lands.

The Rector Fr Peter Dikos SVD wrote to Missionz “Just a week ago we received our subsidy most of which was donated by the faithful of New Zealand. This will greatly assist us in covering the daily running expenses in priestly formation and studies in 2009–10. On behalf of the whole seminary I acknowledge the tremendous support we receive from you. As a sign of our gratitude we often remember you and all our benefactors in our communal prayers.”

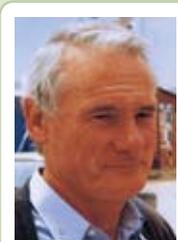


Preparing the Liturgy



Students harvesting in the garden

I Volunteered for Chile



Fr Merv Hanifin

When the Pope's invited well off dioceses to release some priests to come to the aid of needy mission countries I volunteered and went to Chile.

I worked with a missionary team in what was just a squatter camp of about 10,000 people on the edge of the Atacama Desert in the far north of Chile. The people had come

there from Peru, Bolivia, and from the Andes mountains in search of a better life. The nearby coastal city of Iquique was a port and had a big duty free business where work might be found.

The living conditions were very humble. Most lived in shacks, sometimes with 4-5 people in a one room dwelling. In some shacks there were two families with just a curtain dividing them. Elderly relatives and homeless kiddies were cared for also. They ate only rice, beans and vegies and sometimes a little chicken. But seldom any kind of meat. And there were long lines of street stalls selling very cheaply groceries and other essential living needs.

So what did I learn? Values like the importance of community life and of hospitality were remarkable. In spite of their poverty they support one another as families. An employer for instance wanting assistance would always employ an unemployed relative before considering another tradesman.

I enjoyed helping to get a Church community established in this squatter's settlement. Initially we had no buildings of our own so we just celebrated Mass on the street. Lots of people came wanting their kids baptised and we officiated at funerals in people's own little

homes. We eventually got some chapels built where communities began to form in the area. We managed to get a basic religious programme going for the children and youth and another missionary group helped by building and running a school as there were none in the area. Basically our aim was to build-up a faith community as well as distributing food and clothing.

Having come from a well-off country I gained so much in getting in touch with the humbleness and patience necessary to be able to live and function usefully among people who had so few economic resources. I was enriched also by having to learn Spanish.

Looking back over the ten years there I know it was all worthwhile in doing the spade-work in getting the Church going in this poorest of places among people in search of a better life. The population has continued to grow hugely so the civic authorities have now developed roads, water supplies and lighting. Finally my thanks to all who assist as mission supporters.

Fr Merv Hanifin is a priest of the Dunedin Diocese. Till this year he has been PP of Ranfurly Parish. Email: mervhanifin@hotmail.com



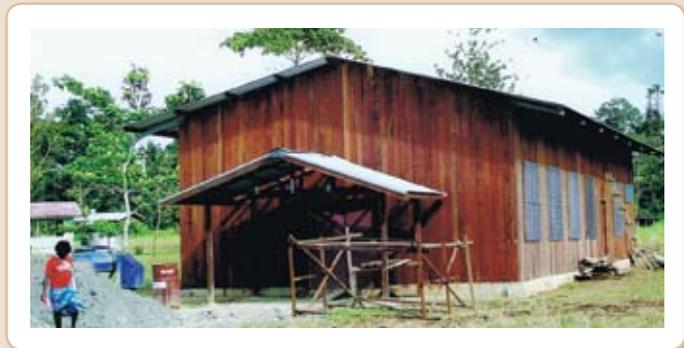
Propagation of Faith

Imbio Village Gets it's New Church



It has taken some time but a New Zealand sponsored village Papua New Guinea Church is now a reality.

Money from the 2008 Mission Month was sent to Bishop Bonivento last year and an Auckland born priest of the Passionist congregation has sent Missionz some details. Fr Pat McIndoe CP writes – “The work began in late 2008 and was completed (by the villagers) in June 2009. Stephen Wokare a carpenter with five local villagers did most of the constructing but other villagers came to assist in manually turning the cement, raising the iron uprights and other labour intensive work”. There is a small room at the back of the church for the priest to stay in and plywood cladding lines the inside of the place. Fr Pat continues “I would like to sincerely thank the people of New Zealand for the funding of this church at Imbio in Vanimo Diocese. It is an important centre and right next to the State Community School. This church will assist several local communities. My prayers and most profound thanks to all benefactors who helped us to complete this project”.



New Zealand Drivers Look-out

Sent by young John McNaughton, whose medical Dr parents work among the poor in Tezpur, India.

“Life is short. Don’t make it shorter”

“No race. No hell”

“ No hurry. No worry”

“Your hurry makes my family worry”

“Speed thrills but kills”

“After whisky driving risky”

How would these go on NZ road signs?





Reaching into the Assam Hinterland.

The Bono people of Selaikhati are the proud of their brand new Church thanks largely to the NZ Mission Sunday collection in 2008. As National Director one is encouraged to visit some of the projects we help fund.

This village could hardly be more worthy of support. They are of one of the 22 tribal peoples of India. They came to this jungle area, cleared it, and now crop it and live off the land at subsistence level. Rice, vegetables and cows feed them.

Finding them meant coming off the main road and bumping along past tea plantations and asking directions. Then there they were, having waited for four hours.



Family with tea plant off-cuts for fuel. The mother earns \$1-50 a pay as a tea picker

The welcoming ceremony of washing the guest's hands and being draped in a 'gum cha' scarf about ones neck led onto speeches and a prayer time in the Church led by the catechist leader. Then it was photo time and food in a very simple, flimsy hut cum home.

The Church not only gave them a substantial community centre but it gave them dignity and prestige in the eyes of non Bono people and gave them some kind of permanency over the land they had squatted upon. It is a very Catholic presence in the midst of a largely Hindi people. They had to be told where New Zealand was. Their hearts were full of gratitude. A very worthy and strategic gift for the Bishop Toppo and his people. – *Fr P. Shannahan SM*

Holy Childhood

“Hearty Welcome” – In Assam

This was the song sung as these 28 orphan girls welcomed me and placed a gumcha around my neck. They are from a very poor rural parish at Tentenbari in the Tezpur diocese in the tea and rice growing area of Assam.

They are cared for by the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians with full board and schooling. New Zealand shared in a \$US 10,000 grant from PMS that was used to help clothe, feed and teach the children in the parish school nearby.

I felt this is exactly the sort of place our support is meant for. Rice fields and gardens surround the very plain mission buildings but where is a much love and caring. Sr Michael was profuse in her sentiments of thanks marvelling that people from far away New Zealand were aiding them. It was my pleasure to thank them and express admiration for the care they give.

“ I felt this is exactly the sort of place our support is meant for. ”



Collection on Mission Sunday 2009



Each October, right across the Catholic world, the mission of the Church is preached and a collection made to support missionaries and their people.

The 2009 totals for each diocese were – 2008 in brackets

Auckland	\$58,126 (\$57,632)	Wellington	\$34,698 (\$33,685)
Hamilton	\$22,348 (\$21,787)	Christchurch	\$29,455 (\$32,582)
P North	\$25,281 (\$25,966)	Dunedin	\$17,325 (\$16,583)

That was a total of \$187,233 for the Propagation of the Faith.
Thanks to parishes.

Dedama School – Zambia



This school was a project parishioners and some schools supported on Mission Sunday 2009. The school was started by Edna Choongo paid for out of her own education salary. She now gets PMS support including our New Zealand gift.

She wrote in April saying

– We have received the funding for construction of Kitchen and Feeding Hall. We got it on 1 March 2010 but could not do anything because of the heavy rains. The rain season will soon be over and we will then start I will send you a copy of the report.

I am trying to pay salaries for teachers. This year we have a new teacher to take the Grade 7s. My salary after I have paid the four teachers and two gardeners at the school is reduced to Kwacha 550,000 (\$NZ154-00). How I survive on this salary is God's providence. I am just consoled that I am trying to give the best I can to these helpless (HIV orphaned) children.

We had a break-in at the school at the beginning of this year and most of our text books were stolen. I have gone round begging and at least children are sharing 1 book to about 7 or eight depending

on the number in class. The population has also increased. We have close to 200 pupils if not more. We expect more next term because the grass will have dried.

I thank you most sincerely for your kind help. May God richly bless you.
Edna Choongo



School Transport in floods

Remember Missionz in Your Will

Your support can continue after your passing on. A bequest can be permanent investment for the Missions.

A form of your Will.

"I give and bequeath to Missions the sum of \$..... to be invested for the benefit of the Pope's Mission Societies"

Your lawyer can arrange this or call us on (04) 472 2210

World

Australia



Fr Richard Pipe

In March I attended the Australian Catholic Mission (Pontifical Mission Societies) Conference out of Sydney at Newcastle. Many things struck me; one was the size of the team working on PMS/Missions in Australia.

There are 28 dioceses in Australia and all the directors are lay people except for, 1 Deacon, 2 priests, and 1 Sister. Most of the

diocese had a group of volunteers working part time on Missions.

The national headquarters in Sydney have a staff of about 30; these were involved in preparation of material for schools and parishes, an active web site, encouraging donors etc. Mons Ignaci the national director for India highlighted the need we all have to show love for the poor and to pass this on to our children.

In Australia the work of Missions also involves a lot of work with the Aboriginal Community; in fact they have a parish collection once a year entirely directed to support this work. We went out to an Aboriginal Community and experienced some of their hospitality and see their multiple needs. I found the work within schools very interesting, they have programmes that teachers can pick up and run with, developing within the children at an early age the importance of missions within our own church.

There is another that is called Village Space this is a group of actors going to secondary schools and bringing the message to the youth. The whole thrust of the conference was getting people more involved in Missions. Catholic Mission raises about \$16 million a year for the

third world Church. Let's think about this more in our own country. Could you assist in this work of mission?

Fr Richard Pipe, Director for Hamilton Diocese.
Email: richardpipe@xtra.co.nz Ph: (07) 315-8446

Philippines

Being a missionary is often a dangerous occupation. Irish Columban Fr Michael Sinnott was abducted by gunmen in Mindanao in October 2009 and was held hostage for 31 days for a ransom demand of \$2 million dollars.

He was kept in primitive conditions and frequently forced into arduous hiking through rugged mountain terrain. Eventually he was spared by his captives. Now he is back in the Philippines where he has spent most of his 53 years as a priest. He considers his freedom from kidnappers last year an "Easter" experience. "Certainly the feeling of being free again was like Resurrection for me."

Having just celebrated Holy Week, he said he would not compare his suffering in captivity to Christ's Calvary. "That was against my will. I stayed there because armed men were guarding me, so there was nothing heroic or anything like the Calvary of Jesus," Father Sinnott said. "In a life with risks, we take normal common sense precautions, but we can't let threats stop us from what we're doing," the 80 year old missionary said.

The Church of Hong Kong welcomes 3000 newly baptized

This is a record: usually on average there were 1500-2000 new Catholics each Easter. "With God's blessings," says bishop Tong,

"the Diocese of Hong Kong rejoices in over 3,000 adult baptisms this Easter Vigil. On behalf of the diocese, I would like to offer our warmest welcome to the newly baptised who have joined our Catholic family".

In his letter, Msgr. Tong also thanked the 1000 Catechism schools throughout the diocese and 580 volunteer catechists who teach the catechumens during the year. "They sacrifice their time and energy to spread the faith. I admire their efforts. I hope and pray that all of them will follow the footsteps of the Apostles and make further progress along the road to God".

"The mission to bring others to know Jesus is the most important Christian commitment," said Mgr. Tong, who has called "new and old Catholics" to study the catechism of the Church so as to "spread the Gospel in ever wider circles and give a more powerful testimony of faith." There are 350 thousand Catholics in Hong Kong out of a population, estimated at about 6.8 million.

Goa, India – Unique Festival



Hundreds of people thronged St. Andrew's Church at Goa Velha for annual "the procession of all saints" The procession, held on the fifth Monday of Lent is a way of paying tribute to the saints. Fr Colaco PP said the procession had started as a penitential penance, but now it has become festive day as thousands from various parts of Goa join it. The procession helps people to reflect their life against the example of the saints.

Father Colaco said earlier some 65 statues of saints were carried in a procession. But now their number has come down to 30. The

Goan church is one of the two places in world such a procession is held. The other place is in Italy. The Franciscan priests started the tradition in the 17th Century in an attempt to boost moral values and pious behavior of Catholics and inspire them to follow Christ's teachings. In the 18th Century "native Christians" carried on their shoulders richly decorated statues of saints, martyrs, kings and queens. In 1835 the Marquis of Pombal banned the procession but it was re-started during the Lent of 1868.

Mass Stipends

Having a Mass offered by a priest for loved ones is a very Catholic tradition. You could further help Missionaries by sending us your requests and we will arrange with a needy Missionary Bishop to have Masses offered for your intentions. The customary stipend \$10-00 obliges the celebrant to offer Mass for what you request. It is a good way to connect with the Missions as well as contributing to the practical, daily needs of Missionaries.

Fr Bernard Zulu (PMS) writes from Zambia – Thank you so much for Mass stipends. Many diocesan priests as well as missionaries in Zambia are totally dependent on mass stipends for income and sustenance. This places us in a very fragile position and can make it even more difficult for very poor communities to receive the pastoral and sacramental care they need. Stipends from Timaru Parish went to Zambia.

Send Mass Stipends to: Missionz, PO Box 12322,
Thorndon, Wellington 6144

May Missionz Appeal.

I wish to donate to needy missions.

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Fr/Sr/Br.....

Address.....

Town/City.....

Postal Code.....

Email

Ph.....

Here is my gift \$.....cash/cheque.

Make direct payment anytime to our National Bank account
060-411-0021447-00 (Please include name and address details).

Or debit my credit card for \$.....

Visa MasterCard Other.....

Name on Card.

Expiration Date.....

Card number

Direct my support to:

- Propagation of the Faith – spreading the Faith
- St Peter the Apostle – for seminarians/Novices.
- Holy Childhood – aid for health and education
- Pay \$15.00 a month as Children’s Mission Partner (Send me a bank auto-payment form).
- Give \$500.00 to support a seminarian for one year.
- Give \$250.00 to support sister novice for one year.

Send to: Missionz Office, PO Box 12322
Thorndon Wellington 6144

You will be sent a receipt in acknowledgement of your gift



Missionz Shop

Here are four helps to prayer. They have been designed by various Pontifical Mission Society personal and are now available to purchase from us.



Novel 'Roll-a-Prayer Box'

A youngster’s bed time prayer aid.
Sells at \$5-00 plus postage.



Missions Money Boxes

For class or family or individual use. No charge. Free for Mission donations.
– All profits go to Pope’s Mission Societies
– Become a Children’s Mission Partner.
\$15-00 monthly.



Prayers and Reflections

This is a new version from Ireland. Very brief inspirational prayers and illustrations.
Sells at 50 cents which includes GST Plus packaging and postage



Mission Rosary

Bishop Fulton Sheen originated this five coloured decades of the rosary to pray for the mission of the Church on the five continents. Leaflet included.

Sell at 80 cents each which includes GST. Plus packaging and postage.

