



**MISSIONZ**

Providing for the Pontifical Mission Societies

# News

Issue 9 | May 2012

**Providing for the Pontifical Mission Societies**

**Propagation of the Faith**  
– funds struggling missionaries.

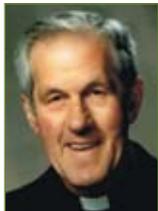
**St Peter the Apostle** – funds seminarians and religious in mission territories.

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



**Solomon Islands Seminarians Firing Up a Feast**

# Now is the Hour When I Must Say Goodbye



On the 31<sup>st</sup> May I am relinquishing the leadership of Missionz... After five and half years in this fulfilling mission work and after forty eight years full time involvement in pastoral leadership across New Zealand, I have reached the age when I need to ease into semi retirement. It has not been an easy decision. Yet, I realized I would not have the energy and drive to accept another five year appointment from Cardinal Filoni of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples when my term expired last September.

Finding a new priestly leader has been a problem for our Bishops who have the responsibility of nominating a National Director. At last, a very experienced and qualified priest with missionary experience has been appointed. He is Fr Bernard Espiritu of the Society of the Divine Word. We are grateful to him for accepting the post and getting involved in the ongoing work of promoting the mission of the Church and gathering funds for poor Churches of Mission territories. He will experience the high quality support of my assistant Jo-Anne

Carley who is thoroughly committed to PMS/Missionz. Her own experience as a New Zealand Trade Commissioner in Jakarta and Manila has given her a compassionate heart for the peoples of the emerging Churches. She knows the Philippine way of life in which Fr Bernard was richly formed.

My Marist community have granted me a time of sabbatical study and recreation which begins in June. Just what happens in 2013 I do not know but roses will be in it I suspect. I use this editorial to thank you again for your friendship and your support for the Missions. It made me proud to visit some of the Bishops and peoples who benefitted from your financial and faith support. Bishop Miranda of Gulbarga India put it beautifully this way – *“It is indeed so wonderful to think how the Lord is uniting us in his mission, even though we have never seen each other”*.

Let us pray for each other and grow ‘in mission’.

Father Paul G Shannahan sm – National Director 2006-2012



## Missionz Office

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P O Box 12322 Thorndon; Wellington 6144  
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Website: [www.missionz.co.nz](http://www.missionz.co.nz)

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

## Director

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

## Diocesan Directors

Monsignor Vincent Walker (Dn) – (03) 489-2601  
Fr Chris Friel (Chch) – (03) 377-5610  
Fr Tony Kearns (Wgton) – (04) 479-7777  
Fr Bernard O’Donnell (P Nth) – (06) 385 8858  
Fr Richard Pipe (Hmn) – (07) 315-8446  
Fr Andrew Matthew (Akl) – (09) 834-6677

Contact them about Missionz activities.

## Marist Missionary – My Life Has Been Enriched *Pat Brophy sm*



**I have had the privilege of working for sixteen years in two Latin American countries (Peru and Venezuela). Shortly I will be going to another – Mexico. After seven years back home I have been asked by the Marist Superior General to take up an appointment at**

**a Marist Community in the city of Toluca, a couple of hours drive east of Mexico City.**

I originally went on foreign mission in 1988 for a variety of reasons. I have to be honest and say it was partly out of a sense of adventure! There was a sense that God was calling me too. Looking back, I suspect I had, or thought I had, answers to the problems of Peru and Venezuela. I thought I had a lot to offer them! What I found, living and working among the people of Peru and Venezuela, was that they taught me many valuable lessons. In spite of my shortcomings with language and culture the people invited me as priest into their homes and their lives. This gave me a unique and privileged relationship with them. I was, and am, in awe of the belief, courage and resolve that the poor and marginalized show in the face of overwhelming obstacles to life and how, in spite of this, they live dignified human lives. My life has been enriched by people poor in material goods, but wealthy in the faith, generosity and love.

One of the great things about being on mission was the sheer variety of roles I've enjoyed. I was a parish priest in a marginal urban parish in Venezuela that had more Catholics than the dioceses of Wellington and Palmerston North combined. I was parish priest in a parish that had a Mass count each week of around 5 or 6 thousand souls. Needless to say the laity ran that parish! I worked in a vast rural parish spread over 2500 square kilometres in the desert on the Peruvian border with Ecuador. It had 83 villages, each with a chapel, but no formed roads, electricity or running water. I had a stint as a formator of Marist seminarians. I worked in secondary colleges and even founded a new college in Venezuela. I've worked with youth and as a promoter of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. I was even director of a municipal bank for a time!

One thing about life on mission in developing countries is that there is never a dull moment!



# St Peter Apostle

## Making an Impact in a Mission Seminary

Funding and forming priests in mission countries is very demanding and difficult as the Solomons Islands and Bangladesh reports make clear. Those donating to St Peter the Apostle are valued by these seminaries.

At the Holy Name of Mary Seminary in Honiara, Solomon Islands, named in honour of the Marist Fathers who helped found the Church in the area, there are 33 seminarians preparing for the priesthood. They face many challenges simply by living in the unstable city of Honiara. Last year there was looting and burning in China Town not far from the seminary. Some seminarians joined the members of the St Vincent de Paul Society to help feed the Chinese community.

Fr Greg Walsh – the seminary bursar writes – “Regarding the funds New Zealand sent, I can say that they were absolutely necessary for the survival of the seminary last year. The students don’t have a great deal of spare time to tend large food gardens as they would in their home villages.

Therefore we need to get quite a lot of food from town. While it is simple (e.g. tinned fish and meat, rice, hard navy biscuits) it is not terribly cheap. Pastoral work in the surrounding parish is



Cooking home grown pigs for a Feast Day.

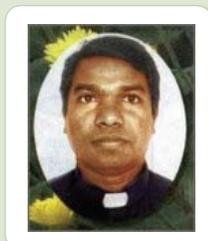
great experience for the students but the roads are quite poor and when one totals the fuel and repair bills at the end of the year for the vehicles, it is once again not small.

I do realise that it is not easy to get excited about donating to ‘recurrent items’ but such donations are certainly the most precious we receive. Without them the formation of these young men in the priesthood would be totally jeopardised. The donations from NZ made a huge difference here in 2011”. These sentiments of gratitude are echoed by one of the seminarians –

*“I am writing to you in order to express my most sincere gratitude for the financial assistance which you have sent to Holy Name of Mary Seminary. Because of the instability in our government we are experiencing inflation. But with your very generous financial support, we were able to get through this year. We do not know you and you do not know us. Yet this is the beauty of our being a Catholic. Your undying support for us continues to inspire me and the other seminarians to take very seriously the formation, being provided for us. Be assured of my daily prayers for you and your families.” – Ellison Tau, 2nd Year Seminarian.*

## Dhaka Seminarians Get New Zealand Funding

Fr. Shorot & F. Gomes Rector.



**Holy Spirit Major Seminary is the only theological and philosophical institute in Bangladesh working for the formation of the local clergy.**

All the diocesan and religious students come here for 6 years studies (2 years philosophy and 4 years theology). Plus one year "regency" which is pastoral experience in a parish. Most of the students come from very poor families and a few are coming from lower middle class families. They do not contribute anything. The seminary has to take care of all their expenses (lodging, food, academic, travelling, spiritual programs). The seminary also gives all seminarians 150 taka which is equivalent to almost \$2.00 per month.

At present we have 43 seminarians. There are also 15 seminarians in a spiritual program at Bulakipur. The seminary meets their expenses. Nine seminarians are in regency. This gives us 67 seminarians. Last year (2011), we received a subsidy from Rome and the St Peter the Apostle of taka 2,917,080 (this is equivalent \$ US39,420). But the total expenses of 2011 were taka 5,376,286 (\$ US68,927). We receive some local sponsorship. But this is not enough to meet our expenses. Your contribution of \$US 44,000 is a great support for our seminary.

On April 14, 10 seminarians will complete their first year theology. On June 27, 7 seminarians, who are completing their 4th year theology, will be ordained deacons. It is good news that the former vice rector, Fr. Sebastian Tudu (pictured) has been ordained as the new bishop of Dinajpur. His Episcopal consecration took place on January 27, 2012. On behalf of the seminary I would like to express



our thanks and gratitude to you and all others who are supporting us financially and spiritually. We always pray for you.

*Note: Bangladesh Catholics number less than one percent of the 650 million population, about 450,000, and the country is noted for being the seventh most populated country in the world and with much poverty. Catholics are surrounded mostly by Moslem believers but this seems to make them even more committed and mission minded. It has six dioceses like New Zealand. Vocations are plentiful.*

### Remember Missionz in Your Will

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

#### **A form of your Will.**

"I give and bequeath to Missionz 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

See explanation on our website [www.missionz.co.nz](http://www.missionz.co.nz)

# Propagation of Faith

## Missionz Has New National Director

**A priest of wide international experience will take over the national office of Missionz in June.**



**Fr Bernard Espiritu SVD** received his warrant of appointment on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May from Cardinal Filoni who heads up the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. He has been appointed for five years to promote and find support for the three Pontifical Mission Societies/Missionz in New Zealand. The search for a qualified

replacement for Fr Paul Shannahan sm has taken over a year. Fr Espiritu brings many skills and much missionary experience to Missionz.

He originated in Bulacan just north of the Manila in the Philippines and grew up in a rich catholic culture. He was drawn to the missionary order of the Society of the Word of the Lord known as the SVD. He spent some years in Brazil and had to learn the Portuguese language.

Later he was sent to Australia and became a well known and thought of Parish Priest for six years of the Mother of God parish in the Wollongong Diocese. He had the added duty of vice provincial.

For the past five years he has worked at the United Nations with an NGO called "Vivat" advocating for the SVD order and with their Sister Order the Holy Spirit Sisters.

His first task was to immediately take off for Rome for the annual international meeting of all the National Directors – about 120 of

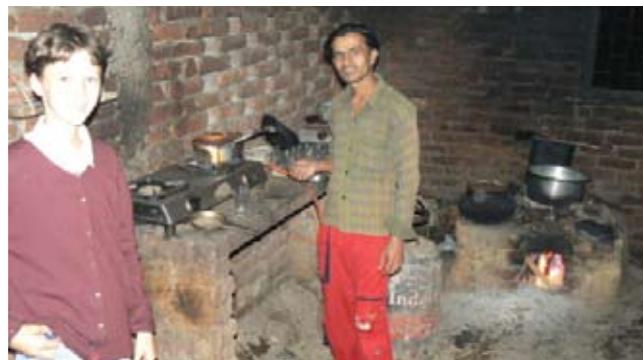
them from around the globe – where the funds collected each year are approved for distribution to over 1,100 mission Bishops and for the projects they sent to the PMS offices in Rome.

*You are invited to a farewell / welcome event at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 4pm.*



### Mission Sunday giving went to the following Dioceses:

Gulbarga India	\$US 109,000
Tezpur East India	\$US 87,000
Thailand	\$US 52,188
Vanuatu	\$US 40,000
Mahitahi – NZ	\$US 4,000



## Christian Voice Bombed But Not Silenced



A bomb completely destroyed the Catholic radio station “Voice of Charity” (VOC) in Beirut, Lebanon on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May in 2005. Such violence dominated life in Beirut for fifteen years during the civil war in the 1970’s but rarely in this new millennium. Why attack this lone Christian voice in the Middle East? Fr Omar El-Hachem, deputy director suggests it was because the Maronite Patriarch and staff at the station broadcast news and prayers for the political prisoners of Syria and Israel. But the station has not bowed to such violence and it fact has rebuilt with financial assistance from New Zealand Catholics in 2007.

Voice Of Charity (VOC) Christian radio was founded in 1984 by the Maronite Lebanese Missionaries who have run it ever since its inception. It is the leading Christian radio in the Middle East. It offers a broad variety of spiritual, biblical, liturgical, humanitarian, ecumenical, social, and cultural programs prepared and presented

by bishops, priests, as well as religious and lay people from all Christian denominations from Lebanon and abroad.

Programs are broadcast in Arabic (20 hrs), French (3 hrs), English (1 hr) daily and in Armenian (1 hr), Sri Lankan (1 hr), and Filipino (1 hr) weekly, along with Italian, Ghanaian, Indian, Ethiopian, and some traditional liturgical languages such as Syriac, Latin and Greek. VOC mainly aims at spreading the word of GOD throughout the Middle East.



Director, Fr Omar El-Hachem, in new Radio Charity Centre – Beirut.



In the 2005 Israeli attack on Beirut the station radio tower was targeted and ‘taken out’ but is now replaced also.

Nevertheless, encouraged by the support New Zealand gave from the 2007 Mission Sunday collection, the station is back on air and is living up to its mission statement –

*“The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it and spread it”*

*Look for – [www.radiocharity.org](http://www.radiocharity.org)*

# Holy Childhood

## Our Children Supporting Children

Students in primary schools around New Zealand are by nature quick to embrace a fun-time fundraising venture, and when they know it is for children in mission lands, they can be very generous.

**St John's Primary School, Ranfurly held a Pyjama-Rama fundraiser for Missionz.** Teacher Claire Mulholland reported: "We made the Missionz effort a focus for the week, and children had to arrange with their parents how they were going to earn any money they were given to bring to school. They could also donate some of their own piggybank money as well. We used individual visual pictures of mission work around the world to give the children an idea of who we were helping and they carried these pictures with them all week. The fundraising day was a bit of fun with a few teddy bears and soft toys. The photo is of the youngest of our school."

**St Benedict's Primary School Khandallah, Wellington** ran a Mission fair with proceeds shared equally to Caritas and Missionz. The stalls were completely organised by the students themselves with senior students (year 8) taking the lead. Stalls included a popular Carnival Mayhem, a nerf gun target range, lolly stalls, games, and face painting. The children bought their own pocket money along with donations from the parents, to raise a wonderful \$825 for Missionz.

The Pope's mission society **Holy Childhood** encourages children to learn about current evangelization in the emerging countries and to provide what we can from our own resources. Last year Holy Childhood money from New Zealand supported Mission

projects in India (Coimbatore, Dharapuram, Kozhippara, Akkaraikod and Karumathama), in Nigeria (Oshogbo, - Bishop Badego and Sr Maureen) and in Ghana (Bishop Darko and Fr Isaac in Tarkwa).



## Marty The Missionary

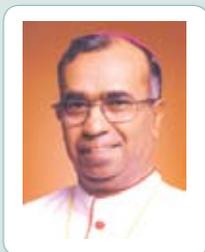


Marty is making his way into every school in the country and into many family homes. Thanks and congratulations to St Joseph's Whakatane (\$188); to St Mary's Gisborne (\$330); to St Joseph's Taihape (\$41) to name just a few schools who support Missionary Children using Marty's money box.

Please keep him well fed with your sacrificial offerings.

Many parishioners now have Marty on the shelf at home. One regular Island Bay family recently sent in \$70. Most generous. Fresh supplies of money boxes are available.

## South India



**Dear Father Paul G. Shannahan sm. Cordial wishes to you from Bishop Thomas Aquinas, the Bishop of the Diocese of Coimbatore, South India.**

I received your letter along with the information of \$23,000 for our diocese towards the Holy Childhood fund from New Zealand. I thank you for your generous help and the sacrifice you have made for the sake of our poor children. I am appreciative of your missionary work and kindly give our gratitude to all those who contributed the money. May God bless you and your ministry. May I kindly make another request to you, Father. Our pastors incur a lot of extra expenses in the parishes which are not able to be met from their very limited funds. Our pastors are helped by me with mass stipends.

If you have mass stipends, kindly help my priests with them. I am sorry for causing you trouble. Thanking you and with God's blessings. Yours fraternally in Christ, Bishop Aquinas DD.

## Helping in Ethiopia

The total of \$70,000 was collected from across New Zealand last year. Some of this has been sent to some Capuchin Sisters who house and feed 800 children in Jijiga and Harar near Addis Abba who are victims of the war there. They have crossed the border from Somalia and live in dire need but away from the fighting and destruction. The sisters call this emergency work the "Open Air Table". They thank you all.

### Missionary Childhood to support faith education and health care for young people went to these places

Oshogbo – Nigeria	\$US 5,826
Saki – Nigeria	\$US 10t,000
Ghana	\$US 52,188
India – To Five Projects	\$US 23,000



# World

## Africa



**Sister Miriam Duggan, a sister of Sheila Philips of Waikanae, often acclaimed as “the Mother Teresa of Africa” is from the county of Limerick and is a Franciscan Missionary of the Sisters for Africa.**

She has received awards for her dedication to people with AIDS/HIV and commitment in fighting the pandemic in Africa. She graduated in medicine at the University College in Cork, and continued to work for 30 years in Uganda as chief medical officer of St. Francis’ Hospital, Nsambya, in Kampala. In 1987 she launched the Youth Alive Program of prevention with the aim of addressing the main causes of the spread of HIV. “I have seen thousands of young people make commitments to abstain from sex until marriage, and many people re-commit themselves to be faithful in marriage, and people taking steps to break with alcohol and drug addictions,” said Sr Miriam. The prevalence rate of AIDS in Uganda in 2006 saw a decline from 26% (1991) to 6.2%. In 2006 Sister Miriam was honoured by Harvard University and Holy Cross College of the United States and in 2008 received a prize for her work by the President and Parliament of Uganda.

## Hong Kong And Elsewhere

This Easter 3,500 adult catechumens in Hong Kong were received into the Catholic Church. The Catholic population of Hong Kong is made up of 363,000 Chinese and 138,000 non-Chinese. The Diocese of Hong Kong has 39 paid catechists and more than 1,500 voluntary catechists, according to statistics published last August.

In England and Wales – more than 3,500 adults were received into the Catholic Church at Easter. The number there were 1,397 catechumens,

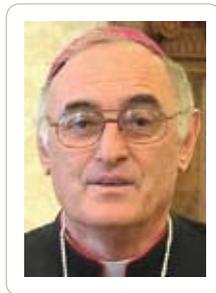
who were baptized, and 1,843 candidates, who had already been baptized in another Christian church.

The largest group was in the Diocese of Westminster, with 734, followed by Southwark, with 481. The total of 3,695 also included those who had joined the New Ordinariate.

United States. In the Diocese of Orange, California, 921 new Catholics were baptized and 668 already-baptized Christians were received into full communion.

In Baltimore just over 700 new Catholics entered the Church during the Easter Vigil. The total of 702 people was made up of 252 catechumens, who were baptized and 450 candidates already baptized in another Christian community. The number of individuals who were baptized Catholic is a 10% increase over last year.

## Wanted – Mass Stipends



**Having a Mass offered for your loved ones, be they alive or dead, is a very Catholic practice.**

You can assist the neediest of Missionaries with a Mass offering of \$10.00. They offer Mass for your intentions. “In most of the missions I have worked we have relied heavily on mass stipends to support ourselves. To have a name makes that part of the Eucharistic prayer where we pray for our dead more special. So I am grateful to receive mass stipends.” – Bishop Paul Donoghue sm, Cook Islands.

Send your names and offerings to us and we will forward them to grateful Missionary priests and bishops.

*Missionz, PO Box 12322, Wellington 6144.*

*Phone (04)472-2210 or see website [www.missionz.co.nz](http://www.missionz.co.nz)*

## Some Matters Financial for 2011

Raising awareness of the command of Jesus to *“Go and teach all nations”* is central to the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies and is the theme of Mission Sunday each October. It is the one Sunday in the year that Mass goers are invited to make a financial gift to support front line missionaries. Its success depends so much on the conviction of parish leadership. Article 7 of our Missionz statutes proclaims – “The Society carries out its activity throughout the whole

year, but with greater intensity during the month of October. This month must be regarded in all countries as the Month of Universal Mission.

World Mission Sunday is the high point of the month. This day is celebrated in all the particular Churches as the feast of catholicity and universal solidarity. On this day Christians throughout the world become aware of their common responsibility for the evangelization of the world.”

MISSION SUNDAY RETURNS FROM PARISHES/DIOCESES	2011	2010	2009	2008
Auckland	\$54,007	\$48,003	\$58,628	\$57,631
Hamilton	\$19,170	\$18,637	\$21,359	\$21,787
Palmerston North	\$20,915	\$22,818	\$24,697	\$25,966
Wellington	\$30,140	\$31,778	\$30,851	\$33,685
Christchurch	\$33,436	\$25,986	\$29,455	\$32,582
Dunedin	\$21,875	\$14,991	\$17,325	\$16,583
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$179,543</b>	<b>\$162,213</b>	<b>\$182,315</b>	<b>\$188,234</b>

### Comments

1). Money’s from parish’s remain static. It is worth recalling that the 32 parish survey from 2007 returns showed that only about 10-15% of planned givers use their Mission Sunday envelope. Also that increasing numbers contribute to the Parish directly by electronic giving which does not include any indication of a contribution for the Mission Church. This helps to explain the gradual erosion of giving to the Missions on Mission Sunday. No doubt the ever increasing number of appeals is overshadowing Mission Sunday which is celebrated globally and has been for 150 years since Pauline Jaricot initiated it in 1822 in Lyons.

2). The Good News though is that as a result of parish visits for Mission promotion and to a small extent the Missionz website we now have a data base of about 3,300 direct donors. Over half of this number give annually a total of about \$155,000 in 2011 just \$24,000 less that the total of parish returns. So the grand total from parishes/parishioners for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith reads just on \$334,550. A worthy amount we send to approved mission projects each August when we empty out our coffers. Thank you again for your donation and interest. It does make a difference. PGS.

## 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  
060411-0021447-00 (Please include name and address details).

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

Visa  MasterCard

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  
Telephone: (04) 472 2210

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 personnel 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

**Free** for class, family or individual use.  
**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 \$1.00 each which includes GST.  
Plus packaging and postage.

### Missionz Office

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