

July 17, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend is our Mission Appeal Weekend. Sr. Emerita McGann, a sister of Divine Providence, Melbourne, Kentucky had intended to be with us and speak of the missionary work of her order. Due to the pandemic she had to cancel her visit but has sent us the attached message.

Jesus, at the conclusion of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 28:19-20, commissions the disciples and us to "go forth and make disciples of all nations." Our mission as Church, is to go forth and evangelize and to support the missionary activities of the Church.

If you would like to make an offering in support of the Sisters of Divine Providence and their missionary work, please use the link in the attached letter, or visit our website and select the Donate tab, then choose the "Mission Co-op" option. You may also send it to the office or bring it to Mass this weekend. Please make checks payable to St. John Vianney.

Thank you and God Bless!
Father Joe

MCP APPEAL
MADAGASCAR MISSION

Even though each one of us must pilot our own little craft, the life of a follower of Christ is not meant to be a solo voyage. By reason of our baptism, we journey as one body, the Body of Christ. When we reach out in love and compassion to our brothers and sisters who are suffering, we change people's lives, including our own.

Ever since I first stepped foot on the island of Madagascar in 1975, my life has never been the same. The missionary passion I felt then continues to intensify. Today I am privileged to be the American voice of my Malagasy Sisters of Divine Providence and to tell their stories.

Currently there are 125 Malagasy Sisters of Divine Providence on the island of Madagascar sharing who they are and what they possess with the very poor. Sisters who not only tend to the human needs of those who are suffering but who nourish their broken spirits with love and compassion. They cannot work miracles like Jesus did but they can change people's lives.

Vocations to religious life are plentiful on the Island. Today there are 24 spirit-filled young women in our CDP Novitiate eager to give their lives to Christ and the poor. It will not be in vain that these women will be called Sisters of Providence. Their lives will give living witness that not only does God love and care for those who are hurting but so do they. Jesus never promised his followers that life would be easy, but he did promise that he would always be with them.

Destitution is a way of life on this fourth world island. Many children struggle for life when they should frolicking at play. In the presence of the Sisters, homeless street children experience what love is and in this love, they discover that there is a heavenly Father who will never abandon them...nor will they. The sisters do not wait for the poor to come to them, they seek their company. They do not distance themselves from the lepers; they touch them, clean and bind their wounds, and teach their children. In the early morning hours they go out into the remote villages, care for the sick mothers and babies, bring new life into the world, and bury the dead with dignity.

A very urgent need of the Congregation of Divine Providence is to find ways and means to fund the education of the Malagasy Sisters. Each year the Congregation sends 3 to 4 Sisters to study towards a degree in education, health care, or religious studies. Education and proper health care are vital to the welfare of the Sisters and to the survival of the Malagasy people, especially the most vulnerable, the children. Jesus said, "Bring the little children to me" and we Sisters of Divine Providence respond, "LEAD THE CHILDREN TO US, WE WILL LOVE AND CARE FOR THEM." Thank you for your response to this appeal. You are in the hearts and prayers of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

God Bless you,
Sr. Emerita McGann, CDP

To make a donation, please [CLICK HERE](#).