



Mission Office
Archdiocese of St. Louis
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COMMISSIONED

Matthew 28: 18-20

June
2023

In Gratitude for Your Support of Vocations

AMID social unrest around the world, many future Church leaders are dedicating their lives to serving their communities in need.

by saying “Yes!” to God’s call to the priesthood. He has entered formation at Saint Aloysius Seminary in the capital city of Colombo.

them to Jesus.”

One of them is Nilan, a 21-year-old seminarian from Sri Lanka. Raised along with two brothers and a family member with a disability, Nilan saw at a young age what it meant to be a child of God left on society’s margins because of their life challenges. This early lesson in compassion drew Nilan closer to his family and his faith.

Despite fuel and food shortages, with the support of The Society of St. Peter Apostle, brother Society to The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Nilan and his classmates have remained dedicated to their studies. According to the rector of the seminary, this means that they are sometimes carrying on without instructors who have no fuel for transport or electricity for online classes.

As Nilan and his brother seminarians persevere, their country’s hardships increase. According to The World Bank, Sri Lanka’s poverty level has doubled – from 13.1% of the population to 25.6% in just one year. This increases the number of people living in poverty by 2.7 million.



Can you commit to praying for them? Would you dedicate the intention of one Mass to them? (Masses can be offered by a missionary priest through our office for a donation of \$10.) Could your generosity go even further?

You can support a seminarian for the full six years of his formation for only \$4,200, or offer a one year scholarship for seminarians and women religious for only \$700 through the Society of St. Peter the Apostle.

Your gift, at any level, will change the future of our Church.

His island country is currently plagued by political unrest due to the collapse of its economy, which has plunged the country into crisis. Nilan has witnessed the effects that this tumult has had on his family, neighbors, and his fellow citizens. It has made him more determined than ever to make a difference in their lives

Nilan hopes that through his dedication to God, he can help serve the needs of his community. He says, “I wish to help them overcome their struggles and to sufficiently fulfill their needs... as a priest, one day I hope that I should approach them and lead

In crisis spots like this throughout the missions, the support from The Society of St. Peter Apostle for essential needs is critical for current and future seminarians to serve their communities as clergy, providing hope and support – particularly when it is needed most.

Nilan is one of thousands of seminarians who rely on the blessing of your support and are sustained by your prayers.

The Missionary Plan of Cooperation

THE Missionary Plan of Cooperation (MPC) is a program established by the Catholic Church in the United States to support and promote the missions of the Church in other countries. It is coordinated by the Pontifical Mission Societies.

global awareness among Catholics and encouraging them to participate in the missionary work of the Church beyond their local communities. It provides an opportunity for Catholics to learn about the challenges faced by the Church in mission territories, and to contribute financially to support evangelization, pastoral care, education, healthcare, and other forms of outreach to those in need in these mission areas.

Under the MPC, Catholic dioceses and parishes in the United States are invited to collaborate with the Pontifical Mission Societies in promoting awareness and raising funds for missionary projects around the world. Each year, a designated mission diocese or organization is selected for special emphasis. Representatives from these mission dioceses or territories are invited to visit dioceses and parishes to share their stories, experiences, and needs, and to seek support for their missionary efforts.

This summer, you’re invited to meet many of MPC participants at our Meet the Missionaries dinner reception. This event is open to all and provides an opportunity to learn more about the mission work of the Church firsthand. Registration is required and available online at www.archstl.org/misionevents or by calling (314) 792-7655.

The Missionary Plan of Cooperation is aimed at fostering a spirit of solidarity and

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A PEEK INSIDE

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- Archbishop Fulton Sheen Pilgrimage
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Your Legacy to the World: The Gospel

It’s never too late to share the Gospel, and your legacy gift enables missionaries around the world to do just that! A qualified charitable distribution from your IRA can help satisfy your RMD and can also be excluded from your taxable income (up to \$100,000).

For more information call our office at (314) 792-7655.

For more mission news, visit www.fides.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 16TH, 8AM

Archbishop Fulton Sheen Pilgrimage

Come along with us to Peoria, Illinois to visit the tomb and museum of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who is well known for his service as the National Director for the Society for the Propagation for the Faith in the United States.

JULY 15TH, 6:30 PM

Meet the Missionaries Dinner Reception

Join us for a casual dinner reception welcoming visiting missionaries under the Missionary Plan of Cooperation.

AUGUST 22ND, 9 AM

Prayers & Pastries

Join us quarterly as we pray the World Mission Rosary, listen to a missionary reflection, and enjoy fellowship over coffee and donuts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, VISIT WWW.ARCHSTL.ORG/MISSIONEVENTS

The Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ

Meditation of Blessed Paolo Manna, Founder of the Pontifical Missionary Union

From Sacred Scripture

“When they had gathered together they asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He answered them, ‘It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’” (Acts 1:6-8)

“If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!” (1 Cor 9:16)

From the Magisterium

“The Church, sent by Christ to reveal and to communicate the love of God to all men and nations, is aware that there still remains a gigantic missionary task for her to accomplish.” (Second Vatican Council, Decree on the Mission Activity on the Church, Ad Gentes, 10)

“The mission of the Church, like that of Jesus, is God’s work or, as Luke often puts it, the work of the Spirit. After the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the apostles have a

powerful experience which completely transforms them: the experience of Pentecost. The coming of the Holy Spirit makes them witnesses and prophets (cf. Acts 1:8; 2:17-18). It fills them with a serene courage which impels them to pass on to others their experience of Jesus and the hope which motivates them. The Spirit gives them the ability to bear witness to Jesus with ‘boldness.’” (John Paul II, Encyclical Letter on the permanent validity of the Church’s missionary mandate, Redemptoris Missio, 24)

From the writings of Blessed Paolo Manna, founder of the Pontifical Missionary Union

“The mission which the Church fulfills today is the same as that of Jesus Christ, Who promised to be with His Apostles and their successors until the end of time.” Bl. Paolo Manna

Questions for Reflection

How do I actively engage in the missionary and evangelizing work of the Church?

How often do I ask the Holy Spirit to be my help and guide?

Do I care for my ongoing formation (spiritual, intellectual, and moral) so that I can speak

wisely about the Church and be its witness in the world?

Prayer

Thank you Lord, for the beauty of your Church, the magnificence of its saints, the boldness of the founders of religious orders and movements, the zeal of the converts, the zeal of the clergy, the self-sacrifice of those who commit themselves, and for the zeal of the missionaries.

Thank You Lord for a Church that is still aware of the task You have entrusted to her and, every day in different ways, courageously brings the Gospel

to the world.

Lord, I belong to Your Church. Cleanse me from sins and offenses, that the whole Church may be purer and holier. Multiply mercy in every baptized person, that the Church may better witness Your love.

Increase in each of us zeal in proclaiming the Gospel, that the Church may lead every person to God’s love. Amen.

Excerpt from April’s monthly missionary meditation of Blessed Paolo Manna. Pray along each month at www.ppoomm.va/en.html



Archbishop Fulton Sheen Pilgrimage

ARCHBISHOP Fulton Sheen served as the National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith from 1950-1966. During his time as National Director, and throughout his life, he inspired missionary zeal in all who encountered him. Inspired by his witness, the Mission Office is going to make a pilgrimage to his tomb and museum in Peoria, IL. Find more information at www.archstl.org/missionevents. If you are unable to attend, you can submit your prayer intentions online, which we will bring with us on our pilgrimage.

Speaking about the National Office, Fulton Sheen said, “Everyone in our office was a missionary – those who opened the mail and typed, kept books, did the secretarial work, answered the mail... The good and faithful friends in our office are, therefore, considered sharers in the heavenly triumphs as much as those who left home for foreign missions and those who made sacrifices for the missions every week.” Autobiography Treasure in Clay.

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ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX, PATRONESS OF MISSIONS

“In God’s eyes there is no distance. For God the whole universe is one speck. My weak love, my little sufferings, blessed by God make God loved far and wide”.

THIS spring, as part of the Pontifical Mission Societies National Meeting, our staff was fortunate to visit the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower in San Antonio, Texas. St. Therese of Lisieux, The Little Flower, is the patroness of missions because of her deep desire to spread the Gospel and her ardent prayers and sacrifices for the salvation of souls. Despite living a cloistered life as a Carmelite nun in a small convent in Lisieux, France, St. Therese had a burning zeal for the missions and a strong missionary spirit.

St. Therese had a deep awareness of the universal call to holiness and the importance of sharing the message of God’s love with all people, especially those who had not yet heard the Gospel. She expressed her longing to be a missionary in

her writings and prayers, and she offered her sufferings and sacrifices in union with the missionaries who were laboring in distant lands. She saw herself as a “missionary of love” who could support the work of evangelization through her prayers and sacrifices.

St. Therese’s missionary spirit was also influenced by the time period in which she lived. During the late 19th century, there was a resurgence among Catholics of the need to bring the Gospel to distant lands and share the message of Christ with people of different cultures and religions. This missionary fervor was encouraged by Pope Leo XIII’s encyclical “Rerum Novarum” in 1891, which called for the promotion of the Catholic faith among non-Christian nations.

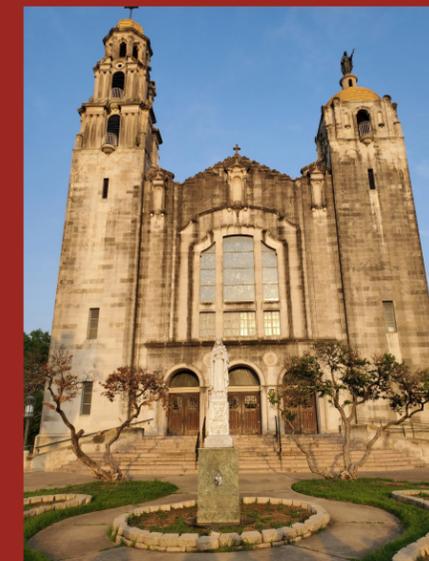
St. Therese’s spirituality of the “Little Way,” which emphasized doing small things with great love for God and others, also had a missionary dimension. She believed that even the smallest acts of kindness, sacrifices, and prayers offered with love could have

a far-reaching impact in the mission of bringing souls to God. She saw herself as a little child in the arms of her Heavenly Father, completely dependent on His mercy and grace, and she offered herself as a willing instrument in God’s hands to be used for His greater glory and the salvation of souls.

St. Therese’s missionary spirit and her intense prayers and sacrifices for the missions have inspired many to follow her example and support the work of evangelization around the world. She has been invoked as patroness of missions, and her intercession has been sought by missionaries, evangelists, and those who work for the spread of the Gospel in different cultures and nations.

St. Therese’s unwavering commitment to the mission of spreading God’s love and her profound trust in His providence continue to inspire and guide those who seek to bring the light of Christ to the ends of the earth.

St. Therese of Lisieux, Pray for Us!



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower, San Antonio TX

Mission Programs

The faithful of the archdiocese are blessed with several opportunities to answer their baptismal call to be “missionary disciples” and participate in the missionary activity of the church through the following programs:

- Society for the Propagation of the Faith
- Society of St. Peter the Apostle
- Missionary Childhood Association
- World Mission Sunday
- Missionary Plan of Cooperation
- The Daily Worldmissionaires
- Pan y Amor

For more information on these programs, please call us at (314) 792-7655 or visit us online at www.archstl.org/missions.

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