



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio



JUNE 2022

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St. Anthony of Padua Pray For us!

On June 13 is the Feast day of St. Anthony of Padua. Saint Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal. He was born into a wealthy family. Anthony became the first teacher of the Franciscan Order and it was given by special approval and blessing of St. Francis of Assisi.

Anthony continued to preach as he taught the friars and assumed more responsibility within the Order. In 1226 he was appointed provincial superior of Northern Italy, but still found time for contemplative prayer in a small hermitage.

There are many versions of the legend of St. Anthony cradling the Christ child. In most, St. Anthony had traveled to a local hermitage to spend time in prayer. One night, while he was deep in prayer, Jesus appeared to him as a child. The room filled with light and laughter as St. Anthony held the Christ child in his arms. As the story is told, the owner of the hermitage, upon seeing the light, came to investigate and he saw that St. Anthony was holding Christ child. When the vision



ended, St. Anthony realized the owner was kneeling at the door. He begged him not to share the story until after Anthony's death.

Anthony was a simple and humble friar who preached the good news lovingly and with fearless courage. The youth whom his fellow friars thought was uneducated became one of the great preachers and theologians of his day. He was a man of great penance and apostolic zeal. But he was primarily a saint of the people. His effectiveness in calling people back to the

faith through his profound teaching.

To this day, St. Anthony of Padua is one of the Catholic Church's most revered and popular saints. One of the reasons for this is likely that his life was what every Christian's life is meant to be — a steady courage to face the ups and downs of life, the call to love and forgive, to be concerned for the needs of others, to deal with crisis, both great and small, and to have our feet solidly on the ground of total trusting love and dependence upon God.

One of his preaching on 'Sacred Heart of Jesus' which is very inspiring, as follows,

"The religious soul finds in the heart of Jesus a secure refuge against the wiles and attacks of Satan, and a delightful retreat. But we must not rest merely at the entrance to the hole in the rock, we must penetrate its depths. At the mouth of the deep hollow, at the mouth of the wound in his side we shall, indeed, find the precious blood which has redeemed us". This blood pleads for us and demands mercy for us. But the religious soul must not stay at the entrance.

To monthly mission donors: Thank you for your support! >

On behalf of His Excellency, Bishop Earl Fernandes, and Rev. Msgr. Kieran E. Harrington, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

Mission Journey

On July 16, 2020, I began my ministry as Director of the Diocesan Missions Office, Columbus, OH, USA. As a missionary from India, I am deeply grateful to be part of this Mission. I'm sure that this new chapter in my life, will bring many graces and blessings.

Throughout my life, I have come to know the power of God's grace working in all my tasks. Therefore, I come to my new ministry with a sense of excitement as I await the new experiences with missions.

Corvid 19 has brought us many new online learning and working experiences, remote Mission Appeals, and challenged by no communal interactions. The experience of pandemic: wearing mask, keeping social distancing, zoom meeting and google meeting and team meeting etc. Through my current ministry I got the privilege to get know hundreds of missionaries around the world and needs of their mission challenges.

I reach out through letters, articles, newsletters to thank many donors, kind hearted brothers and sisters as well as the pastors and

parishioners who are helping us to support the financial needs of the missionaries.

I always remember and pray for their generous response and assure them prayer support of the missionaries and blessings from God.

I look forward to serve the missionaries who are near and far to bring hope and compassion to the poor and needy through their missionary hearts and hands.

Being the part of the missions of the Church, I'm ever grateful to working with missionaries, worldwide and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ: Jesus is the Savior and Redeemer of the World; God loves everyone unconditionally; Believe in Christ Jesus who suffered, crucified, died and resurrected for every soul on this earth to grand her/him eternal life.

Mother Teresa, the greatest missionary of the all the time, and great evangelists of the 20th century. The powerful and genuine

words from her heart which echoes her deep love for God and for the poor: "I see the face of Jesus in the poor, and I do it for Him." Her legacy is carried on by thousands of missionaries who are serving the poor unconditionally by being hands



and feet of Jesus.

Let us recall the words of Jesus in the New Testament from His command to care for the "least of these" in the Gospel of Mathew- "I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink..." Jesus disguise in the poor, the least.

Our Parents passed on Faith to us as they have the prime responsibility for the moral education of their children. Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that "through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith, of which they are the first heralds for their children. They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church" ("CCC," 2225).

When we follow Him in a distance and it can lead us away from Christ. How many opportunities have you missed to be witness for Christ? How many chances to show mercy and compassion you missed in day to day life? Let us encounter Christ with love and trust in His mercy even if we fall.

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for June, 2022

Families: We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.



Sr. Zephрина Mary Gracykutty, *Missions Office Director*



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