



FAITH AND THE “OUT-OF-PARISH” MISSIONS OF “OHR”

Last Sunday (XXV Sunday in Ordinary Time), Mass-goers at Our Holy Redeemer may have heard our good friend Father Jerome speak about a dire need facing the people of his Parish in Ghana. A letter from Father Jerome is presented here for the benefit of those who were not present when his message was delivered at Mass.

“I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to my Pastor and yours Fr. Douglas Arcoleo for his invitation to bring me back home to the Parish of Our Holy Redeemer. Thank you Fr. Arcoleo. I really enjoyed your friendship, the discussions, the sharing of jokes, and all that goes with it. Thank you and my brother Priests.

I wish also to thank all of you – the parishioners of Our Holy Redeemer – for your welcoming spirit and the hospitality shown to me since my arrival. Now it is time to go back to Ghana; I am very grateful and appreciate the way you have made me feel at home. I liked staying with you in the Parish very much. I felt well treated both inside and outside the rectory.

Please, before I go, permit me to make a passionate appeal to you all about my Nursery School back in my Parish in Ghana. It is one of the oldest structures in the Parish of Saint Mary’s that was created in the village of Samreboi over fifty years ago.

The nursery school is in a very deplorable and dangerous situation and it is like a death trap for the lives of the children. The school is in very bad shape and I wish to appeal to your generosity, care, love, and support to enable me to build a new nursery school for the children to learn and to acquire knowledge so that they may become good people in the Church; in society; and in the world. Please, your generosity will go a long way to change and better the lives of these children now and in the Church, society, and the world in the future. They will remember it and talk about it the rest of their lives.

Let the plight and the call of the kids touch your hearts. Please come to their help. *“Whatsoever you do to the least of My brothers know that you have done that to Me”,* says the Lord.

May the good Lord bless each and every one of you and your families and the Parish community. Amen.

Please look at the pictures displayed at the entrance of the church of the school in Ghana. Thank you and may the good Lord bless your hearts’ desires and your families. Amen.” (Father Jerome)

In response to Father’s plea, I am more than happy to announce that in Lent 2019, the Parish of Our Holy Redeemer, the Parish that was home to Father Jerome as he answered the call to serve as Chaplain to South Nassau Communities Hospital (2009 – 2013), and has been home to him during the past two Summers (2017, 2018), will "adopt" this just cause in Ghana as our "Out-of-Parish" mission.

Out-of-Parish missions are a regular feature of Parish Life at Our Holy Redeemer. In the past, those missions have provided for the needs of the unborn through sacrificial giving to the “Bottles for Babies Campaign” of the *Life Center of Long Island* (631) 243-2373, the needs of persecuted Christians in Syria through sacrificial giving to *Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)*, and most recently, during the Holy Season of Lent 2017 when Our Holy Redeemer offered parishioners the opportunity to participate in a mission with Dr. Thomas Travis (ttravis@sjcny.edu or (631) 416-4736) and Saint Joseph's College (Nicaragua Project) to help sponsor the education of young people in that country; once again through sacrificial giving.

From time to time, individual participants in these out-of-parish missions may hear directly from the beneficiaries of their sacrifices directly. All too often though, that is not the case, and "missionaries" are left wondering: "Whatever happened to the money I donated?"

To help answer that question, and to help encourage support for Father Jerome's Nursery school in Ghana (our Lent 2019 out-of-parish mission), I offer you the following correspondence relating to our most recent out-of-parish mission: the Nicaragua Project. (The letter addressed: "Dear Sponsors", was written in Spanish by a benefactor of OHR's generosity. It was translated into English by OHR's own Deacon Cris). **Your sacrificial giving has made/is making/and will make a difference.**

04 June 2017

Father Arcoleo,

I never dreamed that so much money would be raised for our work in Nicaragua. In addition to the \$3527 from the Mite Boxes, I have received \$3,030 in checks to support nine children to attend the Colegio Santa Lucia, which brings the total amount contributed from the parishioners of Our Holy Redeemer to \$6,557.

This level of generosity is astounding. Do you free that it would be appropriate for us in our "appreciation addresses" this coming weekend to mention the total amount raised?

Megan, Margot, and I look forward to seeing you next weekend at the Saturday and Sunday services, as detailed in my previous email to you.

God bless you and your parish,

Tom



21 March 2018

Dear Sponsors,

First, Blessings and a warm greeting.

My reason for writing is to give thanks for the sponsorship of the scholarship that I have been offered and the support you have given me.

My name is **Keyla María Alvarado Zúniga**, and I am 15 years old. I am studying at the Parish School of Santa Lucia, where I passed all my primary school and at present I am in my fourth year. The reason I needed your help was that my mother's financial means did not allow her to pay for my tuition, and I thank you very much for your support. My goal is to get to the university and pursue a Clinical Laboratory Career, (Bioanalysis), to which I will give all my effort to achieve.



I will talk about the education I receive at school. I feel very well, I like the way they explain the classes, the teachers impart very good instruction and also because there is respect among the classmates.

Once again I offer you my gratitude for the support you have given me and I wish you success in all of your endeavors.

I say goodbye to you and may God bless you.

Sincerely,

Keyla María Alvarado Zúniga