



Children with albinism,  
waiting for a meal in Tanzania,  
Africa.

# SILENT CHILDREN'S MISSION

## NEWSLETTER

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A malnourished child in Haiti enjoying her  
meal thanks to SCM benefactors.

### Dr. Simone's Letter

As we enter the Jubilee Year of Mercy this December 8<sup>th</sup> on the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception let us remember the spiritual and corporal works of mercy:

#### **The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy**

- To convert the sinner
- To instruct the ignorant
- To counsel the doubtful
- To comfort the sorrowful
- To bear wrongs patiently
- To forgive injuries
- To pray for the living and the dead

#### **The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy**

- To feed the hungry
- To give drink to the thirsty
- To clothe the naked
- To give welcome to strangers
- To visit the sick
- To visit the imprisoned
- To bury the dead

This December I will travel to Monrovia in Liberia, Africa to visit with the poorest of the poor – please keep this work in your prayers.

God bless you and Thank you!

Joan and Andrew Simone

# Spiritual Director's Letter

## *Merciful Like the Father*

What exactly does being “merciful like the Father” mean and what am I called to do during this Jubilee Year of Mercy that begins December 8<sup>th</sup>? While mercy is essentially a personal characteristic of care for the needs of others, the biblical concept of mercy, which is considered the greatest attribute of God, is much richer and constitutes a relational dimension that always involves help to those who are in need or distress. The Year of Mercy challenges us to not only reflect on but to LIVE what the Catechism (CCC 2447) speaks of in doing the *works of mercy*; defined as charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbour in his spiritual and bodily necessities. The motto of this Holy Year, *Merciful Like the Father* (Lk 6:36) serves as more than an invitation, but rather as an obligation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure. Pope Francis wrote in his Bull:

**It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy.**

Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy are charitable actions oriented to especially feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice, pleasing to God:

**He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none and he who has food must do likewise...If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled” without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? CCC 2447**

With your help, CFFC and SCM have especially focused on feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked and visiting as well as curing the sick. With an estimated 795 million people undernourished around the world we seek to alleviate poor nutrition, which causes nearly half of the deaths in children under five – more than three million children annually. Pope Francis commented, **“If there are children in so many parts of the world who have nothing to eat, that is not news, it seems normal. It cannot be so!”**

Mercy is not only a virtue that influences a person's compassion for another and inspires the will to ease another's misfortunes or suffering in either body or soul, it is a MEANS of extending God's compassion and mercy to those in need. We must discover the works of mercy, which give Christians a concrete way to live according to Jesus' Great Commandment. It is the very heart of the Gospel, the hinge of which our very salvation depends.

We as the Church therefore are called above all to be authentic and credible witnesses of her primary task of convincingly professing the mystery of mercy and living it as the core of the revelation of Jesus Christ. The poignant words of Saint John XXIII pointed out the path to follow: **“Now the Bride of Christ wishes to use the medicine of mercy rather than taking up arms of severity...”** The walls of the Church, which for too long have made it a kind of fortress, must be torn down in order to proclaim the Gospel in a new way, especially to those living on the outermost fringes of society, fringes which modern society itself creates. Mercy is the force that can reawaken us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope, empowering us to heal the wounds of the brokenhearted, to assuage them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care. The Holy Father exhorts us with a heartfelt plea: **“Let us not fall into humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine that prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us ward off destructive cynicism! Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity!”**

Peace,

Fr. Michael



Fr. Michael Della Penna ofm  
Director, Valle de los Angeles in Guatemala



## Executive Director's Letter



Children at the Buhangija Albinism Centre

Dear benefactors,

Thank you for your continued support for the missions we serve. We recently received a report from Tanzania and we were happy to hear how your help has been making a difference in the lives of children born with albinism.

The above pictures were taken at the Buhangija Albinism Centre in Shinyanga, Tanzania, which is in East Africa just north of Malawi. Albinism is rare in the west but common in Sub-Saharan Africa, and Tanzania has one of the highest rates in the world. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, people with albinism live in abject fear because of the increasing vicious attacks against them, particularly children who are targeted most. People with albinism suffer from social rejection, medical and psychological problems, and confinement to poverty. These people are persecuted and ostracized because it is believed they are cursed and are being punished by God. Because of this, infanticide is common and often families are divided because mothers are accused of being unfaithful in marriage. The children are often abandoned at centres just like Buhangija and the children never see their parents again.

Albinism is genetically inherited; their skin is unable to produce melanin, thus making them vulnerable to UV damage from the sun. Ninety-eight percent die by the time they are 40 years old due to easily preventable skin and eye diseases. All suffer from some form of visual impairment

and skin cancer is responsible for their deaths. Because of social exclusion – most have a very low education level. Silent Children has helped to provide meals to the children at the centre as well as provide skin checks for 30 children who have to travel long distances to the Kilimanjaro Medical Centre. The food, medical care, and transportation to the clinics, all incur costs that would make this impossible without your assistance.

If you can help with a donation to Silent Children it would make such a difference! The children will feel the kind and merciful love of God through your generosity.

On behalf of all the volunteers who work at Silent Children's Mission, we wish you a blessed and holy Christmas.

Peace,

Frankie Burg-Feret

### HAITI Update - 2015



Silent Children's Mission supports children in Haiti to receive an education. We are also supporting a hygiene centre and an agricultural project in order to help the people to be self-sufficient.



Gerry Brinston, SCM board member, visited Haiti last month and provided many meals to the poor in the rural village of Cerca Carvajal. The ongoing projects he leads requires your continuing support.



## A Letter from Padre Alberto Gauci ofm in Olancho, Honduras

My dear friends,

First of all I want to thank Frankie and all those who work with Silent Children for the generous help you have given us these last couple of years. We use all of your financial help with the kids we have at our orphanage *Santa Maria de los Angeles*. At this orphanage we have two very important priorities where we use all your donations:

1. The **education** of the children. We strongly believe that by educating these kids, one day, when they leave the orphanage, they will be able to face life in the outside world. We use your help in uniforms, books, transportation and other school

necessities. We also have one girl, Florinda, who is in her second year at the Universidad Catolica, studying to become a lawyer. In all, we have 36 children in various stages of their studies. Without your help...this would have been completely impossible.

2. **Food:** Naturally, feeding out kids is a very important priority. Thank God, the local community in Olancho has been very helpful. We try to involve the community, especially with food, clothing and medicine but there's always some items, mostly meat, vegetables and vitamins that we have to buy ourselves. So this is another very important part where we use your donations.

I want to assure all of you who work with Silent Children that your financial help is always put to good use especially with our young kids. We appreciate very much your help and rest assured, you are always present in our daily prayers. About two years ago, Frankie even visited our installations and she could see the small efforts we try to do every day in favour of the poor children of Olancho. Like I mentioned before, without your help simply said, none of it would have been possible.

Thank you very much, muchas gracias like we say here! May God and St. Francis bless you all and the wonderful job you are doing by helping the helpless of Olancho.

Padre Alberto Gauci ofm

**"I alone cannot change the world but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."  
Mother Teresa**



## How You Can Help

- You can make a donation by sending a cheque written to: **Silent Children's Mission** and mail it to: RR#1 16060 Concession 8, Schomberg, ON L0G 1T0 Canada (Make sure to include your mailing address for a tax receipt.)
- You can also donate online through **Canada Helps** or we gladly accept post-dated cheques.
- Question? Write to us at [silentchildrenca@yahoo.com](mailto:silentchildrenca@yahoo.com)
- Look for us online at [www.silentchildrensmmission.com](http://www.silentchildrensmmission.com)
- If you would like a speaker at your school/function about the work of SCM call: 416-418-0314