

Silent Children's Mission – La Mission pour les Enfants Silencieux

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Protect abused children and mothers – Protect unborn children Charity of Ottawa a retreat at the Seminary and

Dear SCM benefactors,

This past June on a trip to Zambia and Malawi – we were able to see firsthand how SCM has been helping the poorest of the poor. So many children are being nourished and educated and mothers are receiving better health care as a result of your generosity. All of them wanted us to express their gratefulness for your help. While there - we visited the Mbewe family in the poor Mchinji district of Malawi. Fr. Michael blessed rosaries – a gift from Joan and Andrew – and we distributed them to the children and parents that gathered. You can see in

the picture below special this moment was for this young girl.

Many years ago Joan and Andrew generously shared letters written to **Blessed** them by Mother Teresa. In a letter dated Feb 1988 she wrote:



"The poor are very

beautiful and have much to give us. Let us thank God for the opportunity to share with them and ask Him to make us worthy to serve our fellowman throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger, that by our understanding love we may bring **peace** and **joy**."

Peace and all good, Frankie Burg-Feret Executive Director, SCM For Dr. Andrew Simone, Chair, SCM Joan Simone, Treasurer, SCM

FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:

Muli bwanji (African greeting)!

I arrived in Malawi to find Frankie already hard at work following up on the children Dr. Simone had met 10 or more years ago. She had even added to the list and found new children for SCM. The trip was busy, eventful and gracefilled. My main task was to give the Sisters of help Frankie interview and assess some of the CFFC container recipients. We also checked on the sustainability projects involving growing mushrooms and raising rabbits kept in houses constructed from the palettes in the containers that empower the women there. Afterwards we were greeted by the chiefs of the 8 neighboring villages (one of which was a woman) and met little orphaned children wearing blue uniforms made from the material sent down from container. They sang beautifully for us as the village dancers made a circle around us. We then handed out blankets to the crippled, blind and poor.

The joyful wide-eyed and brilliant smiles of the children, the warm hospitality of the sisters (which included nightly dancing) and the deep soulful voices of the choir in Church stand out as particularly powerful memories in my mind.

The most moving child however was 15 year old Paul Phiri, an AIDS orphan, who Frankie had set up learning a skill that resulted in a job as a tailor. We visited him at his workplace and he was only too happy to show us the skills he had



acquired. later met up with us at the Corpus Christi celebration. Helping him find his dignity and worth through work for me was what CFFC and SCM is all about. This mission is not only bringing

health but establishing relationships and helping children who would otherwise be neglected and forgotten to have a better quality of life.

Peace.

Fr. Michael Della Penna ofm Spiritual Director, SCM