

Silent Children's Mission

CELEBRATION!

Fr. Samuel arranged a special meal for the children on the blessing day for the new well in Liberia, Africa.

Thanks so much to our generous benefactors!



Frankie Burg-Feret
Executive Director

Executive Director's Update

Dear SCM benefactors,

Due to the pandemic, I was unable to travel this summer but thanks to present day technology, I am able to communicate on a daily basis with many of our missionaries who care for the poorest of the poor. In the last few months, we have received many requests from priests and nuns for assistance but unfortunately, we had to turn many away. Lately, it is easy to focus on the divisions and turmoil directly affecting our lives in North America, but sometimes, it makes us deaf to the cry of the poor in other parts of the world who are suffering more than ever. We forget what St. Paul wrote to the Romans: "So in Christ we who are many, form one body, and each of us belongs to all the others (12:5)". Thank you to all our benefactors who haven't forgotten and who help us to continue the work of SCM.

Last January, some of our donors

purchased vitamins and Tylenol and dropped them off at the collection box at Brother Andre's Church for the SCM sponsored medical mission to Guatemala. In God's plan, the much-needed gifts continue to help those in need including one child in particular, who recently sustained serious burns. Because she is poor, she cannot afford the health care or medications that we take for granted here in Canada. Public hospitals in Guatemala are seriously underfunded and in this time of pandemic, the situation is dire. The health status of the poor and indigenous Guatemalans, which comprise almost half the population, is the worst in the Western Hemisphere. Like many poor countries, their health care systems are plagued by limited resources, infrastructure, personnel and inadequate supplies and medications as well as tremendous barriers to access (USAid).

“Stretch forth your hand to the poor” Pope Francis

A generous SCM benefactor paid the salary for a nurse at Valle de Los Angeles and she has been able to oversee the care of this child and all the children and workers who are part of that community.

I want all of our benefactors to know that you are making a difference! As Mother Teresa says: “It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving”. SCM sees many examples of this type of generous love. For example, one of our board members shared with me how a donation of two cheques for twenty dollars each was confusing, so she called the woman to see if she did so in error. Her response was that she didn’t want to deplete either of her bank accounts. We both shared similar thoughts of Jesus’ words “Amen I say to you, that this poor widow has put in more than all the others. For they all gave from their abundance, yet truly, she gave from her scarcity...” Every week, we receive many beautiful letters/notes/cards from our benefactors and it occurred to me that what we have is a **community of LOVE!**

It is for this reason that we would like to meet you! Pope Francis has called Sunday, November 15, 2020 the World Day for the Poor and we invite all our supporters to join us on that day via zoom!

This will be an opportunity to meet each other and to hear from our Board of Directors and some of our missionaries in Malawi, Guatemala and Haiti. You will find details on how to join us in this newsletter.

Please continue to keep SCM and the children and families we serve in your prayers. If you wish to receive a reminder for our monthly day of fasting and prayer, please send me an email. “Prayer joined to sacrifice constitutes the most powerful force in human history.” St. Pope John Paul II

Peace,

Frankie

**1 in 3 people globally do not have access to safe drinking water.
UNICEF WHO, 2019**



From Fr. Samuel Von Tucker in Liberia, Africa

“We have officially opened the new water well for use constructed for the poor community by SCM Canada. My people are proud of your work - thanks to you on behalf of my people. Kindly receive these photos.”

God Bless, Fr. Samuel

Fourth World Day Of The Poor

In an effort to “help us fix our gaze on what is essential and overcome the barriers of indifference”, Pope Francis, on the feast of our beloved Doctor St Anthony, sent a hope filled message for the fourth World Day of the Poor entitled “Stretch forth your hand to the poor”. This expression from Sirach is a timely and challenging “summons to responsibility and commitment as men and women who are part of our one human family” that encourages each of us to bear the burdens of the weakest and through love, serve one another. In accurately assessing how our present experience has challenged many of our assumptions, the Pope describes how this fearful and eye-opening crisis may help us in our journey of conversion. In sensing our limitations and the restriction of our freedom, we become more aware of our own poverty and false sense of self-sufficiency. Taking his cue again from the final words of Sirach who states: “In everything you do, remember your end,” the Pope writes: “In the silence of our homes, we rediscovered the importance of simplicity and of keeping our eyes

fixed on the essentials. We came to realize how much we need a new sense of fraternity, for mutual help and esteem.

The Pope reminds us that “Prayer to God and solidarity with the poor and suffering are inseparable.” We simply cannot allow time devoted to prayer to become an alibi for neglecting our neighbours in need.

This resonated deeply with me as our Founder of Valley of the Angels in Guatemala, Fr Rocco Famiglietti, who in being aware that the impoverished usually get what is left over, dedicated his life to giving the best to the poor.

The Pope explains that this is “not an option, but rather a sign of the authenticity of the faith we profess.” He exhorts us to stop putting ourselves first and instead, challenges us to go out and encounter the poor by helping them in concrete actions by way of witness and gestures of charity, which give meaning to life.

Why? The Pope knows this encounter “constantly challenges us and forces us to think.” Only through this personal involvement, through the lived experience of evangelical poverty, can we truly live the Gospel authentically. He poses the challenging question of how can we ever feel “alright” when any member of

the human family is left behind and in the shadows?

He then wrote this powerful statement which I know will echo deeply in all of us, who have invested so much in Silent Children’s Mission.

“The silent cry of so many poor men, women and children should find the people of God at the forefront, always and everywhere, in efforts to give them a voice, to protect and support them in the face of hypocrisy and so many unfulfilled promises, and to invite them to share in the life of the community.”

Peace,

Fr. Michael Della Penna



“We cannot know whether we LOVE God, although there may be strong reasons for thinking so, but there can be no doubt whether we LOVE our neighbour or not. Be sure that, in proportion as you advance in CHARITY, you are increasing your LOVE of God”

St. Teresa of Avila

You are invited to join us for our first annual event

Community of LOVE

On

Sunday, November 15, 2020

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm EST

Confirm your attendance by sending an email to *Louise* to receive a zoom link at:
scmzoompresentation@hotmail.com



**Frankie
Burg-Feret**

Executive Director, will speak about the mission and share stories of the children in the developing countries in which we serve.



**Fr. Michael
Della Penna**

Chair and Spiritual Director, will apply the message of Pope Francis to the work of SCM and share how we are all called to a community of LOVE!



**Jandira
Decaret**

Lay Missionary
in Guatemala



**Sr. Bernadette
Densani**

Sister of Charity of
Ottawa
Missionary in Malawi



**Gerry
Brinston**

Board Member
Lay Missionary
in Haiti

Our missionaries will share how YOUR donations have made a difference in the lives of the poorest of the poor!

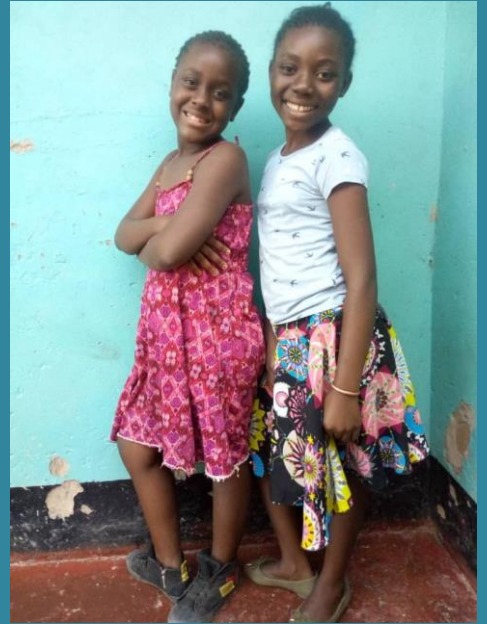
Please join us on

**Pope Francis' World Day for the Poor
Meet the SCM board of directors and missionaries from
Malawi, Guatemala and Haiti!**

Updates from our Missionaries

'Taonga (left) is 10 and has a mother and father but they are always drunk and as a result she is neglected. She is a bright girl and will go far in her education if given an opportunity. Mapalo is 12, her mother died while giving birth to her and her father's whereabouts are unknown. She is cared for by an aunt whose husband died and she has 8 of her own children. To send these two girls to school is a struggle and that is why I turned to you for help. Many thanks once again for including the girls in the donation. When I shared the news, the little ones were happy because they love going to school!'

Sr. Antastasia in Zambia



Greetings from Fr. Peter Banda in Malawi:

"It exhilarates me to inform you that I managed to have the borehole drilled and finalised. With modest use of the funds, the work was done by using local material and local labour to curb costs and to ensure that the money was enough for the work. It is pleasing that local people especially children from surrounding villages can get clean water. Children at the kindergarten will also be able to use the water from the borehole. On behalf of silent children here in our area, I thank you, Silent Children (Canada) and its donors for the kindness and generosity.

With the borehole, children are getting clean water and their dignity has been uplifted. I have though noted with concern that this one borehole is incapable of serving all children especially those who are miles away from where it is sunk. I am aware that more boreholes are needed to serve poor people and children in our area. It is especially worrying now as the Covid-19 pandemic has begun to spread like wildfire and gnawing at the health of people. Hand washing and use of clean water are a necessity to avoid proliferation of the virus." With all love, Fr. Peter





IMAGE ON THE LEFT: From Haiti

This is the school that SCM helped to build in Cerca Carvajal. The children are back to school (with precautions) and are ready to learn! We continue to support this project and the families from this rural area of Haiti who experience hunger and extreme poverty.

From Sr. Mary Frieda in Ghana, West Africa, Immaculate Heart Convent

"I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you for the money you sent to us to care for our sick and poor brothers and sisters. The money helped us to send the neglected and poor to the hospital, fed them, cloth the naked, repaired a broken house, and helped a poor young woman. Anita has two children and an orphan of her twin sister who died and the husband is not caring well. She requested for financial assistance to farm and plant crops on the land. She was given five hundred Ghana Cedis to do the farm and to care for the children, including the orphan who is in school now. She sent her thanks to you all. May God grant you all your needs."

Why your help is so important!



Right photo - Update from Sr. Bernadette Densani in Malawi The work continues to progress (photos Aug 2020). We can't wait to send you photos of the finished home! They couldn't build this without your help!!

Left photo - Laid off workers from Valle de Los Angeles in Guatemala receiving donations of food and supplies from SCM to help them during the pandemic.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

MAKE A DONATION: By sending a cheque written to: **Silent Children's Mission** and mail it to: 16060 Concession 8, Schomberg, Ontario, L0G 1T0, Canada (Make sure to include your mailing address for a tax receipt) ***Please note: tax receipts are sent quarterly with the newsletters***

DONATE ONLINE: By sending us an email money transfer to silentchildrenca@yahoo.com or through Canada Helps (SCM Registration #815949607RR0001) We also have an iTrade account for those wishing to donate shares. Please remember us in your will.

QUESTIONS? Write to us at silentchildrenca@yahoo.com or call us at 416-418-0314

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.silentchildrensmmission.com

INVITE FRANKIE TO SPEAK at your school, church, group, club or fundraiser.

Please consider sharing this newsletter with your family and friends