

Silent Children's Mission

Ground Breaking

for the new home on the Joan and Andrew Simone Farm in Malawi! This home will house youth from poor rural areas where they will learn agricultural skills in order to become self-sufficient.

Thanks so much to our generous benefactors!



Executive Director's Letter

Dear friends,

It is not unusual for us to be easily distracted and unfocused during this time. It takes more effort to define our priorities because of so much uncertainty; but one thing we can be certain of and that is God's unchanging love for each of us. For many, we remain unscathed during this pandemic, our jobs intact, safe in our homes, and with clean water and plenty of food to eat. Of course, most of you realize that we are not "all in the same boat". The poor and the marginalized are suffering the most; and this really hit home when one of our missionaries in Liberia sent us a photo of young Samuel holding a bucket, ready to get water for cooking and washing from a dirty pond. With your help, the small village where Samuel lives (population of 494) will now have clean drinking water, and they will build the well themselves.

The construction of a home for young learners on the Joan and Andrew Simone farm in Malawi is also great news; this project will help the villagers continue to build self-sustainability and provide an opportunity for the young people to meet their fundamental human need for autonomy and competence. As Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez said, "There is no true commitment to solidarity with the poor if one sees them merely as people passively waiting for help. Respecting their status as those who control their own destiny is an indispensable condition for genuine solidarity".

Despite their resilience and strength, we must still ask how a community with so much poverty can fight a deadly virus without even a bar of soap. The answer is simple: they can, but with help. Thanks to our SCM benefactors, we have been able



Frankie Burg-Feret
Executive Director

“The Spirit blows wherever it wills” John 3:8

to send money to the missionaries we collaborate with, to purchase local food, soap and masks for the people, and to provide them with much needed health teaching.

We recently received the following endorsement from Elizabeth Crowe, Trustee at the York Catholic District School Board: “So many charities today have become big organizations redirecting donations to support overhead, executive salaries and advertising campaigns. Silent Children’s Mission has not lost focus of its key mission to serve the needs of the poorest of the poor helping them to lift themselves out of generational poverty through education, healthcare and empowerment. As a Catholic charity, their focus is on the dignity of human

spirit and the conquering power of love and hope. Their ministry is quiet and humble yet extremely effective at the grass roots level and worthy of support.”

As our trustee said, we are quiet and humble, but we are reaching the grassroots and little by little, we know our “drop in the ocean” is making a difference. There are so many injustices in the world right now and many of us want to help, but it is not enough to spend a few minutes blacking out our profile photo on social media in protest. We must protest with our loving actions!

In solidarity with the poor, let us help them to find their voice.

Peace,
frankie

“That is a pond used by the village people; To cook with, water their crops with, animals drink from it, and for laundering of clothes.

This village is in need of good sanitation , no water well, they drink from the streams, bush toilet, so appalling. Women, men, boys and girls all use the same toilet made in a local way.”

Fr. Samuel in Liberia, Africa



“People are hungry and need food. If I have the financial support, I will buy food and soap for the poor and vulnerable. Life is really hard here as women and children cannot afford a single decent meal and now the lockdown has made it so difficult.”

Fr. Samuel in Liberia, Africa

Spiritual Director's Letter

“Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbour is the holiest object presented to your senses.” C.S. Lewis

In preparing to celebrate the year of the Eucharist, which begins this weekend, it is appropriate that we begin by reflecting on all of those beautiful children, all of those women and men who have graced this newsletter and whom you have supported so generously for so long. They are, after the Eucharist, the holiest objects presented to our senses. These little ones are the sole reason for Silent Childrens Mission's existence. Jesus and the poor however are not mutually exclusive, but rather are mystically united. Saint Mother Teresa explained her desire of “Seeking the face of God in everything, everyone, all the time, and his hand in every happening.....Seeing and adoring the presence of Jesus, especially in the lowly appearance of bread, and in the distressing disguise of the poor.” It is in and through the poor, the least, as Jesus taught in Matthew 25, that we encounter Him.

The poor however, are not merely a means to Christ, but also, as our mission states, our focus; as we are called “to let the poorest of the poor know someone cares – that God has not forgotten them but loves them.” We are therefore committed to providing basic needs, education, and healthcare to

children, women and men in 13 different countries.

One of the most basic needs we supply is food. Jesus fed the five thousand with bread and fish and regularly collected money to help the necessities of the poor in the Church. Like Jesus, the feeding we provide is not limited to material or physical hunger but rather includes our effort to “spiritual care and counseling so they can live a life of dignity and have the opportunity to develop their soul.” Our decision to partner with priests and religious allows us to support the needs of the poor and the universal Church at the same time. Rather than broad and general giving, our onsite local missionary volunteers and priests, religious brothers and sisters and laity, are able to assess the needs personally and customize the care we give. In this way we can guide those we serve, toward Holy Communion, which is not only a sign of union with God, but is Christ himself and thus “the highest form of union with God here below, since it is physical and spiritual communion with Christ the God-man.”¹ In his Letters to Malcom, C. S. Lewis spoke of Holy Communion as an experience where “the veil between the worlds” gets thin: “Here a hand from the hidden country touches not only my soul but my body.... Here is big medicine and strong magic...[and] I should define magic in this sense as ‘objective efficacy which cannot be further analyzed.’” It is therefore through the Eucharist that we can help develop their soul and nourish them spiritually.

The Eucharist is the broken body, and poured out blood of Christ. His sacrifice is the self-emptying, or kenosis which fills our spiritual poverty. We all come

to the Communion service praying the prayer of the children of our mission—the prayer of receiving.

We come with open hands. We also come with empty hands. We have nothing to give. All we can do is receive. Each and every one of us approaches the Table declaring, “Just as I am, without one plea but that your blood was shed for me.” What happens in communion is the grace of transformation and does not depend on us. It is a transformation of heart, which through faith, recreates us into becoming new creations, becoming more Christ-like and so uniting us as the Body of Christ. I will never forget a bishop teaching me that when the priest proclaims Body of Christ and we respond with Amen, it is not only an acknowledgement of the true presence but an affirmation of who we are as the Body of Christ. And more than anything else this is our ultimate goal in which: We strive to “affirm the human dignity of every individual made in the image and likeness of God.”

In celebrating the Body of Christ this year, we are celebrating you, the part of the Body which has made Silent Children's Mission possible. The part of the Body which has affirmed thousands of neglected children through the world to know that they are loved. Thank you!

Peace,
Fr. Michael



Messages from our benefactors – thank you!!

“Thank you so very much for all you do for the vulnerable and thank you for providing an opportunity for us to help through a trustworthy charitable organization. It means so much to have the peace of mind enjoyed knowing my donation actually makes a difference in someone's life. May God bless and multiply my offering and may He bless your efforts exponentially.”

“May God bless you all in the great work you do! Happy to be able to help out with the state this world is in with the corona virus.”

“Your newsletter came at the right time. As we think we are suffering through social distancing and a wonderful inclusive health system, it's good to realize how truly blessed we are as we read your newsletter. God continue to bless all of you and your fine work.”

Haiti Mission Update



Joe Nike received a pig to care for and to be responsible for. He also received the food, soap and masks that SCM provided funds for. All the work, (purchasing, sewing, and growing) was done by the community and distributed by the community of Cerca Carvajal in rural Haiti.



A boy named Eli was suffering with terrible oral pain from infected teeth resulting in a swollen jaw. Thanks to the contribution of SCM benefactors he was able to obtain much needed surgery and is now recovering.



Gerry and the community of Cerca Carvajal was able to purchase fabric to sew masks, soap for washing, and food (rice and beans) for the hungry and sick. Thanks to the generous support of SCM benefactors.



"The harvest is beginning on the farm in Cerca Carvajal, Haiti."



A meal enjoyed by the children at the farm in Cerca Carvajal, Haiti. Your donations support this mission.

Updates from our Missionaries



From Sr. Lubingu and the Poor Clare Sisters in Zambia, Africa

“My dearest Mama Frankie, praying each day for you and all the children of the world like never before. We are all in the hands of the Lord and He is in control. Look at what He has done for us through you our dear Mothers and Fathers. Many many children in our area where Fr. Michael and Mama Frankie have been, are malnourished and now many go to the clinic feeling sick but it is hunger because we are not allowed to move though many can't afford to stay home and see their children die of hunger. The situation at the grassroots is tense, people are afraid and they know not what to do. Cold season is already beginning we are praying that the worst of covid19 doesn't hit us because we shall be wiped out. Today we shall start distributing to very vulnerable families. What you have done will never be forgotten. Whether we live or die we belong to God, we just want to say thank you to all of you. God keep and protect you.”



“Dearest Frankie, good morning. Thank you very much for the money, we have received it already. The current 'Corona Virus lock-down' is drastically affecting many families; especially those whose only source of livelihood really depends on selling simple merchandise or doing some piece-works in the nearby farms. Hence the confirmation of the agreement through the reception of the money will go a long way in alleviating the many challenges which affects them such as hunger and maintaining acceptable hygienic standards which can help fight this pandemic. From this we have already bought food stuffs, soaps and liquid detol which will be distributed in identified -stricken homes; with the help of our two police officers. Thank you once again. May the good Lord keep you and your associates.”

From one of our benefactors: “Please continue your life saving work in these difficult times we are living in. God bless you and keep you all safe and well.”



"The benevolent wind of SCM blew and broke open the nutshell for the future of young Rebecca."

"The SCM donation enrolled Rebecca in the first grade at age 13. Her passion for education is worth upholding, as she is a healthy and determined child and she is happy and grateful. SCM has saved her life from teenage motherhood, dropout or illiteracy. She assures SCM of her commitment to learning and to utilizing this God-given opportunity."

Fr. Samuel,
Spiritual priest, Liberia, Africa

Why your help is so important!



Left: Without your contribution Eli would not have received the emergency dental treatment that saved his life. HAITI

Right: the village people hand washing with soap and water. Your contribution provided this village with much needed soap and water containers. LIBERIA



HOW YOU CAN HELP

MAKE A DONATION: By sending a cheque written to: **Silent Children's Mission** and mail it to: RR#1 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.silentchildrenmission.com ,

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

Please consider sharing this newsletter with your family and friends