



"Christ has no body now  
but yours.  
No hands, no feet on  
earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes  
through which He looks  
compassion on this  
world.  
Yours are the feet with  
which He walks to do  
good.  
Yours are the hands  
through which He  
blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands,  
yours are the feet, yours  
are the eyes, you are  
His body.  
Christ has no body now  
but yours.

St. Teresa of Avila



## Executive Director's Letter



Frankie Burg-Feret  
Executive Director

Dear SCM benefactors,

Thank you for your continued support and love for our humble charity and community of love! After two long years, we were finally able to visit our missions in Guatemala this past May/June. There were so many special moments, but time spent with the children and families we support were the highlight of the trip. You may recall from previous newsletters the stories of Maritzia, Olympia and Teresita whom SCM has helped to support since 2015. After mass, on the first Friday of the month (SCM day of prayer and fasting), we went to visit these families. With Padre Joaquin accompanying us, our first stop was with Maritzia and her mother Olympia. Living with developmental challenges, they both require supervision and assistance to maintain a sufficient quality of life. Padre Joaquin offered to provide a blessing but to our surprise Maritzia decided she would be the one to bless the priest; watching with tears in our eyes, she prayed over Padre Joaquin! Her inspiring words and her commitment to our Blessed Mother touched our hearts. Afterward, Maritzia spoke of her desire to be confirmed in the Catholic Church of which Padre Joaquin promised to arrange! Fr. Michael celebrated her First Holy Communion five years

ago and how fitting for him to continue this beautiful work.  
(photo below: Maritzia blessing Padre Joaquin)



We have followed Teresita for many years, and she has lived a very difficult life of poverty. More recently, she survived the mudslide in El Cambray that killed most of her community, she was present when a man attempted to rape and then murder her daughter, and she survived through the covid pandemic. Despite her many tragedies, she always smiled and thanked God for giving her everything she needed. At our recent visit, Teresita was so pleased to receive a gift of food, a rosary and prayer card, and more importantly a blessing from Padre Joaquin. It was as though she was waiting for that blessing because two days after our visit, at the age of 94, she died. It was a holy morning.



(Photo above: Teresita and Padre Joaquin)

Despite the challenges due to the pandemic, Valle continues to provide psychological, physical, and spiritual care to almost 200 children from under-resourced communities in Guatemala. Our SCM spiritual director and chair Fr. Michael, served at Valle for eleven years and many of the projects he began are flourishing; they are a testament to the love and care he provided the children.

The high school, garden, medical clinic, and bakery are examples of these projects, and they continue to thrive under the direction of Padre Joaquin. The team at Valle are very happy to welcome back the Humber College medical service mission next year which SCM supports with medications and medical supplies.



(photos above: Angel garden, the bakery, the graduating class of 2022, and nurse Mirna in the Valle clinic)

The costs of basic life necessities continue to rise all over the world and even in our rich countries we are feeling the effects. However, the children in developing countries are most vulnerable as they have no ability to advocate for themselves. I know it is difficult for many of you, but in the spirit of our beloved Mother Teresa, please consider helping this mission to reach the poorest of the poor, the Christ in our midst. Your monetary help is welcomed, and your continued prayers are most appreciated, especially for the success of our mission trip to Zambia this summer. Peace, Frankie

# Spiritual Director's Reflection



## Poverty of Heart

We here at Silent Children's Mission are so grateful for the many ways you help us alleviate poverty and are so generous with sharing your time, treasure, and talent as well as your prayers. We all know that this mission would not have endured even one day, never mind eleven years without your financial and spiritual support.

While most of us do not and will not personally experience the level of material poverty that deprives so many of their basic needs, we do however all suffer from another poverty. This poverty, while not material, is nonetheless more prevalent. It is a hidden poverty that cannot be seen with our eyes because it is the poverty of our own heart. This hidden poverty is our need for God; our personal awareness and recognition of our own powerlessness and inability to satisfy the deepest longing of our heart. Our deepest desire and need for God is in fact a blessing because it reminds us that we are all dependent on Him and are His children. This is the poverty we all share by virtue of our very humanity. We are incomplete without God, and we all need His love in order to be fulfilled. We are all beggars before God, and we are invited to ask God for our daily bread. Sadly, most of us are not in touch with the deepest hunger of our heart. I once heard it said that if we are not hungry for God then we are full of ourselves. This is so often the case with those of us who are filled with pride and are anesthetized to the ache of our deepest longing and desire.

This month of June dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Archbishop of Toronto, Thomas Collins,

recently issued a new pastoral letter on the Sacred Heart which addresses how, after this time of pandemic, we are all heavily laden and in great need of rest for our souls. He points out that in the midst of this grief, there are extraordinary examples of love and sacrifice, and selfless service to those who are afflicted, and so made me reflect on our work at Silent Children's Mission. Collins says: "These are indeed days of suffering, with so much conflict in the world, and such contention in civil society. Across the globe refugees flee oppressive regimes, and the blood of martyrs rebukes us in our comfortable Christianity. In our own country, social trends antagonistic to the Gospel gather strength. Anger mounts in the social media, in political discourse, and sometimes in the streets. Even in the Church, and especially in the Church, we cannot escape from the tides of acrimony."

The question becomes: Where can we turn to find comfort and peace? Jesus says: "*Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*" (Matthew 11:28-29). Archbishop Collins calls us to "rediscover a treasure, central to our life in Christ, that is hidden in plain sight in our Catholic spiritual heritage," namely, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Christ, the symbol of the compassionate love of Christ. The heart, he reminds us, is a natural sign of true love: it is hidden, it is steady, and it is reliable. As it beats, moment by moment, day by day, year by year, it keeps us alive. That is a perfect symbol of true love, not the sentiment that deceives, nor the passing infatuation that blows away like a cloud. The Sacred Heart of Jesus, steady and true, is what we must take to heart. Our life of Christian discipleship must be guided by the profound vision of love represented by the Sacred Heart.

It is a kenotic love that is self-emptying, willing to be poured out for others: "***For raised up high on the Cross, [Jesus] gave himself up for us with a wonderful love and poured out blood and water from his pierced side, the wellspring of the Church's Sacraments, so that, won over to the open heart of the Saviour, all might draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.***" (Preface of the Mass of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart). So many of us are tempted to hold on to what we think is so important and strive after the frantic accumulation that is the result of being seduced by the consumerism of the world. We succumb to the insatiable desire to get as much as we can. If two is good, four is better. And so often we encounter too late the truth that we finally have.

Listen to the words of Archbishop Thomas: "Our culture prizes autonomy, the conviction that it is *my* life that matters most, and I can do what I want with it. I am looking out for myself. As long as I do not interfere with other people's right to satisfy their own egos, my wishes are supreme. That disposition is clearly contrary to the Christian vision of relationships of generous love for others, based on the life of the Trinity revealed to us by the life of Jesus on earth, and particularly symbolized by the Sacred Heart, that sign of his sacrificial love on the Cross. The Christian vision is in stark contrast with the Spirit of our Age that prizes autonomy, the independence of the ego, rather than the interdependence of loving sacrifice." The English poet, John Donne, wisely said, "no man is an island, entire unto himself." We can be trapped into being islands of autonomy - my life, my body is my own - but that leads nowhere, except to loneliness, and even to euthanasia and other forms of suicide. "The Sacred Heart is the sign of a love that reaches out, in the interdependence

of relationship with others, not the sterile independence of autonomy. We find life and joy and the meaning of who we are not in icy isolation, or proud autonomy, or independence, but in the inter-relationship that is ultimately found in the Trinity and is made visible in the sacrificial love of Jesus represented by the Sacred Heart. To imitate the Trinity is to not only imitate the kenosis of the Incarnation who emptied himself totally for us but the kenosis of each person of the Trinity who continuously and eternally pours their love out completely. This is embracing poverty, a profound detachment that allows us to share and give away all our love, without counting the cost or succumbing to the temptation to hold back something for ourselves. Total self-gift."

Let us open our hearts in prayer to have hearts like our Lord Jesus.

Peace,  
Fr. Michael Della Penna

(photo: Fr. Michael and Maritzia at her First Holy Communion in 2017)

## Updates from our Missionaries



*Overcoming  
poverty is not a  
gesture of charity.  
It is an act of  
justice.*

Nelson Mandela

### Guatemala visit 2022

We can never truly understand or know the suffering a child has experienced hidden behind their smiling faces. Many children live in the basurero community where makeshift homes made of corrugated metal are built over the garbage of the Guatemala City dump. Your donations provided this boy's mother with the funds to start a small business selling vegetables from her home. She is so grateful for the assistance which has enabled her to become self-sufficient. At ten years old, Angelito works hard helping his mom by selling vegetables at their home business. Angelito dreams of one day becoming a chef!

# Updates from our Missionaries

## Malawi

### SCM MALAWI APPEAL

In late January 2022, tropical cyclone Ana hit parts of southern Malawi leaving much devastation. One of our long-time missionaries Fr. Peter Banda from Kadikira Parish in the Blantyre diocese has been trying to assist his people and has requested our assistance. Below is his letter:

Dear Frankie,

I tender my greetings to you from Malawi. I am glad to inform you that the donation was safely received. I would like to thank you and all donors of Silent Children for the donation. It has come at the right time when many children need it. I write to inform you also that a greater part of the country including our area was severely affected by cyclone Ana. Some houses and huts that harboured children were swept away by the floods and their belongings have been destroyed. We have been busy trying to come to the aid of some children and their families. I have attached a few pictures regarding this. The pictures portray the reality of the many children we are serving. We are only doing what is possible and the rest I leave it to God. Without your assistance, we cannot do much to serve children here on our side. My work with respect to Silent Children here in Malawi has been overwhelmingly hard. We had to assist only those that were in dire need as the resources would not be enough to cater for all of them. I visited the children in person in their villages, one home after another. The living conditions are appalling. Most of them have no houses at all or are living in dangerous huts. They have no beddings, insufficient clothes, food, toiletries and no good access to medical treatment. Those who are homeless find shelter in school blocks or in warehouses of some people of good-will. Our investigations and consultation show that with roughly \$2000 Canadian dollars, it is possible to build a decent house where a family of three children and their parent/guardian can be accommodated.

I hope you are well. I pray that you should be blessed as you labour in the service of humanity.

With Much Love, Fr. Peter



“When you have nothing to give, let us give Him our nothingness. Let us all remain as empty as possible so God can fill us. Bring God to everyone you meet each day. Humility always radiates the glory and greatness of God. How wonderful are the ways of God who chose humility, smallness, helplessness and poverty to prove His love to the world.”

Mother Teresa

“Being aware of their own weaknesses and poverty of spirit, these saints opened their hearts to God in trust and with deep surrender, allowed His graces to be released in each of their lives.”

Dasha Hrkal at our SCM annual meeting.

# Updates from our Missionaries

## Haiti

### Report from Sr. Rita, Compassionate Franciscan Sisters of the Poor

#### Excerpt from her letter:

We sincerely wish to thank you and Silent Children's Mission for your tremendous loving support of our mission of mercy among God's poor in Haiti and our struggling ministries. Thank you for the kind merciful contribution towards rebuilding our mission center and the continuation of our outreach programs in Viloux, Haiti that has been so greatly destroyed by the earthquake last August 2021.

As you know, our beautiful two-story concrete Mission Centre building along the hillside of our mission property completely collapsed. Our little special-needs daughter, Anna, tragically died in the building when it collapsed. The loss of Anna and our centre which has served so many poor children for over 10 years, has been very painful for us. We know, however, that we must rise up and continue to serve the poor ever more faithfully for the love of Christ Jesus. Your kindness has given us so much hope and strength. Currently, there has been much deadly social and political unrest; kidnappings and criminal violence increasing more and more in Haiti. So many new struggles are now facing the people of Haiti and our humble mission. We have been urged by many to completely give up the mission, but we have bravely decided to prudently and carefully persevere in the service of God's poor people and our children who need us now more than ever.

Your kind donation is being used for our ongoing feeding program, our deep well potable water distribution project, and our emergency assistance outreach for our poor. The feeding program is so important especially as the price of food and transportation continues to be very high. Thank you, ever so much dear Frankie, and our beloved SCM family and friends, for all your kind encouragement and gracious loving support of our ministries and works. You are God's Light shining upon us, as you continue to give us the faith and hope and the means we need to confidently serve and to effectively minister to God's poor.

May the good Lord reward you a hundredfold and fill you with His heavenly blessings and peace always!

Gratefully yours in Christ, Sr. Rita



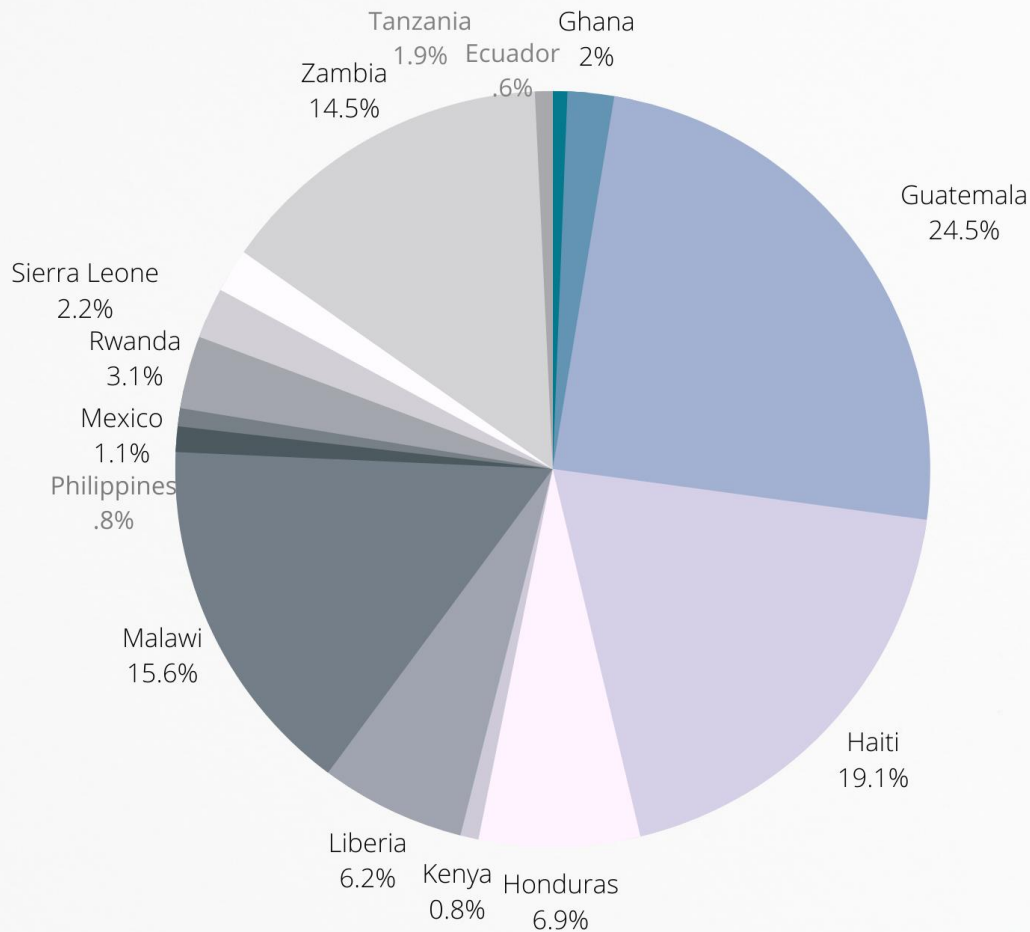
## Sierra Leone

Another well completed! Many thanks to our benefactors.

“With gratitude to God we are glad to commission the St. Joseph's Water well on the Feast day of St. Joseph the Worker, here in Our Lady of Lourdes Quasi Parish, Catholic Diocese of Bo, Sierra Leone.”  
Fr Samuel

# SCM Annual Board of Directors Meeting

## Disbursement of Donations for 2021



Please note: All trips to the missions are self-funded and the work of SCM is done voluntarily by a small team of dedicated people. We have worked very hard to keep our administration costs low (2.4% for 2021).



### SCM Board of Directors Annual Meeting May 10, 2022

Photo clockwise from top:  
 Fr. Michael Della Penna ofm, Chair, Spiritual Director  
 Gerry Brinston  
 Sarah Gangl  
 Louise Farrugia, Treasurer  
 Dasha Hrkal, Secretary  
 Mary Filangi  
 Frankie Burg-Feret, Executive Director

Our 2021 Annual Report will be posted on our website in the next few months. If you have any questions please call or send us an email and we will be happy to share with you.

# Great news for SCM!



Dear SCM family,

It is my pleasure to write to you as the newest member of the Silent Children's Mission Board of Directors. My name is Sarah Gangl, and I will be serving as the youth director, providing you with a youth perspective on all things Silent Children's Mission! I feel very blessed to have been welcomed into this position by the board members, who will no doubt serve as incredible sources of wisdom and inspiration during my time as a youth director. I am excited to contribute to Silent Children's mission to serve the poor and to see how the Holy Spirit will lead us in our outreach. We are currently working on expanding our communications through the use of social media; a tool that will better enable us to reach new and existing benefactors. Within the next two months, you can expect to find SCM on Facebook and Instagram where we will be sharing photos from Mission trips, testimonies, reflections, and calls to action. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide me during my time on the board of directors so that I may serve the Mission according to His inspiration. Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

Blessings, Sarah Gangl

## How you can help

**MAKE A DONATION:** By sending a cheque payable 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](mailto:silentchildrenca@yahoo.com) or through Canada Helps (SCM Registration #815949607RR0001). We also have an iTrade account for those wishing to donate stocks or bonds. Please remember us in your will.

**QUESTIONS?** Write to us at [silentchildrenca@yahoo.com](mailto:silentchildrenca@yahoo.com) or call us at 416-418-0314

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:** [www.silentchildrensmmission.com](http://www.silentchildrensmmission.com)

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

**QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR TAX RECEIPT?** Write to us at [scmtaxreceipts@gmail.com](mailto:scmtaxreceipts@gmail.com)

**PRAY FOR OUR CHARITY** and its benefactors. We pray and fast for you every First Friday of each month. Unite your intentions to ours!

**Please consider sharing this newsletter with your family and friends**