



The Vineyard

Fall 2019

YOU Helped Bring Hope After Easter Terrorist Attacks in Sri Lanka

On Easter Sunday of this year, a series of coordinated attacks targeted churches and hotels around Sri Lanka. The bombings tragically killed at least 300 people and injured an estimated 500 more.

Bishop Harold Perera in Sri Lanka (*featured inside*) and his parishioners were safe and unharmed – praise God! However, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo, Sri Lanka, reported that 150 to 180 of our Catholic brothers and sisters were tragically killed.



We asked our supporters to rally and assist these victims and their families through prayer and financial support for their many needs – including assistance for funerals, hospitalization, and rebuilding places of worship.

Friends like you gave over \$25,000 to help victims recover and rebuild! We are deeply moved by your fast response and generous hearts for our sisters and brothers in faith.

While families grieve and Sri Lanka continues to live under heightened security, your compassion is bringing hope where it is so greatly needed. Thank you, and please keep Sri Lanka in your prayers as they rebuild and look forward in faith.

Look inside this edition of The Vineyard to learn about more good works in progress thanks to YOU!

INSIDE: Take a look at some of the accomplishments we've made around the world with your kind assistance – all in the name of Jesus Christ!

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

-Matthew 25:40



Deacon Rick's Corner



In these difficult times for the Catholic Church, pastors like Bishop Bejoy D’Cruze, who is helping the families of tea workers in Bangladesh, are serving their flocks with great humility and faith.

As you may realize, the local Church in developing countries like Bangladesh has VERY few resources. Oftentimes the diocese isn’t much better off than the poor it serves.

I’m reminded of this constantly ...

When I met with another Catholic World Mission partner, Bishop Victor Lyngdoh, diocese of Jowai, India, for example, I learned he had traveled more than eight hours by bus to meet me in Bangladesh!

That humbled me greatly. In my American way of thinking, I just assumed he had taken a plane. And in talking to this shepherd, I couldn’t help but think that THIS is the missionary Church – the Church that serves the poor ... the Church that Catholic World Mission seeks to lift up with your help.

I share this because it’s a powerful counterpoint to the constant bad news we hear nowadays about the failings of Church leadership. I worry about the impact these failings and scandals will have on the poor if friends like you turn away in frustration.

I hope you realize that in working through Catholic World Mission you take part in work that is 100% focused on following Christ in his love for and service to the least of our sisters and brothers.

I pray that legitimate frustrations and anger with Church leadership don’t flow over and hurt poor children and families or faithful leaders like Bishop Bejoy and dozens of other “missionary” bishops. They are far removed from these scandals, have given their lives in service to the poor, and depend on Catholic World Mission for help.

I don’t know what they would do without us. And I don’t know what we would do without YOU.

So please pray for us as we pray for you. And know that the good work that YOU make possible through Catholic World Mission is a powerful and urgently needed sign of hope in a dark time for the Church. Together, let us stay focused on our critical mission of serving the poorest of the poor in His name.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Rick Medina

Deacon Rick Medina

Executive Director

Dignified Living



Project: Ndekeshia Orphanage
Location: Democratic Republic of Congo

After 4 Years, the Ndekeshia Orphanage is Re-opened Thanks to Friends Like YOU!

Ndekeshia Orphanage was started by the Sisters of Charity in 1952. Over decades, the Sisters raised many children here, but war in DR Congo led the orphanage to close in 1998. Although it was reopened several years later, a lack of resources forced it to close once again.

Then in 2015, Catholic World Mission was asked to help provide funding to rebuild the orphanage and provide a safe home for little ones who had nowhere to go. With your help, we answered, “Yes!”



Today, 19 orphans call Ndekeshia Orphanage home. Through your donations, Ndekeshia has been rebuilt. It has electricity and running water and is furnished. The children are thriving, and are grateful for something many take for granted – the simple, precious gift of three square meals each day.

The compassionate care of donors like you has helped ensure ongoing food deliveries to children at this orphanage. Thank you for helping!



Meet Bishop Pierre Celestin

When the Ndekeshia Orphanage was dedicated last fall, Bishop Celestin attended the celebration. The civil war and corruption in DR Congo directly affected Bishop Celestin and his priests, some of whom live in hiding or have fled. Bishop Celestin was himself homeless as a result of the war. His rectory and cathedral were desecrated, sacked, and vandalized by fighters. Among the items destroyed was the cathedral's monstrance. With your help, we were delighted to be able to give Bishop Celestin a monstrance to replace the one destroyed in the war.

We hope that Adoration will bring comfort to the Bishop and his people during this scary time in their country.

Education



Project: Tea Laborers
Location: Bangladesh

You Are Giving the Gift of Education and the Catholic Faith to Forgotten Children

Most tea laborers here are illiterate. Many were born on plantations and have lived their whole lives here. They've never had access to a decent education. (Plantations don't provide good schools for fear that students might get big ideas for a better life and leave!)

They do receive a wage, but it is only about \$1 per day.



But with your support, we are working to provide the children of tea laborers and other destitute families with the chance for an education. You're helping to pay for teachers, supply more food and medicine, and fan the flame of change for tea laborers' families that started here through the Catholic Church. We're almost two years into the work, and we expect to continue our efforts with your help and prayers.



Meet Bonnya

Little Bonnya, whose parents both work as tea laborers in Bangladesh, is just one of the many poor children who are now receiving an education thanks to your kindness. Bonnya is in the 5th grade this year and her three older brothers attend high school outside of the tea farm compound. Bonnya's goal is to one day become a police officer in order to serve her country and its people. She and her family are so grateful for the priceless gift of an education... THANK YOU!

Evangelization



Project: Seminarian Formation
Location: Global

Fostering Vocations in Poor Dioceses Worldwide Through Your Generosity

The Catholic World Mission Seminarian Support program focuses in a special way on missionary priests – men who work as God’s priestly shepherds in remote territories. Places where people may have never heard of Jesus, or places where poverty and hopelessness are extreme. These men, once ordained as priests, will be sent all over the world to proclaim the love of God and serve those in great need.

When you support seminarians and priests, you join – in a very concrete and powerful way – the work of Jesus to bring His love to a world in need. Your ongoing support provides a spark of hope directly to the parts of the world that need it most.



Meet Benwen Lopez

Born and raised in India, Benwen had fallen away from the Catholic faith as he grew older and was swinging like a “pendulum of a clock.” However, he rediscovered his faith while attending Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. After college, Benwen worked as an assistant editor for a business magazine in Dubai. But after feeling a tug in his heart toward the priesthood, Benwen returned to India and began his priestly formation last year. Being in a very poor diocese, financing for the formation of a priest like Benwen is a great challenge. Generous supporters

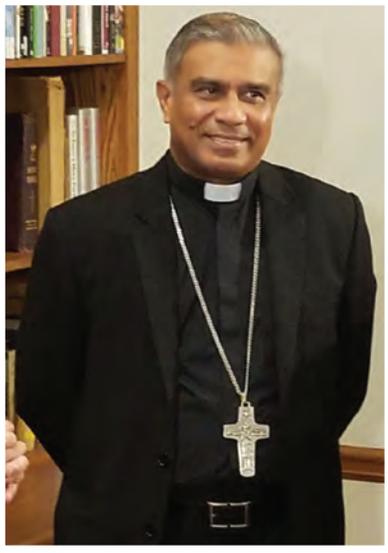
like you allow Catholic World Mission to help meet these expenses and reduce the financial burden on the diocese.

Mission Partner Spotlight

Meet Bishop Harold Perera



Through Your Kindness, YOU Walk With Bishop Perera in Sri Lanka



It's always an honor to work with bishops around the world. We first met Bishop Harold Perera when he visited Atlanta in 2017. He has a true love for God, a strong devotion to the Eucharist, and cares for the people of his diocese in Sri Lanka with a truly pastoral heart.

In 2018, Bishop Perera asked for our help in supporting an amazing project in the Diocese of Kurunegala. Founded in 1986, Providence Home is now home to 60 children between the ages of 8 and 18, both boys and girls. The orphanage provides for the physical and psychological well-being of these children, as well as primary and secondary school for each child.

The Sisters of Mary Immaculate operate the orphanage. They provide a safe, happy, and loving environment for the children. Many of the orphanage's residents lost their parents through death or family disputes resulting in broken homes, leaving them with nowhere else to go.

Thanks to donations from caring friends like you, the Diocese of Kurunegala is able to provide adequate facilities for these children, complete with indoor and outdoor play areas, and of course beds, meals, and lots of love and encouragement.

As you pray for this ministry, be assured that Bishop Perera is also keeping you and our entire Catholic World Mission family in his daily prayers!



*"You are the light of the world – your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."*

Matthew 5:14-16

Leave a Legacy

Make a Lasting Impact on the Poor through Planned Giving

We can all give thanks by giving back to those we love. Not all of us are blessed with great wealth, but no matter the size of your estate, or how many assets you may own, you can still make a long-term impact on the world.

A will or living trust ensures that your legacy – your possessions, business, and investments – will provide for everything that is close to your heart: your loved ones, the Church, and the special causes you hold dear.

Ideally, your plans should provide for:

- Yourself, as long as you live;
- Your family and dependents;
- Others to whom you wish to repay favors or show gratitude;
- Christ, the Church, and charitable organizations you support!

As a supporter of Catholic World Mission, a bequest ensures that our work benefiting the physically and spiritually poor worldwide will continue after your passing. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves, teaching that there is no greater commandment. A bequest to social justice is a beautiful expression of that love.

Ways to Give

While establishing your will is first and foremost in estate planning, Catholic World Mission can also be named as a beneficiary in a number of ways, such as a:

- Living trust
- 401(k) plan
- Traditional or Roth IRA
- Life insurance policy
- Health savings account
- POD (Pay on Death) in bank or brokerage account

Contact your personal lawyer for legal advice.

On the web, log on to CatholicWorldMission.org to:



• **Learn About New Countries Served**
We have expanded our global reach and are now partnering with local ministry partners in South Africa, South Korea, and Uganda.



• **Subscribe to Email Updates**
Sign up to receive the latest news from CWM by email. Your email address will not be shared with anyone, and you can unsubscribe at any time.



• **Join Us in Praying for Our Partners**
Our faithful ministry partners are on the front lines, serving and ministering to the poorest of the poor throughout the globe. Your prayers have power to lift and encourage our partners as they carry out God's work through their tireless service.



• **Submit a Prayer Request**
Our office staff prays weekly for the needs our partners and supporters share with us. We are honored to lift up requests to our Heavenly Father on your behalf.

For more information, photos, and videos on any of these projects and more, please visit our website at CatholicWorldMission.org