



# The Vineyard

Fall 2020

## ***YOU are Helping the Poor Weather the COVID-19 Storm***

Every day, requests pour in from around the world. Our friends and partners are working hard to help people who are left desperate and suffering in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



As a loyal friend of Catholic World Mission, you have always known the hardships faced by the children and families in the developing world. For them, the worry and uncertainty we all feel now isn't anything new.

In fact, in times like these, the poor and the vulnerable usually suffer most.

Friends like you have not forgotten the least of our sisters and brothers during these difficult times. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to provide many of our ministry partners around the world with both spiritual and material aid – including nourishing food and lifesaving medicines. We've also sent aid to some of the hardest-hit areas right here in our own country.

With your continued support, we can respond to more urgent requests and help the most vulnerable weather the coronavirus storm. Thank you for all you do for poor children and families, especially now!



*In Ghana, Fr. Anthony Eshun stands next to supplies for local hospitals that you helped to provide.*



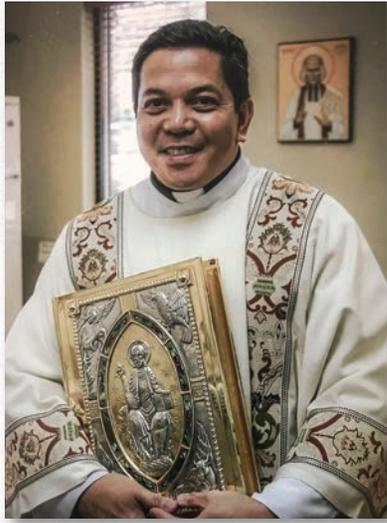
*In Mexico, a mother and her two small children are so grateful for food supplies from CWM supporters like you!*



*Your kindness also allowed us to help hard-hit areas within our own U.S. borders. Because of you, we were able to feed the homeless here in Atlanta during the pandemic.*

***INSIDE:*** Learn more about good works in progress around the world thanks to YOU!

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For many, this year has been dominated by three things: challenge, confusion, and change. Although many of us have been longing for a return to normal, I'd like to offer some comfort and direction, right here in the present.

While serving at a Mass, celebrated outside due to the pandemic, I could not help but be moved by the first reading on the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the First Book of Kings, God told Solomon to ask Him for something, and God would provide it. Instead of asking for riches, a long life, protection from his enemies, or a whole host of things that would benefit him, Solomon asked for an understanding heart so that he might judge wisely and distinguish right from wrong.

Scripture says that God was pleased with Solomon's request.

I wondered: If God gave me that same opportunity, would I have asked for the same thing? Especially in these trying times, I could list many things to ask from God ...

I would ask God to heal those currently infected with the virus and to protect all others from contracting the virus. I would ask for employment for those who have lost their jobs or have had their hours reduced. I would ask God to lessen all anxieties as we grapple with the pandemic. Lastly, I would ask God for clarity and answers to why this pandemic is happening and to help us comprehend all of the many confusions.

I would ask for many things. Would God be pleased with what I have been asking for? It is only natural to seek out understanding, as it provides a sense of control and normalcy. However, there is wisdom in what Solomon asked for, particularly in these times. He asked for an understanding heart over an understanding mind.

Time and time again, the Lord's faithful are told to lean not on our own understanding but to hope and trust in the unseen. Although we may not have a concrete understanding with the mind in these many trials, we should not limit ourselves from having a fuller understanding with the heart. Similar to the passing of seasons, the pandemic will eventually lead to a "new normal." But we mustn't forget that faithfulness is not dependent on circumstances, and there is still hope to be found today.

And so, it is with God's grace that I thank the good Lord for this scripture passage about the wisdom of Solomon. I do not claim to understand why, under challenging times, we continue to have generous donors who give whatever they can, but I thank the Lord for our benefactors' generosity, past and present. You all continue to be in our prayers, and we continue to put our hope and trust in the Lord that we will get through these confusions, challenges, and changes.

For now, we persevere in our work for the poor in whatever capacity possible. We are encouraged by the words of St. Thérèse, the Little Flower, "Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them."

With much love and gratitude, thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Rick Medina  
Executive Director



# Evangelization

## A Small, Faithful Community in Uganda Now Has a New Place of Worship Because You Cared



Project: Church Build  
Location: Uganda



In the tiny village of Kyamwinula in Eastern Uganda, 423 Catholics would gather under the shade of a mango tree for Sunday Mass celebrated by Fr. Sunny Mattathil, MSFS. That's because the villagers had no church. Many of these worshippers are elderly and couldn't make the trek to the parish church in the next town over 2.5 miles away. They were grateful for the chance to attend Mass, but prayed for a church of their own and started putting in sweat equity.

The villagers made 25,000 bricks by hand to build their church. People are very poor here. Most are subsistence farmers with little or nothing to spare. But they came together, made bricks for their church, and got ready to build. They planned to name their new church St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Sadly, before they could cure the bricks, a rainstorm came and washed their hard work away. The bricks were destroyed.

The sad truth is the villagers had nothing left to start over with. They had no resources to buy building materials. And they were running out of time: the rainy season was about to start again.

But thanks to wonderful supporters like you, Catholic World Mission stepped up to help build this faithful community a new church. The plans for the church were very simple. They weren't looking for anything flashy or ornate. They were just praying for a lasting place to worship in safety. And because of you, their prayers have been answered!

Thank you for your passion for the Church in need all around the world. Thank you for giving so generously to help this project and all of Catholic World Mission's good works!



## SANCTUS SANCTUS SANCTUS!

As a Catholic Mission organization, we are fully in-line with scripture and church teachings. Below are some programs that sets CWM apart as definitively Catholic!

### MONSTRANCES

Our supporters help us provide underprivileged parishes and communities with monstrances to foster increased devotion to the life-giving power of the Eucharist. This silent period of time (Eucharistic Adoration) with Jesus gives many people the blessing of internal peace, greater hunger for Communion with God, and deepened assurance in His power and presence.



### EVANGELIZADORES DE TIEMPO COMPLETO

Evangelizadores de Tiempo Completo (ETC) is a full-time evangelizer service, which provides parishes and dioceses with full-time lay missionaries. These foot soldiers for Christ fill in the huge gap of shortage of priests to serve the people particularly in remote villages. Their priority is the catechesis of marginalised or endangered groups, in total collaboration with their parish priests. This project is part of the Church's evangelizing mission, which seeks the protection of minors as Pope Francis has insisted. Thanks to you they keep our Catholic faith alive!



### SEMINARIANS

Through the generosity of our benefactors we have sponsored 83 seminarians. The mission is dedicated to prepare seminarians around the world for their evangelizing mission as priests in today's world. Supporting seminarians in their priestly vocations is one of the best ways we can help the church. At the end of the day, so many disadvantaged children and families still need to know the good news of the Gospel and Christ's love.



# Education



**Project:** Bus for School Children

**Location:** India

## Thanks to YOU, these Boys and Girls Can Get to Class

Thanks to you, our very generous donors, we have fully funded the purchase of a school bus for the Trinitarian Fathers to use at their school in the Assam region of northeast India. It is a very difficult place to survive and work.

In this place where many struggle just to eat every day, nothing is more important than giving the children an education and a chance to throw off the chains of poverty.

This full-size bus that you helped provide can carry 72 children. Many of these children had to walk almost five miles to school. Therefore, either they arrived to school tired and unable to learn, or they did not come at all.

Receiving an education is vital to the future of these children – the knowledge and the sense of self-worth that come with going to school are transformational for these little ones who have suffered in poverty for so long.

Thanks to the bus you provided, these children can get to and from school, where they can learn and build a better future!



***YOU helped us answer Fr. Joseph's initial request for help...***

“Right now the children have to cover miles walking to reach the school. But because of monsoons, flood, drought and other dangers, they often cannot come... A school bus to bring them safely back and forth would be a great blessing. Please, Deacon Rick, I am praying Catholic World Mission can help us.”



# Dignified Living

## Through Your Support, We are Empowering Poor Children in Ecuador



**Project:** Child Empowerment  
**Location:** Ecuador

As bad as things get in the communities we help, there's always a reason for hope. In Esmeraldas, a poor coastal town in Ecuador, that hope comes in the form of Fr. John Kennedy and Fr. Melky Fernandes. These two priests belong to the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS), and they're working to launch a new Child Empowerment Project in Esmeraldas.

This new program, when fully funded by CWM supporters like you, will take care of children's practical needs, including a daily meal, school fees, books and school supplies, uniforms for organized sports, counseling sessions, and more.

In addition, the missionaries' work will provide for many of the children's "intangible" needs, including a safe, secure, loving environment where they can learn, grow, and flourish. Most importantly, in everything they do – in word and by their lived example – the missionaries will teach the children about God's amazing love.

Will you stop and pray right now for this important work?



### Meet Yela

Little children like Yela, 11, face dire poverty every day. Yela is in the fifth grade. She's lived with her grandmother since her parents abandoned her when she was just 5. Yela's grandma, a widow, is also poor and has no proper work. She can't afford school fees for Yela (just \$10 per month), and struggles to provide for her other grandchildren.

Sadly, many children growing up in Esmeraldas come from families haunted by alcoholism, abuse, and addiction. When their parents abandon them, the lucky ones have grandparents they can turn to. Like Yela's grandma, even the grandparents are desperately poor! Tragically, the children without grandparents are destined for a life on the streets.

# Mission Partner Spotlight

Meet Msgr. Simon Assamoah (Ghana)

## Through Your Kindness, YOU Walk with Msgr. Simon in Ghana

Msgr. Simon has been a Catholic World Mission partner since 2014 and has visited us here in Atlanta on several occasions. Since that time, generous supporters like you have helped him complete a wide variety of projects in Ghana, including:



- ◆ Supporting a cocoa tree farm and fish farm to help locals have an income producing trade

Most recently, Msgr. Simon mobilized a massive effort to respond to the COVID pandemic, including stocking local hospitals with needed supplies like face masks, soap, hand sanitizers, and Veronica buckets (used as a means to wash hands since many places in Ghana lack running water).

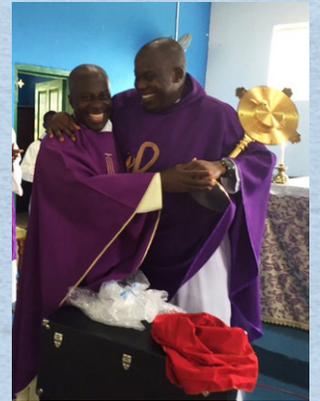
Msgr. Simon was also able to provide nourishing food for priests and nuns who had always relied on Mass collections to buy daily essentials. Since Masses were canceled due to the pandemic, collections had stopped, leaving the priests and nuns susceptible to hunger and malnutrition.

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

**If you lavish your food on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; Then your light shall rise in the darkness, and your gloom shall become like midday.**

**Isaiah 58:10**

- ◆ Distributing monstrances throughout Ghana to spread Eucharistic adoration
- ◆ Building a medical clinic in Yiwabra
- ◆ Building water wells to provide people with access to clean water
- ◆ Supporting several local schools with learning supplies, water, building improvements, and a covered cafeteria
- ◆ Helping with evangelization efforts, which included funding for catechism training of his catechists and provided transportation (motorcycles) for his catechists/assistant priest
- ◆ Constructing a new church (Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Enchi)





## Changing the World Starts at Home



Peter Freissle embodies the American dream.

Originally from South Africa, he moved to the United States to run the American arm of his family-owned business, Polydeck Screen Corporation.

Peter was wildly successful. But he still felt like something was missing.

“I remember telling a colleague that I had achieved the American dream, but I still felt empty. He urged me to go on a retreat and to find out what God wanted in my life.” That retreat would change his whole life.

“God put on my heart that He wanted me to love Him and to love my employees.”

This has been his guiding light ever since. He came home and changed everything about how Polydeck was run.

Today, Polydeck offers its employees extensive training. They learn leadership skills as well as the ability to set goals and develop a career path so they can continue to pursue personal and professional goals and passions. Over the last several years, employees have logged more than 10,000 hours in leadership training and personal development.

Peter lives a “pay it forward” lifestyle through charitable works as well. In partnership with Catholic World Mission, his generosity has made many projects in the developing world possible:

- Construction of a new hospital in Chile for the homeless, elderly, and poor
- Disaster relief in the Philippines after earthquake and typhoon disasters
- Support for Ndeksha orphans in DR Congo
- Major support of missionary centers in Costa Rica
- Aid for the homeless and poor of Poland

On behalf of the poor impacted by Peter’s good works, we give thanks to God. In 2006, He inspired Peter with a simple message: Love God and love employees. And Peter’s faithfulness to that call has created a culture of caring in his company and well beyond.



**In 2007, Peter created the nonprofit His Way at Work, which offers training and coaching to business leaders and executives who want to make similar changes in their respective companies. Peter’s commitment to doing business God’s way continues to blaze trails and improve the lives of countless people all over the world.**

## 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 for 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

*For more information on how we might help you expand your legacy, contact Amber Demartino at 770-828-4966 or [ademartino@catholicworldmission.org](mailto:ademartino@catholicworldmission.org). Contact your personal lawyer for legal advice.*

### On the web, log on to [CatholicWorldMission.org](http://CatholicWorldMission.org) to:



#### • Learn About New Communities Served

We have expanded our global reach and are now partnering with local ministry partners serving new communities in Ecuador and here in the United States.



#### • 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 our projects and more, please visit our website at [CatholicWorldMission.org](http://CatholicWorldMission.org)