



# The Vineyard

Fall 2021

## YOU Helped “Solidarity Suppers” Feed the Hungry



Unfortunately, a health crisis such as a pandemic affects us all, especially those who were already battling poverty. Unexpectedly, one’s current needs are amplified while new, additional needs arise.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish in the Playa del Carmen region of Mexico were turning to the church to relieve both their growing spiritual and physical hungers.

The service meets the needs of individuals and families whose income has been eliminated or

significantly reduced by the affectation of employment due to the pandemic. Approximately 100 people a day come to the distribution of a hot supper at 5 p.m. and receive a main course, bread, a sweet roll (a type of dessert), and a flavored water.



Solidarity Supper was fully curated because of generous hearts in the Sacred Heart Parish community. It alleviates the weight of hunger and financial burdens during the pandemic. However, the kitchen wanted to feed those in need beyond the immediate community.

Families in the surrounding, rural communities (referred to as communities “of the woods”) lack the means to travel to Solidarity Supper. Instead, missionaries and volunteers hand deliver the food directly to their homes.

The community plans to continue the kitchen in the months ahead, but they need steady funding to feed the growing lines. The parish is grateful for the continued generous support of Catholic World Mission – friends like you have been sustaining the Solidarity Suppers throughout the pandemic!

Thank you for being faithful to the Lord’s teaching by feeding the hungry.

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

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# Evangelization

## Full-time ETCs to the Rescue Thanks to YOU!



**Project:** ETC (Full-time Catholic Lay Missionaries)

**Location:** Mexico



In the midst of the pandemic, the residents of Chiapas and Tabasco were hit with a catastrophic blow in November 2020. Tropical Storm Eta swelled rivers, causing landslides and floods in these impoverished states in southern Mexico. In the city of Tapilula, located on the northwest side of the State of Chiapas, 10 families suddenly found themselves homeless.

On November 5, Andrés Hernández, a local evangelizer, welcomed the 10 families – 30 displaced people in all – into his home and sheltered them from further harm. Thirty people under one small roof – what a beautiful testament to love thy neighbor!

Thanks to Catholic World Mission benefactors, full-time lay missionaries could attend materially and spiritually to the poor who reside in the communities in Chiapas, Tabasco, Yucatán, and Campeche.

In one of the communities most affected by the floods, Santa Cruz, Tapilula, Chiapas (located six hours by car from Tuxtla Gutierrez into the deepest mountains), 10 families lost their homes in November 2020. Thanks to the support of Catholic World Mission, 44 evangelizers could continue giving to those most in need, supporting the delivery of basic pantries to those affected by the landslides.



**Broadcast Radio Mass** In eastern Uganda, your support allows Msgr. Paul Musana from the Diocese of Jinja to pay for Catholic radio airtime. The Mass, celebrated by priests, is broadcast live on radio and reaches over 1 million people who are suffering during the ongoing pandemic, sharing messages of healing and the hope of the Gospel with them.

**Supporting Seminarians Worldwide** Since 2018, Catholic World Mission has supported the needs of men discerning the priesthood in different corners of the world. Our compassionate supporters like you have been extremely generous at every turn and have risen to the occasion every time these courageous men have had a need they haven't been able to meet on their own. With a special focus on missionary orders and poor dioceses around the globe, you help hundreds of seminarians on their way to the priesthood!

# Education

## Your Support Provided Nourishing Meals to Hungry School Children

**Project:** Feeding Program  
**Location:** Nigeria

In Nigeria, most people live on less than \$1.75 per day, which categorically falls under extreme poverty. This extreme poverty causes families to respond in desperate measures. 29% of the workforce in Nigeria is made up of children ages 5-14.

With your help, Catholic World Mission is responding to the call in Nigeria to bring spiritual and physical help to uplift those desperate for hope – especially the children.

This past May, Catholic World Mission, along with our local ministry partner, Keneolisa Charities, sponsored a school feeding program at Holy Rosary Elementary School in Nigeria. Many children received the nourishment their bodies needed – and they appreciated the kindness and love shown by our supporters. Even during these times of uncertainty, you took action and showed how much you cared through your support of this ministry.

The school children not only received bowls of food but bountiful love that was felt countries away from our wonderful donors – THANK YOU!



### Showing Girls They Are Valued & Loved

Through your support of our *Keep Girls in Education* project, we are shaping the future of vulnerable girls in Uganda. With the ongoing lockdowns, 30 senior teachers in this project do in-home visits with 3,000 girls in total. Each of the visits to the girls' homes begins and ends with prayer, songs, reading of Bible passages, sharing educational materials, teaching life skills, and, finally, a Q&A session.



**Building Bright Futures** Vittorino Girardi School in Costa Rica is currently in its fourth stage of construction thanks to the generosity of a CWM major benefactor and his family. The school is passionate about providing all students and families with both the spiritual and academic tools for long-term success. And, this year thanks to your generosity, recipients of student scholarships were distributed at Mano Amiga Schools in Brazil, Colombia, and the Philippines. These children are receiving a high-quality Catholic education comparable to private schools thanks to you!



# Dignified Living

## Clean, Safe Drinking Water for Orphans Thanks to YOU!



**Project:** Water Tower

**Location:** DR Congo

Children in Ndekesha, a village in DR Congo, grow up with unclean habits. They can't wash their hands. They can't bathe. They can't wash their clothes. Lack of clean water threatens their health and education.

Your support is helping the Ndekesha orphanage to create a borehole and safe access to clean drinking water. A borehole decreases water-borne illnesses, promotes

health and hygiene, and eliminates hours spent locating water. It allows women and children time to focus on school and community.

During the dry season, water can be used to grow gardens. Income will become diversified. Children will thrive in school. There can be a focus on education and proper hygiene – lifting human dignity and the desire for self-care.

The Sisters at Ndekesha Orphanage lovingly care for the orphans, who are given a Christian education and are introduced to the sacraments. These children grow up with the love of the Catholic Church and with the love that Christ puts in each of our hearts to care for one another.

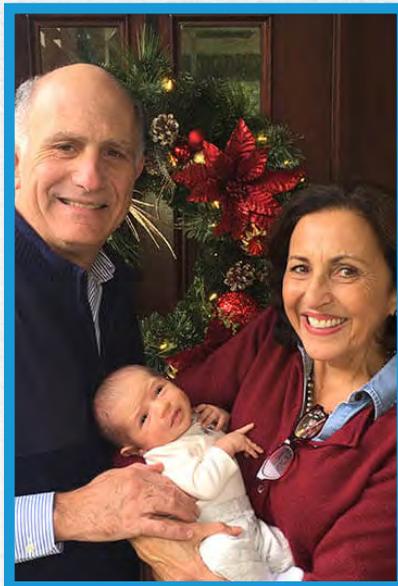
Nothing is more important to improving the lives of these children than sharing the gift of lifesaving water. Your generosity is helping to build a clean, sustainable water system that is not a temporary solution ... it will change the lives of children and families for generations to come!

**Feeding the Hungry** Catholic World Mission, through the generosity of its donors and the general fund, was able to help the Compassionate Franciscan Sisters of the Poor to procure urgently needed food for suffering children and their families in Jamaica. The sisters were able to make bulk purchases of food such as rice, counter flour, cornmeal, and meats. They created care packages to distribute to the families “for the love of Jesus and to bring hope to His people as they struggle through these difficult days.”

**Saving Lives** Thanks to your caring support, we have been able to stock 11 health clinics and hospitals in Ghana, Gambia, and the Philippines with medical supplies that have served 5,000-plus people! When supplies could not be directed to the intended hospital because of the COVID-19 lockdown, volunteers did some creative thinking and converted the shipping container into a clinic. This clinic will provide critical services and care to many who would simply not be cared for – thanks to your generosity!

# Lights of the World

Nancy & John Cecconi



Nancy and John have found the grace and time to serve others throughout their marriage, in addition to providing for two adult special needs children of their own. They are true examples of partnership, selfless love, and giving. Caring for their own children has often provided daily reminders that God is challenging them to do something special.



When asked what compels them to donate to our work, Nancy responded, "Catholic World Mission is our main international support ministry. We highly value the relationship we have with the staff and how we are updated on all the projects we support."

Back in 2002, the Cecconis made their first gift to Catholic World Mission. That humble first gift sparked the beginning of a lifetime of generosity from them. Their phenomenal giving and trust to Catholic World Mission has truly touched each of this ministry's four pillars of work.

In addition to empowering the poor around the globe, Nancy and John are also devoted to a variety of Catholic causes and organizations that serve the needy in their own community. As members of these groups and boards, they continue to help others through their discipleship and demonstrate their selfless love and dedication to their marriage and faith.

All of us at Catholic World Mission are especially honored that we are part of Nancy and John's generosity. Thanks to the Cecconis' charity, Catholic World Mission is able to empower the poor and share the gospel of Christ with so many of our deserving partners throughout the world.

We pray for Nancy and John as they continue, two by two, paying it forward to build up the Kingdom of Christ here on earth. We give thanks that the Cecconis are CWM Lights of the World; and that the fruits of their generosity will leave a lasting impression not only on the many lives touched in the developing world but also on our Catholic World Mission team.

## ***A Pilgrimage through St. Joseph's life of faith***



Last month, Father Daniel, Deacon Rick, and Monsignor Fennesy guided CWM supporters through St. Joseph's life in Cuarto Cienegas, Mexico. Visitors embarked on an extraordinary five days that nourished their souls and enriched their spiritual walk with God.

***Find out more by visiting our website at:*** <https://catholicworld-mission.org/camino-san-jose/>

# Mission Partners Spotlight 2021



The work of Catholic World Mission could not be accomplished without support from local mission partners who go above and beyond their individual donations. These partners visit the mission sites, spend their own resources to help us reach new donors, and allow us to expand our reach. We are pleased to recognize the contributions of our dear friends, all from the state of Georgia, for their tremendous support and assistance to the many projects of Catholic World Mission.

**Msgr. Hugh Marren** is Deacon Rick's pastor at All Saints Catholic Church in Dunwoody, Georgia. He has gone out of his way to allow CWM to speak to parishioners about its mission and he solicits other parishes for CWM's mission appeals. Msgr. Marren has graciously opened the parish to host and entertain visiting bishops, priests, and religious at the rectory. He has helped raise funds for the Catholic World Mission seminarians' program, multiple projects in India, orphanages in Sri Lanka, DR Congo, and Bangladesh, evangelistic programs in Liberia, and all types of projects in Ghana, including the construction of a church and shipment of medical and other supplies for churches and hospitals in Ghana.

**Father Joe Mendes, MSFS**, is instrumental in expanding Catholic World Mission into India. He traveled with Deacon Rick to meet the archbishop of Goa and Daman and has raised funds and solicited new donors to help fund the building of community centers for the Mission of Daman. Father Joe helped with the construction of new seminaries and churches in India. In addition, Father Mendes has actively supported CWM's missions in Ecuador for orphaned children, new water projects, and support of priestly formation.



**Ide Kamdem Maka** is a nurse in Georgia. She is responsible for CWM's Ndekesha orphanage in the DR Congo. Ide is a donor and has also traveled to DR Congo multiple times, at her own expense, to ensure that the construction of the new orphanage was completed on time and budget. Most recently, she has been helping with the water project for the orphanage, hospital, parish, and neighboring villages in and around the Ndekesha orphanage.

# Deacon Rick's Corner



## Still Hoping

To hold onto Hope is to hold onto Faith. Last summer, I hoped that this year's letter would be greeting you in a fully post-pandemic world. While progress has been made around many developed parts of the world, the COVID-19 virus, unfortunately, continues to threaten the health and hope of many.

All of us have suffered to varying degrees, and we now continue to adjust the ways in which we cope and live. Unfortunately, the pandemic is still harshly devastating our brothers and sisters with far fewer resources, especially those in developing countries. Since the pandemic started, we have received TRIPLE the amount of project requests than usual, as more communities struggle with food shortages, lack of access to adequate medical care, and clean water. Young people, especially girls, are falling further behind in their education due to the lack of technological infrastructure required for safe and distanced learning. Even the means to worship at Mass, the source of hope for many, has been reduced significantly, if not outright stopped.

## Still Praying

We have often been at our wit's end trying to figure out what more we could do to help as many people as possible. We expanded the means and increased our communications with our supporters, writing hand-written postcards to those we couldn't reach by email or phone. We even drove to meet benefactors. All the while, we increased our prayers for the people in need and our supporters. I am pleased to share an insight I received during one of these quiet times of prayer while asking God to help our work. I came across a quote about prayer by St. John Vianney:

*"Private prayer is like a straw scattered here and there: if you set it on fire, it makes a lot of little flames. But gather these straws into a bundle and light them, and you get a mighty fire, rising like a column into the sky; public prayer is like that."*

I could not help but see a parallel between this quote and how, together, you, I, and the many supporters of Catholic World Mission have banded together to help even more people in need last year and this year! I know that many of you prayed in private for God to help you see beyond your own challenges and limitations to find the courage to extend help to others in need. **I do not doubt our individual private prayers were gathered by the Holy Spirit, bundled up, and lit into a mighty fire rising like a column into the sky.** And those prayers were answered as demonstrated by your actions.

I invite you to see the fruits of your prayers and generosity by reading the stories and seeing the pictures in this newsletter. I also encourage you to see more life-saving actions you made possible by visiting our website.

*(continued on pg. 8)*

# Deacon Rick's Corner (continued)

## Always Grateful

A lot has changed since the pandemic. I lost family and friends due to COVID. We mourn the death of friends and supporters of CWM alike. I long for the day when I can travel to meet and thank you all in person. For now, I am comforted by the scripture from Luke 14:13-14 and the belief that "if we give with no thought of reward, our reward is certain."

*"..., when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."* Luke 14:12-14

Catholic World Mission recognizes that your contributions came with much sacrifice. We can never thank you enough; only the good Lord can thank you sufficiently. On behalf of all the people you helped and will help, THANK YOU.



## Thank You for Your Service

*CWM recently recognized Senior Gift Officer Amber DeMartino for 15 years of empowering the poor and sharing the Gospel of Christ. Thank you, Amber, for your service!*

### On the web, log on to [CatholicWorldMission.org](https://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 these projects and more, please visit our website at [CatholicWorldMission.org](https://CatholicWorldMission.org)