



Report

It's the month of November and the Feast of All Souls. I recently heard a man tell me, "Since the death of my father, I feel deeply that he is with me, whenever I take the road. He was such a good driver. I believe that there is life after death." And a friend of mine added, "Since my mother's death, every time I have to make a decision, I hear her own particular voice asking me a question. I see her smiling while she talks to me. Yes, our love is not dead."

After the death of Jesus on the cross, the disciples were distressed. Then his friends and followers, a few men and women, experienced his "awakening". Jesus rose from the dead. It was quite an experience to hear Jesus tell them: "Peace be with you!" Jesus had told them the night before his crucifixion: "This is my body, this is my blood, given up for you.

Do this in memory of me." So, at every Eucharist, in every Mass, we call to mind Jesus and the departed. Hence, "Masses for the dead".

Once more during the Autumn Season, we remember our loved ones who have gone before us. Many of our benefactors send letters asking the



Sacrament of the Lord, by Salvador Dali

Missionaries of Africa to pray and celebrate Mass. Some will add a request for Masses in their Will. In doing so, our Missionaries in the field receive support in their

service to the African people.

"Jesus remember me..." is not just a plea but a prayer. During this month, we especially remember our deceased family and friends and cherish all the good they gave us in our life together. Remembering is gratitude to God and all God has given us.

Fr. Julian, M.Afr.



Fr. John Lynch, M.Afr.
1936 – 2017

SOWER & HEALER

Father Lynch encountered disappointment in his dream of a missionary life in Africa. Yet his struggles and suffering by God's grace transformed him into an outstanding Missionary of Africa. When I met him as a fellow student at our theology seminary in North Africa, he was already battling severe health problems. With the exception of short trips to the continent to give retreats and counselling, he served Africa in his native Scotland and in the USA. He served as a family counselor and spiritual director, and as friend and sponsor for fellow recovering alcoholics. Most of all, he served as a teacher, leader, and superior to his fellow missionaries.

Some who read this will remember Father John for his letters to donors during his time as Director of the Development Office. His role there was that of the Sower in Mark's Gospel. He scattered the seed of your charity and our missionary vision, "seed money" for projects in medical care, education, water and the Word, many projects enduring to

give a harvest even today: thirty, sixty and a hundredfold.

As a leader of Missionaries and a friend and counsellor to Sisters, seekers and many recovering alcoholics, John channeled his struggles, illness, pains, and losses into a wisdom we could count on. He was the "Wounded Healer" of Henri Nouwen. In times of trouble we could go to him not for a pat on the back or cheap optimism, but for authentic hope, the hope spoken of in 1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to God's great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead". He would listen to us, respond, and then share from his own life. We would leave ready to continue our journey on the road to healing.

Fr. Robert, McGovern, M.Afr.

Medical Relief Fund **Khartoum-Sudan**

There is a constant flow of poor people seeking medical care at St. Stephen's Parish Office in Khartoum – Sudan. Through a grant from you, our American donors, the Missionaries of Africa set up a Medical Relief Fund for the Sudanese requesting clinical care and individual medical assistance.

Clinical care, also known as primary care, is a referral to the medical clinic when a person exhibits physical symptoms that require an examination and sometimes laboratory tests and medication.

Individual medical assistance, also known as secondary care, provides the poor access to scans or x-rays, eye exams for the elderly, chemo and radiation therapy for cancer sufferers, and treatment for other diseases.

Many lives have been healed and renewed for which we give thanks!

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www.Missionariesofafrica.org

Ending Poverty among Single Mothers

Fr. Elias Peter Kapange, M.Afr, Pastor of St. Rita Parish, Tokolote, Congo stated *“St. Rita is a poor parish for poor people”* and he emphasized that *“single mothers are part of these poor”*.

The single mothers of the parish experience poverty in the form of unemployment and are forced to live with their children in unsafe and unhealthy housing. For these reasons, Fr. Elias Peter asked for our help to establish a job training center and mutual support groups for all single mothers. It was the hope of Fr. Elias Peter and the parish community that the mothers would regain control of their own lives, become financially independent and discover again their dignity and respect in society, once again.



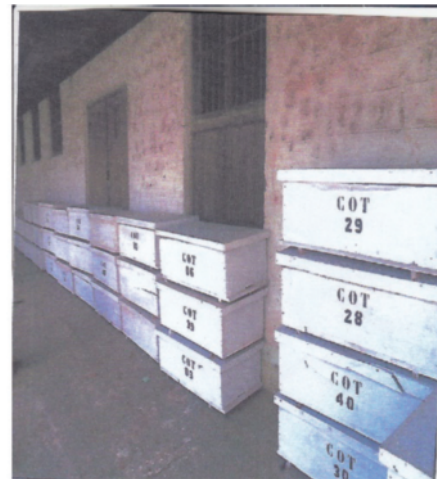
With funding from our donors, the center bought sewing machines for the single mothers and three volunteers offered to teach sewing to them. The center also organized different training sessions. Presently, the center offers sessions on women empowerment, self-financing, the rights of women and the social teachings of the Church on women and families.

Many single mothers have completed their training and now are working in groups. Others will follow these women with job skills and a renewed spirit.

Fr. Elias Peter expressed the gratitude of many when he said *“Thank you for supporting us and helping us show compassion to these single mothers”*.

The Beekeeping Project and Patient Care

The beekeeping project was the creative idea of the Office of Hospital Chaplain at St. Francis Mission Hospital in Morogoro, Tanzania, in response to the enormous requests for financial support by the poor patients being treated at the hospital. The patients are unable to pay their medical bills, buy the prescribed special diets (especially for patients with TB and HIV/AIDS) and cannot afford the round-trip bus fare for medical checkups.



Completed 50 Beehive Boxes

Funding from our donors made it possible to establish beekeeping as an income generating project for the poor patients. According to Fr. Castus Mbissa, “I found beekeeping to be simple and very productive. It involves little cost and the bees’ products, honey and wax, are highly marketable within and outside the country.”

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- Bequests – an estate gift to the Missionaries of Africa will continue our mission works.



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