

Marist Mission Today

Number 74

Marist Missionary Sisters

Fall/Winter 2015

Dear Partners in Mission,

In this issue of Marist Mission Today we are putting the spotlight on you, our readers and “Partners in Mission”. Without you, many of the projects we dream of doing in response to the needs of the poor would never be accomplished. It is our “Thanksgiving” issue and we are very grateful to God for each of you.



We thank all those who have contributed to Mary’s Guest House over the past 10 years. Mary’s Guest House in California has given us the opportunity to help many women who have been victims of trafficking to change their lives, and to begin living full lives with jobs and families in our society.

In Jamaica, we received help from a benefactor to build a home for our Sisters where they will give service to the poor and give medical assistance in the area of Seaford town. Another person has contributed regularly to the work at the Holy Family Self-Help Centre in Montego Bay. In the Kingston area, a group of volunteers have come from Canada to help with renovations to a Basic school that our Sisters administer.

Some of our benefactors contribute to large projects and wish to remain anonymous. From others we receive regular donations to be used “wherever there is a need”. Gifts large and small are so appreciated by the sisters, but especially by the people this help touches.

Jesus reminds us, “If you give a cup of water in my name, blessed are you”. We thank sincerely all our benefactors who generously help us as we continue the work of Mary as Marist Missionary Sisters. I would like to close with the prayer we pray daily for our benefactors: “Reward, O Lord, with eternal life all those who for your Name’s sake do us good. Amen.”

In Mary,

*Sr. Claire Rheaume smsm
Regional Leader*



St. Mary’s Prayer Group in Seekonk, Massachusetts, helps to support Mary’s Guest House, a transition home for women who have been victims of human trafficking

Partners in Prayer and in Mission To End Human Trafficking

From St Mary’s Prayer Group in Seekonk, MA:

It is through our association with my sister, Claire Leonard, an associate with the Marist Missionary Sisters, and a visit from a Sister, that we as a prayer group became aware of the worldwide problem of human trafficking. We support both financially and with our prayers that somehow we can make a difference in helping to eradicate such a gross attack on the human dignity of women. We thank Sr. Christina for coming to our prayer group on November 12, 2014 and sharing her background and how the opening of Mary’s Guest House in California came into being.

Rita Beaudet

Another friend writes:

What a scourge human trafficking is! What a corrosive attack on human dignity! Jesus identifies with those who suffer, so Jesus is being trafficked and enslaved in these women. And how brave and valiant the Marist Missionary Sisters are to take on such a dangerous and arduous ministry of love! I have always admired the SMSM’s for their taking on the most difficult missions in difficult places. In this mission to help these poor women, the Sisters have outdone themselves! The least I can do to help is to make a small donation when I can.
(Anonymous)



Help for Jamaica

The donor who wrote the article below wishes to remain anonymous. He has made significant contributions to our missions in Tanzania, Jamaica and Peru as well as in the USA.

When I was a young boy, my grandmother told me a story of her "Victory Garden" that she had during World War II. She said that it was the best garden in the neighborhood. I knew that she really believed that! She gave most of the vegetables away and the more she gave, the more God sent. This story has stuck with me all these years. At the time, I thought God was rewarding her generosity. As I grew older, I thought that my grandmother was open to God's wishes. His blessings were sent through her and delivered to those in the area that needed them the most.

The Marist Missionary Sisters have been the best avenue I've found to share and grow the Blessings that God has sent my way. What impresses me most is where they focus their energies - those with the greatest need and the smallest voice. The Buhangija Secondary School in Tanzania is in a very poor community. The greatest attention is on the orphans and girls. Sister Makelita and her staff set very high standards for the children and the school. The parents in the community go to great lengths to get their children in the school. It's a rare opportunity to rise out of poverty. It's heartwarming to me that the people of this community reach out to a school where God is very present thanks to the good Sisters.

The Sisters also do prison outreach in Peru. Care for the poor in Jamaica. Help women in California that are victims of human trafficking at Mary's Guest House. The Sisters give so much of themselves and the resources that we provide them go a very long way.

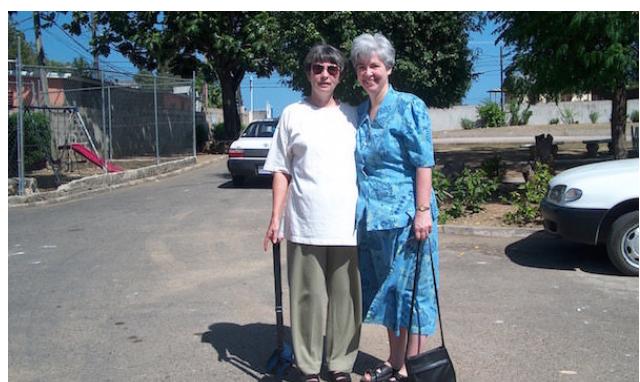
I am always humbled when they thank me for my contributions because I am the one receiving. The Sisters are helping me to better serve God by allowing me to participate in their very worthy missions. The lesson of my grandmother's Victory Garden is very much in my mind.



Two projects completed by Canadian volunteers at Marcus Garvey School in Jamaica: (Above) a water trough for the children to wash their hands, and folding wall dividers for the classrooms. (Below) Some of the volunteers later came to the celebration of Sr. Atonina's 50th Jubilee in Massachusetts. They are Mary Lynn and Larry Woods and Father Ed Hinsberger. Sr. Atonina was administrator at the school.



Lynn McKinster has been a regular donor to the Holy Family Center in Mt. Salem, Jamaica. She writes: *I visited the Marist Missionary Sisters' house in Montego Bay, Jamaica in 1996, which was when I first learned of the work the Holy Family Center does in the community. The Center has changed and adapted to the needs of the community over the years, but always the Sisters have striven to provide education and training for those who need it. I was and remain impressed by the work of the Sisters to help the young people in the area attain skills to aid them in getting out of the poverty into which they were born. (Below: Lynn with Sr. Georgeanne Marie during a visit to Jamaica)*



League of Prayer Cards

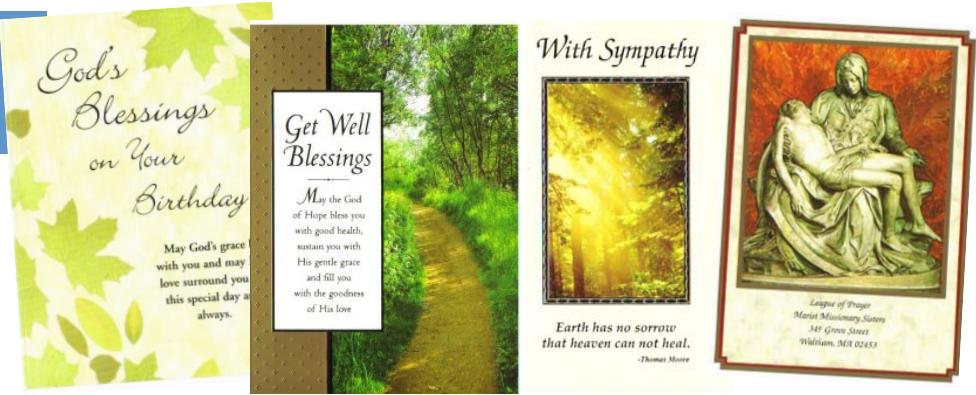
Some people support our mission through donations to the League of Prayer. Each year, 36 Masses are offered in the chapel of our Senior Sisters' Residence in Waltham, Massachusetts for the members of this League, both living and deceased.

If you would like to inscribe someone in the League of Prayer, please contact our Office at 349 Grove Street, Waltham, MA. (Tel. 781-893-0149) There are Mass Cards available for families of those recently deceased, as well as some for other occasions, like birthdays, or get-well cards.

Here are so comments from people who use these cards regularly:

I use the League of Prayer cards frequently... They are a beautiful way to show you care. It is very comforting to know that a family member or a friend is being remembered during Masses offered throughout the year... They are also a nice way to help the Sisters in their mission work. It is wonderful to give the gift of prayer.

Kathy Valentine



My mother started using the League of Prayer cards and I carry on the tradition. The cards are beautiful and there are many different cards that cover any occasion. I enjoy using the cards and people seem to appreciate receiving them, once I tell them about my aunt, who is a Marist Missionary Sister, and all the adventures she has had. Many times I give them one of the cards and tell them to contact Sr. Rita to ask for their own supply. It's really nice that in addition to the prayers, the money I send them helps to support their work.

Mary Lou Polansky

When I was a little girl, my mom would always send League of Prayer Mass cards to her friends and family who lost a loved one. When I got married I asked my mom for a card and started using them... When mom passed away my sisters and I divided the unused cards among us. I guess you could say that using the cards was passed on from generation to generation.

We enjoy the convenience of using the League of Prayer cards. The benefits are two-fold – your loved one is remembered in the prayers and Masses at the convent, and you are helping the Marist Missionary Sisters continue their work. What could be easier?

Carol Orphanos

May she rest in peace



Sister Jeannette Berube, smsm
1/23/19 ~7/23/15
A compassionate and caring woman, Sister served as a nurse in the Solomon Islands for 1948-71, and later in the USA. She died at Maristhill, in Waltham, MA.

2015 RAFFLE WINNERS

1 st Prize	M. Franchi	6 th Prize	D. Gomes
2 nd Prize	R. St.Onge	7 th Prize	S. Gomes
3 rd Prize	J.M. Pusateri	8 th Prize	A. Conterno
4 th Prize	W. Carvelli	9 th Prize	D. Nolan
5 th Prize	E. Thaler	10 th Prize	M. Schaus

(At right) Sr. Kieoma, Sr. Maria, Jeannette McCarthy, Mayor of Waltham, Sr. Phyllis and Sr. Mary Rita at the 2015 Raffle drawing in September.





Thinking of becoming a Marist Missionary Sister?

Learn more: Visit our website
maristsmsm.org

Contact:

Sr Palepa Ioane smsm
Vocation Minister
Email: vocations@maristsmsm.org
Tel: 781-996-9233

YEAR END CHARITABLE GIFT

A contribution to the Marist Missionary Sisters before the end of 2015 will be of great assistance to us in carrying out our missionary activity. It also can result in tax savings when you prepare your tax returns next spring.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Reward, O Lord, with Eternal Life, all those who for Your Name's sake, do us good.

Marist Daily Prayer for our Benefactors

**READ MORE ABOUT THE MARIST MISSIONARY SISTERS at our website
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