

Friends & Disciples

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Missionaries of Jesus' Presence Among the Marginalized





Missionaries of Jesus' Presence among the Marginalized in Petén, Guatemala



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In this issue, we feature some of the Missionaries of Jesus works (incarnating the Word) among the marginalized in the Philippines.

Fr. Joey Evangelista shares his encounter with Jonel, a Tagakaulo boy from **Digos, Davao del Sur** who is sixteen years old in fifth grade. Read how the Missionaries of Jesus bring hope and joy (the message of Christmas) to the many Jonels in Digos.

Fr. Primo Fagel shares the dreams of Yanna and Yannie, identical twin sisters caught in spiral violence in **Malabang** in the **Mindanao**. See how the Missionaries of Jesus and mission partners help the twin sisters fulfill their dreams to become nurse and teacher.

Fr. Noel Octaviano excitedly gives us a preview of the 50th anniversary of San Isidro High School in **Balabagan** in **Mindanao**. The celebration will include gift-giving in the poor Tausog Muslim community.

Fr. Roger del Rosario shows some hope of healing and experience of wholeness as they honor the martyrs of the place. He writes:

The Lady of Peace Memorial is a writing on the wall to keep our memory. We remember in order to keep our hopes. We remember to be healed. We hope to be whole and be at-one with all.

Bro. Dennis Batucan shares his journey with the people of **Calintaan, Mindoro** – particularly with the Mangyans.

In photos, we see the MJ presence among the marginalized brothers and sisters in **Guatemala** and **Papua New Guinea**.

These are some of the ways the Missionaries of Jesus incarnate (enflesh) God's offer of salvation to humanity. And they are doing this among the least, the last, the lost and the lonely. Doing God's mission among the marginalized and the poor necessitates your help – spiritually, morally and financially.

I renew my appeal to you to please help us by pledging at least \$5.00 a month. Continue also encouraging your friends and relatives to do the same. For those who have already done so, thank you very much.

Remember the Missionaries of Jesus in your will. Help us build the capital funds for the missionary projects of the Missionaries of Jesus among the marginalized in our society. Let this be your Christmas gift and offering to the one who offered his life for us – Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us. Let us continue incarnating God's love.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

- Fr. Melanio Viuya, MJ

MJ Presence Among the Tagakaulo In Digos del Sur, Philippines



Missionaries today help people stand on their own feet. This is our way of living out what Jesus tells Peter three times in the gospel of John: “Feed my sheep!” We do this not only by knowing people’s names, where they live but also by knowing where they

are from and why they are where they are now.

This takes a lot of time and cannot be done overnight. That is why missionaries live with people doing their best to adapt to how people actually live. Missionaries live in houses

similar to that of their neighbors, eat the food people eat, do things the way people do it, and learn to speak their the language. They give up many comforts but at the same time learn to see and appreciate many things they had never even thought of.

I work in the mountains of Mindanao, the southernmost island of the Philippines. I live among an indigenous tribe called Tagakaulo, which means “people who live upstream.” We live up in the mountains far from the center of the town where roads become trails and where trails usually lead to a river or a stream. People either go up or down mountains and cross rivers and streams on foot when they go to tend their fields, when they visit friends and relatives, when they go to church, when they sell their produce or purchase products from the plains, and when their children go to and from school.

Where are the roads and bridges, you may ask. There is none. The Tagakaulo feel the existence of a government by means of the money they use and even that is not in abundance. There is no hospital and many of the Tagakaulo are unable to remember when they last saw a doctor. There are a few government schools in accessible areas but the teachers are from the lowlands and do not know their culture and do not speak their language. Teachers teach

three days a week because the schools are far away and the mountain trails are often treacherously slippery especially during the monsoon season. When the rain pours a stream can swell into a roaring river in minutes, stories of people, particularly children, being carried away by the river during thunderstorms is not uncommon. When I come home after a thunderstorm from my visits to the communities and am unable to cross a swollen river, I often sit by the riverbank for hours chatting with people also patiently waiting for the water to subside. On a lucky day, a Tagakaulo on horseback could come along and give us a lift to the opposite bank. The normal and tedious crossing for the Tagakaulo is an adrenaline ride for me. I am soaking wet but I am happy.

Jonel is a Tagakaulo boy I met in one of the three primary schools of the mission where children are taught in their own language by Tagakaulo teachers five days a week. He seemed like a bright boy but had very low marks in school. He told me that he often had to skip class to be able to work as a hired hand in nearby fields in order to pay his school fees. Families have to pay the equivalent of 24US\$ a year for their children to attend classes at one of the mission primary schools. This means that they pay



the equivalent of 0.12US\$ per day. This may seem like a small amount but not for Jonel. You see, his father died when he was three and his mother remarried a few years later. He and his brother had moved out of their home when they could already fend for themselves because their step-father made them feel that they were a burden to him. Jonel is in fifth grade this year at a regular school near the mission station but he will no longer have to skip class in order to work because the mission will be helping him more closely from now on. Jonel is in fifth grade but he is already sixteen years old! Jonel and his brother could not afford it but he wanted to learn and did what he could to be able to go to school. Had there been no mission primary school in their village, he would have had no education at all. Jonel told me

that he dreams of becoming a teacher someday to teach his fellow Tagakaulo.

The gospel reminds us that our standards of what is of value is different to that of God's. Let us not forget that Jesus did not first go to the rich and famous of his time. Rather, he went out to seek the least, the last and the lost. He cared for prostitutes, he healed the sick, he made the lame walk, he made the blind see, and he stayed with sinners. That is why he says today: the last will be first and the first will be last. It is in this spirit that I come to you today: please help missionaries do God's bidding of making the last first in places the world has forgotten.

The Missionaries of Jesus are helping young people like Jonel stand on their own feet not only in the Philippines but in Papua New Guinea and

Guatemala as well. This is our way of responding to the command of Jesus to feed his sheep. However, we cannot do this work alone. The mission, with the help of donations from generous people, pays for teachers' salaries and training, books, and other school materials. A new mission primary school could have been opened this year had it not been for financial constraints. This is the reason why I am here today. I am asking you to help us feed Jesus' sheep in the places where the Missionaries of Jesus work; together we can feed Jesus' sheep by helping people stand on their own feet. I am asking you to help us help the many Jonels in the

hinterlands of the Philippines have a decent primary education. If 24US\$ could send a child to school for a year, imagine how many children 100US\$ could send!

If you would like to help us, please write a check payable to Missionaries of Jesus and send it to 435 S Occidental Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90057 and indicate that it is for the works of the with the Tagakaulo.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Missionaries of Jesus, you may Google Missionaries of Jesus on the Web, or check us out on YouTube and Facebook.

- Fr. Joey Evangelista, MJ
(*in light blue shirt below*)





Misión Entre los Tagakaulos En Digos del Sur, Filipinas

Hoy en día los misioneros ayudan a la gente a ayudarse a sí mismo. Esta es su forma de vivir lo que Jesús dijo a Simón Pedro por tres veces en el Evangelio de San Juan, “Apacienta mis ovejas!” Los Misioneros hacen esto a través de conocer la gente, no sólo sus nombres y donde viven, sino conocer de dónde vienen y por qué están donde están ahora.

Esto toma tiempo y no se puede hacer por corto plazo. Por esta razón los misioneros viven con gente haciendo su mejor esfuerzo para adaptarse a cómo

se vive realmente. Misioneros viven en casas similares a la de su vecino, comer los alimentos que comen, hacer cosas en la manera de la gente, y aprenden a hablar su idioma. Ellos renuncian a muchas comodidades pero al mismo tiempo aprenden a apreciar muchas cosas que ni siquiera habían pensado.

Trabajo en las montañas de Mindanao, la isla más al sur de Filipinas. Yo vivo entre una tribu indígena llamada Tagakaulo, que significa "gente que vive en los arroyos arriba". Vivimos en las montañas lejos del centro del



pueblo, donde los caminos se hacen senderos y los senderos conducen casi siempre a un río o un arroyo. La gente sube o baja de las montañas y cruza ríos y arroyos cuando va a los campos o visita a amigos y familiares, cuando va a la iglesia, al vender sus productos o comprar productos de las llanuras y cuando sus hijos pasan a y de la escuela... todos ir arriba y abajo de las montañas y cruzar ríos y arroyos.

Donde están los caminos y puentes, ustedes tal vez están preguntando. No hay ninguno. El Tagakaulo siente la existencia de un gobierno por medio del dinero que se utilice e incluso que no se encuentra en abundancia. No hay ningún hospital y muchos Tagakaulo ni recuerdan cuando vio por última vez un médico.

Hay unas pocas escuelas de gobierno en áreas accesibles pero los maestros son de las tierras bajas y no conocen su cultura ni hablan su idioma. Los maestros enseñan tres días a la semana porque las escuelas hasta ahora están lejos y los senderos de las montañas son a menudo traidoramente resbalosos durante la temporada de monzones. Cuando la lluvia vierte una corriente puede hincharse en un rugiente río en minutos, historias de personas, especialmente niños, siendo llevados durante las tormentas eléctricas no son infrecuentes. Cuando regreso a casa después de una tormenta de mis visitas a las comunidades y no puedo cruzar un río bien inundado, a menudo siento por la orilla del río durante horas junto con la gente esperando



pacientemente hasta que el agua del río se disminuya de su exagerado nivel. En un día de suerte, un Tagakaulo a caballo podría pasar y nos ofrece un aventón a la orilla opuesta. El cruce normal y tedioso para el Tagakaulo es un paseo de adrenalina para mí. Yo estoy bien mojado pero con un corazón contento.

Jonel es un chico Tagakaulo que conocí en una de las tres escuelas primarias de la misión donde los niños están enseñados en su propio idioma por profesores Tagakaulo cinco días a la semana. Parecía un muchacho brillante pero tenía marcas muy bajas en la escuela. Él me dijo que tenía a menudo

saltar la clase para poder trabajar como mano de obra en campos cercanos para pagar su matrícula. Las familias tienen que pagar el equivalente de 24 USD al año para sus hijos asistan a clases en una de las clases de la primaria de la misión. Esto significa que pagan el equivalente de 0,12 dólares por día. Esto puede parecer como una pequeña cantidad, pero no para Joel. Tiene que ver que su padre murió cuando él tenía tres y su madre se volvió a casar unos años más tarde. Él y su hermano se habían movido de la casa cuando ya podía valerse por sí mismos porque su padrastro les hizo sentir que eran una carga para él. Jonel está en quinto grado este



año en una escuela cerca de la estación de la misión pero ya no tendrá que saltar a clase para trabajar porque la misión ayudará lo más de cerca en adelante. Jonel está en quinto grado, pero ya tiene dieciséis años de edad. Si no hubiera habido ninguna escuela primaria de la misión en su aldea, él no habría tenido ninguna educación en absoluto. Jonel me dijo sueña ser un maestro algún día para enseñar a sus compañeros Tagakaulo.

El Evangelio nos recuerda que nuestra norma de lo que es de valor es diferente a la de Dios. No olvidemos que Jesús no se fue primero a los ricos y famosos de su tiempo. Más bien, él fue a buscar a los pequeños, a los últimos y a los perdidos. Se preocupaba por las prostitutas, sanaba a los enfermos, hacía

andar a los cojos, hizo los ciegos ven, y se quedó con los pecadores. Por eso se dice hoy en día: los últimos serán los primeros y los primeros serán los últimos. Es en este espíritu que estoy aquí con ustedes hoy: por favor ayuden a los misioneros realizar la voluntad de Dios; hacer el último primero en los lugares que el mundo se ha olvidado.

Los Misioneros de Jesús están ayudando a jóvenes como Jonel a pararse en sus propios pies (o ayudarse a sí mismo), no sólo en las Filipinas, pero también en Papua Nueva Guinea y en Guatemala. Esta es nuestra manera de responder a la orden de Jesús para alimentar a sus ovejas. Sin embargo, nosotros no podemos hacerlo solos. Los salarios de los docentes y su

propia formación, los libros y otros materiales de la escuela son pagados por la misión con el apoyo de personas generosas. Una nueva escuela primaria de la misión habría sido abierta este año sino por los problemas financieros. Esta es la razón por qué yo estoy aquí hoy, para solicitar sus oraciones y, también, su ayuda económica. Les pido que nos ayuden a alimentar ovejas de Jesús en los lugares donde los Misioneros de Jesús están trabajando a ayudar a las personas pararse en sus propios pies. Les invito a todos ustedes a ayudar los Joneles en diferentes lugares de las Filipinas. Si los 24 dólares puedan ayudar a un chico ir a la escuela por un año, imagínense cuantos chicos los cien dólares puedan ayudar.

Hermanos y hermanas, a través de su apoyo financiero, que darán a los fondos de la Misión, ustedes pasarán a formar parte de las vidas de las personas con quienes estamos trabajando. Ustedes pueden hacer sus cheques pagaderos a los Missionaries of Jesus pero hay que escribir en la línea de memo: Tagakaulo.

Si quieres saber más sobre el trabajo de los misioneros de Jesús, pueden buscarlos en Google sur el internet, o visitarnos en YouTube. Muchas gracias y que Dios los bendiga hoy y siempre por su generosidad.

- P Joey Evangelista, MJ





MJ Presence Among the Maranao Muslims In Malabang, Lanao del Sur, Philippines

Yanna and Yannie Asahni are identical twin sisters. They are Muslims. Like other children, they were very shy when they first came to Vic Ong Peace Learning Center, a kindergarten school. As twin sisters, they already have each other as friends. They sit beside each other, they eat together during

recess, they play together and they help each other in their schoolwork. When I saw them the first time, I asked their teacher “how would you know who is Yanna and who is Yannie?” The teacher told me that the only way to know who is who is to call their names. The one who smiles is Yanna. So I



approached them and asked “who is Yanna?, who is Yannie?” Rightly so, when Yanna heard her name, she smiled. Yannie just looked at me but did not smile.

In the Southern part of the Philippines, in the island of Mindanao, Muslim and Christians have long history of conflict and violence. The reason is not mainly religious but political and economics. Christians from the island of Luzon and Visayas settled and worked in the ancestral domains of Muslims and Indigenous peoples. Being the minority in the country, the Muslims have been victims of discriminations. Some Muslim leaders formed militant

groups that rebelled against the Philippine government. Because of this painful history, the Christians have strong bias against the Muslims and the Muslims as well against the Christians. But the prejudice and mistrusts are more evident among the adults. It is not so among children.

In Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish in Malabang, Lanao del Sur, the Missionaries of Jesus, together with the Missionaries of the Assumption sisters, some Muslim and Christian leaders, established in 2007 a Kindergarten School called Peace Learning Center. Last year,



the school was named after Vic Ong, a peace loving Lay Eucharistic Minister who was killed on February 28, 2012. In a place where violence is prevalent, the school is a beacon of hope. It is where children will learn at a young age how to be at peace with one another. In reality, the children are also teaching the adults about peace.

We, the Missionaries of Jesus are responding to the missionary challenge in the Prelature of Marawi in its vision towards dialogue of life and faith with the Muslims. In our efforts towards dialogue of life and faith, I am reminded by the book the Little Prince. The fox said to the little prince, “ I will tell you a

secret... It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye.” It is a lot easier for children like Yanna and Yannie to see beyond the differences of religion and culture. They consider their fellow children as friends, brothers and sisters.

Yanna and Yannie had finished their kindergarten last March. During the Closing Program, each child expressed its dreams. Many of the children want to become police officer or police women. I believe that this is their simple way of expressing their dreams to become peacemakers. Yannie wants to be a nurse and Yanna, on the other hand, wants to be a teacher. I

believe that in the future, they will be serving the sick and teaching the children regardless of their culture and religion. In their own way, they will become peace educators.

The last time I saw Yanna and Yannie I greeted them, “Peace be with you, assalamualaikom”. They greeted me back, “Pace be with you, alaikom salam.” I said, “Hello Yanna, hello Yannie!” without knowing who was who. I was confused always who was Yanna and who was Yannie. They both smiled at me. The more I was confused who was who but happy because I felt that they have considered me as their friend and brother.

Every year, there is always a difficulty looking for teachers to teach in Our Lady of Peace and San Isidro Schools where the

Missionaries of Jesus are working. Among the many reasons of this difficulty are the low salary and the peace and order situation of the place. We, the MJs, working in Malabang and Balabagan are planning to assist students who will study to become teachers and willing to teach in the two schools when they finish their studies. Through the help of generous benefactors, we have already started helping some poor children to pay for their tuition fees in the elementary school. We would like to establish a scholarship fund to help graduating high school students who will study to become teachers, future peace educators.

- Fr. Primo Fagel, MJ





Fluvial and Land Processions of Nuestra Señora de la Paz in all the villages in Malabang, Lanao del Sur Praying for Peace and Healing in the Land.





MJ Presence Among the Maranaos and Tausogs in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur

San Isidro High School (SIHS) in Balabagan celebrates this school year its 50th foundation anniversary. Culminating activities were set on February 14, 15 [actual date of foundation] and 16, 2015. The Alumni group will have their grand homecoming and community reach out activities on May 14, 16 and 17 to coincide with the May 15 parish patronal fiesta. Important scheduled activities include medical and dental mission with local residents as beneficiaries, gift giving in the poor Tausog Muslim community and tree planting. Other activities with fund raising in nature are also organized in order to raise the initial amount to help build the much-needed additional facilities of school. By June 2016 SIHS will offer courses for grades 10 and 11, as the school embraces

the call of Filipino education officials to add two additional years in the secondary level of basic education – called the K to 12 new curricula.

The main objectives of the school are to provide quality and affordable basic education and with a thrust on Peace Education.

The school offers two curriculum academic levels: the secondary and elementary curriculum. While the secondary department which is already in existence for 50 years and has attained a healthy stage of self-sustenance, it is the elementary department that is in need of external assistance. The income coming mainly from tuition fee [\$110 per year per student] this school year 2014-15 is just enough to pay the salaries of 9 teachers and school personnel. We cannot also substantially increase the tuition fee given the



poor economic conditions of most parents.

Last March this year the school had her third batch of graduates of 6th graders [kindergarten to grade 6 level], 24 all. The trend shows that given the adequate and conducive facilities for learning, more students will enroll in our school. This year we have a total of 195 pupils from kindergarten to grade 6 levels, with 70% Muslim and 30 % Christian student population.

Four years ago the school got its permanent license to operate from the government regulatory board of the Department of Education.

As the school grows in student enrollees, our needs also increase. Right now the school urgently needs additional desk

top computers and a set of solar energy so that pupils from grade 3 to 6 can have regular classes on information technology. Since May 2013, this part of the big area of Lanao Sur area has no electricity supply. Some reasons include: financial mismanagement and inefficiency of administrators of the local electric company and many residents who are capable, do not pay their monthly bills. Last school year [May 2013] the school purchased 4 units of computers but are used on an irregular basis since we have to save on high cost of diesel fuel and maintenance cost of the old generator. Besides the four units are inadequate to cater for the hands-on class of students who are normally 25 to 35 pupils per grade level.

This is the breakdown of our important and urgent needs for the pupils.

Six additional computer units –
 $\$625.00 \times 6 = \$3,750.00$

1 big solar battery = \$275.00

1 solar panel = \$250.00

1 power inverter = \$175.00

Total amount - \$4,450.00

Note: Expenses for other materials and accessories like wires, solar power controller, etc. and payment of labor of the technician who will install the facility will be shouldered by the school.

The parents and local benefactors have been extra helpful to help shoulder the

upkeep the facilities of the school. However, since we are in a poverty stricken area and the price of coconut copra – the main agricultural product of most residents here – is in its lowest level this last two years, we had great difficulties to raise in short period of time the needed amount for the said two set of equipment.

Thank you in advance for your generous response to assist this young rural school and its pupils. We keep your in our prayers.

- Fr. Noel S. Octaviano, MJ
School Head



Honoring the Martyrs in Malabang, Lanao del Sur, Philippines



We have 121 names of Christians killed in this Southern Philippine town of 15 thousand people. 62 of them were murdered from year 2000 to 2010, among them the Irish Columban Fr. Rufus's 'Popong' Halley. The times and circumstances of their death are fading from our memory. Many names certainly have been lost and their families have left the place. (For 1 Christian fallen, 3 Muslims are killed because of family feud.) Lest we forget, we

have been researching and listing down their names. We have published a booklet of short biographies of some 40 of them.

To remember and to cherish these 121 people, we are building the Lady of Peace Memorial by the side of the Nuestra Señora dela Paz y Buen Viaje Church. The names of Rufus 'Popong' Halley, Vic Ong, Benjamin Ventura Jr. and 118 others are carved out in hard granite. The 3 granite slabs will be put together



into a 3-sided spire with a cross at the pinnacle.

If only we could include the names of all the hundreds of lives lost because all life is holy but we could not keep up with the death of Muslims because of the chaotic situation.

This town called 'Malabang', meaning 'Big Bang,' is 121 years old. It has partaken of the decades of conflict and violence here in Mindanao because of struggle for self-determination and ancestral domain. Martial law and militarization aggravated the situation. Locally 'rido' or feudal conflicts claim many lives and the local government is not able to maintain law and order. The oligarchy of Malabang have been a big part of the problem. Christians are killed many times for no reason at all. The disorder

in Malabang, just like in many parts of the world, is not about being Muslim or Christian. It is not easy, though, not to put the blame on certain people.

The Lady of Peace Memorial is a writing on the wall to keep our memory. We remember in order to keep our hopes. We remember to be healed. We hope to be whole and be at-one with all.

By February 2015 at the 3rd Anniversary of Vic Ong, considered a local martyr, the Lady of Peace Memorial would stand. The whole project would cost \$3,500. The granite slabs cost almost \$2,000 already. We solicit the \$500 locally. We appeal for at least \$1,000.

Peace be with you. Assalam o alaikom.

- Fr. Rogelio del Rosario, MJ



MJ Presence Among the Mangyans in Calintaan, Mindoro, Philippines

Fr. Manoling Francisco, SJ says that faith is our response to God's revelation. It is a response that motivates us to do what is good, and what is just; and to be more compassionate, loving, and caring. It is a sign of a mature and deep relationship with God. It is faith that empowers us to live a life that is faithful to Jesus. Then we would ask how to increase such a faith? It depends to us and it is a lifetime project of each one.

In Luke 17: 5-17, we hear the apostles asking Jesus to increase their faith. We have to note that the plea of the apostles to Jesus is in relation to the mission that Jesus entrusted to them. Faith then, in the context of

the apostles' task is not limited to the preaching of the Gospel but more in bearing witness of Jesus' servanthood, solidarity with the poor and challenging the structures that do not enhance life. The presence of Jesus is seen, felt and lived not only in words but also in deeds.

I had my first missionary assignment in Calintaan, Mindoro Occidental. Our parish (St. Michael the Archangel) is 36 kilometers away from San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. I would like to describe the place as a hidden paradise: a verdant pasture of rice fields, fresh air, beautiful views of sunrise and sunset, beautiful beaches, and a place of silence.



The people live simply. They are warm, and loving (fishers, farmers, and indigenous people – the Mangyans).

I arrived in the parish on June 15. Two huge acacia trees surround the property. The rectory looked more like a haunted house than a convent. We had to repaint the dining area and the bedrooms. We had to repair the bathrooms, doors, and windows. After three weeks, everything looked different and new. In the process, I realized that I also need self-repair to be more authentic and life giving as a missionary. I prayed and been praying to God to give me strength in living-out my faith and missionary vocation. Missionary life is not easy.

The parish is composed of 24 Christian communities. One

of them is the Tao-Buid tribe (Mangyans). We were confronted with the mining issue. The local government has been so eager to start the PITKIN mining operation in the ancestral domain of the tribe. It looks like a carrot-and-stick approach has been the scheme to get the cooperation of the Mangyans to mining projects. Bribery, threats – emotional and psychological tortures were experienced by the tribe at present. We were confronted with the following essential questions: what do we know

about mining laws? How can we approach the problem? How could we help the Tao-Buid to attain autonomy and a dignified life?

Fr. Fred Pinuela, a fellow MJ missionary and I thought of many options on how to respond to this missionary challenge. We contacted persons that could possibly help. We encouraged the people to continue protecting their ancestral domain and thus, fight for their basic rights (autonomy, food, shelter, education, and religious freedom). I realized that doing mission should never cause us worry as long as we believe that Jesus is with us. Thus, as Missionaries of Jesus, we are confident that the Risen Lord has more faith in us than we have in ourselves. That no matter how difficult it is, Jesus

will always be with us – Emmanuel, God is with us

Increase our faith, Lord, as we continue to do what is right and just for the indigenous people - the modern semblance of your face whom we desire to serve.

Faith for me surpasses far beyond what is written in the laws and sweet words that are so promising to hear. Faith, as our missionary journey defines, is the power that motivates us to do good, to promote justice and equality in the simplest ways as we can, being compassionate, loving, and caring missionaries for our people. Thus, it is a sign of mature and deep relationship with God as we break bread and share it with people. As Missio-

naries of Jesus, faith empowers us to live a life that is faithful to Jesus – a life of chastity, poverty, and obedience in the context of the life of people.

Hence, faith in our context is not limited in preaching the Gospel. It also encompasses the striving, trying, and relying to God's exceeding generosity and love in bearing witness to the Risen Christ and making sure not to disfigure the face of Jesus that is entrusted to us. I do hope that as we continue our missionary journey, the presence of Jesus is not only heard but also felt and seen in us. Amen.

- Bro. Dennis Batucan, MJ



Let us Help You Help the Poor

Help the **Missionaries of Jesus and MJ Lay Associates** in their mission to bring the Good News to the poor! Let us help you help the poor for we know that not everyone can go to the mission but everyone can help the mission.

Remember the **Missionaries of Jesus (MJ)** in your planned or deferred gifts that may include the following:

- ✚ Establish *a charitable gift annuity* with the **MJ**.
- ✚ **Bequests**: You need to name specifically *in your will* the **MJ**.
- ✚ In writing your will, choose to set up a *living trust to avoid probate*. You can list specific gifts from your estate to **MJ**.
- ✚ **Your estate** consists of all the assets you own at the time of your death: cash, securities, jewels, art, your home or other real estate. Any of these assets would be an acceptable gift to make to the **MJ**.
- ✚ **MJ** can be named as one of the *beneficiaries* in your *life insurance policy*.
- ✚ **MJ** can be named as a beneficiary of your *IRA* or *other retirement accounts*.

“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:6-7).

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MJ Presence among the Marginalized in the Diocese of Lae, Papua New Guinea





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Mission Statement

We, the MJ of the District of the Americas,
Friends and Disciples of Jesus,
heard and responded to God's call to mission.
We are called to assist in the emergence
of a new face of the Church
and we journey together
integrating into the life of the people,
in reclaiming their stories,
in the struggle of self-determination,
in the celebration of life and culture.

Please remember the
Missionaries of Jesus
during the Combined
Federal Campaign.



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