



Lights OF THE World



Celebrating the good works & dedication of faithful people everywhere

Brother Joselito Bootan

Kenya Missionary serving serving God's children

Growing up in the Philippines, Brother Joselito Bootan made the decision to join the Missionaries of the Poor when he was just 17 years old. He made a promise at a young age to live a vowed life, making many sacrifices to prioritize his love for God and all His people.

Soon into journey as a missionary, he and eight other brothers journeyed to Kenya during the worst period of the famine in this country. With little to no possessions himself, Brother J. made a home for himself in a shabby zinc shack in the middle of the slum area of Chokaa, East of Nairobi City. As little as he had for himself, this young man made a spiritual and physical commitment to help desperately hungry men, women and children. Families trickled in day by day, many dying in the process. Food was shipped in from overseas for the brothers to feed the famine victims. The brothers worked as fast as they could to meet the needs of the community. The emotional toll was great on the brothers, as they watched parents forced to make decisions as to which of their children would eat that day.

Five and a half years later, the community now feeds 275 families daily. With the famine lifted, Brother J. is now able to help the families sow crops on a small piece of land on the property. A school house and make-shift community center has been erected to offer the sacraments and begin teaching the families how to help themselves.

“We still struggle with getting basic needs met,” says Brother J. While we’ve made much headway, poverty prevails. Food, medicines, clothing, school supplies and funds to repair the buildings are always in need.” Brother J. says providing education to the children has been the greatest accomplishment this year. What keeps him working and sacrificing in Kenya is the satisfaction that he is helping people find Christ in themselves and lead a fulfilling life. “Poverty and lack of education cause people to fall into desperation. We engage them in love, work and conversation about the Lord to show them what their lives can become. I’ve seen people make a declaration to become better people and help themselves and their families.”

You are the light of the world ... your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Mt. 5: 14-16

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Catholic World Mission honors Brother Joselito and all the Missionaries of the Poor brothers who sacrifice of themselves to offer corporal and spiritual works of mercy to the poorest of the poor.