



Fall/Winter 2008

Evangelizer

Conquering Poverty with the Richness of our Catholic Faith



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Dear Friend | Bishop Pedro Pablo Elizondo, LC



Reflecting on my 25 years of the priesthood, I would like to express my deepest and most sincere gratitude for the many prayers and sacrifices you have made for me over the years. There might not be a better example of the fruit of your prayers and support than the fact that our seminary in the Yucatan Peninsula is filling up with solid, holy vocations from the local villages. Thanks to the tremendous work of our "Evangelizadores" or Lay Missionaries.

The Catholic Church faces the challenge of being able to attend to the needs of millions of devoted baptized Catholics. The Church also needs to reach out and evangelize the un-baptized, sharing with them the Gospel of our Lord.

In many parts of Latin America, people live their faith vibrantly, strengthening themselves to handle their daily life

difficulties - especially where poverty abounds and help does not often arrive. The Catholic Church in Latin America has also faced difficulties. One of the biggest of which is the lack of religious vocations that are needed to serve thousands of faithful. These large numbers of needy people, make it easy for other religious groups to preach different messages, confusing the people and leading them away from their Catholic faith. Sixty dioceses in different Latin American countries: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Venezuela - count on the support of close to 700 evangelizers who walk hundreds of miles in their mission to share the gospel of our Lord and to help foster new priestly vocations to guide future evangelizers and for this I am eternally grateful.

Today, we have 15 minor seminarians, 68 seminarians, and 78 priests serving the thousands of needy souls in the Prelature of Cancún-Chetumal. See the article and

vocation chart on page 5 for more details.

Furthermore, in the past six months we have sent another \$5,500,000 worth of food and medicine to the Philippines - thanks to all who contributed to this urgent appeal (see page 4). Our medical missionaries also completed a few successful missions highlighted by our first mission to the continent of Africa! (I hope you enjoy the update on the next page)

As Bishop, I consider it a great honor and privilege to have been given such an immense gift as that of the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Accompanied by your prayers, I hope to exercise the next 25 years of my priestly ministry conquering poverty with the richness of our Catholic faith.

Your servant in Christ,

Bishop Pedro Pablo Elizondo, LC
Prelate of Cancún-Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico
President, Catholic World Mission



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ON THE COVER: Young children in Ghana cherish the prayer cards given to them by volunteers with the Catholic World Mission sponsored HELPING HANDS Medical Missions.

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Our Mission

Catholic World Mission exists to bring education and the message of Christ to our neediest neighbors throughout the world. Our projects and ministries aim at transforming the plight of the poor in body, mind, and spirit:

- Alleviating physical poverty through disaster relief, medical care, and building infrastructure where there is none.
- Eliminating intellectual poverty by building and equipping "Mano Amiga" ("Helping Hand") schools which bring education to children and adults.

- Reducing spiritual poverty by training and sponsoring native missionaries to bring Catholic teaching to their fellow countrymen.

In every project we sponsor, we strive for the long-term transformation of poverty - we alleviate immediate physical suffering, and also help the poor to provide for themselves in this life on earth to grow in holiness and to one day reap their eternal reward in heaven. For this reason, evangelization and catechesis are fundamental to every work we perform.

Catholic World Mission is the missionary agency sponsored by the Legionaries of Christ.
Visit us on the web at : www.catholicworldmission.org

Bibiani, Ghana | HELPING HANDS Medical Missions

At the end of April, HELPING HANDS Medical Missions (HHMM) sent its first medical missionary team into Bibiani, in the Western Region of Ghana, Africa. Fr. Simon Assamoah from St. Teresa's Catholic Church in Bibiani had invited HHMM earlier in 2007.



HHMM's goal is to provide medical care in the fullness of the Catholic faith and to attend to the spiritual needs of the people while offering the volunteers a life-transforming experience. Each HHMM team is made up of medical personnel, a priest, and numerous volunteers.

HHMM's Atlanta Chapter, led by Dr. Phil Kelley, organized the Ghana mission. In preparation for their arrival, the Chapter had successfully shipped and delivered more than 200 thousand dollars in supplies and equipment.

After a commissioning mass, the twenty-member mission team divided into seven groups to make house calls in the area. The groups encouraged the people to live their faith, prayed with them and reminded them that "the family that prays together stays together". They were also encouraged to take advantage of the availability of the sacraments being offered by the Mission Chaplain, Fr. Jeffery Jambon, LC. On Sunday, the team attended a half-day retreat and the opening ceremony of the new hospital building in Bibiani.

Throughout their week-long stay, primary care teams went out of the hospital to the nearby villages of Subiri and Sui. Over 1,500 patients received

medical treatment including medical consultations, urology surgeries, dental care and physical therapy.

HELPING HANDS Medical Missions is already preparing its return trip to Bibiani in 2009. Dr. Kelley encourages doctors and nurses who are considering going on a medical mission to "follow the Holy Spirit's inspiration to serve the poor in need of medical care."

The next missions will be:

- Itacoatiara, Brazil (Portuguese translators are needed)
June 19 - July 2, 2008
- San Juan Sacatepequez, Guatemala
October 17 - 25, 2008
- Sonsonate, El Salvador
October 31 - November 8, 2008
- Santiago Texacuangos, El Salvador
November 7 - 15, 2008



Fast Action! | Disaster Relief Efforts

Catholic World Mission is excited to announce the start of another new and important outreach project: Emergency Food and Medicine Shipments. Along with our other core focuses – education, medical missions, and evangelization – Catholic World Mission is committed to helping meet the most basic needs of those living in the most difficult of circumstances.

In November of 2007, CWM was able to send our first supply shipment out to thousands of men, women and children in the poorest areas of the Philippines. Over 30,000 people benefited from the gift of this one shipment. These included families who live at dump sites and other impoverished areas – about 60% of those engaged in garbage picking for survival are children between the ages of 5-18.

CWM is pleased to work in conjunction with other missionary groups to promote the long-term transformation of poverty by addressing the need to alleviate immediate physical suffering. This shipment of food, medicine and supplies was sent to and distributed by the Missionaries of the Poor Sisters, who live and work with the most impoverished of the Filipino population in the areas around Camarines Sur and Manila. The Sisters run free mobile clinics, assisted by doctors and nurses, and also distribute supplies to local hospitals and Catholic parishes throughout the region.

Doctors and nurses who help the Sisters to treat the local population in these free clinics report a certain level of frustration at their inability to provide what are often-times very common medications to families that cannot afford to buy even enough food to sustain themselves.




“The people we help cannot afford to feed their families never mind buy medicines; these donations are like a gift from Heaven.”

MOTHER JOAN
MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR

Next Scheduled Shipment: November 2008

Shipments of this kind allow these healthcare providers to not only diagnosis the problem, but to provide follow-up treatment as well.

The contents of these emergency shipments are procured by our Development Director and are provided at no cost through our CWM gift-in-kind program. We take special care to assure that all medications and supplies provided are in the fullness of the Catholic tradition. CWM must only fund the shipping costs to send these items overseas. With the help of our most generous supporters, CWM has been able to provide this life-saving shipment of food and medicine to our poorest brothers and sisters in the Philippines who need it most.

John is one of the children who benefited from the food that came in our supply shipment. So many of the poor suffer from malnutrition; after only a few months of attention, John's health began to improve. This is the real difference that CWM is able to make in the lives of the poor because of the generosity of our supporters.

Apostolate Spotlight | Full-Time Lay Missionaries

Answering the call to evangelize, Catholic World Mission's Full Time Lay Missionary program is active throughout Latin America striving to support the efforts of the limited number of missionary priests in the area. Throughout the region, large populations and vast territorial expanses make catechesis difficult. Our Evangelizadores de Tiempo Completo (ETCs) are local to the area in which they work and therefore are familiar with the customs and local dialects making their role in evangelizing increasingly important. They provide solid witnesses to the Catholic faith by their own example in a society that is becoming more and more secular.

Our ETCs work full-time for the Church under the direction of their local parish priest and bishop. They are prepared for missionary work with an intensive program of study and prayer, which continues in two week-long sessions throughout the year. The duties of the ETC include providing preparation courses for those receiving the Sacraments, promoting formation activities for children and adults, and training and managing additional part-time Catechists. Today, this project has grown to over 696 full time missionaries working in 59 dioceses.

One critical outcome of the ETC program is seen in relation to religious vocations. The program offers both young men and women the opportunity to hear the call of Christ and begin the path of vocational discernment. Since 2003, the ETC program has seen an increase in the number of vocations coming from the communities in which they serve. From 2004 through 2007, the program has helped over 470 youth move towards some seminary or institute of the consecrated life.

ETCs Impact in Helping to Cultivate Religious Vocations

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Diocesan Seminary	43	49	91	94
Religious Seminary	18	38	15	18
Religious Life (male/female)	16	36	31	25
Total this timeframe:	474 Vocations			

Mega Missions 2008

Every year, the ETC evangelizing effort reaches its peak during Holy Week when thousands of families and young people participate in what is called "Mega Missions". Throughout the year, preparations and training continue for this special door-to-door missionary outreach.

Number of towns visited.....	2,746
Number of missionaries.....	19,030
Number of families.....	8,524
Number of priests.....	241
Number of souls reached.....	approximately 131,541
Mission Locations.....	México City, Tuxtla, Zacatecas



Marco Herrera | Local ETC

Marco Herrera serves the Church as a local ETC. He is based out of the Sacred Heart of Jesus parish in Rio Blanco



where he serves on a number of committees. He also works at different churches in the area where he spends a good deal of his time working with

the youth of the area. He is the head of a group of Catholic teen clubs that have 70 active members. He has organized a number of events that have attracted about 1000 teen participants each. Marco also writes informational articles for the local diocesan newspaper as well as his own column entitled "Only for Guys."

Mano Amiga Schools *Transformation of Individuals and Families*

Since 1961, Mano Amiga "Helping Hands" schools have been a central part of our mission to bring about sustainable change in the lives of poor students and their families. In as little as one generation, this educational system, which focuses on Christian principles, has transformed entire communities. Economic and cultural growth is promoted, along with traditional academics, through programs that meet the needs of both the students and their families.



Construction is almost complete on our Mano Amiga school in Tijuana, Mexico.

Growth

Mano Amiga school expansion is happening throughout the world. For example, in the country of Mexico in the state of Chiapas, planning has gotten underway to add two new schools to the region. Another new Mano Amiga High School is also entering the construction phase in the city of Conkal in the Yucatan. Construction is almost at completion at the Mano Amiga elementary school in Tijuana.

Catholic World Mission is also happy to continue expansion efforts outside of Central America. Two other schools – one in the Philippines and another in Peru, near the capital city of Lima – are also in the beginning planning stages. Along with our Philippines Relief efforts (highlighted on page 4), expanding into the Philippines with our Mano Amiga educational system will continue the transformative work of Catholic World Mission in that part of the world as well.

Additionally, as we move toward the 2009 school year, special attention will be paid to Teacher training programs. Teachers in the Mano Amiga system deal with much more than just teaching academics to their students; they deal daily with many challenging situations due to the dire circumstances in which so many of these families live. Additional education and formation activities for parents will also be made available to help families as a whole, to improve their situation.

Education: *A Gift for All People*

Catholic World Mission focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty in the poorest areas of the world with our Mano Amiga "Helping Hands" catholic education centers. We offer integral education programs in 28 schools throughout 7 countries with more under construction right now. Mano Amiga has a proven track record of transforming entire communities in just a few decades time.

The story of Jorge Luis is just one of many examples of the transformative nature of our integral education process. In 1986, Jorge Luis graduated from the Mano Amiga program. Upon graduation, he continued on a professional tract, training as an accountant. More than 20 years later, Jorge Luis is now the manager of one of the most pres-

tigious banks in Mexico. Married with two daughters, Jorge Luis still remembers the bless-

"We support Catholic World Mission monthly because we believe in helping the less fortunate on their journey to long term sustainability. We feel confident that our donations directly benefit the poor and appreciate the updates from our sponsor child. It's apparent that the staff has received an integral formation, for they're professional, informed, and holy. It feels good to be part of an organization that is truly making a difference to uphold gospel values in this world."

– Lynn Dery, Jacksonville, FL

ing that Mano Amiga was in his life. As a child, his family was very poor. With the support of our integral

and high quality Catholic education, Jorge Luis transformed the circumstances of his life breaking out of the cycle of poverty and providing a solid and stable environment in which to raise his own children.

With your continued support, the Mano Amiga experience will become a reality for more disadvantaged children throughout the world. Currently, we have over 17,000 children now involved in our educational institutions and with your help we can continue to work toward our goal of serving 50,000 students by 2015.



Planned Giving: **Mano Amiga Endowment Fund**

By 2015 Catholic World Mission's goal is to be serving 50,000 students!

Many families in Latin America survive on little less than \$300 per month (\$3,500 per year). This amount sustains an average family of five. As a result, children's education suffers due to financial instability. It is not difficult to imagine what a tremendous advantage children have when they receive a solid Catholic education; the help this gives them breaks the vicious cycle of poverty that currently grips almost every facet of their lives. Your gift to the Endowment Fund ensures one, three, five or even more children will always have the opportunity to attend a Mano Amiga school.

Your gift to the Mano Amiga Endowment Fund will help Catholic World Mission:

- Ensure the Child Sponsorship Program continues into the future
- Stabilize the current Child Sponsorship Program
- Offer protection from uncertainties of the economy
- Show commitment to the long-term transformation of poverty in the Third World

Perpetually Endowed Scholarship \$13,000

For further information on this or other planned gifts please contact Ryan Flood at 1-800-961-8153.



"I put Catholic World Mission in my Will. It was my way of making a difference."

Please contact us at:
1-800-961-8153.
God bless you.

Our legal title is: Catholic World Mission, Inc.





Child Sponsorship Program



In 1970 Pope Paul VI entrusted the Legionaries of Christ with the pastoral care of the newly created missionary territory of Chetumal (Cancún-Chetumal). Since 2004 Bishop Pedro Pablo Elizondo, LC has been the Prelate of Cancún-Chetumal and also the President of

Catholic World Mission. Catholic World Mission exists to bring education and the message of Christ to our poorest brothers and sisters throughout the world. We strive for the long-term transformation of poverty: we alleviate immediate physical suffering and also help the poor to provide for themselves in this life and grow in holiness to reap their eternal reward in heaven!



The Mano Amiga Impact

- ▣ 17,100 Pre-K through 12th grade needy children studying in 30 Mano Amiga schools.
- ▣ Through workshops, courses, lectures and technical instruction at each school, we are also changing the lives of over 5,000 poor families.
- ▣ Schools in 8 countries (*Mexico, El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Guatemala*)

By 2015 Catholic World Mission's goal is to be serving 50,000 students!

How Your Sponsorship will Benefit a Poor Child

- ▣ Provide Pre-K through High school education, making college studies possible for all their students.
- ▣ Offer Catholic education and faith activities for the whole family.
- ▣ Teach Christian virtues and character development, strengthening family bonds.
- ▣ Provide instruction in trades and organizational skills to older students and younger parents.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Full Year Scholarship	\$650
One Quarter Scholarship	\$195
Monthly Scholarship	\$65

As a sponsor, you will receive an introductory package (*including child's name, birth date, grade and short profile*), a mid-year progress report and a report card in July.

For more information about the Catholic World Mission Child Sponsorship Program, please contact us at 1-800-961-8153 or visit us anytime at www.catholicworldmission.org.

