



## The Joy of Bringing Hope

Reflection by Chairman Father Daniel Brandenburg, LC

Thy Kingdom Come!

When I began serving as chairman for the Catholic World Mission board of directors five years ago, I could never have imagined the SURPRISES and JOYS in store.

The first big surprise was the scope of projects we were carrying out in far-flung places around the globe, from dresses for orphan girls in Bangladesh, to motorcycles for missionary priests in Kenya, to building a hospital in Chile. So much good was happening through Catholic World Mission! And through you! Thank you for being a part of these daily miracles!

The second big surprise was finding I had multiple myeloma cancer in October of 2018. While we know death is an eventuality, we never tend to see it as imminent... until it is. The experience of organ failure, chemo treatments, and a bone marrow transplant helped me value life and the short time we have to accomplish good. I recovered, thanks be to God, and I've poured myself into serving and seeking to carry out all the good the Lord wants me to do in this life. I share more of my experiences from these brushes with death in three books I wrote, "[Journey to Joy](#)," "[Now and Forever](#)," and "[Lessons from the Workshop of St. Joseph](#)."

The third big surprise was the recent loss of our long-time executive director, Deacon Rick Medina. For 11 years, he helped guide Catholic World Mission in expansion of its impact, accomplishing so much good for the Church. Though we are sad to see him go, we are delighted he will be helping the Archdiocese of Atlanta by spearheading the new office of Mission Advancement. While we search for a new executive director, we are confident in our steady staff and in the expert support of a dedicated board of directors. We have no doubt that God will help us find a superb leader to further the work of Catholic World Mission.

These surprises dovetail with the JOYS.

*“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35), and we have all been blessed through the work of Catholic World Mission. You by giving and by praying for the projects; our partners, by serving the poor and carrying out such beautiful work; our team, by helping to connect it all. This Trinitarian approach is part of [our core values](#).



I experience joy whenever I can visit those benefitting from your generosity, like the families in Cuatro Cienegas, Mexico. We partnered with Plan Cuatro Cienegas 2040 to ensure the integral development – medical, spiritual, educational, etc. – of every child born in the town. Part of the project includes the [Camino de San Jose \(Way of St. Joseph\)](#), a pilgrimage walk through the desert, recreating the passage of the Holy Family to Egypt, with profound spiritual reflections along the way. I’ll be co-leading a mission trip there March 12-19, 2023 for the Solemnity of St. Joseph, and I’d love to have you join me. You can find more details to [sign up here](#).

One of my great joys was visiting the family of Danilo, a student at our *Mano Amiga* school in the Philippines. All of the students at this particular school live in slums and shantytowns. Catholic World Mission helped build the school and continues to provide scholarships each year for its students. Mud-caked alleys hid the approaches to the tin-roofed shack where this little 8-year-old boy lived with his parents and baby sister. As we arrived, they pushed aside their sole mattress and pulled out their two chairs so we could take a seat in their hut, and they proceeded to serve us rice noodles and Fanta soda while effusively praising the education their son was receiving. *Their gratitude was humbling. I could see the impact firsthand our work was having. Their lives and their son’s future were brighter because of Catholic World Mission.*



Like Danilo, I could tell you hundreds of stories of hope. And it brings us JOY when we can bring hope to others.

The Advent and Christmas season are a time of hope and joy. Thank you for helping Catholic World Mission to bring Christ's joy to the lives of so many people across the globe. May our Lord bless you abundantly for your generosity!

Yours in Christ,

Fr Daniel Brandenburg LC

P.S. Don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have a particular project you'd like to help out with in a bigger way. Our [website](#) is chock full of projects already accomplished or currently underway, and we are overwhelmed with requests we have to turn away because we don't have more donors. You can be the difference! You can reach me at [chairman@catholicworldmission.org](mailto:chairman@catholicworldmission.org).

## About Father Daniel Brandenburg, LC

Fr Daniel was ordained a priest with the Legionaries of Christ on December 22, 2007. He currently serves as chaplain of the [Lumen Institute](#), chaplain of [Regnum Christi](#) men, and chaplain of [Young Catholic Professionals](#) in Atlanta, GA. He is also the chairman of the board of directors for [Catholic World Mission](#). He holds *summa cum laude* licentiate degrees in philosophy and theology from the *Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum* in Rome, Italy, and is currently pursuing a doctorate through Creighton University's Interdisciplinary Leadership Program.

In 2016, Fr Daniel survived a heart attack and in 2018 was diagnosed with multiple myeloma cancer. The experience of suffering and brushes with death has colored his outlook on life. He strives to live each day as a gift from God.

Fr Daniel is the author of seven published books: *The New Fundamentalists* (2007), *Better with God?* (2012), *Until Christ be Formed in You* (2017), *Journey to Joy: Reflections on the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary* (2019), *Now and Forever* (2021), *The Way of St. Joseph* (2021), and *Lessons from the Workshop of Saint Joseph* (2022). He posts a regular video with insights for life on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

