

MOP Tears of Joy

Central Pennsylvania Lay Associates of Missionaries of the Poor

**A newsletter devoted to sharing the experience of
working with The Missionaries of the Poor
Serving the least of God's children as Christ would do.
www.moptearsofjoy.org**

Deacon Tom Aumen, Dick Arigo and Andy Altobelli are taking a big step— going to work with the Brothers at the MOP Apostolate at Kampala, Uganda.

You are invited to join them, see details on page 3



MARK THE DATES!

Fr. HoLung and Friends are coming to Central Pennsylvania this September! Concert at St. Patrick, Carlisle September 6, and Hanover, September 7. We all need to get behind this project to make sure both concerts are filled, and raise as much money as possible for MOP. More details will follow.

Subject: Donations

I have a lot of donations for Bethlehem House - crib sheets, diapers, wipes, etc., and was wondering if you know when anyone is making a trip to Monroe, NC. I am happy to hold onto it for awhile, and maybe even make a trip down there this spring, but thought I would check to see if anyone was planning to go to Monroe.

(A friend put down ideas for donations for her daughter's birthday party, and people were very generous!)

Thanks, Genie Hannon— hannonmjmi@verizon.net

Missionaries, October-November 2013

Groups based from St. Patrick, Carlisle &
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbottstown, PA



See the photos from the trips on our website:
www.moptearsofjoy.org

Go to **Photo Gallery**—note additional pages lower right corner

Uganda Trip Information

Uganda: Dick Arigo, Andy Altobelli, Tom Aumen, any others interested

Dates: Saturday September 13, 2014 to Sunday September 28, 2014 (leave Uganda on Sat. 9/27)

Travel: Harrisburg to Philadelphia to Doha (Qatar) to Kampala, Uganda. Return by the reverse route, although we will have someone pick us up in Philadelphia early Sunday morning, since there is a 13-14 hour layover in Philly before it flies to Harrisburg.

Airlines: USAir (Harrisburg to Philadelphia); Qatar Airways (Philadelphia to Doha to Kampala); then reverse.

Cost: Current ticket price was \$1612, with an additional \$100 for insurance coverage.

Shots: Recommended---yellow fever, typhoid, malaria, tetanus

Baggage: only 1 checked bag is free. 2nd bag is either \$100 or \$200.

No fund-raising is planned. Also, there may be a visit to a historic site in the in-between weekend.

Bondye beni ou! 🙏

(Creole for "God bless you")

Deacon Tom Aumen 🙏

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St. Joseph's Catholic Church

5055 Grandview Road

Hanover, PA 17331

Micah 6:8 "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Vocations to MOP Sisters Are growing!



Learn more at <http://www.missionariesofthepoor.org/mop-sisters.php>

We need your kind support and help to build a Convent for our Sisters



**Our increasing number of Sisters needs your kind support to build a Convent.
The land and the Convent buildings will cost \$175,000.00 US Dollars**



Report on Philippine Relief Efforts



MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR

Corpus Christi Novitiate

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Email: mopccnovitiate@missionariesofthepoor.org

www.missionariesofthepoor.org

Christmas, 2013

Dear friends,

Personally, my recent visit to the typhoon ravaged parts of the Philippines will be one of the most unforgettable moments in my life. It's been hard to describe the scenes of death, destruction, human tragedy and suffering that I saw in places like Tacloban – the “ground-zero” of Typhoon Haiyan's wrath. Imagine having lost everything – your home, belongings, pictures with precious memories, important documents, indeed, in most cases all your life's hard earnings, gone suddenly. In many cases, the tragedy of having lost loved ones, snatched from your grasp by the raging wind and water! Yet, it's been equally difficult for me to describe the emerging signs of life and hope amidst the ruins, joy and smiles amidst the tragedy and loss!



When I visited a refugee shelter where hundreds of displaced families were staying, I met a young mother with five children – all girls of ages 10 years to 2 months old. She had been crying non-stop for five days because her husband and her 5 yr. old boy had been separated from them after the typhoon and they had no idea where they were or what had happened to them. After praying with her, we assured her that the Lord will help us find them. Within five minutes of making some phone calls, we were able to locate them both

in a hospital. The joy of the reunited family (picture at right)!

There was a knock at our gate one evening as we prayed the rosary. There was an elderly couple who pleaded for shelter. They had lost their home and everything in the storm and had been walking for days begging for any little food they can get sleeping on the streets. The diabetic wife's feet were swollen from the walking. They reminded us of Joseph and Mary looking for shelter in Bethlehem.



In yet another instance, one of those who had taken shelter with our Brothers in Cebu had bandages over his hands and chest and several bruises on his face and legs. He kept staring blankly. We were told that the storm surge took him up 20 ft high and he clung to the top of a coconut tree. As the ferocious wind and water battered and swayed the tree, he held on to it for dear life. He saw his uncle being washed away and lost.

The Brothers have been excellent in sharing their space and food with them and caring for them in our monastery. They play with the children and send them to nearby schools. Plans are underway to construct some one-room

housing units for these families. We're taking in the homeless elderly persons for permanent shelter and care with us.

Back in Jamaica, these scenes constantly come into my mind, even in my dreams. The death, the destruction, the tragedy, the hunger, the homelessness. But also the smiles, the gratitude, the resilience, the hope, the child-like faith in God. I thank them for teaching me valuable lessons in life. I pray for them.

I thank God for His blessings this year, even those that came in the disguise of pain and suffering. I look forward with hope – a hope that dares to hope even in seemingly hopeless situations, for that's what Christmas is – in the darkest and coldest of moments, a radiant light came from the heart of the Father and pierced the world warming it with pure love!

May you and your loved ones have a truly Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and joy!

In His service,

Fr. Ambrose, MOP



MOP Tears of Joy Newsletter
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Pass it on....

Did you know you can pass this on to your family or church members? Just click the "Forward" button on your email. This attachment (this PDF newsletter) will go right along with it.

If anyone wishes to be added to the mailing list, simply send an email to Roy@moptearsofjoy.org
We will be happy to mail the newsletter to those who do not have email. Call me at 717-792-3408.

Your Turn:

Please write something and/or submit a picture or two. Surely you have an experience to share... what happened during your visit with the Brothers or after you got home.

Just email to: Roy@moptearsofjoy.org

Thanks