

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

Busy times for Central PA Missionaries!!

- Fran Monaco took a teen-ager to Kingston—see his story [page 8](#)
- Fr. HoLung, Br. Cipriano, Wynton Williams and friends from Jamaica gave Praise Him! Concert in Carlisle in September. Concert was a success and raised a lot of \$\$ for MOP.
- 12 Pilgrims from St. Patrick Carlisle, St. Katherine Drexel, Mechanicsburg and others went to Kingston in October and November. See the story from one of the pilgrims—[page 6](#)
- Pilgrimage arranged thru Luz in Abbottstown included a group of pilgrims from IHM Abbottstown, Palm Coast, Florida and places —see story [page 3](#)
- Artist Sonia Sassani did some “art therapy” with residents—see [page 10](#)
- TV show “Healed by Touch” filmed with Fr. HoLung in 2013 with Deacon Tom, James and Roy aired on EWTN in Nov.
- Visit MOP in Haiti—Cap Hatien and the new apostolate in Port-au-Prince: [page 12](#)



The essence of a Kingston Pilgrimage!
Theresa comforting a Jacob's Well resident

Not just another smiley face! Read about how Amazon Smile helps MOP on [page 13](#)



Uganda Pilgrimage



Ginny, Deacon Tom, Andy and Dick worked with the Brothers & Sisters at Missionaries of the Poor in Kampala, Uganda in September. Their trip video is on YouTube,

Click on this link: http://youtu.be/t6XFuXna_bU

Where will they be going next?

Thank you!

Most photos by Sonia Sassani or Fran Monaco

Kingston Pilgrimages



Luz and others helping in the kitchen



Part of the Group at Mt. Tabor

Kingston Pilgrimage



Mary Gabriel (from Florida) with Jeremy, a rambunctious 2-year old at Bethlehem Home



Jean Johnson (from Florida) with two ladies at Jacob's Well

Clarisa with Br. John Paul. She worked in clinic all week, put together booklets and trained Brothers in basic wound care.





Anniversary of the Martyrs



Sonia with Kimberly (now 24 years old!)



Chris Ullman and Doris at Lord's Place



Dottie O'Brien holding Bob (boy with 1 arm and no legs)

*The following article is reprinted
From the MOP Newsletter.
The author is a "first-timer" last fall*

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

2014

Unconditional



VOLUNTEER

BY SUZANNE BRUZGA
Pastoral Associate
St Katharine Drexel
Parish-Mechanicsburg PA

LOVE

*You will seek me and find me
when you seek me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13*

This verse from the prophet Jeremiah came to life as I worked with the Missionaries of the Poor at their apostolates in Jamaica . I was part of a group of 12 men and women from Pennsylvania. Three of the members were "seasoned," having traveled to Jamaica to assist the Brothers for several years. I was one of the new pilgrims wondering how my life would be changed once I visited and worked with the "poorest of the poor".



Suzanne Bruzga
at Bethlehem Home



I have come to realize that each of us is poor...lacking or needing something that is keeping us from being the person God created us to be. I began to see how God does provide for our deepest needs through being present to the moment .

The Brothers and Sisters seem to possess this gift of being present. Whether it was during periods of prayer throughout the day, while caring for the residents at the centers , or in fellowship at meals, that is what was most important at the moment. As a result, God works powerfully through them—"graced energy" flows to those they meet. Children and adults discarded by Jamaican society are provided with not only food and shelter, but a knowledge that they are loved by God.



RESIDENTS CORNER!

It does not stop there, the love that is received is shared between the residents. It was not uncommon to see residents help each other by pushing wheel chairs, bringing a cup of water to a thirsty friend, or assisting a Brother with another resident. The Brothers recognize the need for all to have an opportunity to serve one another in whatever way is possible.



That love was also generously shared with those of us who came to help. One man in our group commented that his initial reaction to visiting *Good Shepherd*, a center for men, was one of being overwhelmed. He shared that within the first half hour of his arrival, it was the hospitality and reassurance from the residents that relieved his anxiety. It is difficult to convey in words the joy one can find in serving among these amazing men, women and children. But when you are embraced by one of the "least of my brothers," you know that it was truly a hug from God that you received!



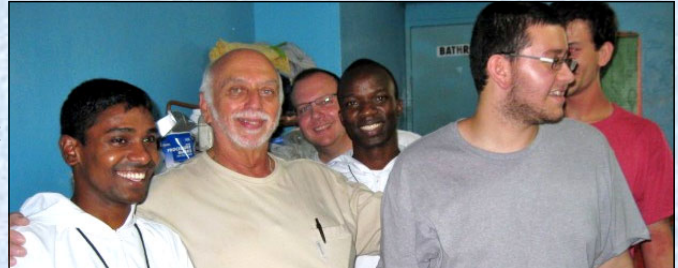
And she gave birth to her firstborn Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



Who's the bigger brother?

By Fran Monaco

This "urge" (Divine Inspiration?) had come over me in the late-winter of 2014 to take my little brother, David, to see what the rest of the world really was like. Actually David is now a senior in high school and BIGGER than his BIG brother -- me. We have been "related" through the Big Brothers / Big Sisters program for about 8 years. With his senior year coming, I thought it would be a great time for him to travel before he had to concern himself with his last year, graduation and a college search on the horizon.



David (R) and me with Brothers

Mostly, his previous travels had been limited to simple car trips around York and Lancaster. During the summer, he had made several trips via Greyhound Bus with his father to visit his step-brother where they both were residing in Brooklyn, NY.

His experience with any formal religious activity was also similarly lacking. He had gone with his cousins on occasion during the years to several Christian youth group meetings but had had no real structured participation. Because of his family gatherings, he never has been available for me to interact with him on weekends and involve him more in any church activities. This made for some anxiety on my part as much of what the Missionaries of the Poor do is always focused around daily Mass, prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary and much more. I was not too sure how David would accept such a religious "climate", but I did know he was thrilled with the opportunity to travel and help the poorest-of-the-poor in some fashion.

We were in Kingston, Jamaica with the MOP July 16 - 22. I had been to Kingston once before with a group from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (and a few other volunteers) in 2009. On this trip, I found that the physical facilities for the pilgrims had vastly changed. Previously, we stayed in another location and split the top floor of a small bungalow structure with the female pilgrims. Now there is a complete floor for a couple of dozen male and female volunteers to share two dormitory spaces on the top floor of a large warehouse style structure. In addition, there is also a larger common room for meals and for the pilgrims to gather and to interact with each other. What was the same between my two trips was the wonderful work alongside the MOP Brothers.

David and I sometime went to the same Apostolate-homes helping the needy and sometimes we were given separate assignments. Whenever we talked or assisted together, he always demonstrated an overwhelming joy at what he was seeing and doing. Whether he was feeding or bathing those that could not do for themselves, sweeping and mopping floors, interacting and playing games with residents -- everything and anything -- David took to it without any hesitation. He gushed with excitement about it all!

My previous anxiety over how David would accept the religious nature of the daily activities was alleviated VERY quickly. I had taken two Rosaries for us to have available for when we said the Rosary each evening with the Brothers and other volunteers while walking around the grounds of our home compound. Not being familiar with saying the prayers, he just went along with what was happening -- that first time. David was so taken by it that immediately afterward, he came to me and he said he had to learn those prayers. We were able to go online and show him the Our Father and Hail Mary....he learned them that night and ACTIVELY participated in saying the Rosary each evening thereafter.

David was so taken by the whole experience that we still reminisce when we get together each week. He has been in contact via Facebook with other volunteers he met while in Kingston. Besides his extended family members, his high school classmates have also heard all the details about his journey to help the poor -- and, who knows....maybe some of them will be motivated and blessed to find their way to assist the needy somewhere? I know I feel infinitely blessed by God to have been presented this opportunity to take David and work with the Missionaries of the Poor once again.



On roof working laundry duty!



Another Pilgrim's story

Creating ART with the MOP Residents

by Sonia R. Sassani



Art on display at Jacob's Well in Kingston, Jamaica

In the Fall of 2014, I had the priviledged of working with the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica again. On this particular trip, I brought along art supplies and spent time in with the women of Lord's Place and Jacob's Well creating art!



MOP residents proudly show their colorful paintings !



AND MORE INFO AND VIDEOS ABOUT MOP!

Here are two YouTube links that you might enjoy. They were produced by MOP to demonstrate the work that they do. Both concern the work of the MOP in Haiti.

The first in Port au Prince shows their new apostolate that they recently took over when the FOOD for the POOR could no longer manage it.

The new superior, Bro. Augusto, is in both (he was the superior in Monroe, NC when we made trips down there in the last few years).

The second one is of the Cap Hatien Missionary. Fr. Rodel is the superior there (As a Brother, he preceded Bro. Augusto at Monroe, NC and has since been ordained about 2 years).

New mission in Port au Prince-- http://youtu.be/vKU0mzK_39A

Cap Hatien Mission-- <http://youtu.be/9d5ibq5dUMg>

Thanks to *“tof “ (Fran Monaco—”the other Francis” - after new Pope was chosen)*

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**



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c/o Roy Wainwright
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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