



Shown is the exterior of Mission San Diego de Alcalá, the first church built in California, founded in 1769.

Submitted photo

Planting seeds of faith

Entering the Mission San Diego de Alcalá was like stepping back in time. The church's curved lines, and crisp, white, stucco exterior and beautiful tile roof stood out against the backdrop of the blue, cloudless sky. The adobe bricked floor and old, wooden, warped pews and kneelers were earthy. Windows positioned up high, close to the exposed, wooden buttress wings of the ceiling, made room, at eye level, for recesses in the thick walls for statues and paintings of saints and the *Stations of the Cross*.

As the name implies, this is a mission church — the first church built in California, founded on July 16, 1769 by St. Junípero Serra, a Franciscan priest. Mission San Diego de Alcalá is one of many flourishing Catholic churches in the Diocese of San Diego, California. I gladly put a few dollars in the donation box to support the on-going mission of the church — building upkeep, evangelization efforts, and pastoral outreach within the community.

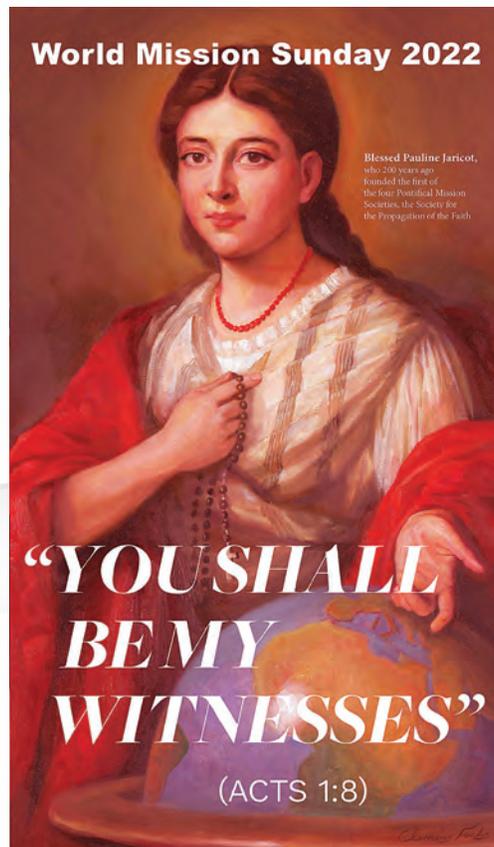
In the early 1800s, a young woman's call to support missionaries no doubt impacted the growth of the Mission San Diego de Alcalá, in addition to other Catholic churches in our country. Pauline Jaricot believed that by aiding the faith of the United

States of America, seeds of faith planted would grow and bear much fruit. Within the first 100 years of its existence, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith sent some \$7 million to help fledgling churches in the United States.

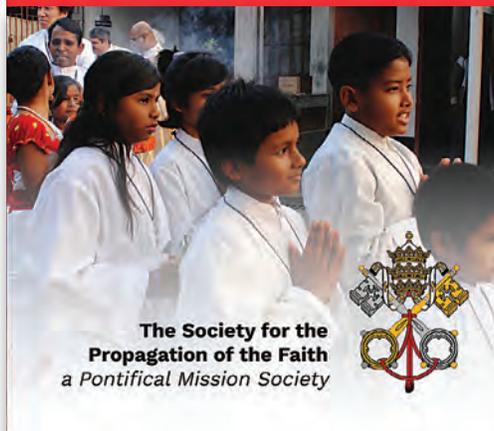
In 1833, our country's young Church started contributing to the Propagation of the Faith with a humble gift of \$6. Today, Catholics in the United States contribute about 25 percent of the global support collected through the Propagation of the Faith. Donations go to 1,150 mission dioceses worldwide, mostly in Africa and Asia, that use the funds to evangelize, build community, and create new churches.

As we prepare to celebrate World Mission Sunday, Oct. 23, please consider how contributions to Pauline's ministry, the Propagation of the Faith, helped grow the faith and establish churches here in the United States. Imagine how your prayers and donation, even just \$6, on World Mission Sunday can help grow the faith in other countries.

With sincere thanks,
 Donna Moore
 Director of the Office
 for the Missions



- 26M CHILDREN**
IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS
- 38,140 SEMINARIANS**
PREPARING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD
- 258,540 RELIGIOUS SISTERS**
CARING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
- 844,000 CATECHISTS**
TEACHING THE FAITH
- 12,000 CLINICS**
CARING FOR THE SICK AND DYING
- 8,750 HOMES**
FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY



The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
 a Pontifical Mission Society

Maryknoll missionary looks back at vocation, life



Father Jerry Wickenhauser, MM, is shown with parishioners on his first foreign assignment.

Submitted photo

Credit must be given to the Ursuline Sisters of Marquette High School in Alton. They are responsible for my becoming a Maryknoll missionary priest. Sister Alice told me, “Jerry, you stay after school every afternoon this month; I want to brush-up your Latin.” After a visiting missionary gave a talk to the whole school assembly, Sister Mildred told me to go talk to him “one on one.” “What will I say?” I asked. Sister told me to pray to God first, that He would help me to think of something.

A few years later I told Msgr. James Suddes that I wanted



to become a priest. “Oh wonderful,” he said. “If you are not smart enough to become a Jesuit, join the Maryknolls and work with the poorest of the poor.”

I knew I was not smart and working for the poorest of the poor had a nice ring to it. I went home and told my dad that I wanted to work for the poorest of the poor. “You may as well,” Dad said,

“because you don’t do any work around here.” Well, I at least mowed the grass!

During my years of living the life of a Maryknoll missionary I served people of the Philippines, in Borneo, and in the megacity of Sao Paulo, Brazil. I want you to know, these folks can teach us plenty about clinging to faith in God.

I am grateful for my many years in the priesthood and as a missionary. I learned from those I served and learned to put my trust in God the Father. Jesus taught me that anyone can become a saint and to do so requires being a grateful repentant sinner. God loves repentant sinners. After all, Heaven is full of them.

Father Jerry Wickenhauser, MM, is retired and resides in Godfrey.

Sister Ann Fearday shares life, ministry with people in Bolivia

Sister Ann Fearday, of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, was born in rural Teutopolis. Her family, school, and parish were important to her upbringing and gave her the orientation she needed to pursue her vocation. At an early age, she became a missionary in Puerto Rico for several years, then pursued ministry in Bolivia, where she has served for the past 45 years.

Sister Ann considers it a privilege to share life and ministry with the people of Bolivia. In the year 2000, she began a multipurpose center in La Paz, consisting of an infant daycare center, tutorial program, center of rehabilitation for children with special needs, and a program for senior citizens.

The center is still functioning today, due to the support of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and generous benefactors. Because most of the population is indigenous, poor, and deeply vulnerable, it would be difficult to sustain the center without such support. So, Sister Ann encourages others, “On this World Mission Sunday, I invite you to reach out, take to

heart its theme, ‘You shall be Witnesses.’ Pray, make a donation, or be of service wherever you might find yourself.”



Lisa Bushur, of Sacred Heart Parish, Effingham, examines eyes in Camata, a village eight hours north of La Paz, Bolivia.

Submitted by Sister Ann Fearday

Father Habing remembers his many years as missionary priest

My work in the Andes or altiplano was spiritually enriching. The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois generously sponsored my missionary work in the St. James Society and *Fidei Donum* from roughly 1988-2010. My imperfect faith was strengthened by God's people there, the descendants of the Incas. Through administering sacraments, especially the Eucharist, I strengthen people on their life's journey to the Kingdom. The sacrament of baptism was celebrated on Solemnities, especially Christmas, Easter, and the Feast of Santa Rosa Lima. These wonderful occasions gave Andean children eternal life, even in the midst of the chaos of many christenings celebrated together.

Catechists in Peru helped so much in preparing people for the sacraments. The sacrament of confession was celebrated prior to Sundays and especially Solemnities. Preparation for marriage got a lot of help from catechists in far-flung Quechua-speaking rural Andean communities. One marriage Liturgy was particularly memorable. In San Pedro of Andahuallas-Aprurimac there was



would arrive at the church, from distant areas of the parish, in the back of pickup trucks. One cold, early, Saturday, morning wedding Mass, there was quite a strong earth tremor during my homily. People filed out quickly from the church. When bits of plaster fell and my knees started shaking, I quickly walked out too! When the tremor subsided the future marriage partners exchanged vows and we finished Mass.

Families I visited in Andahuallas in Apurimac, or Nuñoa and Santa Rosa in Puno, served great dishes of various potatoes. A favorite, *watia*, is a delicious baked potato prepared in coals of

a monthly Saturday 6:30 a.m. wedding Mass — usually for several couples receiving the sacrament. The couples with their wedding party

bosta (dried cow or alpaca dung) in an underground pit. Other foods include: *cuy chactado*, (guinea pig cooked under a stone), alpaca, as well as nutritious Andean grains — quinoa, kiwicha and *cañihua*, cultivated long before Europeans arrived in Peru. All things considered, Peruvian cuisine is very good.

We are fortunate to have many people in the USA who immigrated here, through the years, from Mexico and Central and South America. They have much to contribute to the country and the Church. Their generosity expressed and lived in their home country continues here. Their strong faith and dedication to the Church continues here — faith made possible from prayers, kindness, and generous financial support. Contributions from the people of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois enabled ministries like mine to flourish and faith of the people in Peru to flourish. *¡Adelante!* We walk imperfectly together, but forward with Jesus.

Father Paul Habing is pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish in Marine.

How you can help build up the Kingdom of God around the world

Please donate to help our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world on World Missions Sunday, Oct. 23. You can give in your second collection envelope, mail a check to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois indicating it is for the missions (1615 West Washington, Springfield, IL 62702), or give online at dio.org/missions/world-missions-sunday.html.

The Office for the Missions will arrange to have the sacrifice of the Mass celebrated for your special intention

Please send the Mass card directly to the person specified OR Please send Mass card to me.

____ # Masses to be offered.

For _____

Living Deceased

Suggested Mass offering of \$10 per Mass

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional offerings for the needs of the Missions: _____ Total offering: _____

MAIL TO: Office for the Missions ~ 1615 West Washington St. ~ Springfield, IL 62702