THE MSC





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Summer 2017

MSC Missions Office, PO Box 23, Western Road, Cork, T12 WT72, Ireland.

www.mscmissions.ie

MSC NEWS MSC MESSAGE SUMMER 2017

From the Director



Dear Friends,

As we enjoy the brighter days of summer, I hope that you can take some time to rest, relax, and enjoy the beauty of the world around us - whether we have fair weather or summer showers!

Just like the summer flowers, we turn our heads towards the sunshine of the Lord. Summer is a time of growth in the natural world, and so too can we make the most of these golden days, nurturing the soul in reflection and prayer.

I know that the summertime is not restful for everyone; we all have our own challenges and crosses to bear. Far from the promise of holidays and seaside jaunts, many people around the world are struggling simply to survive. This summer, we have been working to send vital aid to the people of South Sudan, where a daily meal is never guaranteed and a 15-year-old girl is more likely to die in childbirth than to finish secondary school.

The generosity of our mission friends in the Irish Province and beyond has been invaluable in offering a lifeline to families in South Sudan. In conjunction with Sr Orla Treacy and the Loreto Sisters, we have been able to provide life-saving aid to people on the brink of catastrophe, in the form of essential nourishment, medical care, and educational facilities.

Together, we are making a real difference. I can confidently say that together, we are saving lives. I am deeply grateful to you, our friends, for your open hearts and for the spirit of goodwill that extends its warmth all over the world. Like the gentle sunbeam, this kindness offers comfort and hope to all that it touches.

May the Lord bless you and your loved ones always,

The Michael O'bornell use

Director of the MSC Missions Office

Celebrating 395 Years of MSC Priesthood

Congratulations are in order for eight MSC priests, who celebrated their Jubilees of Ordination at the Sacred Heart Church, Cork, on June 30th.

Between them, these MSCs have devoted 395 years of ministry to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. "These men, having heard the call of God, recognised it as a precious gift," said Irish Provincial Leader Fr Joseph McGee MSC.

"Today, we salute each of them, and we thank them all for their outstanding commitment to Christ and their dedicated ministry in many different countries. Between them, they have proclaimed the Good News of the love and compassion of the Heart of Christ to people throughout the world, particularly in different areas of the Irish Province – Ireland, England, South Africa, the United States, Venezuela, Russia, and Rome."

We wish the Jubilarians all the very best as they continue their work across the world, sharing the love of the Sacred Heart that is so alive and active in their own hearts and lives.

> 25 years: Fr Kevin Blade

50 years:

Fr Charles Conroy, Fr Pat Ó'Sullivan, Fr John McCarthy, Fr Seán Horgan, and Fr Bill Collins

60 years: Fr Jerry Daly and Fr Tim Gleeson



L-R: MSCs Fr Jerry Daly, Fr Seán Horgan, Fr John McCarthy, Fr Tim Gleeson, Fr Bill Collins, Fr Charles Conroy, and Fr Pat O'Sullivan.

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Find us at @MSCMissions

Cork Fundraiser for the Holy Family Care Centre, South Africa



"Although we are halfway across the world, kindness knows no boundaries. Thank you to everybody involved for your enthusiasm and goodwill." Fr Michael O'Connell MSC

We are delighted to announce that the MSC Plant, Book & Cake Sale run by the Sacred Heart Parish in Cork has raised a grand total of €3,821.82 in aid of the Holy Family Care Centre in South Africa.

We would like to thank everybody who contributed so generously and with such goodwill to the Bring & Buy Sales at the Sacred Heart Parish Centre on the Western Road, Cork at the end of May. All funds raised went to the Holy Family Care Centre in South Africa, where the Sacred Heart Family provide essential medical care and educational facilities to children who have been orphaned or are otherwise suffering as a result of HIV/AIDS and TB.

The staff and volunteers at Holy Family are giving hope to children who have nowhere else to turn, and the generosity of our mission friends is a great boost to the entire community.

A new MSC church in Waterval





Locals in the community of Waterval, in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, have been working together with the MSC to raise funds for a new church in their parish of Louis Trichardt.

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart have been working to make positive changes in the region since their arrival in 1950, with a primary focus on medical care, education, AIDS awareness and prevention, and care programmes for orphans and vulnerable

youths. MSC missions in the area have made a real difference in the quality of life enjoyed by the local community, and today, our MSCs work with the people of Louis Trichardt to promote self-sufficiency with the prospect of a better and brighter future.

In Waterval, the local community began their own fundraising drive and were able to raise enough money to buy building materials and lay the foundations of their new church.

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart will provide the balance of funds needed to complete the building, and the new structure will be named the Sacred Heart Church.

Locals in this small community are extremely dedicated to their faith. To date, they have been celebrating Mass in the tin shack pictured; now, thanks to the combined efforts of the community and MSCs in the area, the people of Waterval can look forward to having a dedicated place of worship to call their own

Thanks to the generosity and goodwill of our mission friends around the world, it's clear to see the power that comes of unity.

Together, we can make a real and lasting difference.

A country in crisis: South Sudan



Following a peace deal in 2005, war-torn South Sudan slowly began to heal. With a fresh outbreak of civil war in 2013, chaos descended once more.

The country was one of the world's poorest before the war, and now, violence, illness, and extreme poverty are destroying the lives of millions. Schools and medical centres have been burned to the ground. Abduction, rape, and murder are commonplace. The economy has all but collapsed. In the village of Maker Kuei, Rumbek, over 10,000 people are fighting for their lives on a daily basis.

The Loreto Sisters have been working in the community of Rumbek since 2008. In this rural region, people who can find employment are working in jobs that pay as little as €2.27 per month – the official government salary for a day labourer. Forced marriages are a part of daily life, and young women are often exchanged in marriage for dowries of valuable cattle.

The Loreto Sisters have already begun to generate hope for a future that has long looked bleak, but they desperately need funding in order to allow their medical and educational projects to continue. By working with the Loreto community, the MSC are helping to give hope to vulnerable families who have nowhere else to turn.

"He is fighting for more": Ajoung's Story





Ajoung is 10 months old and survives on a liquid diet of breast milk.

Ajoung is the youngest child in his home. At 10 months of age, a healthy child should be crawling and laughing. Instead, Ajoung sits silently, staring straight ahead.

There are bowls of nutrient-enriched porridge available for Ajoung at the Loreto Primary Health Care Unit. His mother, Akun, comments that he is too weak to eat, but when head nurse Sr Penina gives Akun the food for her baby, the little boy reaches out

to grab the bowl. "He is fighting for more," says Sr Penina. "There just isn't anything."

At home, there isn't enough food for the other children, and so nothing at all is left for the baby. He survives solely on breast milk. There are eight people in Akun's home, and there is simply not enough food.

"In most cases, we have to feed two people: the extremely malnourished child, and the guardian accompanying them," says Sr Penina.

"I cannot choose just one of my children."

Ajoung's mother, Akun

Because of poor rainfall and low harvests over the past year, famine has now been declared in South Sudan, and this has had an extreme effect on rural communities like Maker Kuei. "There is no work, no money," Akun says. "My husband needs me at home to take care of the other children. I cannot choose just one of my children."

Akun has now joined the Loreto staff, working in the gardens as a day labourer. This will allow her to supplement the household income, and will give Ajoung access to the nutrients that are so essential to his early development.









THE LORETO PROJECTS

The Loreto PHCU

- The Loreto Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) was established in July 2016, providing essential medical aid to local people in Rumbek particularly vulnerable women and children.
- Professionally certified nursing staff and local trainee nurses' assistants administer vital medical care, as well as educating the local community on basic health, nutrition, and sanitation issues.
- The most common illnesses treated at the clinic include unhealed wounds, fungal infections, intestinal worms, anaemia, malnutrition, malaria, sexually transmitted infections, and diarrheal diseases.

In Rumbek, South Sudan, a 15-year-old girl is more likely to die in childbirth than she is to finish secondary school.

Together with the Loreto Sisters, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are reaching out to help vulnerable women and children who are fighting for their lives.

Today, we're calling on you to join with our MSC community in supporting this crucial work in a country that's crying out for urgent aid.

The Loreto Schools

- The Loreto Primary School caters to almost 700 students, both male and female. Students are guaranteed to have clean water, nutritious meals, access to health care, and a quality education.
- The Loreto Secondary School is an allgirls' boarding school, where students are educated in social and life skills as well as receiving a full academic tuition. Currently, 240 girls attend the school, and the demand for places is increasing as principal Sr Orla Treacy works with families to protect young women from enforced marriage. Additional graduate programmes offer these young women the best possible start in life.



The MSC have been working to promote positive change in the KKSV9 district of Pinugay, a resettlement area for families who have been displaced from their homes in the Philippines.

Poverty is a serious issue in this isolated region, and many families struggle with hunger, unemployment, and illness as a result.

In 2016, the Irish Province of the MSC donated funds to help the establishment of a number of different self-sufficiency programmes in the area, including a local consumer store, a beekeeping project, and a sewing and tailoring programme.

The KKSV9 Sewing Livelihood Project is now up and running, with great success to date. Phase One of the project involved training locals in sewing and tailoring skills, and the group now have regular clients who order items such as shirts, shorts, and aprons. The project has been such a success that the group are now looking to broaden their reach by welcoming new members, so that they can take on new clients and bigger orders.

At the beginning of June 2017, the MSC

group in the Philippines visited the sewing project to assess their progress and establish what needs to be done to allow for further growth. In the course of the visit, a new project was proposed: a Life Sharing Programme, which will allow local people to share and explore their life experiences and their faith.

"Everybody involved in this programme will be able to grow as a person, and more importantly, as a community." Jahms Morga, Project Organiser

"Somehow, the discussion became very inspiring and motivating," says Jahms Morga, one of the organisers of the sewing project. "For the people here, this is a real need. Everybody involved in this programme will be able to grow as a person, and more importantly, as a community. We will invite lay missionaries to visit the group, and we hope that this will be a great

opportunity for the people of KKSV9 to share their stories and grow in faith with their neighbours."

As the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart work to create security and self-sufficiency for the people of KKSV9, the community is clearly growing in strength and spirit. With the help of mission friends in the Irish Province and around the world, residents of KKSV9 are already enjoying the advantages of both social and personal development that will benefit the area for generations to come.



MSC MESSAGE SUMMER 2017 MSC VOCATIONS

Horizon to horizon: Around the world with MSC Vocations

Fr Alan and the Cork NET Team celebrate Flame 2017 at Wembley Arena in London



2017 has already been a jam-packed year for the MSC Vocations team!

One of the highlights of the year is our annual pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago. This is the fifth year that the MSC Vocations team have organised the pilgrimage, and Vocations Director Fr Alan Neville MSC reflects on the fact that we would do well to learn a lesson from the gentle pace of the Way.

"Our world today is fast-paced and constantly moving. Being under pressure is seen as a virtue for some strange reason. On the Way, you take time – for yourself and for others. One



of our group this year hit it on the head when he said that we were walking in the footsteps of millions of people, along pilgrim pathways that stretch back over a thousand years and will continue into the future."

The Vocations team have also been celebrating our faith with hundreds of like-minded youths at a host of festivals including London's Flame 2017, Scotland's Youth 2000, and Dublin's Fortify Youth Conference. Travis, a member of this year's Cork NET Team, talks about the power of unity, saying: "It's astonishing to be in the presence of so many faithful people, who all want to share an experience together."





With a volunteer trip to the Holy Family Care Centre in South Africa next on the agenda, our mission continues. We are, as always, deeply grateful to you, our friends, for your prayers, as we carry on working to share the Good News and make God's love known in all corners of the world.

If you feel that you might have a call to religious life, please contact our Vocations Director, Fr Alan Neville MSC.

Email: fralan@mscvocations.ie Phone: +353 (0)86 785 7955 (IRE) or +44 (0)75 2676 4236 (UK)

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Fr Michael O'Connell MSC, MSC Missions Office, PO Box 23, Western Road, Cork, T12 WT72, Ireland. A Burse is a sum of money which is set up in honour of God, His Blessed Mother, or one of His servants. We have several Burses from which people can choose – a full list is available on request. The most popular Burses in recent years have been the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and St Padre Pio.

The money donated is invested, and the interest goes towards the education of our students to the priesthood.

Any donation, large or small, is very much appreciated and is of great help in ensuring that our students are well prepared for the work that lies ahead on the mission fields. You are part of the great work they will do, in future years, in many lands. May God reward you for your kindness.









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I would like to support the MSC Projects. Here's my gift: Name: €10 €20 €50 €100 €250 I would prefer to make my own gift of: € Address: **PAYMENT METHOD** I enclose my cheque / bank draft / postal order payable to Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Please debit my: Visa MasterCard Visa Debit Laser Tel: Is this gift in memory of someone? (Last three boxes for Laser only) Name: Security Code: Expiry Date: (Last three digits on back of your card) **SEND TO:** Fr Michael O'Connell MSC, MSC Missions Office, Signature: PO Box 23, Western Road, Cork T12 WT72, Ireland. *If you pay PAYE or self-assessment tax, a donation of €250 or more in one year could be worth an extra €112.32 to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Charity Regd No. CHY 4783