

# THE MSC Message



Missionaries  
*of the*  
**Sacred Heart**  
MSC MISSIONS



## MSC Graduate House & Women's Shelter opens in South Sudan

*Read more on page 4*

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### Summer 2018

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## From the Director



Dear Friends,

Summer greetings to you all! It is with great pleasure that we welcome the return of longer days and the warmth of the summer sun after a long, cold winter – it was a harsh one, even by our Irish standards!

This summer is a particularly exciting one for all of us, as we prepare to welcome Pope Francis to our shores to celebrate the World Meeting of Families in August. This is the first time Ireland has played host to a papal visit in almost 40 years, and it is with great anticipation that we look forward to the Holy Father's trip.

The World Meeting of Families is a marvellous event, a chance for us to reflect on what matters the most in life – the incomparable love of family. Of course, many of us have our own personal struggles within our day-to-day family lives. It's not always the case that families enjoy seamless relationships; far from it. Every family is a complex, living entity, and with that comes its own challenges.

At the heart of it all, however, is love. "How much better family life would be," says Pope Francis, "if every day we lived according to the words 'please', 'thank you', and 'I'm sorry'." This is what we must remember: to live our lives "based on love, for love, and in love".

I am fortunate enough to see that love in action each and every day, as you, our mission friends, help us to help others and share God's message across the world. We are a great family of faith, and I send my heartfelt thanks, as always, for your support and your love. I wish you a joyful summer season in celebration of all that you hold dear.

With every blessing,

*Fr Michael O'Connell MSC*

Director of the MSC Missions Office

## MSC Missions reaching out in Mozambique

In March 2018, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart embarked on a new mission to provide essential aid and life-changing support to the people of Pemba in Mozambique.

Fr Angelo and Fr Eduardo, both from the Sao Paulo Province, arrived in Mozambique in early March. Accompanied by their Provincial Leader, Fr Edivaldo, and MSC Superior General Fr Absalon, the group were welcomed by the Bishop of Pemba and a number of pastoral workers from the diocese.

The mission project has been several years in the planning and will focus on the diocese of Pemba – an area suffering from extreme poverty, with no church infrastructure or functioning pastoral ministry. With the help of the MSC, and the support of our mission friends from around the world, our missionaries aim to rebuild this struggling community and give them hope for a future that once looked bleak.

We offer our warmest wishes and prayers to the Mozambique mission as they work to bring God's love and hope to the community of Pemba.



*Fr Angelo, Fr Eduardo, Fr Edivaldo, and Fr Absalon being welcomed by the Bishop of Pemba and a number of pastoral workers from the diocese.*

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Find us at **@MSCMissions**

## RIP Fr Mark McDonald MSC

It is with heartfelt regret that we announce the passing of Fr Mark McDonald MSC, former Superior General of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.



1942 - 2018



Fr Mark McDonald passed away on April 2nd, 2018, at the Sacred Heart Villa in Center Valley, Pennsylvania, at the age of 75.

Fr Mark was ordained a priest of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in his hometown of Watertown, New York, on June 29th, 1968, by Bishop Thomas Donnellan.

Following his ordination, Fr Mark went on to work as a teacher; a vice-principal; director of the MSC Retreat & Renewal Centre in Shelby, Ohio; MSC Formation Director in Bogota, Columbia; MSC Sectional Superior in Columbia; Provincial of the MSCs in the United States; pastor of the parish of our Lady of the Sacred

Heart in his hometown of Watertown; and director of Cor Novum, the MSC retreat centre in Issoudun, France. "While he seldom knew what the next challenge would bring, he was always ready to respond," writes Fr Joe Kanimea MSC in a tribute to Fr Mark.

**"He was a wise, great leader, and kind."**

"His gentle and insightful manner endeared him to all 1,700 MSCs worldwide as he visited country after country," writes Fr Joe. "His openness, his sense of humour, his belief in the value of each person, and so many other gifts, made all of his assignments a success."

From 2005 to 2017, Fr Mark acted as Superior General of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart worldwide, and was based in Rome. In 2018, he took semi-retirement and returned to the USA.

As Fr Mark's family, friends, and MSC brothers joined together to celebrate Fr Mark's life, his 10-year-old grand-nephew put it best when he said, "Uncle Mark brings people together".

"He was a wise, great leader, and kind," Fr Joe writes in tribute to the late Superior General. "He will be greatly missed by the Church, and especially by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart."

*Please keep Fr Mark in your prayers.*

## Pope Francis to visit Dublin

This summer heralds a great occasion for Ireland, as Pope Francis makes the first papal visit in almost 40 years to celebrate the World Meeting of Families 2018. This is a major international event which is held every three years, with the aim of bringing together families from all over the world in a joyful celebration of marriage and the family as the bedrock of everything we do, as individuals, as a Church, and as a society.

This year, Dublin has the honour of hosting the WMOF from August 21st to 26th. The theme for this year's celebration will be "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World", and there will be a number of key moments at the heart of the proceedings, including a special three-day Congress, the Festival of Families, and a beautiful Eucharistic celebration to close the event. The Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart look forward to attending this momentous event for Ireland and for the Catholic Church.





# MSC Graduate House & Women's Shelter



Last summer, the Irish Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart launched an appeal to send financial support to the Loreto Sisters, working to bring life-saving medical aid and education to young women in the war-torn region of Rumbek, South Sudan.

In our 2017 Mission Appeal, we asked our mission friends to reach out and help the Loreto Sisters to transform lives in South Sudan. Living in the grip of a terrible crisis, the people of Rumbek have faced unimaginable struggles with violence, illness, and malnutrition – and they still do.

Thanks to the great kindness and generosity of spirit shown by our mission friends in Ireland and around the world, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart have been able to send financial aid to the Loreto Sisters in Maker Kuei, Rumbek, where they run a primary school for boys and girls, a girls' secondary school, a health care unit, and a graduate programme.

They have already been able to make a difference to thousands of local people, and now, the MSC-funded Graduate House & Women's Shelter has opened its doors to 16 young women who are working towards a brighter future.

This April, the first group of Loreto graduates moved into the new MSC Graduate House & Women's Shelter.

The graduate programme will allow the girls to develop their skills and talents within various employment roles, giving them a solid foundation for future careers. This endeavour has lit a beacon of hope where the future once looked bleak, and we wish the Loreto community all the very best as they begin this exciting new chapter!

## Thank you!

It is with great delight that we share this news from Maker Kuei, where the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart continue to work in partnership with the Rumbek Loreto Sisters to provide renewed hope for these young women and their families.

We thank you, our mission friends, for helping us to help others around the world.

## Mary's Story

Having graduated from Loreto in 2013, Mary Adut was offered a place on a prestigious nursing programme at the Catholic Health Training Institute in Wau, South Sudan. After three years, Mary is now a registered nurse, and the Loreto Sisters are proud to welcome her back to the Loreto Primary Health Care Unit.



Mary is the first nurse from the Loreto graduates to have received professional qualifications and returned to help others as she was once helped herself.

"We are delighted to have an empowered and capable South Sudanese woman to complement our team. We are excited for our current students, who will undoubtedly see her as a role model over the coming years."

# MSCs in Cameroon need our help



Situated just 25km from Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, is the small village of Lada II. Here, 105 students attend the Sacred Heart Bilingual College, which first opened its doors to both male and female students in 2016.

This area is not a prosperous one; local families have very little, and the opportunities for progression are few. Help is essential if the youth of Lada II are to be able to look to the future with hope.

## "Love - Work - Respect"

The school's principal, Fr Charles Biloa, works with fellow MSCs and the local community to provide an education in both academic and social skills to youths in the region. The school prides itself on its values, encompassing "science, technology, culture, solidarity, sharing, and citizenship", and the Sacred Heart community

there work together under the motto "Love- Work- Respect".

While the current student body is working hard towards success, the demand for places in the school is growing, and the school remains in an unfinished state – the funds simply are not there to complete the work that needs to be done. The buildings are unfinished, the outdoor areas are undeveloped, and facilities and equipment are minimal.

**"I appreciate the toilets, because they have taps around them where I can wash my hands."**

"I am concerned by the fact that my school is still in construction," says student Avouzoa Mbega Chantal Gesome. Fellow student Elanga Miye Wilfried agrees, although he is very grateful for basic facilities that many take for granted. "I appreciate the toilets," he says, "because they have taps around them where we can wash our hands."

Above all, the students of the Sacred Heart College share a great sense of pride in their school, and enjoy

a family dynamic that has grown between students and teachers. The Sacred Heart community continue to work together towards a positive and productive future, but they need our help.

This summer, our Mission Appeal will raise funds to help the Sacred Heart College in Cameroon to complete the work that desperately needs to be done.

With the help of our mission friends in Ireland and around the world, MSCs in Cameroon will be able to have the school buildings and facilities completed, providing a safe, comfortable space for students to learn and grow.

We will be sending you more information in the coming months, and we'll tell you how you can help to transform the lives of these eager young students in Central Africa. Together, we can make a difference.





# Disadvantaged youths reach their goals at Berea-Albion Academy



Over the past year, the MSC have reached out to support students at Berea-Albion Football Club and Academy, South Africa, where disadvantaged youths are given hope and encouragement as they strive towards a better future.

Cougar Park in Pretoria, South Africa, is home to Berea-Albion Football Club and Academy, which was established in 2009 by Stephen Haupt and Neil Bosman.

Students of the academy live in Cougar Park on a full-time basis, where they are entirely devoted to pursuing their dreams of playing football at a professional level while also learning essential social skills and receiving academic tuition.

"The majority of disadvantaged youths in our development programmes are orphans, or they come from single parent families," says co-founder Neil Bosman. "They have struggled with poverty, HIV/AIDS, abuse, alcoholism, and poor educational backgrounds."

**A sound education  
and a sense of structure  
for disadvantaged  
and vulnerable  
young men.**

The academy is situated on 4.2 hectares of land in the Magaliesberg Mountains of Pretoria and is currently home to 50 students, who share two full-sized playing fields, a pitch, a gym, a pool, a study centre, and a residential area.

At Cougar Park, students also attend Bosman College, where the focus is on providing "a sound education base" as well as full professional training in football. The academy aims to promote "a sense of structure that is conducive to diligent and consistent academic performance, while also allowing the necessary flexibility for the training programme".

**"Passio Pro Perfecto."  
A passion for perfection.**

The academy's motto is "Passio Pro Perfecto" (a passion for perfection), and the MSC are delighted to be able to support both staff and students in their future endeavours as they pursue their passion.

"We sincerely thank you for your generous donation of €10,000," says Neil, "and particularly for your support and interest in our youth development programmes."

"Your donation is being put to very good use as we make sure that our young footballers are housed, clothed, educated, trained, and nutritiously fed at Cougar Park."

## Muzi's Story



Muzi "Vava" Thabotha has gained the foundations of a successful career from his time at Berea-Albion. The 22 year old has recently been signed by Ajax Cape Town, where club head Mich D'Avray has high hopes for his future. "He has a raw talent," says Mich. "He caught our eye immediately and we are happy to welcome him to the club."

Muzi began his career at Berea-Albion under the tuition of Steve Haupt, before going on to join National First Division leaders Highlands Park. With fond memories of his time at Berea-Albion, Muzi now looks forward to a promising future. Berea-Albion was the first step on the path to success for Muzi, and the MSC are proud to play a part in enabling vulnerable and disadvantaged young men to work towards positive and productive goals for the future.

# Hitting the road with MSC Vocations



A tug of war at the Holy Family Care Centre!



Fr Alan and the Cork NET Team this Easter



Prayer and song at the Nightfever event in Birmingham

We're now almost halfway through 2018, and it has already been an incredibly rich and rewarding year for the MSC Vocations Team!

This year's gatherings kicked off with the Scripture Union Momentum event in January, then it was off to Birmingham for a marvellous weekend celebrating Nightfever with the Catholic Students' Chaplaincy. March saw the Vocations Team in Cork for the Y2K Ireland Youth 2000 Retreat, before a trip to Galway in April, where the MSC Cork NET Team took part in the Diocesan John Paul II Awards. We even found time to enjoy the snowfall in the midst of it all!

We're already looking forward to the rest of a jam-packed year. Our Vocations Team are delighted to be joining the celebrations with Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in August, and we'll also be working with the MSC volunteer team on our annual trip to the Holy Family Care Centre in South Africa. This experience is a wonderfully enriching one for both the children and the volunteers.

Anita, a youth worker and teacher who visited Holy Family in 2017, recalls, "When I went to South Africa, I was focused on what I could teach or impart to the children there, and I left with so much more. They have given me such a strong understanding of family, a wise

life perspective, and the importance of the simplicity of life, love, and kindness."

Laura, a primary school teacher who also volunteered in 2017, agrees: "I learned so much from these children - in particular, to keep smiling even if you are down. I learned about being grateful for what you have, and being happy with that. I wish I could do it all over again."

With plans for 2019 already taking shape as we look ahead to World Youth Day in Panama next January, we're continuing in our mission to share the joyous message of God's love everywhere and with everyone, with mission friends old and new, in the Irish Province and beyond.

Please cut here

## Burses to help train our student missionaries

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Fr Michael O'Connell MSC,  
MSC Missions Office,  
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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.

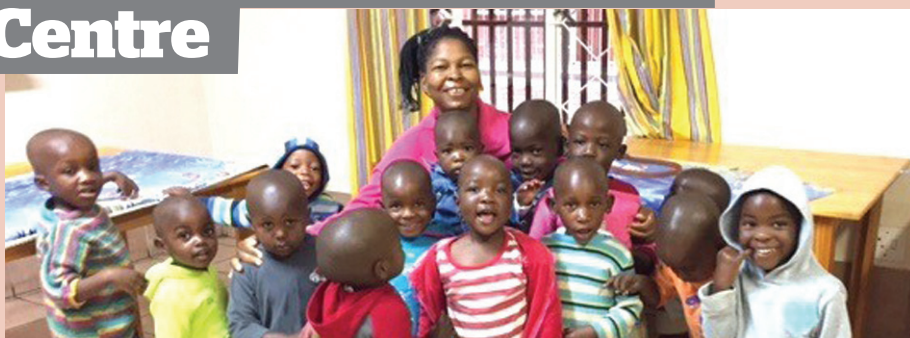
Any donation, large or small, is very much appreciated and is of great help in ensuring that our students are well prepared for the work that lies ahead on the mission fields. You are part of the great work they will do, in future years, in many lands. May God reward you for your kindness.



Sr Sally Duigan, director of the Holy Family Care Centre, updates us on the wonderful work that has been done in South Africa thanks to the kindness of our mission friends here in Ireland.

"Holy Family was struggling to care for our children, particularly as we were admitting many young children and babies," Sr Sally explains. "We did not have a dedicated nursery and we had to use our sick bay to accommodate the babies temporarily. Thanks to the MSC Mission Office in Ireland, we now have a purpose-built building where we can care for our babies and most vulnerable children up to the age of two years."

The Limpopo Province is the second-poorest province in South Africa. "We are still seeing children malnourished, undernourished, and stunted in their growth," says Sr Sally. "Our new food preparation area is



ideal for our nurses to prepare special formulas for the babies and fortified foods for our malnourished young ones."

Infection control is essential in the care centre, and the new building allows for separate areas for sleeping, bathing, changing nappies, and preparing food. In addition, a proper showering area with private shower recesses has been built for the older boys in the centre, and the old staff accommodation has been refurbished.

**"The children and staff have benefitted enormously from the funding received from the MSC Mission Office in Ireland."**

"Both the children and staff have benefitted enormously from the

funding received from the MSC Mission Office in Ireland," says Sr Sally. "We are so grateful."

"It is with much gratitude and love that we at the Holy Family Care Centre thank you for your generous donations, which have allowed us to overhaul some old and much-needed work," she continues. "Above all, we continue to give our children love, security, and care in the hope that they will thrive. We want them to have the energy to enjoy playtime, to be able to learn, and to live a happy life. We are truly blessed to be able to provide a high quality of care."

We at the MSC Missions Office join Sr Sally in extending our sincere thanks to all of our mission friends, whose generosity helps us to change young lives for the better.

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