

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

125th Anniversary *Bringing Christ to the World*



SUMMER 2020

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Back Cover: Father Angelot as a little boy
in Madagascar.

Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

We look forward to enjoying the summer months, but it will not be like it was in the past. The one subject of conversation lately is how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the world and us. It has shut down schools, restaurants, retail businesses, and wreaked significant havoc on any and all travel.

We had to take precautionary measures in order to have some control of the virus. Sheltering at home has offered us more time to spend with our families, pray together, and reflect on the gifts that God has given. Our faith is important to help us make it through a difficult trial.

We may wonder: Where is God?

Remember, He promised to be with us always, and His Spirit in us makes Him present by our words and actions. Let us find unique methods in supporting one another. Stay safe; stay healthy. Be patient and kind.

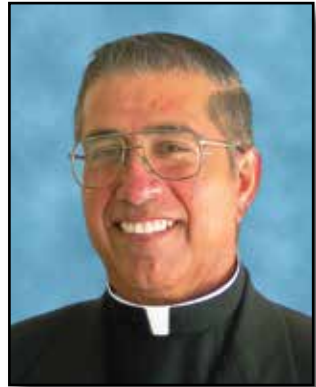
There is no better time to strengthen our bonds, to stand together to help each other through this storm, and to make our way out to the other side even stronger.

Wishing you and your family a joyful summer with many blessings, and thank you for everything!

Sincerely in the Holy Family, I am

Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.

Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.
Provincial Superior



Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F.

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An Invitation

The Family Forever Society

by Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.

What is the Family Forever Society? It's very simple! Members of this special society are people who have remembered the Missionaries of the Holy Family in their wills or estate plans. Their bequests are called Legacy Gifts.

While most Legacy Gifts are made with the intention of the Missionaries of the Holy Family receiving benefits in the future, some Legacy Gifts are realized in the present. Gifts of securities or stock, real estate, and other tangible property are usually transferred before December 31 of any year so the benefactor can realize tax breaks for charitable donations.

Most Legacy Gifts are used as principal for our Retirement Trust Fund. While we do have a modest trust fund to help cover the rising cost of healthcare needed by the elderly and disabled members of our religious community, it is always a struggle.

Please consider joining our Family Forever Society. To receive a free booklet on preparing your will, please send your request to me at 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118, or call me at 1-888-484-9945. If you are remembering us in your will, please remember us as: *Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Family - North American Province.*

Our Holy Family priests and brothers will always hold you and your loved ones in prayer. Isn't that what a Family is supposed to do? Thank you and God bless you... *forever.*



Forever Yours in the Holy Family,

Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.

Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.
Provincial Superior, North American Province



125TH ANNIVERSARY WORLDWIDE

Brief History of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, North American Delegation

by Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F. and Mr. Weldon Tieken

Summary of the Early Years

The founder of the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, Venerable John Berthier, M.S., had these thoughts in mind: (1) promote the message of Our Lady of La Salette to help people draw closer to the Lord, and (2) provide more missionaries for the Church through belated vocations.

The Missionaries of the Holy Family were founded on September 28, 1895 in Grave, Holland. September 28, 2020 marks the 125th anniversary.

In 1908, Venerable Berthier witnessed the ordination of 25 priests. In time, they began sending the priests out to different parts of the world. The history of the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF) in the United States actually began in 1918.

Father Jacob Bongarts was sent by Father Anthony Trampe, the General

Superior, to seek a place for a mission in 1918, but returned to Grave, Holland without success. In 1923, a friend of Father Trampe, Father Francis Schaeffers, who had been a former scholastic with Father Trampe, offered the missionaries a piece of land in Hillman, Minnesota.



Very Rev. Anthony Trampe, M.S.F.
Superior General, 1919-1947

Father Joseph Grundhoff was sent to Minnesota in 1924. Father Trampe followed later and met with Bishop Timothy McNicholas of Duluth. A log cabin on Long Lake was used to celebrate Mass until a mission house and church were built.

Father Trampe then went to San Antonio, Texas and met with Archbishop Arthur Drossaerts. He was offered a parish in New Braunfels and later other parishes were offered. His last stop was Saint Louis, Missouri where he met with Archbishop Glennon. The congregation was allowed into the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, but was not offered a parish.



Holy Family House
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Canada

In May 1974, the provincial presidency approved a proposal to establish a house in Ottawa, Ontario. A house was purchased in June 1975 and named Holy Family House. Father Arthur Ockwood was the director, and Father Dan Hawkins did vocation work. A novitiate house was set up, and on September 1, 1979, it was erected as a canonical house. Due to a decrease in vocations, the house was closed and sold.



Holy Family Church, 1932
Hillman, Minnesota

Hillman, Minnesota

As mentioned previously, Father Joseph Grundhoff was the first priest to arrive in 1924. The first Masses were held in a cabin on Long Lake. Construction began on a two-story mission house on April 27, 1925 and finished on November 11 of the same year. This

served as a residence and a place for Mass. In May 1932, construction of the Holy Family Church began and was completed in November.

The mission house served as a school in 1939. In 1940, it was remodeled and became a scholasticate and novitiate house. In 1943, it returned to only being a mission house, but, in 1957, it became a novitiate house again until 1967. Holy Family Parish was given back to the Diocese of Duluth in 1972.



Mass Mob at Saint Wenceslaus Church
in Saint Louis, Missouri.
May 14, 2017, Mother's Day

Saint Louis, Missouri

The first priests to arrive in Saint Louis were Father Joseph Whalen and Father John Parr in 1926. The first mission house was on Oakland Avenue, and several priests arrived in 1929.

A large house was acquired in 1933 to accommodate more priests and scholastics on Clayton Road. This residence also served as the first provincial office with Father Joseph Mathey elected as provincial superior in 1948.

In 1944, property for Holy Family Seminary was bought in Overland. It served as a house of studies and a novitiate. In 1957, a high school and college department were added. The seminary

served many purposes in its time. However, because of low enrollment, it was closed and sold in 1994. A house of philosophy named after Saint Thomas Aquinas was built in 1959 in Farmington, and it continued in this capacity until 1972.

The provincial office moved to different locations within the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. Today, the Missionaries of the Holy Family have one parish in Saint Louis, Saint Wenceslaus Church, where the missionaries have served since 1960. The second floor of the rectory houses the provincial office.

Texas

On March 7, 1926, Father Anthony Elsing with two other priests and one religious brother arrived in Galveston. They proceeded to San Antonio to meet Archbishop Drossaerts who offered him a house in New Braunfels. A parish was staffed here first, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and several others followed.

The next diocese to invite Father Elsing was Corpus Christi. Our Lady of Victory Church in Beeville was the first parish given to the missionaries in 1929. Bishop Emmanuel Ledvina gave Sacred Heart Parish in Corpus Christi to the missionaries in 1936. Several others were offered and accepted over the next few years.

In 1956, the Diocese of Brownsville offered Saint Joseph Church in Donna to the missionaries. Later, a few more parishes were offered. Many of the parishes also had mission churches which needed to be served. Most of

our priests were in Texas, and when vocations began to drop in the 1980s and 1990s, some of our parishes had to be given back to the dioceses. We now have only five parishes and three mission churches in North America.



Mexico Mission Chapel built by
Father James Leinert, M.S.F.

Mexico

The first priest elected to go to Mexico was Father Charles Zeyen in 1959. His territory was in the Diocese of Saltillo. Several priests were sent to Mexico to open other missions. Father James Lienert was sent to Mexico in 1967 and retired in 2000. He established many mission chapels in the areas he worked. Father Richard Oberstar also served our neighbors to the south, but we no longer have a presence in Mexico. Please visit our website to learn more about us and our history, www.msf-america.org.

We are very grateful and honored to have served our many wonderful parishioners and benefactors around the world for 125 years. By the grace of God, the Missionaries of the Holy Family will continue to serve the People of God for another 125 years. Thank you for your friendship and generosity! God bless your family. **+JMj+**



THE MAN FROM MADAGASCAR

Do not say, “I am too young.”

by Father Angelot, M.S.F.

Editor’s Note: Father Angelot is from our Madagascar Province, and he arrived in the United States in September 2019. He is currently assisting the provincial superior, Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F., at Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri. Following are his answers to some questions about his fascinating life.

Where were you born?

First of all, my full name is Reverend Angelot Galson Andriamamitahina, M.S.F., and I go by Father Angelot. I was born on May 14, 1988 in Morombe in Madagascar, but I grew in the city of Andavadoaka. I was ordained a priest on August 5, 2018.

My father, Eugene Galson, is still alive. My mother, Angeline T. Olga, passed away when I was nine years old. I have one brother, his name is Erick Tojo, and three sisters: Yvonne, Juslenne, and Judith. I am the middle child in my family, and the youngest are Erick and Judith who are twins.



Father Angelot as a little boy.

My oldest sister Yvonne is a teacher. She is married, and she has a son Marco. Juslenne is also married, and she has three sons:

Madagascar Flora & Fauna



Pygmy Kingfisher



Baobab Trees



Red Ruffed Lemur

Juslin, Thibo, and Baloda. Erick is single and attends college. My sister Judith is a nurse, and she is married too. She has a son named Winock.

When my Mom died, Erick, Judith, and I went to live with my aunt Serobano, but my older sisters were already married.

My aunt Serobano has two daughters of her own: Rosalie is married and has three daughters, and Myriam has two sons. This is my family. I have a big family, and we love one another. They are my joy! Even though I live far away from them, they still live in my heart and I always think of them.

Why did you become a missionary priest?

That was not my plan! I wanted to be a doctor. I was born into a

Christian family, and my mom was devout. She would wake me up every morning when I was a little boy to attend Mass with her. If she couldn't attend Mass, I would walk by myself to the church because it was close to where we lived. Two years after she died, I became an altar server. Nevertheless, I still wanted to become a doctor.



Father Angelot with his nieces.

In high school, at the age of 15, my thoughts turned to the priesthood. I told my pastor, Father Clement, M.S.F., of my desire to join the seminary. He suggested that I prepare myself for one year before entering the seminary. Under his guidance, I benefited from reading the Bible and learning the French language. At 16 years of age, I left home and joined the seminary.

This is my educational timeline: High school from 2004 to 2008,

religious formation from 2008 to 2010, learning philosophy from 2010 to 2013, pastoral training from 2013 to 2014, studying theology from 2014 to 2017, ministering as a transitional deacon from 2017 to 2018, and ordination to the priesthood on August 5, 2018. There is a lot of training before a man can become a priest.

I chose to become a priest of the Missionaries of the Holy Family for many reasons, but the most important one is the opportunity to serve families. The Missionaries of the Holy Family have been working in Madagascar for more than 50 years, and they have always served at my parish. They model their lives around the simplicity of living in community as a family, as did the Holy Family of Nazareth: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Why did you choose to come to the United States?

The Catholic Church is universal, and the Missionaries of the Holy Family are located throughout the world. We are in 23 countries. The North American Province and the Madagascar Province have been working together for a long time,

and I am the fourth priest from Madagascar to work here after Father Clement (2004-2007), Father Francois (2008 to the present), and Father Denis (2014-2015). I did not choose to come to the United States on my own, but I was nominated by the members of the government of the Madagascar Province.

How is the United States different from Madagascar?

After Greenland, New Guinea, and Borneo, Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. Madagascar is in the Indian Ocean, approximately 250 miles off the coast of southeast Africa. The



Father Angelot with parish kids.

United States is about 16 times bigger than Madagascar, and it is a richer county. For example, when I was a transitional deacon, I assisted the pastor. I had to walk six hours from the main church to the mission church because there was no access by car or bicycle. People in America have many transportation options.

I see many private schools and colleges in the United States. Many parents in Madagascar are poor, and they cannot pay tuition fees. As a matter of fact, many children in Madagascar do not even

go to school. The government in Madagascar does not help the poor people. Also, in the United States, parishioners financially support their priests. In Madagascar, it is the other way around. Our priests try to support the needs of the people, and it is difficult to pastorally care for so many poor people. It is important to pray for missionaries and the people they serve.

Nevertheless, the people in Madagascar are friendly despite all the difficulties of life. In the United States too, I see that parishioners are friendly and cheerful. We have this in common. God bless you and your family!

Who is your favorite saint and why?

After my mother died and before I joined the seminary, I handed my life over to Holy Mother Mary. I believe in her many intercessions for me. Also, Pope Saint John Paul II is one of my favorites. I love his life, his philosophy, his spiritual life, and his teaching. He said, "Do not be

afraid, open your doors for Christ. Christ knows what is in man. He alone knows it."

If God said that He would grant you one wish, what would it be?

I wish that doctors would find the cure for the coronavirus pandemic and that people in the world would live in peace. After this time of exile, may Almighty God grant us everlasting life.

In summary, I believe in God and in His plan for me. It was not easy to leave my country, but I know God will help me. I remember the dialogue in Sacred Scripture between God and Jeremiah the Prophet, "Oh, Lord God!" Jeremiah said, "I know not how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord answered him, "Say not, 'I am too young.' To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak." **(Jeremiah 1:6-7) +jMj+**



Father Angelot and Father Phil in the Age of the Coronavirus.



WISDOM FROM THE BALD GUY

Silver Lining for Families in Lockdown

by Brother Knight Baldy Bluett

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) is bad and does not care who you are. I believe all of us have been affected by it in some way. Maybe deaths in the family, aisles in stores marked “one way,” loss of employment, and many other effects.

We have rules and suggestions from our local, state, and federal officials for Covid-19. It doesn't matter where you are. Your family's lockdown could be very different from what my family experiences have been.



Patty and the big boys (grandkids).

I am probably in a different situation than most. My wife Patty and I have six children, all married. We have 15 grandchildren. So we have seven families in one. Let's call it seven different households in seven different lockdowns. Our extended family is in California, Minnesota, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Perhaps you are a family of one. There

is still a silver lining to the lockdown wherever you are and how large your family might be.



Out on the porch.

Our family has always kept in touch. That does not mean everyone knows everything about what is going on with everyone else. Our various lockdowns, however, have brought us even closer. Handmade greeting cards via snail mail, lots of Skype, lots of e-mail messages, and lots of texting.

One really good technology for lockdown has been the app *Marco Polo*. It is video. The challenges that go out are great: find this, do that, etc. One challenge to the grandkids was to give a news broadcast of what was happening. I have to say my grandson Marcus was the best. He is only eight years old, but he was so serious reporting

the news. Nothing political, just lots of humor.




Baldy's Self-Portrait.

Another great challenge actually came from humble me. I drew a self-portrait and challenged the kids to make their own self-portrait. Oh my, that was a good one!

We certainly had fun during lockdown,



Going for a ride.

and we are closer now. Even if you are a family of one, keep in touch with people you know. They are your family. I doubt there will be a Bald Guy's Fishing School in 2020, but things can change. Stay tuned! God bless your family. 

Around The Province...



The Knights of Columbus sponsored an event called Keep Christ in Christmas. Some of the poster contest winners from the Saint Joseph Mission in Redwood, Texas gathered around Father David Tonary, M.S.F. and Mr. Joe Medina.



The Pro-Life Generation

by Miss Brianna

The March for Life is a remarkable trip for any pro-life person. It is a time to not only be around others who support the pro-life movement, but also to show everyone around us just

exactly what we stand for when we say that we are pro-life. I had the privilege of going on this trip for the past three years, and the trip of January 2020 was an incredible experience.

This year, President Trump addressed the March for Life in person, and he is the first president ever to do so. It brought lots of attention to the March, and it was very exciting to be able to see our president speaking directly to us. After he made a long speech, the March began and thousands of people took to the streets of Washington, DC.

No matter how many times I go, it is



always breathtaking to see just how many people come to march. So, alongside my friends and all of the other parishers, we marched on to protect the lives of those

who cannot do it for themselves.

Everyone who goes to the March for Life has their own reasons for attending. Personally, I go for two main reasons. One, because I believe it is a great chance to grow closer to God and friends through a good cause. When everyone is together, you can feel the excitement.



My second reason for going is because of my connection to the pro-life movement. My parents had me when they were

both very young, and if they were not pro-life, I would not be here today. Going to the March for Life gives me a



chance to stand up for what I believe is right so that other children will be given the chance to grow up and live.

The whole trip is an incredible journey, and it is hard to decide on one memory to choose as my favorite. The March itself is one great part, and as I stated earlier, it gives a chance to see just how many people care about the pro-life movement. Other meaningful moments of the trip are the many talks we get to go to at night. It gives us a sense of peace to hear stories of those deeply involved in the movement, and to gather together to sing songs and celebrate Mass. We are even given the chance to go to Adoration and Confession.

The March for Life will always be special to me and many others because it gives us the chance to stand up for



what we believe in: life from conception to natural death. Whether you go for a personal connection, or you simply believe in the movement, it is an incredible experience. From every-

thing that I have seen and experienced on the trip, I will always be proud to be part of the Pro-Life Generation. +JM+



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saint Frances Cabrini Academy, on the campus of Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri, celebrated the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas, with a special Mass on December 12, 2019.



Our Lady of Guadalupe





LIVING IN UNITY

I Have Four Dreams

by Father F.A. Eka Yuantoro, M.S.F.

Introduction

I Have a Dream is a song that was popular in 1979 by the Swedish pop music band ABBA. In October 2019, Pope Francis held a synod in Rome about areas of concern in the Amazon region. The final document, an apostolic exhortation, is titled *Querida Amazonia*, and it could be called a dream that Pope Francis has for new paths for the Church.

His document covers more than the Amazon River. It covers a large area called the Amazon River Basin, approximately 3.8 million square miles from the Andes Mountains in western South America and across the continent to the Atlantic Ocean. It covers 44% of the land in South America, and it is the largest rainforest in the world. The length of the Amazon River is 4,100 miles.

Leonardo Boff, a Brazilian theologian, calls *Querida Amazonia* a deep reflection and dream of Pope Francis to take care of our home planet. Father Antonio Spadaro, SJ comments that the document is seeking solutions that considers the rights of the original



peoples and defends the cultural richness and natural beauty of the earth. The largest Catholic population in the world is in Brazil, 149 million people. The Church is called to hear the plea of the Amazonian peoples and to exercise with transparency her prophetic mission.

Pope Francis recalls the history of the Amazon, when missionaries came in with their ideas of colonialism that sometimes resulted in suffering and oppression instead of a pure proclamation of the Gospel. He asks forgiveness with a humble heart, and stresses the need to practice and exercise the faith with transparency and without other motives.

The Amazon has many problems: pollution, flooding, illegal logging, gangs, mining, deforestation, water crises caused by excessive irrigation systems, immigration abuses, and a lack of economic and educational opportunities. People are exploited for money. The Church must hear the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth. For example, between 2000-2013, Brazil lost 17.6% of its rainforest.

The Amazon River Basin has more than 30,000 plant species, nearly 2,000 fish species, 60 reptile species, 35 mammal families, and 1,800 bird species. It is a rich area, but with deforestation, mining, and open garden and drainage systems, some plants and animals cannot adapt and die. There must be a new path for the Church that includes an integral ecology with the wisdom of the indigenous people. *Querida Amazonia* makes clear that a plan for effective evangelization must include four dreams.

The Four Dreams

Social Dream. Pope Francis wants the Amazonian people to have the opportunity to make a good living while being in harmony with the earth and one another. To overcome the huge gap between the rich and the poor, people need a sense of community, common institutions, and honest dialogue.

Cultural Dream. In the Amazon, there

are many tribes, nationalities, and over 110 indigenous people in voluntary isolation. There is high tension between globalization of the Amazon and the native people living there. People have their own wisdom of surviving in the jungle with their unique culture, and they should not be forced into the same concept of living, especially a Western lifestyle. The culture and tradition of the indigenous people must be respected.

Ecological Dream. The dynamic of society and culture opens human beings to the reality and the concern of the world today about ecology. Just one example is water. Fresh water is scarce because of deforestation, water used for electricity, pollution, and consumption of water by business industries. A water crisis affects the many natural habitats in or near the Amazon River. Protecting the ecosystem in the Amazon Region is an educational issue for all people to embrace.

Ecclesial Dream. One issue discussed was the possibility of married men being ordained as priests to respond to the needs of the Church community. In the spirit of open dialogue, Pope Francis did make clear that an important part of priestly ordination is celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of God, as Jesus discusses in **Matthew 19:12**.



This and other topics were covered within a process of enculturation, which bring together different aspects of culture, poverty, ecology, and religion. There is always room for improvement in shaping priestly life and ministry, and Pope Francis also appreciates the work of laywomen who dedicate their lives to serving others.

There is much beauty of wisdom and nature in our common home.



How can we encourage dialogue among different people in our world today for effective evangelization? It is not about complaining or being disappointed! Rather, it is about reaching out to

others as Jesus Christ demands in the Gospel of Matthew so that we can *“make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”* (Matthew 28:16-20) **+JM+**

Around The Province...



Weldon Tieken and Marge Place celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in 2020. They received a special blessing from Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F., provincial superior of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, during Mass at Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri.



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Your gift to the Missionaries of the Holy Family is tax deductible.

God bless your family! +JMJ+



PROFILE IN SERVICE: #1

Well done, good and faithful servant!



Reverend James E. Wuerth, M.S.F.
March 6, 1942 – March 7, 2020

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Father Jim entered eternal life on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at the age of 78. He was the beloved son of the late Eddie Paul and Mary Ruth Wuerth.

Left to cherish his memory are his siblings Ruth Ann Wuerth, Lucille Wuerth Tangel, Mary Frances Wuerth Wright (Jerry), Bob Wuerth (Nancy), Joe Paul Wuerth (Maria), and Bill Wuerth; and 54 nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Family and parish life were very important to Father Jim. From a young age, Father Jim said that he felt a tug toward the priesthood. "I had it in my mind ever since I was a little boy, God willing. Even through the ups and

downs, the idea of serving as a priest never left me," he said.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, he attended Holy Family Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri. On June 13, 1971, he was ordained a Priest of Jesus Christ at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Louisville.

As a priest in the religious community of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, Father Jim served in the dioceses of Corpus Christi and Brownsville, and in the archdioceses of Los Angeles, San Antonio, Louisville, and Saint Louis. In Los Angeles, he served as a hospice chaplain.

A talented musician, Father Jim loved liturgical music and parish ministry, and he often played the organ and

piano and led church choirs.


His knowledge of Spanish helped him in his service in Texas. He told *The Record*, the archdiocesan newspaper in Louisville, that his work along the Texas-Mexico border bore witness to the suffering of immigrant families. "We all have the dignity of God, not by nature of our government, but by the nature of who we are as sons and daughters of Christ," he said.

In Saint Louis, Father Jim taught courses in philosophy, theology, and liturgy at Holy Family Seminary, and he served his religious community in a variety of leadership roles. He served as pastor of Saint Wenceslaus Parish from 2001 - 2016 before he retired. He was very proud of Saint Frances Cabrini Academy, the consolidated school on the parish campus, with students from

16 different countries.

He lived at Nazareth Home in Louisville at the time of his death. Above all, Father Jim will be remembered as a holy priest. Dearly missed by many, people often say, "He was the holiest priest we ever met."

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Contributions in memory of Father Jim are greatly appreciated. Please mail your gift to the Missionaries of the Holy Family at 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118. Donations can also be received through our website at www.msf-america.org. Thank you and God bless your family! 

Pieta Votive Candles



This beautiful Pieta statue is in Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri, and in the rectory are the offices of the North American Province of the Missionaries of the Holy Family. If you would like a 6-day votive candle lit for your family and your intentions, contact us at 1-888-484-9945 or mprater@msf-america.org. Candles burn in a rack to the right of the statue. (The suggested donation is \$7.00.) Thank you and may God bless you.



PROFILE IN SERVICE: #2

Well done, good and faithful servant!



Reverend Arthur W. Ockwood, M.S.F.
April 28, 1928 – March 27, 2020

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Father Art entered eternal life on Friday, March 27, 2020, at the age of 91. He was born April 28, 1928 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to the late Thomas and Josephine (Kolatski) Ockwood.

He entered Holy Family Seminary in 1951 in Saint Louis, Missouri. He made his First Profession of Vows with the Missionaries of the Holy Family on August 15, 1954. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1959 at Kenrick Seminary in Saint Louis.

For three years, he served as a teacher at Holy Family Seminary. He served as associate pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Corpus Christi, Texas. Later, he served as pastor at Saint James Church in

Beeville, Texas. For three years, he was rector of our seminary.


Father Art was the Canadian Project Administrator in 1975, and he established our Holy Family House in Ottawa, Ontario in Canada. He was novice master in North Gower, Ontario. He also served as provincial superior for three years, beginning in 1987. Likewise, he served as pastor in several parishes in the Archdiocese of Ottawa.

Father Art loved dogs! He always referred to his pet as "my little doggie." He had dual citizenship in the United States and Canada. Upon retiring, Father Art took up residence at Padua Place Nursing Home in San Antonio, Texas.

He will always be remembered as a quiet man, humble and kind. He had many friends in Canada and the USA who enjoyed his gentle nature. On occasion, a friend would refer to him as "King Arthur," and Father Art would just smile.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen. May his soul, and the souls of

all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Contributions in memory of Father Art are greatly appreciated. Please mail your gift to the Missionaries of the Holy Family at 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118. Donations can also be received through our website at www.msf-america.org. Thank you and God bless your family! 

Thank You & God Bless You to everyone who made a financial gift to date in 2020. We, the priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, extend our deep gratitude to all our benefactors. You are remembered in our prayers.

Around The Province...



Board Meeting 2020 for the Guadalupanas at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seguin, Texas.



PROFILE IN SERVICE: #3

Well done, good and faithful servant!



Reverend Richard G. Oberstar, M.S.F.
June 28, 1929 – April 11, 2020

Fortified with the sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Father Richard entered eternal life on Holy Saturday, April 11, 2020, at the age of 90. He was born June 28, 1929 in Eveleth, Minnesota to Fred Oberstar and Angeline (Mooster) Oberstar. He had one brother and four sisters.

He enrolled in Holy Family Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri in 1956. He entered the novitiate and made his first profession of vows on August 15, 1959. He was ordained to the priesthood on April 3, 1965, at Saint Louis Priory Church in Saint Louis.

Father Richard was the last Missionary of the Holy Family to serve in the missions in Mexico. He did so immediately after his ordination in the territory of Coahuila, Mexico.

He also served in the following parishes in Texas: Saint Cecilia in Los Fresnos, Saint Joseph in Donna, Our Lady of Victory in Beeville, Sacred Heart in Gonzales, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in New Braunfels.


In Minnesota, he served in the parishes of Holy Family in Hillman and Saint Mathias in Fort Ripley. Father Richard's last assignment was at Saint Mathias where he was the priest in residence. It was in Minnesota where he celebrated his 50th year of ordination in 2015.

Father Richard loved football! He was a big fan of the Minnesota Vikings, and he was a starting lineman for the Hibbing Community College football team. He was also an Army and Navy veteran of the United States Armed Forces and a Fourth Degree member of

the Knights of Columbus.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Contributions in memory of Father

Richard are greatly appreciated. Please mail your gift to the Missionaries of the Holy Family at 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118. Donations can also be received through our website at www.msf-america.org. Thank you and God bless your family! 

Around The Province...



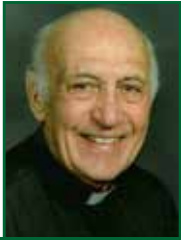
Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Holy Week 2020 services were live streamed for parishioners to watch and participate. Father Francois Rakotovoavy, M.S.F., pastor at Holy Family Church in New Braunfels, Texas, led everyone in daily Mass and prayer.



Mr. Dominic Alvarez, next to the livestream equipment, provided music for the worship services.

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Men of God: Priests Forever



Fr. Leo Gariazzo, M.S.F.
55 years



Fr. Francois Rakotoavoavy, M.S.F.
20 years



Fr. Jim Beegan, M.S.F.
20 years

In this Year of Our Lord 2020, three priests of the Missionaries of the Holy Family are celebrating anniversaries of their ordination.

We thank God for our priests and brothers, and we beseech Him to send us many more.

If you would like to send a Tribute Gift in honor of one or more of these Men of God, please send it to 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412.

Thank you and God bless your family!

Do You Want More Holy Priests?

Please join the *Holy Family Circle* and help foster vocations to the priesthood! Find your level of joyful giving below, complete the form, and mail it or a copy to 3014 Oregon Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118.

Giving Level	Associate..... up to \$49 per month	Patriarch/Matriarch
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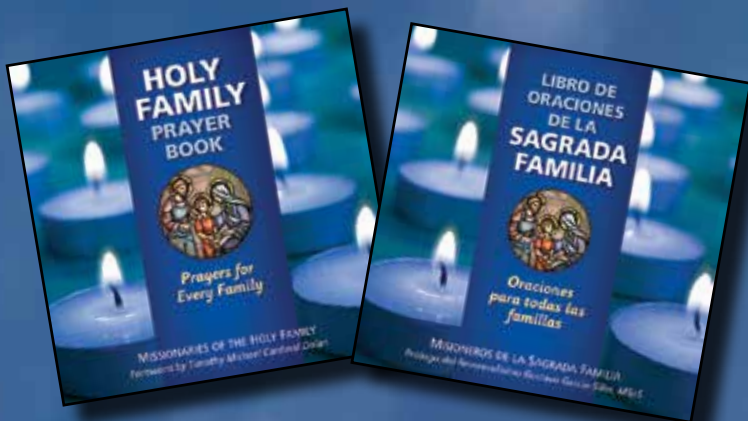
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Around The Province...



Deacon George Miller turned 90 years young on March 14, 2020. He is still active at Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri. A marine and veteran of the Korean War, Deacon George is the associate director of the Holy Family Prayer Association for the Missionaries of the Holy Family. You can't keep a good man down!



Save The Date

Gather the family together for the 18th Annual World-wide Eucharistic & Marian Holy Hour on First Friday, October 2, 2020, the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels. For more information, please contact Connie Schneider at connieschneider@earthlink.net or (651) 776-0363. Website: www.childrenoftheeucharist.org.



Missionaries of the
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on the occasion of _____

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Mail this enrollment to: 3014 Oregon Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412

Your gift to the Missionaries of the Holy Family is tax deductible.

*Perpetual Mass Enrollments are available immediately at our website,
www.MSF-America.org. You can also call our office at 1-888-484-9945.*

*Who is this priest of the
Missionaries of the Holy Family?
Hint: see page 6.*



Missionaries of the
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