

# Opus Christi



# Salvatoris Mundi

*Missionary Servants of the Poor*



*Instead of complaining in these difficult times about what the pandemic prevents us from doing, let us do something for someone who has less: not the umpteenth gift for ourselves and our friends, but for a person in need whom no one thinks of! And another piece of advice: in order for Jesus to be born in us, let us prepare our hearts, let us go to pray, let us not let ourselves be swept up by consumerism. "Ah, I have to buy present. I must do this and that". That frenzy of doing things, more and more. It is Jesus that is important.*

(Pope Francis, Angelus Talk, December 20, 2020)

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## Important Notice

Don't ever tire of praying for priests, especially in these times in which it seems that all the powers of evil have descended on the earth, preying particularly upon the sacred ministers of the Lord.

Pray that they remain faithful, that they be holy, that they be, in short, nothing more (and nothing less) than what they ought to be:

*Alter Christus.*

Accompany the Priests and Deacons of the Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World with your prayers!

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## Andean Mission “Alone” With God

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*Deacon Deyvid Vargas, msp (Colombian)*

Those who know us will surely be very familiar with Father Giovanni's book about the life of the Missionary Servants of the Poor entitled *On Mission with God in the Andes*. What is possibly unknown by many is a letter of Father Giovanni's from 2012 in which he tells of the difficulties of the mission and of the beginnings of the Movement. In this letter Father Giovanni expresses the desire that he would have liked his book to be titled *On Mission **Alone** with God in the Andes*.

I think this letter of Father Giovanni's is very illuminating. The primary reason he wanted to title his book *On Mission **Alone** with God in the Andes* was to tell us about the loneliness which enveloped him in founding the Movement. Many people who supported him later abandoned him and wanted him to abandon the Imitation of Christ as the rule of life for the Missionary Servants of the Poor. In order to defend the charism of the Movement he remained

alone in the hands of God. It seems to me that the title *On Mission **Alone** with God in the Andes* is a complete life plan and a synthesis of what should be our missionary work among the poor.

A real missionary is an envoy and every envoy tacitly includes He Who sends us and without Whom no one can be sent. And we, by whom are we sent? We are sent by the one Who said, "It is not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain" (John 15:16).

Without God, the mission makes no sense. Without God, our mission is no longer a mission but simply social work, a work like any NGO where you give a little of your time but don't give your whole life. In in the Church, even religious, priests, nuns, or committed laypeople could be doing mission without God. How is this possible? It happens more frequently than we think.

This can happen when we value work above being, action above prayer, when we become involved in activism in which we try to shine, dimming the freshness and beauty of the living Gospel Who is Jesus Christ.

Only Christ can satisfy the hunger of the poor. Only Christ can reveal the true dignity of the poor. Only Christ can heal the wounded hearts of all poor children. Though in His profound humility, Christ wants to use us.

To sum up, either there is a “*Mission with God Alone in the Andes*” or there is no

mission at all. When I arrived in Peru, I fell in love with the charism of the Missionary Servants of the Poor because they place Jesus in the Eucharist as the center of the mission. That is because, truly, He is the real Evangelizer. He is the Lord of hearts. We can preach beautiful sermons, carry out beautiful apostolates, have great ideas, but without Christ it is only noise. “If I have not love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal” (1Cor 13:1). Perhaps we could bring a little joy to those who suffer, but we will not transform their lives, something that we can only do if we have constant contact with the supernatural, if we love to spend time with Jesus.



*The Missionary Servants of the Poor Priests and Brothers bring the Word of God and hope to the poor people in the Andes*



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I am 29 years old and was ordained a deacon not long ago. I would like to invite young people to give their whole lives to the service of the Gospel because it is worth everything. Today more than ever we young people are thirsty for the Definitive, the Absolute, for what is Eternal. So let's put aside Tik-Tok and set out on this adventure with God **alone**, with our Lord **alone** and our mother the Blessed Virgin Mary.

I extend this invitation to all the monasteries that support us, to all the cloistered monks and nuns who perhaps

have little or big problems and doubts about their vocations. The time has come to grow in our contemplative life. The more contemplatives there are the more mission and holy priests and religious there will be. The more prayer, the more beauty in the world.

I thank everyone for your prayers and ask you not to stop praying for the missionaries “on the ground” giving our lives for our brothers.

God bless you.



*Orphaned and abandoned children cared for by the MSP Sisters at the Saint Teresa of Jesus Home in Cuzco, Peru.*

# MISSIONARY SISTERS SERVANTS OF THE POOR



Have you asked *yourself*  
if God is *calling* you to be  
a *Missionary* among the  
*most needy*?



(For more information, fill out the form on page 20)

## MISSIONARY SISTERS SERVANTS OF THE POOR



### Christmas, The Beginning of Evangelization

*Sr. María Brígida, msp*

*“When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Gal. 4:4)*

The mission began on a December 25 in a cave in Bethlehem near the city of Jerusalem. The first to hear of it were a woman called Mary, a man named Joseph, and some humble shepherds who spent the night outdoors.

On Christmas, Jesus, the Son of God, began his evangelizing mission by proclaiming salvation to the poor. God shows his preference for the poor and simple. They are the first to receive his good news. “Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great

fear. The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord’” (Luke 2:8-11).

The shepherds were the first strangers who saw the newborn Jesus. Seeing him, the hearts of these poor men were filled with joy and they proclaimed to everyone what they had seen.

*God’s heart has a special place for the poor, so much so that he himself “became poor” (2 Cor 8:9)... The Savior was born in a manger, in the midst of animals, like children of poor families;... he was raised*

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*in a home of ordinary workers and worked with his own hands to earn his bread. When he began to preach the Kingdom, crowds of the dispossessed followed him,... he made himself one of them: "I was hungry and you gave me food to eat", and he taught them that mercy towards all of these is the key to heaven (cf. Mt 25:5ff) (Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii gaudium, no. 197).*

Those of us today must be filled with the same joy so as to be able to announce Christ to others, to the poor, to those who have nothing, to the most vulnerable who are children, to those who don't believe in God, and to those who feel far from Him.

*Every moment must be for us a continual and true Christmas because, what use is it knowing Jesus was born more than 2,000 years ago if he isn't born in our heart? We would be lost in aeternum, eternally (Father Giovanni Salerno, msp).*

*All of us are called to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord, who despite our imperfections offers us his closeness, his word and his strength, and gives meaning to our lives. In your heart you know that it is not the same to live without him; what you have come to realize, what has helped you to live and given you hope, is what you also need to communicate to others (Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii gaudium, no. 121).*

The Gospel must be announced beginning with Christmas. A way of doing so is kissing an image of the Child Jesus in the manger.

I remember one Christmas I spent in Guadalajara, Mexico. We had an apostolate of visiting the sick, especially the elderly, and bringing Holy Communion every Sunday as most of them couldn't walk and were lonely. These poor whom our Lord loves so much suffered much from not being able to go to Mass on Sunday and receive the Holy Eucharist whenever they wanted. They had been active, practicing Catholics since their youth. We were especially attentive to them. That year Christmas fell on a Thursday and, as we couldn't bring communion, we brought them a statue of the "Child God," as they call the Child Jesus. On presenting them with the statue, their hearts were filled with emotion, their faces lit up with great joy and when they kissed the statue of the Child Jesus, they washed it with their tears and wiped it with their gray hair like Mary Magdalene in the Gospel when she washed the feet of Jesus with her tears and dried them with her hair. How their eyes shined when they said that the Child God Himself had come to visit them in their humble home because they couldn't go to see Him in His House. I will never forget those visits!

God became little and humble and He came to visit them, His poor and sick, so that they wouldn't feel so alone. The glory of God that covered the shepherds with His light in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve is called to illuminate all human reality and all creation. Then I understood something of how great the simplicity of the mystery of Christmas is and why God chooses the poor and simple.





*The orphaned, abandoned, and sick children that come to our Saint Teresa of Jesus Home in Cuzco and already living in some way the wonder that is Christmas through the care and protection that they receive from the MSP Sisters*

Christmas is when a child smiles, when a poor person gives to someone who needs it more. Christmas is when a sick person accepts his suffering for the love of Him. It is the feast of humility and simplicity.

At the end of the visit we sang a Christmas carol to the newborn Jesus and said a prayer. Nothing more was needed. He filled up everything. They taught me that God is simple and is ready to be born in those hearts that seek Him with sincerity and simplicity.

Seeing these poor people so happy, I gave thanks to God for having been born poor like them and like me, because He chose us from among many to be His favorites. Now I always pray that He never allows us to be parted from Him.

Let's not fill our heads with thoughts of God! Much better to fill them with God Himself! You don't need many things to evangelize. One thing only you need: to be humble and simple like Jesus in the manger! Let us proclaim the Gospel with the joy and simplicity of Christmas!



*Sr. Brígida (standing in the center) with her Sisters of the community in Ilo-Moquegua, Peru*

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# CHRONICLE

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## CHRONICLE OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS AT THE MOTHER HOUSE IN CUZCO

+ During the last months the Sisters have gone to various villages in the High Cordillera to teach catechism, make home visits, and pray with families, always taking the strictest sanitary precautions. People have participated in the prayers with more enthusiasm than before. It is nice to see their response to the call of God. They are thirsty for Him. Their attitude raises in the Sisters the desire to make them know even better the fountain that will satisfy their thirst: Christ.

+ In the next few months, the children of the Saint Teresa of Jesus Home will be on vacation from school and the Sisters will be organizing different activities for them such as classes on cooking, drawing, crafts, outings, etc. for the healthy as well as the sick children. The children who are struggling in school will receive tutoring.



*The Missionary Servants of the Poor Sisters care for the orphaned, abandoned, and sick children at the Saint Teresa of Jesus Home in Cuzco, Peru with much love and surrender.*





*The MSP Sisters do all sorts of activities with the girls who live at the Saint Teresa of Jesus Home.*

+ A group of Sister will go on mission to some villages in the High Cordillera beyond the usual villages we visit to distribute blankets against the severe cold they experience in the mountains and as

a symbol of the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary. In addition, they will use this occasion to teach catechism according to the needs of each village.

*The MSP Sisters continue going on mission to the distant villages bringing them the Word of God, always taking sanitary precautions.*





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## MISSION OF THE SISTERS IN GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

+ By the grace of God, we were able to put on the First Day of Reflection for women 15-35 years old entitled “Women after the Heart of Jesus” in which they highlighted the loving intervention of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in their lives. The day of reflection consisted of Eucharistic Adoration, reflections, group sharing, the Holy Rosary, and the testimony of Guillermo and Francis Salazar, msp. The participants were very grateful and happy for this opportunity to encounter Jesus in their lives. The Missionary of the Poor Sisters also held their First Vocational Retreat in order to awaken in a vocation to the service of God and a commitment as Missionary Servants of the Poor among the participants so they

might discover a meaning to their lives and their mission in the world. May God raise up vocations among them so that they may continue consoling, teaching, and assisting the poor.

+ The Missionary Servants of the Poor Sisters continue visiting families in the parish.

+ In the next few months, God willing, we will invite some of the girls from the oratory to participate in some missions to encourage in them a desire to evangelize, inspiring in them solidarity and generosity especially to the most needy.



*The MSP Sisters visiting the sick who live alone in Guadalajara, Mexico*

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## MISSION OF THE SISTERS IN CUSIBAMBA, PERU

+ This year the Blessed Imelda Student Residence took in 14 girls. Some of them finished their preparation for Baptism and First Holy communion and, by the grace of God, were able to receive these sacraments.

+ We continued our home visits in the missions of Huayllay and Totora always

taking precautions against Covid-19. On past visits we've encountered families who for various reasons had doubts about the Faith and wanted to leave Catholicism but after instruction by the Sisters their faith was strengthened and their doubts resolved.



*Girls who live at the house of the MSP Sisters in the village of Cusibamba, Cuzco, Peru.*

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## MISSION OF THE SISTERS IN PUNACANCHA, PERU

+ Twenty-one children attend the Divine Mercy Assistance Center. Since a few months ago, children from two Protestant families have begun to attend. They have participated with much interest in learning the Faith. They want to receive the sacraments.

+ The Sisters continue their visits to families in Kirkas and Cochapata. We have observed there the children's and teenager's addiction to the internet and

social media which is harmful to their lives. Most of them don't use discretion and waste their time on games, movies, pornography, and foreign ideologies. There is a great need to help them and redirect them to the way of the Lord.

+ During the next school vacation the Sisters will continue with catechism for the sacraments of initiation and will organize workshops for theater, music, and singing for the children.



*The MSP Sisters helping children with their studies in the village of Punacancha, Cuzco, Peru.*

## MISSION OF THE SISTERS IN RUMICHACA, PERU

+The main work of this community is to offer hospitality to the Sisters and children from the Saint Teresa of Jesus Home for retreats and days of rest.

+ Our normal apostolate (home visits, catechizing children, etc.) was interrupted by the pandemic but we continued strengthening families through prayer and spiritual help through social media. For many families, these past months have been very difficult because they lost jobs and loved ones. The Sisters helped them especially with food brought from

the center in Andahuaylillas, always following sanitary precautions.

+We were finally able to attend Mass in person and we encouraged everyone to attend and be fed on the Word of God and the Eucharist.

+The children of the Saint Dominic Savio Oratory continue to attend virtually for preparation to receive the sacraments in the next few months when we will also, God willing, begin oratory activities in person.



*Young people being prepared to receive the sacrament of Confirmation thanks to the MSP Sisters in Rumichaca, Cuzco, Peru.*



# Lay people

## Most important help for missionaries

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
 during all of \_\_\_\_\_, commit myself to remain united to you in order to give thanks to God for this new charism of the Church given to the Missionary Servants of the Poor.

My participation will be as follows:

Form of offering	Frequency			
	Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
Holy Mass				
Eucharistic Adoration				
Holy Rosary				

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*“The living Word of God needs to be preached with passion and joy through Christian witness, so as to break down even the highest walls that isolate and exclude. It is time for you, men and women engaged in the world of culture, politics, industry...I encourage you to live your own vocation immersed in the world, listening, with God and with the Church, to the heartbeat of your contemporaries, of the people.”*

*(Pope Francis. Message to the President of the Spanish Episcopal Conference on the Occasion of the National Congress of the Laity. Madrid, February 14, 2020)*

This Spiritual Offering may be sent to our address in Cuzco, Peru. There it will be placed at the feet of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the chapel "Holy Mary Mother of the Poor", in the City of the Boys (Andahuaylillas, Cuzco - Peru).

# How can I help the poor?



- Offering your sacrifices and prayers, together with your faithfulness to the Gospel and the Pope, so that each Missionary Servant of the Poor may be the living presence of Jesus among the poor.
- Echoing the cry of the poor by distributing to your friends and family this newsletter and all of our material (which you may request for free) as well as by organizing meetings at which one of missionaries may teach people about our mission.
- Sending us Mass intentions
- By feeding one of the students of our school for a year = \$415
- Paying for the annual educational expenses for one of our children = \$1,000
- By remembering the Missionary Servants of the Poor in your will.

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For those who wish to send us donations or a bank transfer  
(monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, annual)

**[www.msptm.com](http://www.msptm.com)**

You can also send us a check:

**Friends of the Missionary Servants of the Poor**  
**5800 W Monastery Road**  
**Hulbert, Ok 74441**



*Thanks to  
your help, one  
more child can  
befed in our  
houses of  
Cusco, Perú*

*Thank you for all that you do*



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# If a missionary flame burns within you, don't let it go out. You are called to feed it!

Our missionary communities of priests and brothers, contemplatives, young laymen, sisters, and married couples will help you on this journey.

\*If you are a young person wishing to explore a vocation for at least a year living in mission territory and sharing the community life of the Missionary Servants of the Poor and disposed to discern what mission God is calling you to in the church...the poor await you.

\*If you feel called to follow a path of consecration, transforming your whole life into service to the poorest as a missionary brother or sister...the poor await you.

\*If you are a married couple who, with their children, have decided to open your family to

the poor as a "domestic missionary church"...the poor await you.

\*If you are a layperson or religious who wants to make an official public commitment of personal conversion and of prayer to the Institute of the Missionary Servants of the Poor in a commitment ceremony as an oblate...the poor await you.

\*If you would like to personally help in your diocese or form a Support Group of the Missionary Servants of the Poor with the aim of deepening and spreading our charism, fostering recollection, continuous conversion, spiritual freedom of each and every one of its members, and in this way go to others with enthusiasm and generosity, full of the love of God...contact us.

If you want to offer your prayer and sufferings for the Missionary Servants of the Poor but without a binding commitment...contact us.

☐ Youth in search of a vocation

☐ Missionary Brother

☐ Missionary Sister

☐ Married Missionary

☐ Oblate

☐ Associate/Support Group

Name .....

Street .....

City ..... State .....

Postal Code ..... Country .....

Telephone ..... Occupation .....

Age ..... Level of Education .....

Email .....

**Seminarians, please mail  
your request to:**

House of Priestly Formation  
Holy Mary Mother of the Poor  
Carretera Mazarambroz S/N  
45110 Ajofrín (Toledo)  
Spain  
seminario.msp@gmail.com

**All others, please send this form to  
the following address:**

Friends of the Missionary Servants  
of the Poor Foundation  
5800 West Monastery Road  
Hulbert, OK 74441 - USA  
616-691-7909  
info.ocsm@gmail.com



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ORATION  
PRAYER OF SAINT THERESE  
FOR MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD

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*Jesus,*  
*You love children.*  
*I thank you for making*  
*Saint Therese of the Child Jesus*  
*a great missionary though she never left home.*  
*I pray that you teach us*  
*to love everyone*  
*like You want us to.*  
*Lord,*  
*help us to be missionaries*  
*like little Therese,*  
*witnessing to You through our conduct*  
*and our words.*

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## HISTORY OF THE EVANGELIZATION OF PERU (II)

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*Fr. Paolo Giandinoto, msp (Italian)*

Though the first explorers thought they had reached the Indies on October 12, 1492, they had actually landed in what is now the Bahamas which the Taino natives called Guanahani and which Christopher Columbus named San Salvador in honor and gratitude to the Lord for the blessing of this great discovery.

The people of America were called Indians because at first the Spaniards believed that this land was a continuation of the Asian continent so they called it the West Indies. Only later in 1499 did Amérigo Vesputio discover that it was a new continent, separate from the Indies in Asia, a continent that became known as America in honor of that Italian from Florence.

Christopher Columbus was also the first discoverer of the goodness of the Indians. In fact, on his first voyage he was ecstatic at all he was discovering and, on arriving in current day Santo Domingo, he told the Catholic Kings about his esteem for the Indians, “Know, Your Highnesses, that there are no better or gentler people in the world. It will give you great joy to know that they will soon be Christians and they have been instructed in the good customs of your kingdom and a better people there cannot be on earth.”

On another occasion, on running his ship aground on a sandbar, the Admiral was confirmed in his first impression as the Indians came in canoes with their king to help them as much as they could.

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“He cried with all his people. They are a loving people and without greed and ready to do anything. I affirm to Your Highnesses that I believe there are no better people or land in the world. They love their neighbors as themselves and have the softest speech in the world, gentle, and always laughing. They go naked, men and women, as when they were born, but you should know that they have good customs. The king is very wonderful and continent in a certain way that is a pleasure to see. They have good memories and want to see everything and ask what everything is and what it’s for.”

Perhaps there has never been such an important meeting between such different people as the Spanish discovery of America. A writer describes the effect

of this unprecedented meeting as being like aliens visiting our earth from a different planet.

After Columbus’ return from America and before his second voyage, the Spanish Kings asked Pope Alexander VI for bulls to legitimize their presence in the new lands. In these bulls of 1493 the Pope conceded sovereignty over these newly discovered lands and established rules for them to follow.

The most important bull was of June 25, 1493, *Piis fidelium*, which obligated the Spanish Crown to send missionaries to evangelize those lands. Later, other norms were established granting sovereignty to other colonizing nations, especially Portugal.

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# In Praise of Contemplatives

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Would you like to join our Contemplative Servants of the Poor who dedicate most of their day to prayer and Eucharistic adoration, and who also dedicate numerous hours to manual Labour in order to help the poor?

*You have chosen, or more exactly, Christ has chosen you, to live His Easter Mystery with Him in time and space. May all that you are, everything you do each day, be it the Office recited or sung, the celebration of the Eucharist, the work done in your cell or in community, respect for the cloister and silence, the voluntary or imposed mortification of the rule, be taken on, sanctified, and used by Christ for the world's redemption.*



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Like Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, you too can offer your contemplative life to God to benefit the neediest.

I, .....

from the Monastery of: .....

Address: .....

City: .....

Country: .....

commit myself to live the obedience and poverty of my surrender to God in my monastery for the Missionary Servants of the Poor, so that the Kingdom of God may come to the poorest.

Date

Signature



## MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR



“Being rich,  
he became  
poor for us”

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*Dcn. Guido Anthony Huaman Huillca, msp (Peruvian)*

I will begin with the words of Saint Paul, “For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich” (2Cor 8:9). The Apostle was speaking to the Christians in Corinth to encourage them to be generous and to help the faithful in Jerusalem who were needy.

But we have to start with the grace of Christ as Scripture says. Because you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Saint Paul teaches a model, the best example, where he gives a lesson of what to give by grace, knowing that Christ doesn’t reveal himself through power and riches but through weakness and poverty. For love he became poor. The expression “was made poor” comes from the Greek

“ptojeúo” which means “to be a beggar, indigent and figuratively, to be made poor.” It’s in this context that Saint Paul explains how Christ humbled himself, divested himself, having all power, authority, sovereignty, glory, honor, and majesty, He left His place with God and, in obedience to the Father took the form of a man, dying on the cross in a horrible manner to take the place we merited so that we with His poverty were enriched. The riches that Saint Paul teaches here has nothing to do with the material but speaks of spiritual riches and blessings. He speaks of being rich with salvation, pardon, joy, peace, glory, and honor. He talks about being co-heirs with Christ.

What a great mystery is the incarnation of God! The reason for this is divine love, a love that is grace and that doesn't hesitate in giving Himself and sacrificing Himself for the creatures He loves. Jesus doesn't make Himself poor to be poor, says Saint Paul, but "to enrich you by His poverty."

What, then, is the poverty with which Jesus frees us and enriches us?

The poverty of Christ with which He enriches us consists in the fact that he became flesh, burdened with our weaknesses and our sins, teaching us about the infinite mercy of God. The poverty of Christ is the greatest treasure. The treasure of Jesus is unlimited trust in God the Father, it is in commending Himself to God at each moment, always seeking His will and glory alone.

The treasure of Jesus is rooted in His being the Son. His unique relation to the Father is the sovereign prerogative of this poor Messiah. When Jesus invites us to take upon us His "light yoke," he invites us to enrich ourselves with this "rich poverty."

God became a child among us, embracing the poverty of His parents and rejecting the riches and power of men. To be a small child in the arms of the two most beloved persons in all creation, Joseph and Mary, is a great treasure, a beautiful and loving family, the most precious treasure that a person can have. On that night in Bethlehem, the mystery of the love of God become flesh in Jesus, the tenderness of a child and the celestial omnipotence became one in the person of the Son of God.



*The people of the Andes follow the procession of the Holy Eucharist with respect and devotion.*

Material misery is what we usually call poverty and affects whoever lives in that condition which isn't worthy of the human person who is deprived of their fundamental rights and necessary goods like food, water, health, work, and the chance to advance. Faced with this misery, the Church offers its service through its missionaries to respond to the needs and heal the wounds that disfigure the faces of the poor. We see the face of Christ in the poor. By loving and helping the poor we love and serve Christ.

When power, luxury, and money become idols, they oppose the just distribution of wealth. Consciences must be converted to true justice, equality, sobriety, and sharing.

No less important is moral misery which turns people into slaves of sin. How many people live in anguish because one of its members, frequently a teenager, is addicted to alcohol, drugs, gambling, or pornography! How many people have lost meaning in life and hope in the future! All this because they haven't discovered the great love that God has for them. They haven't experienced that infinite love and mercy that God has for his children. Such a love it is that He didn't mind leaving His glory to come and rescue us from death.

This form of misery always accompanies spiritual misery which afflicts us when we distance ourselves from God and reject His love. If we think we don't need God, Who in Christ reaches out His hand to us, because we think that we can take care of ourselves, we put ourselves on a road to disaster. God is the only One Who truly saves and frees us.

We Missionary Servants of the Poor seek to follow the example of Christ by repairing this spiritual misery which is so prevalent in the world. We are among the poor so that they may learn that Christ came for them especially and to teach them also that Christ was poor like us. So the Missionary Servant of the Poor must be a witness to the resurrection. This means not avoiding the cross like many think, but to the contrary, embracing the cross, not as a burden but as the bridge that leads us to Wisdom, as the *Imitation of Christ* (our rule) says, "he is truly wise who does the will of God, and not his own." Carrying the cross doesn't mean sadness but joy, knowing that in it is my salvation. "Christ's whole life was cross and martyrdom and, you seek for rest and pleasure? You are wrong if you seek anything but suffering for Christ" (*Imitation of Christ*).



*MSP Priests and Brothers bringing the Word of God to the villages of the High Codillera*

The Servants of the Poor fully embrace the teaching of the Church and we are convinced that the material lack of the poor is a consequence of their spiritual misery so we try to increase the presence of Christ in the Eucharist among the poor and at the same time transform ourselves into shared bread among them. We Servants of the Poor know that the greatest poverty and misery isn't the lack of material goods but the lack of the knowledge of Christ.

Poverty has its roots in sin and the solution is for Christ to reign in our hearts, that is, first transform our own hearts so that we may be able to change the hearts of others.

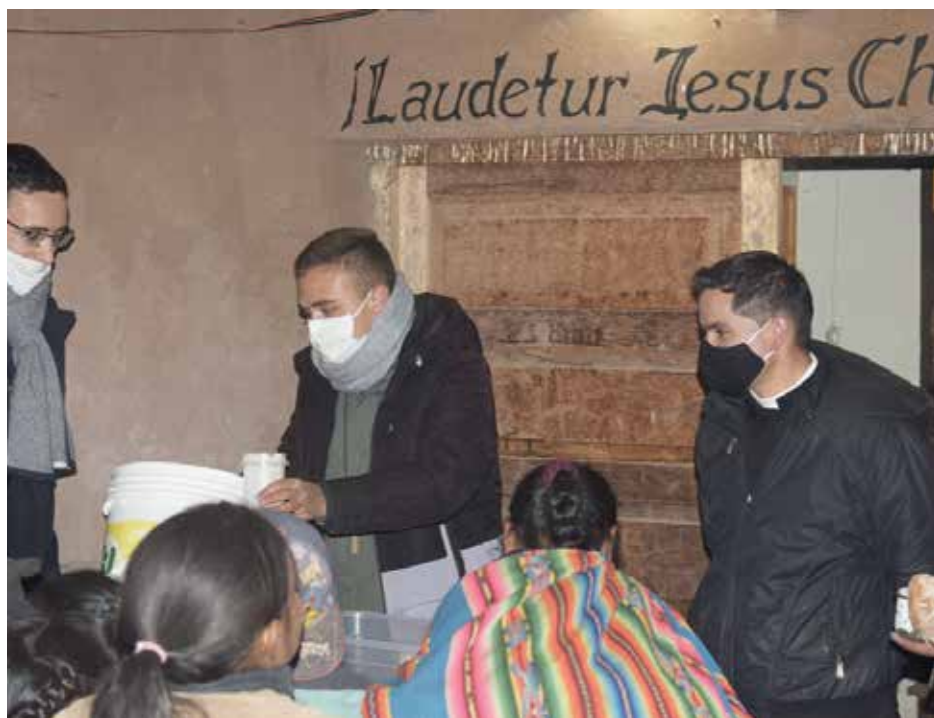
We are all poor and the poorest among the poor are those who don't know God.

The true Christian is he who surrenders to the will of God unconditionally. The most accomplished model of poverty is Mary when she says, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). Detachment and abandonment are the wings of every Christian with which one flies to God, so our concern is to give glory to the Lord Jesus.

We should all ask ourselves how we can make room for poverty in our life. First, helping the poor to relieve their enforced poverty, poverty which destroys them. Second, loving the poor which is a virtue that helps us to detach ourselves from the materials goods so they don't take over our souls.

*The families of the Andean villages welcome our MSP Priests with much joy.*





*The MSP Priests and Brothers share a hot meal after catechizing the villagers.*

Jesus had a special love for the poor whom He praised in the Sermon on the Mount and in His Parable of the Final Judgment to the point that He said our salvation depends on loving and sharing with the poor and needy.

The follower of Christ, the Christian, is called to be poor in spirit as a condition of true discipleship. Poverty of spirit implies a rejection of material things, a simple style of living, and solidarity with the poor. It implies, furthermore, the grace of recognizing Jesus in the poor, those that suffer and those abandoned because of injustice, violence, and hate. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tell us, “Our Lord warns us that we will

be separated from Him if we fail to help the grave needs of the poor and the little ones who are his brothers” (CCC 1033).

You sometimes hear it said that the treasure of the Church are the poor. “It will not be Saint Peter who opens the doors of heaven to you. It will be Jesus present in the poor whom you helped.” We all know the words of Jesus, “I was hungry and you gave me to eat, thirsty and you gave me to drink. And they will ask Him, But when, Lord, did we see you hungry or thirsty and we helped you? And He will answer, ‘I assure you that what you did for the least of my brothers you do for me’” (Mt 25:34-40).





## *S.O.S. to young people*

*Do not deprive your youth of Jesus' friendship. You will be able to feel him at your side not only when you pray, but at every moment. Try to look for him, and you will have the beautiful experience of seeing that he is always at your side. That is what the disciples of Emmaus experienced.*

*(Pope Francis. Apostolic Exhortation Christus vivit, 156).*



*With the Missionary Servants of the Poor,  
you can achieve this ideal – through a life of deep prayer  
and generous self-giving to so many brothers  
who suffer all types of marginalisation.*

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# CHRONICLE

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## THE CITY OF BOYS

Our missionary work continues during this last month of the year. The school year ends in the middle of the month for the students of our Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto School. This year, like last, was affected by Covid-19 which prevented classes in person. However, during the last week we were able to have some semi in-person classes with several students at our school. This gave us great joy though we couldn't have the contact and closeness that we would have liked due to the protocols. But it was exciting to be able to be in classrooms again. So with simple though

meaningful acts we end the school year with the hope that the coming year will be relatively normal.

In our Saint Tarcisius Home this month we have several particular celebrations because, in addition to the birthday of our beloved Child Jesus, many of the boys we serve also have birthdays in December. This is a chance to show our love to each boy, preparing something special for the birthday of each of them. In addition to these, we celebrate 60 years of priesthood of our dear founder Father Giovanni Salerno.

*Children of the Saint Tarcisius Home studying under the guidance of the Brother in charge at the City of Boys in Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru.*



The boys who live at the Saints Justo and Pastor Residence will leave for a while to spend time with their families and will return a few weeks before school begins so we will have a little farewell for them and give them each an early Christmas present.

Speaking of Christmas, the orphaned boys along with some of the Priests and Brothers will make the traditional and meaningful manger scene of Bethlehem. This is healthy fun for the boys and at the same time it makes grow in them the desire to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

When the school year ends, the boys have more time on their hands and we take advantage of this to reinforce things they have become lazy about during the

year, give them additional catechesis, more recreation time, and the putting on of a Christmas play.

On Christmas we have the traditional Christmas Eve supper which is always a joyful time for the community and the boys. Afterwards we all sing Christmas carols in front of the nativity scene and then we have Midnight Mass with the older boys. The next day the boys unwrap (with great hubbub) their Christmas presents, the fruit of Divine Providence which never fails. To end this special month of December, we say goodbye to the year 2021 in profound adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament singing the “Veni Creator” just after midnight asking the Holy Spirit for His special help in the new year.



*MSP Priests and Brothers with boys from the Saint Tarcisus Home joyfully celebrating Christmas having received presents sent by our benefactors*



# Holy Mary Mother of the Poor House of Formation

*“Do not settle for being skilled in the use of social and other media to communicate. Only transformed by the Word of God will you be able to communicate the words of life. The world is thirsty for priests who can communicate the goodness of the Lord to those who have experienced sin and failure, of priests who are experts in humanity, of pastors ready to share the joys and sufferings of their brothers, of men who are marked by the cry of those who suffer”.*

(Speech of the Holy Father Francis on June 10, 2021 in the Sala Clementina)

Why  
not?



"Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will" (Psalm 39)  
If you want to be a Missionary, here there is a place for you!



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# FROM THE WORLD

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## The Forgotten Dead

Peru is the country with the highest number of children who have lost a father, mother, or guardian to Covid-19. It exceeds South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Iran, and the United States.

In Peru, one in every hundred children has lost a father, mother, or guardian because of the deaths associated with Covid-19 according to a study published in the scientific journal The Lancet whose data place Peru as the most affected country in the world by the pandemic.

The study underlines the importance of offering psychological, social, and economic support to these orphaned children. The study analyzed the data of 21 countries and has calculated that a million and a half children in the world have lost one of their parents or guardians through causes due to

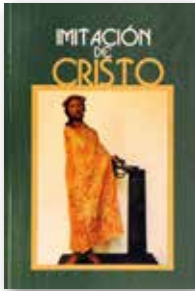
Covid-19. The number includes causes directly tied to Covid-19 and also indirect causes such as quarantines, restrictions, limited access to medical services, and treatment of chronic illnesses.

The results suggest that, in general, 1,562,000 minors have experienced the death of one of their

parents or guardians and Peru has the highest percentage. These are enormous numbers that make us reflect on the measures that are being taken to protect these orphans.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

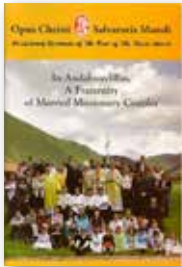


## **The Imitation of Christ:**

New translation of the spiritual rule of the Missionary Servants of the Poor. (available only in Spanish and Italian)

## **On Mission with God in the Andes:**

This book presents Father Giovanni Salerno's anecdotes and personal reflections on his missionary experience in the Andes.

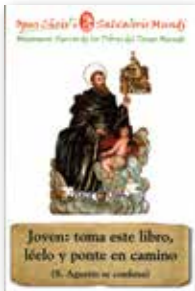
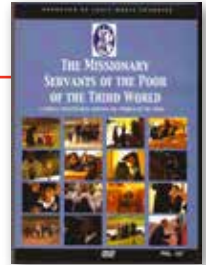


## **Missionary Couples:**

This booklet tells about the Fraternity of Missionary Couples of our movement, who serve the poor as entire families.

## **Missionary Servants of the Poor:**

Catholic missionaries serving the poorest of the poor. A 55minute DVD presenting the charisms of the Movement and its different communities.

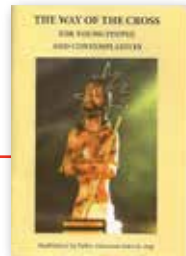


## **The Confessions of St. Augustine:**

Dear young people, Saint Augustine tells you frankly about his life so that you can discover with him how beautiful the gift of your life is. (available only in Spanish and Italian)

## **The Way of the Cross for Young People and Contemplatives:**

Fr Giovanni Salerno meditates on the sorrowful Path looking on the Indios for whom he gave-up his life.



If you are interested in receiving a free copy of any of these materials, please mail your requests to:

Friends of the Missionary Servants of the Poor Foundation  
5800 West Monastery Road, Hulbert, OK 74441 - USA  
616-691-7909 [info.ocsm@gmail.com](mailto:info.ocsm@gmail.com)

Friends of the Missionary Servants of the Poor Foundation  
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Hulbert, OK 74441

**Opus Christi**  **Salvatoris Mundi**  
**Missionary Servants of the Poor**