



the MissionLink

Newsletter of the Center for Mission

Winter 2003 Issue III

Why Africa? – Why Now?

Together with Maryknoll and the Newman Center, the Center for Mission is co-sponsoring a Forum on Africa, Monday, March 3, from 7:00 – 9:30 P.M. Location: St. Lawrence-Newman Catholic Church, 1203 5th St. SE Minneapolis, MN (For more information about the call to solidarity with Africa, go to www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/stpag.htm)

Reflection

“Mission and Inter-religious Dialogue” was the topic of the 2002 USCMA Conference held in Raleigh, NC attended by Center for Mission staff members. This gathering of missionaries, current and former, along with mission office personnel, came together last October to reflect on their commitment to promote Mission and Global Solidarity. Participants were challenged to integrate elements of Mission: Proclamation, Witness, Dialogue, Spirituality and Prayer, Social Transformation, and Reconciliation. For the full Conference Report, see the USCMA website: www.uscatholicmission.org; other related websites: www.scarboromissions.ca and <http://puffin.creighton.edu> and click on “Dialogue”. -Kathryn Runman, Editor

REMEMBER THE MISSIONS IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

and leave a legacy of faith that reaches to the ends of the earth. For more information, contact Deacon Mickey Friesen, 651-291-4445.

I am pleased to send this contribution to support the mission work of the church.

- I wish to:
- Support world wide mission (Propagation of the Faith)
 - Support vocations in mission dioceses (St. Peter the Apostle)
 - Have ___# Mass(es) said for: _____-@ \$7/MASS
 - Contribute to the Archdiocesan Mission in Venezuela
 - Contribute to the Mustard Seed Mission Endowment
 - Receive a copy of the Mission Link Newsletter regularly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ -State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to:

Center for Mission • 328 W. Kellogg Blvd. • St. Paul, MN 55102

Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law.

Mission Link is published 3 times a year (fall, winter, spring) by the Center for Mission

Deacon Mickey Friesen, Director

Editor: Kathryn Runman, Associate Director runmank@archspm.org

Bonnie Curry-Gabel, Office Manager

Mike Haasl, Global Solidarity Coordinator

Help us keep our mailing list current. Please notify us if you have a change of address

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome

- Mike Haasl - Global Solidarity Coordinator

Missioner Spotlight

- Sr. Connie Krautkremer, Maryknoll Missioner

Reflection

- Inter-Faith Dialogue Conference

Mission Education

- St. Anne's School Children, Le Sueur, MN
- Sacred Heart School Children, Robbinsdale, MN

Venezuelan Mission

- Bishop Pates forms Committees
- Tour group coming in September

Global Solidarity

- Newman Forum Planned
- “Why Africa - Why Now?”

OUR WISH FOR YOU THIS HOLY SEASON...

‘MAY YOUR LENT BE A TIME OF RENEWED SPIRITUAL VALUES SO ESSENTIAL IN SHAPING ONE’S LIFE ON THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS.’

“Let us go forth into the world loving and serving the Lord” -Liturgy Dismissal Rite

“BRIDGE BUILDING”

by Deacon Mickey Friesen, Director, Center for Mission



Deacon Mickey Friesen

Parishes in Mission

One of the core goals of the Pontifical Mission Societies is to foster the universal missionary spirit of all those baptized in Christ in the local diocese. Our charge is to encourage a spirited response to the biblical mandate to go to the ends of the earth and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

One of the most common ways that parishes have responded to this mandate is through their prayer and financial support of the Church's missionary life on World Mission Sunday or by welcoming a missionary speaker into the parish. We also acknowledge our members in the Society for the Propagation of the Faith who regularly give to the missions on a monthly or seasonal basis. This response of

prayer and financial support is as important as ever.

And yet, we are discovering that parishes want to do more than just pray or give financially. They want to become more personally involved in the work of mission. As the world seems to get smaller and more accessible through the advances in technology and the globalization of trade and commerce, it now becomes possible for Catholics to get more actively involved in mission.

There is a growing movement of parishes in the Archdiocese who are taking seriously the Church's call to global solidarity. They are calling our office with a desire to go global with their faith. They are mobilizing their Catholic faith, time, talents and resources to reach beyond their parish boundaries and engage the world. Sometimes this might mean entering into a sister parish twinning relationship. Sometimes this means organizing a medical mission project. Sometimes it means sponsoring mission immersion experiences for parish youth or other members. It is still too soon to know how these efforts will evolve in this local church, but I believe it is very good news. We believe this is an important movement that we have some expertise to guide and support.

To this end we are now meeting with parish groups, parish leadership and other interested parties to assist parishes who feel called to go down this path of becoming a more "catholic" (i.e., universal) parish. Mike Haasl, our newest staff person, is assisting parishes in this endeavor. We believe as parishes become more personally involved in the missionary life of the Church, it will have a significant impact on how a parish prays, educates and lives out its life in the world. When a parish reaches out beyond its own members and national boundaries, it becomes a more "catholic" parish.

And so, whether we are cooperating with others involved in mission or respond to God's call to be sent into mission ourselves, the Church's mandate is fulfilled in our day. (see accompanying article on Mike Haasl, our coordinator of Global Solidarity and parish spotlight)

MISSION STATEMENT

The Center for Mission exists to bridge the Archdiocese to the Global Mission of Jesus Christ through ministries of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Mission Education, Leadership Formation and Global Solidarity.



CENTER for MISSION

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

328 West Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102-9952
Tel: (651) 222-6556
Fax: (651) 290-1628
E-Mail: missions@archspm.org

Return Service Requested

“Please post and/or share with others.”

Missioner Spotlight!!

The Center for Mission spotlights: Sr. Connie Krautkremer, is a native Minnesotan missionary from our Archdiocese who agreed to share her story via email with the Mission Link staff.



Sr. Connie Krautkremer (far right)

- 1. Tell us about your family of origin and your call to mission?** My parents, married 60 years ago last June, live at the edge of the farm where I grew up in Montgomery, MN. I was (and they still are) a member of Most Holy Redeemer Parish in Montgomery. My two brothers live in Montgomery and my only sister near Seattle. I am the first born. I attended the parochial school in town and then Montgomery Public High School. From 1961-65 I attended the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, earning a teaching degree in Biology. Through the mission programs at the college I was able to serve during two different summers in Mississippi and Alabama. Those were the days of voter registrations and the civil rights movement. In 1965, I entered the Maryknoll Sisters. Although I had wanted to be a sister since second grade, it was during my senior year in high school that I had this sudden, and totally unexpected, image of myself as a missionary. Looking back it was not difficult to explain; I always loved geography, learning about ways of life that were different from my own in rural Minnesota.
- 2. How long have you served, where have you lived and in what capacity did you serve?** I was assigned to Tanzania in 1969 and have been there since. I went prepared to teach science in public high schools. The country was newly independent and high schools for girls were a new undertaking of the government. Science teachers were especially needed. My interest in Tanzania began at St. Kate's, before entering Maryknoll, when I met young Tanzanian women who were also studying there. Besides teaching a variety of subjects in high schools I have done youth work in Dar Es Salaam, and for the past ten years have designed retreats and seminars for various groups: widows, single mothers, folks with Aids, and high school religion teachers. I especially like working with women, reflecting on the bible from a woman's point of view, helping them make connections of support with one another. I have been accompanying young Tanzanian women who believe they have a vocation to missionary life. Several are now Maryknoll Sisters serving in mission in Brazil and Hawaii. Two others are in formation in Chicago. To see the Church of Tanzania become a missionary church is exciting. Mission no longer resembles a one way street. It is more like a web, or a bridge.
- 3. What have you learned from other cultures?** I have learned that all of us who share this planet are brothers and sisters. I truly believe that what is different can be fascinating if we let it be, not threatening, and that is basic for peace building in our world!
- 4. How has mission life affected you - what changes have you seen through the years?** I feel like I have several homes; Minnesota, New York and Tanzania. I hope I have more compassion now and appreciation of the beauty of different cultures, worldviews, and religions. There is not usually one correct answer or solution or way of doing things. The challenge is to listen to the wisdom of such diversity.
- 5. Where has your journey brought you today?** For the next six years I will be working at the Maryknoll Sisters Center in New York in a leadership role.

6. What wisdom would you offer to those considering mission service? The peoples and cultures of our world are fascinating. Allow yourself to become engaged. You will become rich in ways hard to describe.

7. What has missionary service taught you about the meaning of the Gospel and the Church? The Spirit of God is stirring everywhere, long before a missionary arrives. I have learned about God, service, commitment, and the Beautitudes from the women and men I have shared life with in Tanzania.

Editor's Note: Our thanks, Sr. Connie, for sharing your story with us and please know that the prayers and support of the people in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis are with you today and always.

Venezuelan Mission

Bishop Richard Pates has formed a new Venezuelan Council to serve as the primary contact of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for the Venezuelan Mission. The Council acts as a steering committee for the Archdiocesan Venezuelan Mission Commission, also newly formed, setting its agenda and working with commission members to creatively promote the mission. Council Members are: Bishop Richard E. Pates, Rev. Greg Schaffer, Pastor, Parish of Jesucristo Resucitado, Rev. Timothy Norris, Associate Pastor, Parish of Jesucristo Resucitado, Deacon Rich and Jill Heinemann, St. Bridget's, Mpls., Mary Jo Jungwirth, Venezuelan Liaison, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Mike Krokos, Editor, Catholic Spirit, and Kathryn Runman, Associate Director, Center for Mission.

Venezuelan Tour Group Coming: Rev. Greg Schaffer plans to accompany another Venezuelan Musical Group to our archdiocese this September. Interested in hosting the group at your parish or school? Call 651-291-4446.

Bienvenidos Mike Haasl -



Mike Haasl

Our new Global Solidarity Coordinator!

Hola! Jambo! Bonjour! Hi! My name is Mike Haasl and I am the new member of the Center for Mission staff. A former food scientist in corporate research in Minneapolis, my life was transformed forever through living in the midst of radical poverty for one-and-a-half years in a tiny village in Kenya: eating the same protein-deficient diet of ugali (maize meal) and greens day after day, walking down to the river twenty minutes away to get our bilharzia-infested water (either from the river or in the dry season, digging under the banks and allowing the water to seep into the hole we created), having to use the choo (outhouse-- which had no stool, only a hole in the ground), and using smoky kerosene lanterns for light at night.

Upon returning to the U.S., I was able to reflect upon and integrate that experience through studies in theology at Maryknoll, New York, and studies in international development and anthropology at the University of Minnesota. Later, my family lived and worked as Associate Maryknoll Missioners in a poor barrio of Venezuela for three years, where we experienced both the vulnerability as well as the vibrancy of everyday barrio life. Since our return, I have worked as the Social Justice and Outreach Coordinator at the

Church of the Risen Savior in Burnsville, where I helped to birth a strong parish twinning relationship with a parish in rural Haiti.

Cross-cultural mission has been integral to church life since its very beginning. For most of the church's history, however, that aspect has been accomplished primarily through clergy and religious orders. In the decades following Vatican II, dioceses and mission-sending societies opened up mission vocations to lay people as well. But it remained in the domain of individuals who felt a particular call to cross-cultural mission. It has only been very recently that a new form of mission has emerged: from one parish to another through building parish twinning relationships. The 1997 U.S. Bishops Pastoral Letter entitled Called to Global Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes invites parishes to become more conscious of and connected to our brothers and sisters around the world, and for the first time suggests parish twinning as a means of such connection. Parish twinning helps us to really get to know our brothers and sisters, their struggles as well as their joys, their gifts and their culture.

My role at the Center for Mission is to promote and encourage global solidarity at parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis through a variety of ways, including parish twinning. I am very excited to participate in this emerging endeavor of parishes in the archdiocese and the U.S. Catholic Church.

If you would like more information on how your parish might begin to establish a relationship with a parish in another part of the globe, please call me at 651-291-4504, or e-mail me at haaslm@archspm.org. (www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/international/globalsolidarity.htm)

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY OPPORTUNITIES:

The Center for Global Education at Augsburg college is offering the following mission trips:

Guatemala/Mexico – April 30-May 14, 2003; Cuba – June 3-12, 2003

Contact: globaled@augzburg.edu or www.augsburg.edu/global for more information.

Mission Education

Venezuelan Mission Presentation – children are gathered to view artifacts and various items from Venezuela. If your school would enjoy hearing about our Archdiocesan Mission in San Felix, Venezuela call 651-291-4446.



St. Anne's School, Le Sueur, MN

Holy Childhood Association Presentation – children pictured are holding LENTEN COIN FOLDERS in which they will raise donations for suffering children of the world. HCA is a valued tradition in many grade schools. It's all about children helping children. Coin folders are available free of charge. To learn more about HCA call 651-291-4446.



Sacred Heart School, Robbinsdale, MN

BOOK CORNER:

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT...

"Mission in Today's World" - by Donal Dorr. – Based on a conversation regarding "our definition of mission", which took place at the Center for Mission Advisory Board Meeting in November, we decided to all read this book and come back together in January for discussion. This four-part book of Dorr's addresses and examines mission from many different perspectives while enriching our understanding of mission and clarifying some issues associated therein. Highly recommended. Anyone with a heart for mission will enjoy and learn from this book. Perhaps you're looking for a renewed direction and perspective this Lent. Pick up a copy of *"Mission in Today's World"* – you'll be glad you did!