“Humanity is in such need of the Gospel, the source of joy, hope and peace. The mission to evangelize takes priority, for missionary activity is still today the Church’s greatest challenge”

(Pope Francis, Address to participants in the General Assembly on the Pontifical Mission Societies, Rome, 5th June 2015)
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!

Please visit our new website: www.msptm.com

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Dear friends:

*Laudetur Iesus Christus!*

For me it is a great joy to be able to write the opening words of the Lenten Newsletter, the liturgical time in which we are invited in a special way to rediscover the sacrament of reconciliation and of God’s Mercy. The Jubilee Year of Mercy that we are living out enriches this opportunity for a special meaning and for special gifts.

It is about reconciliation, not only with God, but also with the Church and with men, with our brothers who suffer: reconciliation because, often, they find themselves alone and abandoned in this suffering.

We also need to be reconciled with ourselves, with our Christian vocation, with the duties of being Catholics, who are not always faithful to these duties and not always generous in carrying them out. In fact, often, we limit our generosity in commitment to Jesus through the Church, the same Church who in the middle of many internal and external wars relied on people who love the poor, relies on the youth who give up their lives as the first martyrs gave up theirs, and as so many young people continue to give up their lives all over the world, sacrificing themselves and accepting death, sometimes even for ideals that are not Christian.

There are many Catholics prepared to take part in pilgrimages to various types of sanctuaries, which is, in itself, good and to be recommended, but the Church needs apostles, it needs announcers of the Gospel, it needs people who continue to discover that faith is a free gift from God, and that our consciences cannot be still if this gift is not concreted in works...
of charity, if we don’t feel the same pain that Jesus felt for those who suffer and for those who still do not know Him, if this small flame that is lit in our hearts does not get bigger for those who are hungry for the Word of God.

Those priests of our Movement who work in Cuba constantly tell us of the pain of seeing eight million Cuban people with only 300 priests, many of whom are already old: there are villages with populations over 40,000 without any priests at all. In the diocese where we now have two missionary centres, there are only 14 priests: half of those are over 75, and some of them are over 80. We went to Cuba precisely because our Movement was born through the urgency of giving Heavenly Bread to the most distant of people.

Many people think that, in order to solve the problem of poverty, only economical help is required; and so many Catholics, especially the youth, live with their consciences clear in their own countries, carrying out fundraising activities to gain economic help, but they are not prepared to leave their comforts and concern themselves with taking the Gospel to the abandoned villages, hungry for the Word of God.

What a privilege it was for us when Father Juan José Salaverry, on the occasion of the liturgical act through which the MSPTW’s Apostolic Commissioner’s work officially began, he said, telling the gospel story of Nicodemus’ meeting with Jesus: “The figure of Nicodemus is the figure of a man who is a teacher of the Law, who knows what he does, who is seeking God, and who knows God; but who does not feel satisfied with what he is doing and who wants to find a more perfect path, a better path, and even though he is sure of everything he knows and that what he does is good, he seeks Jesus because he wants to find in Jesus the most powerful path, to become what God asks of him. Nicodemus, in his humanity, is not without limits. Nicodemus, in his humanity, knows that he doesn’t know everything. Nicodemus, in his humanity, feels shame, and so he goes out at night to look for Jesus.
(...) But in this figure of Nicodemus, I would also like people to discover the Brothers and the Sisters who belong to this Movement that I getting to know, and getting to love. A path already walked, like Nicodemus, teacher of the Law; a journey of good things, of achievements, and of falls; a thirst for seeking, of seeking something better and better; a certain shame, a certain fear and a certain lack of confidence about what the future might hold, but a conviction, the same conviction that Nicodemus had and the same conviction that I feel: that in dialogue with God, in meeting God, in openness to the action of the Holy Spirit, we can find what can really give our lives meaning.

We know that this search for something better happens through our fidelity to the missionary gift that we have received, not relying on on our own strength but trusting in Divine Providence which, just as it has helped us for many years in Peru, has begun to accompany us in Cuba, with the same delicacy and tenderness.

This missionary gift has been entrusted to us by the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who wanted this Movement, which, even though where it works – be it Cuba, Peru or Mexico – there are many sects, does not concern itself with “waging war” against them, but rather with propagating devotion to our Mother Mary, Mother of the Poor, distributing a great quantity of Lourdes water, having noted from the beginning, the intervention of Our Lady, who wishes to open the path between the Cubans and her Motherly affection.

This missionary gift happens through our being capable of opening our eyes, with docility, to the different types of poverty that the Lord puts along our path. In Peru, and in many other countries, there are two types of poverty: the poverty of the rich who own gold and silver mines, but who live without God, and the poverty of the indigenous of the Andean Cordillera, whom we serve in silence and with much love.

In this period of Lent and in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we would like to ask for your prayers, your fidelity to the vocation that you have received and your renewed apostolic commitment to the Church, to help us to be faithful to the missionary gift that we have received, always having
the courage to choose “something better”, courage that happens through a constant discernment, in the light of God in prayer, to discover where God wants to take us, to a bigger and bigger commitment.

Numerous bishops from Europe have asked us to found houses for the Movement in European cities where there are rich Catholics who could help us, but we have decided against this option, so that we can go to the furthest and the poorest, carrying out the burning wish of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, to plant the Cross of Christ and take the Gospel in and to the ends of the earth, remembering that this was the wish not only of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, and not only of ourselves, but also of many contemplatives who, like St. Teresa of Lisieux, sacrifice themselves in order to help missionaries like us, allowing their lives to be consumed, in silence and continuous prayer.

In Peru and the countries where we serve, we have the joy of preparing a better world for so many children who, if our missionaries had not helped them, would have been lost, materially and morally; we have the joy of seeing many of them, now adults, working in airlines, or prestigious offices, as appreciated staff.

As Father Juan José Salaverry told us at the inauguration of his placement as Apostolic Commissioner of the Movement: “The Church expects a lot from the Movement; the children expect a lot from the Movement. The Church in Cusco – according to what the Archbishop told me yesterday – expects a lot from the Movement. God expects a lot from work the work that we are going to do together, together with Him, and all of us together”.

We are convinced that these words have come from the heart of the Church, and we would like many young people to hear them, young people who consider themselves good Catholics, and who are considered as such by others, but who at the same time, dismiss any possibility of a missionary call from their lives.

For all of those, we wish inextinguishable Easter joy, which always requires the acceptance of the Cross, behind which, however, is the splendour of He who has won victory over death and who invites us to participate in His own Easter victory with the pressing invitation: “Child, do not fear, always choose something better”.

Happy Easter!
“The proclamation of Christ in the many peripheries of the world becomes their way of following him, one which more than repays them for the many difficulties and sacrifices they make. Any tendency to deviate from this vocation, even if motivated by noble reasons due to countless pastoral, ecclesial or humanitarian needs, is not consistent with the Lord’s call to be personally at the service of the Gospel.”

(Pope Francis, Message for World Mission Day 2015)
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” (Jr 1, 5)

My name is Carlos Alberto and I am 27 years old. I was born in a village called Palermo (Huila), in the south of Colombia. I am the youngest of 10 brothers: six girls and four boys. I would like to share with you a little of what my life was like before I joined the Movement, the events that changed my way of thinking and opened a new horizon to me, like my experience in the Andean Cordillera and the following stage of formation in the Seminary “Holy Mary Mother of the Poor of the Third World” in Ajofrín (Toledo, Spain).

**Childhood and growing up**

The best memories of my life are of my childhood. Since I was a child I have always loved football, fishing and hunting, camping on the banks of rivers, trips out with the family, etc. All of these activities accompanied my childhood and shaped my life. Ever since I learned to think for myself, I always thought of raising my own family, having many children, a good job and a big house in which the children could grow comfortably. And so, I orientated my life towards this goal until I was 21. I also liked music, dancing, and parties with my friends and family. However, this life that I lived began to change in 2009, through a series of events that marked my life forever.

**A new path**

In 2009 I said to my mother: “mum, if you ever go to a sanctuary, get me a medal that I can always have with me, so God accompanies me wherever I go”. I few months went by and I forgot about my request; but my mother did not. When she went to a sanctuary, she didn’t get me a medal, but a prayer card. On one side was a picture of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus, and on the other was a prayer, to pray for vocations to the priesthood. I began to pray this prayer in thanks to my mother, but without realising that I myself might be taking that path.
Another event that marked my life was the story of my niece, Maria José. Everything began when my brother’s wife went to see the doctor for a check up, because she was pregnant, expecting her third child. After the examinations, the doctor told her that she should have an abortion because the baby had multiple malformations. Faced with this news, my brother and his wife, with the help of God, decided not to have an abortion. From that moment onwards, they began to pray as a family, to receive the Eucharist and Confession, and to participate in spiritual retreats. In other words, they began to live a more profound Christian life. This painful situation involved my whole family, who began to pray a lot – especially the Rosary at home – to go to Confession regularly, and to go to daily Mass when possible, so that my niece might be cured. It was a difficult time, but thanks to God, my niece was born healthy and well, without any malformation, and now she is six.

A third event that was also decisive on my journey to conversion was having one day heard these words: “If God calls you to a priestly vocation, do not reject it”. But when said and done, I did not pay any attention to these words, since, from my point of view, I had already decided what I wanted to be and to have. However, four months later, through a friend of mine, the Lord called me a second time, a bit more clearly this time. This friend (who had been a seminarian) said to me: “I have you have a vocation to the priesthood, so I would like you to speak to the founder of a community that I know”. I actually spoke to the priest, but since I did not want to take that path, I left things like that. Some time later, just as I was thinking that I had glossed over that idea, God surprised me with another call to follow Him. In February 2010, after having been to a day retreat, the priest who had run the retreat asked me: “would you like to be a priest?” Faced with this question, I didn’t want to think about my own projects, I just said “yes”. It was in that precise moment that God showed Himself, putting the Movement of the Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World in my path.

The poor of Peru await you

After the numerous calls from God and my negative responses, through that priest, I heard about the Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World, such that, without delay, I wished to do some experience with them. I was in Peru for a year and a half, and, thanks to God, I can say that it was one of the best experiences of my life.

Bro. Carlos msp taking the image of Mary Most Holy to the villages, so that the people of the High Cordillera may love and venerate her.
I grew humanly and spiritually, and I learned that nobody is so poor that they aren't able to give anything. It is sad to see people submerged in a senseless life, hurt by sin and thrashed by alcohol abuse. It is also sad to see so many little children in inhumane conditions, made to work from a very young age; but the saddest thing is to see that many of those children will never know the richness that is Christ, because there are few people who are prepared to take them what they most need: “The truth is that only in the mystery of the incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light.” (Second Vatican Council. Gaudium et Spes, n° 22)

Formative Stage

After my missionary experience in the Andean Cordillera, the Movement gave me the opportunity to join their seminary in Spain; and, with the help of God, I am currently studying my fifth year of Theology. These years of formation have been a time of grace, because, to be able to deepen one’s understanding of our Catholic faith is a grace so big, that you can only say: “thank you God, for having given me the opportunity to know you and love you a little more; do not allow that the people of our time live in the sadness and poverty of not knowing you.”

To finish, I invite all the youth not to fear giving a generous response to God’s plan; because, there is not path so joyous as the path of following Christ died and risen: “I am the Bread of Life. Anyone who comes to me will never hunger, and anyone who believe in me will never thirst.” (Jn 6, 35)
The traditional veil worn by our sisters is a sign of their total consecration to Christ, and of reparation for the sins of the world.

If you are a young woman and you would like to spend some time with us living the life of service, community, and meeting with the poor of the Peruvian Andes, we invite you to participate in our MISSIONARY CAMP 2016, which will take place in our Mother House and in our missions of Peru, in July 2016. We await you, contact us: hermanasm.s.p.peru@gmail.com

For more information, please send the form on page 16
Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938)

Fr. Pierfilippo Giovanetti, msp (Italian)

Born into a very humble family on 25th August 1905, Elena (this was her name given at Baptism) was the youngest of ten siblings. From an early age she was characterised by her love of prayer, her industriousness, her obedience and her great sensitivity to the needs of man. When she was 16 she began to work in the homes of wealthy families, to help to economically maintain her family.

On 1st August 1925 she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Mother of God of Mercy, taking the name Sister Maria Faustina. She spent time in different houses of the Congregation, doing her duties as a cook, a gardener and receptionist. Her religious life was characterised by the extraordinary profundity of her union with God. Her spirituality, based on the mystery of Divine Mercy, signalled for the saint, a mission in three parts: to proclaim to the world the truth revealed in the Sacred Scriptures about the Merciful Love of God towards all people; to reach the mercy of God for the whole world; and to inspire an apostolic movement centred in Divine Mercy, which would proclaim and reach the mercy of God for the world, and Christian perfection, following the path traced by Sister Faustina.

The years of her life in the convent were abundant in extraordinary graces: revelations, visions, hidden stigmata, participation in the Passion of Christ, the gift of bilocation, and of being able to read souls, and a living contact with God, with Our Lady, with the angels... The supernatural world was for her like the world visible to the senses. But, in spite of being filled with so many graces, she knew that it was not these that determined sanctity.

In her diary, she wrote: “Neither graces, nor revelations, nor raptures, nor gifts granted to a soul make it perfect, but rather the intimate union of the soul with God”.

Sister Faustina manifested her mission in the Diary that she wrote at the order of her confessors. She registered in it, with fidelity, everything that Jesus had asked of her, and all of the meetings of her soul with Him. The Diary has been translated into many languages.

Physically exhausted by the sickness and sufferings that she voluntarily endured for the sinners, she died on 5th October 1938, at only 33 years of age. She was canonised on 30th April 2000. Her relics lie in the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Krakow.

For us, Missionary Servants of the Poor TW, obedience to the Holy Father has always been an immovable pillar of our charism. And so, we would like the Pope’s desire to dedicate a Jubilee Year of Mercy to be reflected in our apostolate. In fact, the traditional Advent retreat that was organised to take place on 13th December in the City of Boys in Andahuaylillas (Cusco) was dedicated to the following theme: “Merciful like the Father”. May God grant that throughout this year, we manage to grow closer – with our children, young men and women, collaborators and their families, to the great mystery of Divine Mercy.
OREMUS
Prayer to St. Joseph

Saint Joseph,
   Just man,
Virginal spouse
   Of Mary,
And Davidic father
   Of the Messiah;
Blessed are you
   Among men,
And blessed is
   The Son of God
Who was entrusted to you,
   Jesus.

Saint Joseph,
Patron of the Universal Church,
Keep
   Our families
In peace
   And in divine grace,
And help us
   At the hour of our death
Amen.

The Cross

- “Serving the poor means accepting the cross every day. For this reason, I have chosen as a logo for the Movement, a cross, engulfed in flames, a symbol of love: because to love the poor we must accept the crosses, big and small, light and heavy, that God our Father sends us every day”.

- “When big disappointments and concerns are unleashed against, let us remain firm, stood upright, clinging to the cross, to the hope of resurrection. Great crosses are also followed by great graces, if we know to accept them with serenity, with a solid faith”.

(From the book “On Mission with God in the Andes”, by Fr. Giovanni Salerno, msp)
ANNUCIESMENTS

**The Imitation of Christ:**
New translation of the spiritual leader of the Missionaries of the Poor Servants of the Third World. (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 of the Third World:** Catholic missionaries serving the poorest of the poor. A 55-minute 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:

Missionary Servants Of The Poor TW, 1Willow Dene, Pinner HA5 3LT
(Registered Charity No. 1134707)
Email: msptw.uk@gmail.com
In Praise of Contemplatives

Would you like to join our Contemplative Servants of the Poor of the Third World, 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.

Like Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, you too can offer your donation 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 Movement of the Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World, so that the Kingdom of God may come to the poorest.
We Invite You to Share our Missionary Work in Peru as...

Young laywomen who wish to give all their love to abandoned children, to stretch out their arms, like Mary, to the Child Jesus Who is present in these children.

Young laymen who wish to give their hearts to Christ, to give their talents and skills, whatever they may be, to the service of the Divine Master, so His work can be realised in all human circumstances.

Priests and seminarians to take the Body and Blood of the Redeemer to the most remote and abandoned sites of the Andean Cordillera, and to announce the message of love and salvation of Christ Crucified and Risen.

Full-time contemplatives, gathered together to live an austere life in a cloisered community, to give glory to God, to intercede for all the members of the Church along with Mary, our mother, and to make reparation for the sins of mankind.

Married couples who wish to open their families to the poorest, as a small domestic church that is transformed into a shelter of love shared with those who suffer.

Young people who are searching and who, during a year of experience in the Third World, are inclined to discern with an open heart, and are willing to listen to what mission the Lord is calling them.

- Full-time contemplative:  
- Seminarian  
- Priest  
- Consecrated laywoman  
- Consecrated married couple  
- Oblate  
- Associate member or collaborator

Name  
Street  
City  
Postal Code  
Telephone  
Age  
Email  

Name  
Street  
City  
Postal Code  
Telephone  
Age  
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:
Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World  
1 Willow Dene, Pinner, HA5 3LT United Kingdom  
Tel: +44-(0)750-042-1991  
msptw.uk@gmail.com
Lay People

“Christians are men and women of history, because they do not belong to themselves”, but are instead “included within a people, a people who journey.”

(Pope Francis, Morning Meditation in the Chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Rome, Thursday 30th of April 2015)

I, ________________________________, during all of 2014, 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 of the Third World.

Form of Offering

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My participation will be as follows:

Address ________________________________

City __________________ State ______ Postal code ________

Country __________________ Date ____________

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 on the altar of our chapel of Mary Mother of the Poor of the Third World.
TO NEW READERS

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please complete and return the form below. We are also happy to mail you extra copies of the newsletter for you to distribute to your family members, local parish, or youth group, and thus you can help us spread this message for the good of those who suffer in the Third World.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City _________________________ Postal code ________

Country ___________ Email_______________________

Please mail me #________copies of the newsletter.

Do you know others who would be interested?

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City _________________________ Postal code ________

Country ___________ Email_______________________

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City _________________________ Postal code ________

Country ___________ Email_______________________

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City _________________________ Postal code ________

Country ___________ Email_______________________
In Casacunca, a village that we go to every Saturday on mission, live Antonio Mesco and Juana Torres, an elderly couple, 80 and 70 years old, respectively.

The first time that we met Juana, it was difficult to communicate with her, because she is almost completely deaf. We had to speak to her very loudly and very close to her left ear so that she could understand us, and in this way we were able to give her some catechesis. We also asked about her health and her family. We were very surprised when, with a smile, she told us that she already knew a lot about God, because four years ago – with her husband – she had received an intense catechesis in preparation for the sacrament of marriage. She told us of her wedding day with much joy, like a young girl, full of happiness for having found that God, through her religious marriage, had blessed her whole family.

The second time that we visited her, we found Juana with her husband, chewing coca leaves at the side of the stove – it was very cold that Saturday. They hadn't realised that we had gone in (we didn't knock on the door because... at their house there is no door) so we decided not to draw attention to ourselves, and we watched in silence. They weren't saying anything; they were just passing the ilipt’a (a type of dry dough, make from the ash of quinoa stalks, that is chewed with the coca leaves, to give it more flavour). This elderly couple, like many of their generation, have got used to chewing coca leaves to cover up their hunger, because they have nothing to eat, and also, because they are quite old now, they have little strength with which to be able to cook.

This couple seemed to belong in a typical painting of a very poor hut, with only one room that serves as a kitchen, a bedroom and a living room. While we watched them both, we were able to contemplate them, surrounded by very few but precious (because this was all they had)
belongings. In a corner, not very far from the stove that is used not only for cooking, but also to keep warm, they had laid out some sheep skins that must have been to sleep on, since there was no sign of a bed. We also saw what little clothing they had, hung on nails, nailed into the walls. As in all the poor houses, to stop the cold from entering, there is only one window, or better said, a hole dug out of the wall and covered with a plastic sheet that was once transparent, but now – because of the smoke from the stove – has turned almost opaque and only lets very little light in. A few blackened pans that are no longer used due to a lack of food, hang from the ceiling near the stove, which does not have a chimney to take the smoke outside, which is why the interior is covered in soot, now impregnated into the ceiling and the walls. In this scene, there are only a few sounds that break the silence of the couple: the fire, and the three guinea pigs who run from one corner to the other to look for something to eat to satisfy their hunger.

After a short while we decided to interrupt their silence with a greeting. When they saw us, their faces lit up with big smiles, as if they had been waiting for us. We gave them, with some woollen blankets (that we had received from our benefactors), some bread and other food. In order to fill the spirit, we must satisfy the material hunger. They received these things with joy, kissing the bread that we gave them and giving thanks to God, who never forgets about them.

We asked them what they were thinking about when we arrived, and almost in tears, Antonio told us that he was remembering his childhood, when he had the strength to be able to work and move around with ease, and when his children were at his side to cheer him up in difficult moments. Now his children have to look after their own families in Cusco, and they forget about their elderly parents. They don't even come to visit them, in spite of the fact that with the sweat of their brows, they educated them; they looked after them and fed them,
and made sure that they had the basic necessities. Antonio also told us how worried he had been the last Thursday, and how he hadn’t been able to sleep. His wife, who had been out to collect grass for the guinea pigs, did not return home. He waited for her for a long time, but in the end, as it was already night time and there is almost no light in the village, he wasn’t able to go and look for her. He waited for her at home, without getting any sleep at all. As soon as it began to get light, he went out to look for Juana, and he finally found her in a gully. She had fallen in and hadn’t been able to get out. She hoped in vain that somebody would help her. Finally Antonio, with the help of a few neighbours, managed to rescue her. Juana told us that that night she had thought that it would be her last night and that she was going to die of the cold. She thought of her husband and children. We tried to console them both, telling them of the love of God, who never forgets his children, especially when they are suffering. That night, when Antonio was worriedly awaiting Juana, God was at his side, accompanying him in his pain, and He was also at Juana’s side when she was lying in the gully. Even though she was cold and frightened, God was there and He protected her, giving her a little heat.

And that day, they were hoping for a consoling visit, and we arrived in the name of God to listen to them and to accompany them for a while, because in them, we see Christ suffering, hoping to be remembered and visited in every sanctuary in the world and in every one of his poor. Christ also suffers in solitude when His brothers and friends forget about him.

That day, that elderly couple were consoled, and we left them smiling, after many tears. The two elderly people told us that everything that God permitted was the best for them and that they wouldn’t forget to pray to God for us and for their children.

Very poor housing where many old people live, in the High Andean Cordillera, and where the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Poor of the TW come to help them.
“There is an urgent need to reaffirm that the central ideal of mission is Jesus Christ, and that this ideal demands the total gift of oneself to the proclamation of the Gospel. On this point there can be no compromise: those who by God’s grace accept the mission, are called to live the mission.”


With the Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World, 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.
Ordination of Father Rafael Santillán Rodríguez, msp

On 21st December 2015, Good God granted a beautiful Christmas gift to the Movement: the Priestly Ordination of our deacon, Rafael Santillán Rodríguez, msp (Mexican), at which Father Álvaro Gómez Fernández, msp and Bro. Erick Domínguez, msp were present.

Father Rafael was born in Morelia (Michoacán) on 28th January 1986 to Rafael Santillán Tinoco and María Eugenia Rodríguez. He is the youngest of six brothers and sisters. When he was fourteen, he accepted the invitation of his uncle, Father Ricardo Fuentes Martínez, now Parish Priest in St. Augustine’s Parish (in the diocese of Tlalnepantla), to live with him in Naucalpan (Mexican state). Here he was edified by the example of that zealous priest, who influenced him, by his example, to join the Junior Seminary in Tlalnepantla, at the age of 15 years.

When in the Senior Seminary, at the end of his first year of Philosophy, Rafael found out about the Movement of the Missionary Servants of the Poor TW and he decided to do some missionary experience with them in Cusco (Peru), during which he discerned his call to join the Movement as a seminarian. And so, at the end of 2007, he was accepted into the House of Priestly Formation in Ajofrin (Toledo, Spain), beginning his basic ecclesial studies in Philosophy and Theology in the Theological Institute “St. Ildefonso” in Toledo.

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On finishing his theological studies, he accompanied Fr. Giovanni Salerno, Founder of the Missionary Servants of the poor TW, on his different travels, to assist him. On 11th April 2015, through the hands of the Archbishop of Cusco, Mons. Richard Daniel Alarcón Urrutia, he received diaconal ordination; after his ordination, he accompanied Father Giovanni Salerno on his journey to Cuba, where he remained for almost two months, to help in the mission there, which started almost two years ago. He is currently – and has been since before his ordination to the priesthood – superior of the Movement’s Junior Seminary “San Luis Gonzaga”, in Andahuaylillas (Cusco).

Christmas in the Home of our Missionary Sisters

In our Missionary Sisters’ Servants of the Poor of the Third World Home “Santa Teresa”, in Cusco, last Christmas holidays everybody had the privilege of spending more time with the intern children. As is the custom, on 23rd December, a Mass of commemoration was celebrated for the anniversary of Father Giovanni Salerno’s ordination to the priesthood. It is a way of remembering how, without the generous commitment of the priest who left Italy in 1968, the Movement would not exist. This commemoration is a custom that the Missionary Sisters have had for many years now.

After the Mass was the living representation of the Nativity, followed by different theatrical acts by our children – each one with a Christmas message – and by joyous dances, starring themselves. All of these activities tend to help the littlest ones, the ones who have always been privileged by Our Lord, to grow closer to Christmas with more awareness of this great feast, and with a healthy happiness. It is very different with respect to the “materialistic” Christmas that is celebrated in many places today. After these theatrical representations, presents were given to the staff and their families.

The children of the Home “St. Teresa of Jesus”, run by the Missionary Sisters’ Servants of the Poor TW, act out the Nativity, live.
As always, our staff are not simply employees, but members of our family, with whom we want to share our Christmas joy, and who we are called to evangelise and involve in our missionary work (many of them offer themselves as Godparents at Baptism or sponsors for Confirmation, for the children who lack close parents).

On 24th December, in the afternoon, the Solemn Mass was celebrated – with adoration of the Child Jesus – and after the festive dinner, the happiness continued with Christmas Carols around the crib, finishing with giving out presents to the children. On Christmas day Mass was celebrated in the morning, as in the mission villages (Cusibamba, Punacancha and other small Andean communities situated around there), to which priests from the Movement went to celebrate Mass.

Christmas in the Home of our Missionary Sisters

In the City of Boys in Andahuaylillas, the boys, the Brothers, and the Priests, prepared for the feast of Christmas by praying a nine-day Novena called “Las Posadas” (the Inns), which is a very special Novena in which the whole community participates. Each night, a group of our children take some pictures of the Holy Family to search for an Inn where Jesus can be born. They go ahead – followed by the Priests and Brothers, who each take a lit candle – to the courtyard of the City of Boys, asking at every door, between hymns, to come in and stay. The Holy Family is rejected time and time again, until they arrive at the last door, the door of our Chapel, where the doors are opened and everybody enters with great joy. The night ends by praying Night Prayer. The children have celebrated the Christmas Novena in this way for years, with this beautiful custom that comes from Mexico.
On 24th December, a Priest went with a group of interns to celebrate the Christmas Mass in the Church of St Teresa in Cusco, a church entrusted to the Carmelite Sisters from the Annex Monastery, who helped Fr. Giovanni so much at the beginning of his missionary venture in Peru. The old and beautiful church was full of people; and, as always, our Missionary Families participated in this celebration (with “uncle” Pascal directing our boys’ choir).

This was a good occasion to meet with the ex-interns from the Home, who are now studying and working. It is always a joy to meet the boys who we have known since they were small, and who are now grateful for everything that they have received. On Christmas Eve, we have always had another Mass in the City of Boys with the rest of the interns: a solemn Mass for which all the boys want to serve on the altar.

There was also a Mass on 25th December in the City of Boys, and another in St. Teresa’s. Afterwards, at mid-morning, the presents were given to the children from the Home, followed by the praying of the Rosary in community, and lunch, during which we saw everybody, because – as Father Giovanni likes – those who have the privilege of spending Christmas in the missions return to Andahuaylillas for Christmas lunch, this being a very important moment for all of us. They were beautiful days, days in which we spent time with our Brothers and with our Saviour.

**IMPORTANT**

Dear friends, we are aware that, unfortunately, the news that we offer you in these pages of the Chronicle from our Homes are often not very up to date. The process of collecting all the information, writing the Chronicle, translating it into several different languages, sending it to be printed and then distributing it is quite lengthy, as you can imagine, and this means that there is no easy solution. For more recent information, we suggest that you have a look at the NEWSLETTER on our website: [www.msptm.com](http://www.msptm.com)
Thanks to your help, one more child can be fed in our houses of Cuzco, Perú.

Thank you for all that you do.
How can I help the poor?

By making yourself an echo of the cry of the poorest, by sharing this newsletter and all of our material (which you can request for free) with your friends and family. You can also organise missionary retreats which our missionaries can lead.

Offer your sacrifices and prayers, together with faithfulness to the Gospel and the Pope, so that every Missionary Servant of the Poor of the Third World can be a living witness for Jesus in the midst of the poor.

Sending us your Mass intentions

Coordinating a specific project with us or supporting projects that we carry out daily.

By remembering us in your will and leaving a legacy to the Missionary Servants of the Poor of the third World

By way of one-off or regular donations
(monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, annually, direct debits, etc ...)

**Our bank details in the UK:**

**Bank name:** Co-operative Bank  
**Account name:** Missionary Servants of the Poor TW  
**Sort Code:** 08 92 99  
**Account No:** 65441594  
(Registered UK Charity number: 1134707)

The details for the international donations:  
**IBAN:** GB46 CPBK 0892 9965 4415 94  
**BIC:** CPBK GB22

With your help, one more child will be fed in our centres in Cuzco, Peru.
World Food Day: ‘800 million people still suffer from hunger in the world today’

For the celebration of World Food Day, Caritas Española and Caritas Europa have joined other national and international institutions, and civil society organisations “to denounce the scandalous situation in which 800 million people live in the 21st century, suffering hunger and being refused access to the basic human right of food”. Further, they wanted to remind us that “there is still much to do to reach everybody’s right to food, be it in Spain, in Europe or in the rest of the world”.

The world leaders, at the Assembly of the United Nations in New York, agreed a new framework for sustainable development, based on 17 objectives (OSD), applicable universally under the principle of common and shared responsibility.

The second of these objectives fixes the goal of ending world hunger in 2030, achieving security of food, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture. This objective, which had already been defined in the Millennium Development Objectives (MDO) approved in 2000, is now renewed, remaining one of the Global Development Objectives that continues without having been met.

Faced with this situation, “Caritas rejects new delays and demands a greater and more ambitious compromise to address this challenge, which is a priority”, indicated the organisation in their communications. “Europe is the principal world donor of official aid to development. Further, the security of food is one of the priorities of the development policies and of the EU’s financial framework. However, there is still much to do”, they added.

And so, “the European Caritas urge the EU Institutions to improve the coherence of their policies and to invest in the fight against climate change and land governance, elements that have a direct impact on the access to the right to food”.

(Translation from Zenit, 16th October 2015)
AMERICA/PERU - Annual report on Indigenous women and girls: victims of violence, atrocities and humiliations

Lima (Agenzia Fides) - Women and indigenous girls not only suffer human rights violations that often occur against the indigenous population in general, but they are also victims of other atrocities and humiliations.

This is what is reported in the annual report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, which was recently presented at the United Nations Human Rights Council.

One of the most dramatic aspects, based on the information gathered, is that one indigenous woman out of three had been raped. In some cases the perpetrators are state officials or military authorities, who tried to “undermine the determination of the indigenous communities in the militarized disputes over land and resources”. In other cases, violence occurs because indigenous women and girls work in private homes and risk being abused by employers.

The study also examines the murders and crimes that occurred against indigenous women “because of their marginalization and social, cultural, economic and political oppression, that leads to violence”.

(CE) (Agenzia Fides 30/10/2015)
Our Friends write to Us

We are publishing for you, the beautiful words of some of our Cuban readers of our magazine, who have agreed to let us this moving testimony (which is useful to us, to corroborate what we already knew from experience) about how Mary is the first Evangeliser and the Heavenly “Pyromaniac” who sets the hearts of men on fire with the Love of God. Blessed be God and may He be forever, and by everybody, glorified for the immeasurable Gift that He has given us in His (our) Mother! May Her Immaculate Heart be loved and venerated by all Her children!

- “From a Sister who works in our Parish I received the gift of this beautiful magazine. (...) I commit myself to praying the Holy Rosary to Our Lady, Mary, Mother of God, daily. I belong to a group of Prayers for Peace, who meet every week, and we pray to Our Lady of Fatima for the poor all over the world, and now especially for those of Peru. (...) We all present our intentions to Mary: for the Priests, for the Missionary Servants of the Poor, for the lay people and for the Missionary Families. (...) I would like, with a lot of faith, to let people know about the needs of these children, so that many young people will come to you. (...) I have already been retired for 44 years, and I live with my husband, who is 76, and is now quite frail. I have arthritis, and I am in a lot of pain, with osteoporosis in my feet and my hips; but I do not abandon my love of Christ Jesus and our Father in Heaven, together with Mary”.

(From Granma)

- “(...) I was able to go to Mass on 13th May, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Everything was so beautiful! At the end we had a small procession inside the church, and the people there contemplated that beautiful image; I contemplated it as well, but in my heart, I heard the words the words that She said: “Pray the Rosary every day to obtain an end to war and peace across the whole world”. That day one of the Sisters spoke to me about you, and encouraged me to be a promoter and to take the TRUE LOVE of Mary for her children to my locality (which is very far from the municipal) and to the people not only from my area, but also from other areas. And so I would like to request, if you don’t mind, some material to be able to spread the Virgin Mary’s love, thereby encouraging the hearts of men to follow the true way, which is God.

If you send me material like scapulars, prayer cards, medals, newsletter… to be able to take this love to others, I will write to you to tell you how it is going over there; I will send you photos and I will let you know how I got on, and you will see that in my area, true Devotion to Our Lady will be promoted.

Ah, I was forgetting: I know that this is absurd, but I invite you to my humble village so that you might come and visit some of the residents there, who are all good people. I hope you can help me; that’s all for now, I will sign off.

May God bless you all!”

(From Villa Clara)
This Newsletter and all the material that we publish are completely free and always available to everyone thanks to the generosity of benefactors who believe in our charism and in this way collaborate in extending the Kingdom of God.

For this reason, do not hesitate to ask us to send you our publications so that other people can learn of the charism of the Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World.