

# Opus Christi Salvatoris Mundi

*Missionary Servants of the Poor*



*The ashes on the head remind us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. But upon this dust our God has infused his Spirit of life. So we cannot live chasing dust, chasing after things that are here today and gone tomorrow. Let us return to the Spirit.*

*(Homily of Pope Francis. Holy Mass, blessing and imposition of ashes, February 17, 2021)*



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Vicar General of Archdiocese of Cuzco.

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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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## Lent is a Time of Grace

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*Br. Erik Domínguez Cardoso, msp (Mexican)*

Lent takes on its full meaning in the light of the resurrection of the Lord. Without this objective, it would be completely meaningless or, at least, it would be a tedious time like the time spent standing in line to do paperwork or make purchases. We must always look to the good news if we want to face the difficulties of life and the great Good News is that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is an outpouring of divine life shared generously with all men who love the Lord. Thus the Apostle Saint Paul affirms, “Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more” (Rom 5:20).

Lent is therefore not simply a heaviness and resignation in waiting for the resurrection of Christ, but a joyful and

generous waiting that comes from a heart enlarged by the love of God, “poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom 5:5). Here is the key to understanding the meaning of Lent and to joyfully entering into all the practices that the Church proposes during this time, namely, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting.

Let us then briefly develop the points mentioned above. First of all, **prayer**. In the Church, prayer is undoubtedly the starting point of this journey towards Easter. Only later, when one wants to put into practice the commandments of God and some personal practices or devotions, can everything be done more easily.

However, it is necessary to understand prayer well, which is not a mechanical repetition of formulas learned in childhood, but which, according to Christian tradition, unfolds in its three important expressions, namely: “vocal prayer, meditation and contemplative prayer. All three have in common the recollection of the heart” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2721).

**Vocal prayer:** If God is truly our treasure, then we will fix our thoughts on Him and our heart will find there the safe place it has always desired, because, as Saint Augustine says, “You made us for

yourself, Lord, and our heart finds no rest until it rests in you.” Thus, the key to praying any type of prayer well is the certainty that God loves us and that we are loving God and communicating with Him.

**Meditation:** In order to reach this level of love in prayer, meditation is necessary, because all the words that reach the heart first pass through reason. Therefore, in this reflection, we will have to put aside the other expressions of prayer and focus on meditation, because the others will come as an addition.



*The collaborators of the City of Boys participate in prayer led by the MSP Priests in Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru*

**Contemplation:** And what can we contemplate during this time of Lent? As we have said before, the resurrection of the Lord must be our beacon on this Lenten journey. Furthermore, by contemplating this great mystery of Christ's life, we ourselves will rejoice in taking part in this resurrection, for the Apostle says, "You were buried with him in baptism, and you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God who raised him from the dead" (Col 2:12). And again, "We were buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the

dead through the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:4). We must therefore be enthusiastic about participating in the glory of Christ now and hope to attain it for all eternity after death.

Second, **almsgiving.** The joyful hope of Christians in daily life must be translated into mercy towards their neighbors. Pope Francis, in his message for Lent last year, invited each of the faithful to "rethink their lifestyle" in order to improve their surroundings. This "rethinking" can be translated as putting the life of others, your neighbor, in your thoughts.



*The rural people of the towns in the mountains have faith and hope in God and eagerly await the arrival of the MSP Priests. Cuzco, Peru*

Putting the lives of so many needy people in your thoughts will in fact change our lifestyle, so that our existence will no longer be a long and painful search for personal achievements alone, but a generous and satisfying search for the happiness of others. And the promise that this lifestyle will bring us joy and satisfaction does not come so much from the activity itself for others, because at times it can be very laborious and painful, but rather from the Holy Spirit Himself, as Saint Paul teaches us, “Just as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so also through Christ we

are greatly comforted” (2 Cor 1:5). In other words, it is about moving from a life where we are the center to a life of service. Almsgiving, in this sense, will help us to rediscover that our life must be at the service of others.

Finally, **fasting**: During this time of Lent, the Church invites us to fast. The objectives of this practice can be diverse: to show solidarity with those who do not have food, “to help us acquire control over our instincts and freedom of heart” (CCC, no. 2043) and to prepare ourselves to live Easter with greater devotion, etc.



*Thanks to the help that our benefactors send us, the MSP Priests can deliver food, clothing, and school supplies to children in the schools in the mountains of Cuzco, Peru.*



*The MSP Priests in the missions that they carry out in the towns in the mountains celebrate the Holy Mass and give spiritual nourishment to all the poor people who live in these places. Cuzco, Peru.*

However, there is one aspect that we sometimes do not appreciate in its true essence and for this reason it is essential to bring it to light: Jesus Christ “has made us a kingdom of priests for his God and Father” (Rev 1:6). All the baptized participate in the priesthood of Christ, as the Apostle Saint Peter teaches us, “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices pleasing to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 2:5). This means that all the renunciations we impose on ourselves, especially in food and drink, are an important contribution to the building

of Christ that is the Church, putting many people who were on the road to perdition onto the right road, touched by the grace of God.

Since Scripture states that “there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons” (Luke 15:7), we must conclude that Lent is the time when the Church is most committed to cooperating with Christ to achieve the conversion of people and, therefore, it is the time that produces the most joy in Heaven. Let us, then, live this Lent with generosity and enthusiasm.

# 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 17)

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# INVOCATIONS OF THE MOST HOLY VIRGIN

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*Fr. Paolo Giandinoto, msp (Italian)*

Dear Friends,

In this newsletter we would like to present our community of Missionary Servants of the Poor (MSP) who, by the grace of God, were established in Cuba ten years ago.

## 1. Black Virgin of Czestochowa (Patron of Poland)

Not much is known about its origin. According to an ancient legend, Saint Luke painted it on a panel of a table made by the Lord himself in Nazareth.

The icon shows the Virgin Mary as the “Hodegetria” (she who shows the way), pointing with her right hand to Jesus as the source of salvation. The Child is shown extending His right hand in a sign of blessing and holding the Gospel in the other.

According to the chronicles, the icon was brought from Jerusalem to Constantinople where it remained for five hundred years until the emperor gave it to a prince from a territory of

Russia that later became modern-day Poland. Later, the Polish prince Saint Ladislaus moved the image to another place to protect it from the Tatars, who, during the siege of his palace, injured it with an arrow shot at the throat of the Virgin, causing a cut that remains to this day. During the transfer at night, they stopped in Częstochowa and placed the image in a church on Jasna Góra (Hill of Light). The next day, when they resumed their journey, they were unable to move their horses which they interpreted as a miraculous sign that the image should remain there. So Saint Ladislaus left the image in that place and ordered that it be guarded by the Pauline Fathers (who still have it in their care today). It was August 26, 1382, the day on which his feast day is still celebrated.



Over the years, the image suffered other dangerous attacks, especially in 1430, when the Hussites (revolutionary heretics) damaged the icon with a sword, leaving still visible marks on the Virgin's cheek.

Many prodigies and miracles are associated with this image, of which

Saint John Paul II was a great devotee. Given the dark skin of the Virgin, she has been affectionately called “the Black Madonna,” recalling the words of the Song of Songs, “I am dark, but beautiful” (Sg 1:5).

We entrust each one of you, dear friends, to her powerful intercession.



Opus Christi Servantis Mundi  
*Missionary Servants  
of the Poor*

# CAMP 2025

We invite you to participate in a mission and service camp, a special time to deepen your relationship with Jesus, share with those most in need, and enjoy community, sports, and joy.

CONNECT WITH GOD AND OTHERS IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF FAITH AND HOPE!



## CAMP FOR YOUNG MEN



Ajofrin, Spain

July 7-21

If you are a young man between 15 and 25 years old, we invite you to share with us prayer, sports, fun, and much more.



## CAMP FOR GIRLS



Cuzco, Peru

July 16 – August 16

Young women, this is your chance!  
Experience a mission and service camp designed to grow in faith, strengthen your relationship with Jesus, and bring hope to those who need it most.



## YOUNG MEN'S CAMP



Cuzco, Peru

July 15 – August 15

We invite you to experience service in Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru in the City of Boys. Share prayer and help those most in need. Your action can change lives!

✉ [missionaricuzco@gmail.com](mailto:missionaricuzco@gmail.com)

🌐 <https://www.msptm.com/es>



More Information

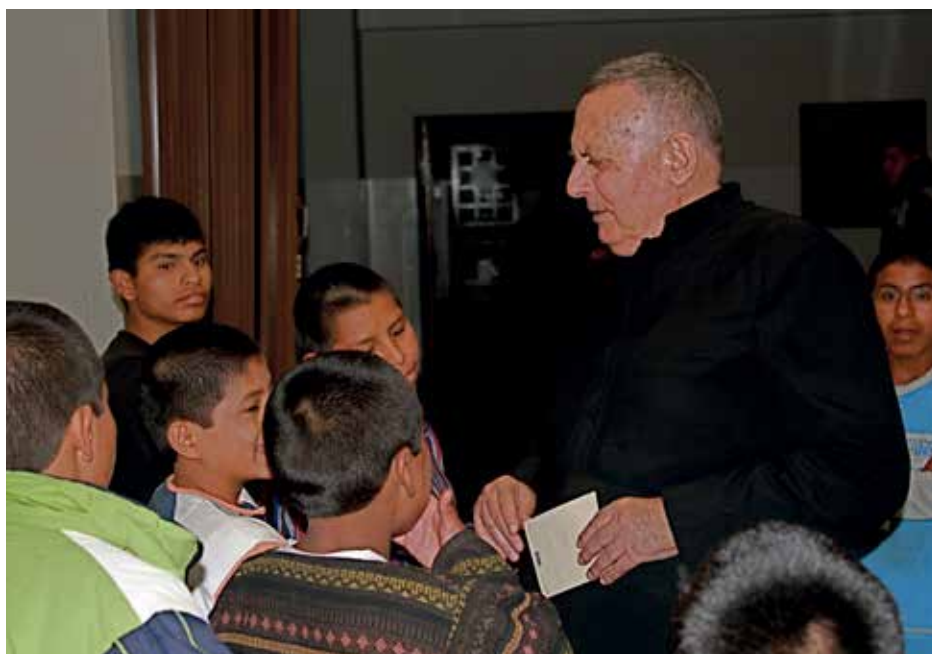
☎ +51 969512211

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# THE ST. TARCISIUS HOME, A WORK OF GOD

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*Fr. Deyvid Vargas Velandia, msp (Colombian) and Br. Juan Thery, msp (French)*



In the 1980s, Fr. Giovanni Salerno started a work in the city of Cuzco that he had not originally planned - a home for abandoned children. This arose spontaneously, as the people in charge of the various soup kitchens of the Missionary Servants of the Poor had begun to welcome children during the day, also after mealtimes, to play with them and teach them mathematics,

history, etc. And little by little, knowing their very precarious situation, they had allowed them to stay overnight.

One of the main problems in that period was terrorism. In this regard, Fr. Giovanni tells us:

*At the beginning of the Movement, one October afternoon in 1984, I was alone in the Saint Teresa of Jesus orphanage in*



*The children in the Saint Tarcisius Home grow up in an environment of peace and joy provided by the MSP Priests and Brothers in the City of Boys, Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru.*

Cuzco, then located on Grau Avenue. Suddenly, the Shining Path terrorists, from the other side of the Grau bridge, a few meters from our House, confronted the Republican Guard post next to our orphanage. It was a terrible shootout. At one point the lights went out, and the children, hearing the intense shooting, began to cry, to scream, to press against me. It was a horrible moment in my life, because I felt alone, surrounded by so many innocent, helpless children, and I could not hold back my tears...I remember

that my anguished prayer in that moment was, “Lord, do not have mercy on me, but have mercy on these children.”<sup>1</sup>

At first, these were children taken directly from the street, such as Oswaldo, Mauro, Roxana, Ismael, and others. They “lived” near the Plaza de Armas in Cuzco, slept wherever they could and stole from each other. They were dirty children, uneducated, and easily broke the most basic rules.

<sup>1</sup> Fr. Giovanni Salerno. *On Mission with God in the Andes*. 3rd ed., p. 91.

Over the years, the Home grew and became more organized, and he was able to take in more children. So it had to move, and in 2007 it moved to the City of Boys in Andahuaylillas, about 40 km from the city of Cuzco.

Currently, at the Saint Tarcisius Home we receive children through two different means: the Special Protection Unit (SPU) and the Residential Reception Center (RRC). The SPU is the government entity in charge of placing abandoned children in the different Residential Reception Centers. Many times the children are taken to this entity by the police. These are heartbreaking stories of abandoned children, mistreated (sometimes to the point of having visible wounds), abused, or forced to work in inhumane conditions.

The second means, the Residence, is for children whose families do not have the means of placing their children in a state or private paid school and ask us to take them in to attend the school year in our free school.

Now, let me tell you about the cases of some of our children from the Saint Tarcisius Home. The first is M., originally from the province of Chumbivilcas, Cuzco. He is currently 11 years old. He never knew his parents and lived with his grandparents. Two years ago his aunt took him to Cuzco, without anyone's permission and without his wanting to. In Cuzco, she forced him to work in a market from 6:00 in the morning until 6:00 in the evening. After that time she let him go to study.



*One of the residents of the Saint Tarcisius Home showing his joy and being cared for by the MSP Priests and Brothers at the City of Boys, Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru*



*The children in the Saint Tarcisus Home love to participate as altar boys in the different celebrations held in the City of Boys, Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru.*

When he didn't go to the market, M. had to do housework at home and there his aunt assaulted him. And then one day she told him to leave the house. He left and stayed on the street for a few hours, until the police arrived and took him to SPU-CUZCO, which asked us to take him in. At that time he was an introverted, fearful child with academic delays. Now he is a smiling, sociable boy and has managed to catch up in school.

Another of the children we have at the Home is R.D., who was born in Cuzco, but his father did not take care of him

and his mother often got drunk. His mother's new partner did not love him and mistreated him. R.D. arrived at the Saint Tarcisus Home in 2019, and in 2021 his father took him into his home, but after a few months he abandoned him again, so the boy returned to the Home.

We ask for prayers for the growth of this very important work, so that these children can grow in love for God and can find families who love them.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!

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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

---

# 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 seeking a vocation

☐ Missionary Brother

☐ Missionary Sister

☐ Married Missionary

☐ Oblate

☐ Associate/Support Group

☐ Offerer

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

# 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.

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**

**With your help, one more child  
will be fed in our centres in Cuzco, Peru.**



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

*Thank you for all that you do*



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

*“Come back to me,” he says, “with all your heart.” Lent is a journey that involves our whole life, everything we are. It is a time to check the paths we are following, to find the way back home, to rediscover the fundamental bond with God, on which everything depends.”*

(Homily of Pope Francis. Holy Mass, blessing and imposition of ashes,  
February 17, 2021)

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).



"Before I Formed  
You In The Womb,  
I Knew You; Before  
You Were Born, I  
Consecrated You"  
(Jeremiah 1:5)

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*Br. Gabriel Brändle, msp (Swiss)*

Dear Readers,

I was born January 3, 1996. Two months later, thanks to God who placed me in a Catholic family in whose bosom I could grow, I received through baptism the gift of supernatural life with the grace that humanity lost through Adam's sin, and that Christ, the second Adam, recovered and restored.

Thus the years passed and the good God allowed me to grow in stature and in grace, although the latter, unfortunately, I lost many times through a lukewarm and frivolous life. But I never completely distanced myself from God and He, after many silent but insistent calls, brought me back to His flock carrying me on his shoulders. I was always attracted to

religious things and had concerns about God, the afterlife, etc.

I was fortunate to have two older sisters and two younger brothers, as well as many cousins and friends, accompany me in my childhood. I grew up in the countryside next to a cattle farm.

After high school, at the age of 16, I did an apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker in my hometown. Then, after compulsory military service, I continued working as a cabinetmaker in the same company. To balance my life between studies and work, I played the trumpet in the town band. As you can see, I did not have an extraordinarily flashy life, although each life and vocation is something unique and unrepeatable.

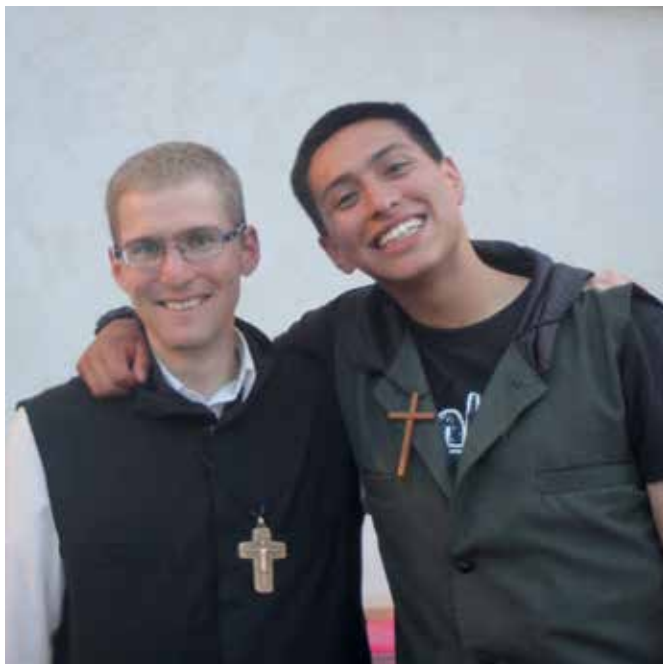
My name is Gabriel and I am Swiss. I do not remember the day or the hour but it happened that, when I read in the magazine of the Missionary Servants of the Poor (MSP) the words “The poor are waiting for you...,” my heart began to beat harder. I then sensed that God had something great in store for me, although I still did not know what it would be. In fact, for quite some time I had been wondering about religious life and how to help people in need in some remote part of the world, because life in Switzerland seemed too comfortable and I felt a certain emptiness.

Now I discovered the deepest aspiration of my heart, to serve Christ in the poor. But how could I leave everything and go to another country where they speak another language? And what if God was not calling me to that place? In addition, I could lose vocational opportunities in

my homeland. Why go so far, if there is was much need in our countries? What will my relatives, my friends, my coworkers think? How could I give up my comforts, the possibilities of a good job, my colleagues? And finally, when I read the regulations for the year of prior experience with the Missionary Servants of the Poor, it seemed very hard to me. One had to give the Superior of the house one's cell phone and the money one carried, not being able to use it whenever one wished, and one could only have very limited contact with relatives. The devil used all this in his way to discourage me and turn me away from the path of God.

But God, for His part, did not tire of helping me. In fact, that same year I participated in a retreat organized by a priest of the MSP. This further fueled my missionary spirit.

*Brother Gabriel, msp,  
with Brother Jhon  
Alejandro at the MSP  
Formation House in  
Ajofrin, Toledo, Spain.*





*The life of the MSP Contemplatives provides the fuel that other communities need to carry out their different activities and for God to inspire more vocations to the MSP. Querowasi, Cuzco, Peru.*

“By their fruits you will know them” (Mt 7:20). With this Biblical quote, my confessor, who knew the MSP, helped me to see that the Movement I was heading to was a work of God. I was also encouraged by the testimony of a friend of mine who had had an experience with the Missionary Servants of the Poor Sisters.

When I thought about it, it was only a year. (Thank goodness God didn’t suddenly reveal his entire plan for me!) I said to myself, “Can’t I give God a year of discernment, if others - like Muslims, for example - are killing themselves for a wrong ideal?”

It is also true that I felt an inclination not so much to the priesthood but to religious life, and since the MSP offered me a year of discernment for a possible

vocation to active or contemplative religious life, this helped me to leave everything and offer God a year of my life to listen more attentively to His call.

In addition, I knocked on the door of another religious community but, mysteriously, I received no response. So, with the blessing of my confessor, I first went to Ajofrín, Toledo, Spain for a first two-month preparation. After this intense experience (especially at the summer camp), I flew for the first time to the “New World.”

Finally, I arrived at the City of Boys in Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru. My task - contrary to expectations - was to look after the children and young people of the Saint Tarcisius Home in the afternoons.

I say contrary to expectations, because I always had the idea of being able to help materially in the mission, doing some manual work, but God, in that year and in the following years, made me understand that the poor need God first.

Our dear founder, Father Giovanni Salerno, used to repeat that, if we do not give God to the poor, we make them even poorer. And, then, that the most valuable thing we can give them is, above all, the gift of our life. In this way I discovered that it is not enough to give one year or two or three years of my life to the poorest, because, if God calls me here, it is for life. This, at first, seemed very hard to me, since just one year seemed very long to me. However, Jesus' warnings finally prevailed in my struggle, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn 12:24)

and "Whoever loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me" (Mt 10:37).

During that year with the MSP Movement, I also went on missions to the villages in the mountains to teach basic catechism in schools, visit families, and celebrate Holy Mass. I was struck by the poverty and simplicity in which this population lived and continues to live, but, above all, my heart was touched by seeing so often the situation of abandonment of the poor, especially the elderly and children. I also met poor people thirsty for God, but I saw that almost no one transmitted the faith to them and thus had an attitude totally opposite to that of Jesus, who, "seeing the crowds, he had compassion, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Mt 9:36).

*These poor children from the high mountain ranges live with the hope that many young people will come to rescue them from the life they lead. Cuzco, Peru.*



This Gospel passage has been with me for a long time and is like a pillar of my life, together with the importance of a worthily celebrated liturgy, rooted in tradition, according to the doctrinal teaching of Pope Benedict XVI, which I found diligently applied in the homes of the Missionary Servants of the Poor.

Despite all this and having seen many examples of MSP Priests and Brothers who had been devoting themselves to the service of the poor for a long time, I remained undecided and perplexed (a typical illness of young people today) and wanted to extend the year of experience, since, in addition, I still knew little Spanish. Finally, thanks to very wise advice, I travelled back to Europe and then entered the MSP Formation House in Spain. And, in fact, little by little, the Lord was giving me light for the path and strengthening me in my vocation. Thus,

with Him at my side, I studied philosophy and did the novitiate with two other Brothers. Now I am in the third year of theology. I have always believed in God, but now, looking back on my past, I must confess, “My God, how great you are!”

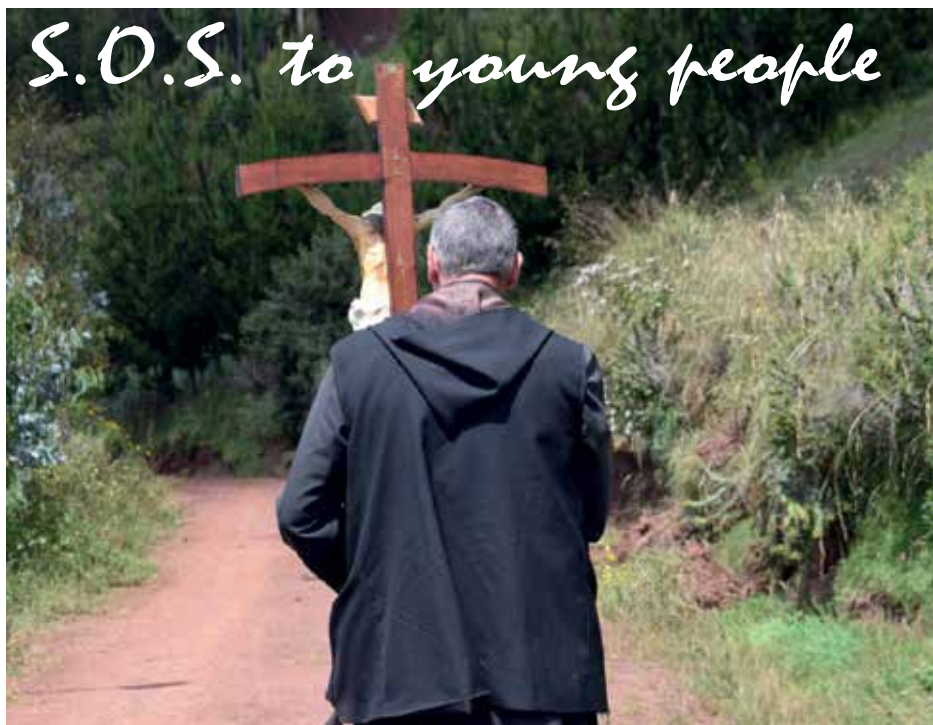
I would like to thank first of all my parents, who have supported me from the beginning, and also all of you, dear benefactors, especially the cloistered monks and nuns who are supporting us with their unceasing prayers, and all the poor who are our greatest benefactors, as our dear founder said, to whom I am indebted for his example of love for Christ, his Church and the poor, for whom he worked tirelessly.

*Ad maiorem gloriam Dei et Mariae.*



*Community of MSP Brothers and Priests where Brother Gabriel is preparing to be a Missionary Servant of the Poor in Ajofrin, Toledo, Spain.*

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



*It is time to act, and during Lent, to act is also to pause. To pause in prayer, to welcome the Word of God, and to pause like the Samaritan, before the wounded brother. Love of God and neighbor is one love. To have no other gods is to pause before the presence of God, in the flesh of one's neighbor. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three independent exercises, but a single movement of opening, of emptying.*

*(Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2024)*

*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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## MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR CHRONICLE

### MISSIONARY PRIESTS AND BROTHERS, SERVANTS OF THE POOR

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#### CUBA

The serious crisis that the country is going through in many areas is causing very difficult living conditions for the majority of the population. There are great difficulties in obtaining the necessary food and medicines, in organizing work amid power cuts, in getting around due to the lack of fuel and means of transportation. However, Cubans help each other and many turn to God and the Church for help. For us Missionary

Servants of the Poor, it is a privilege to be here today.

Our main apostolate is the administration of the parish of Cumanayagua and two quasi-parishes (La Sierrita and Guaos), which have been entrusted to us by the Bishop of Cienfuegos. The population of this territory is about 60,000 inhabitants, of whom a minority profess to be Catholic

*In Cuba, there is a great devotion to the Virgin Mary under her title of the Virgin of Charity of Cobre.*



We collaborate with the diocesan “Caritas” in the projects that are being carried out in several of the towns that we serve: school tutoring workshop, music workshop, care for the elderly with laundry service or distribution of milk for breakfast. Sometimes we receive some clothing from the diocesan “Caritas” for those most in need. We support the agricultural production of yucca, avocados, mangos, plantains, and beans which allows us to help the population with some food. Thanks to the support of benefactors, we continue to help the population of our parish with medicines twice a week, since the state pharmacies are practically empty, and with the distribution of used glasses that we receive from abroad.

In the last five years we have devoted a lot of energy and time to the restoration of the parish church of Cumanayagua,

although we also work in other chapels (in Crespo, Barajagua, Pepito Tey, etc.) wanting to offer places worthy of worship and pleasant environments for community meetings.

In October 2024 we will begin the “missionary school” in which six “students” from five of our towns receive weekly training to deepen their Christian culture and are motivated to become “missionaries” in their own communities. The training of committed lay people is very important in a country that suffers from very large emigration. They give stability and continuity to the mission.

We entrust our presence here to Holy Mary, Mother of the Poor, invoked in Cuba with the beautiful name of the Virgin of Charity, so that we can all grow in the charity that her divine Son communicates to us.



*Children and young people joyfully receive the catechism imparted by the MSP Priests in Guabairo, Cienfuegos, Cuba.*

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## THE CITY OF BOYS, ANDAHUAYLILLAS, PERU

On December 12, 2024, all the collaborators of the City of Boys (about a hundred) enjoyed a Christmas lunch served by the Fathers, Brothers and married missionary couples. After lunch, everyone was given a panettone,

a calendar, and another small gift. It is a small gesture that is repeated three times a year on our part to express our gratitude to our collaborators for their valuable work.



*The collaborators of the City of the Boys enjoying the Christmas lunch offered by the MSP community in Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru.*



## “Saints Francisco And Jacinta Marto” School Peru

We were able to finish the school year at our Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto School on December 23, 2024 with the participation of the students and their parents. The closing ceremony began with the celebration of the Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Walter Corsini, msp, our Vicar General, and followed by different activities, such as the traditional award ceremony for the outstanding students of the school and the new award ceremony for the outstanding students of the Technical Education Center (CETPRO) and for some parents who during the year accompanied their children in an exemplary manner in their good academic development.

On December 25, 2024, there were 14 First Communions, which were celebrated at the Christmas Mass in the parish of Santa Rosa, in the city of Cuzco, because it is very important that students identify with a specific parish before finishing their studies.

During the holidays, special tutoring was offered to students who had not passed some subjects. We also visited families who requested the admission of one of their children to our school. The enrollment process began at the beginning of February. It is very important for us to know the situation of each family before accepting an application for admission to our school. This allows us, at the same time, to try to help the neediest families.



*Young men from the carpentry workshop showing what they learned in the CETPRO at the City of the Boys, Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru.*

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## “Saint Tarcisus” Home

On December 15, 2024, several of our children received Baptism and First Communion, so we congratulate them for this great step they have taken in their lives.

We celebrated Christmas with great joy and devotion. Our children were very happy to be able to open their gifts on December 25, gifts that Providence sent us through you, our benefactors.

From December 26-30, 2024 and from January 3-11, 2025, the boys spent a long time in San Jerónimo, a district of the province of Cuzco, where they were able

to enjoy a little rest, but also to reinforce their learning in the subjects studied during the school year.

There are many children who suffer contempt and abandonment, but we Missionary Servants of the Poor thank God for having granted us the gift of our vocation to fully dedicate ourselves to their care. At the same time, you are an active part of this commitment with your constant prayer and financial support which sustain us and help the children grow up walking according to the will of God.



*The children in the Saint Tarcisus Home pray at the foot of the Most Holy Virgin in the City of Boys, Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru.*



*The boys in the Saint Tarcisius Home of the MSP receive comprehensive care from the MSP Priests and Brothers in the City of Boys in Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru.*



## “Saint Aloysius Gonzaga” Vocational Center

It is always a source of deep joy for us to continue to be able to count on young people who are eager to live a path of holiness and consecration to the Lord. We organized a meeting from December

6-9, 2024, with about 30 young men at our Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Vocational Center to introduce them to the religious and priestly vocation.

Later, from December 26-30, 2024, the young men of the Vocational Center participated in the missions that were organized in the different towns in the mountains where our Priests and Brothers usually go throughout the year. People had the opportunity to attend a Christmas Mass and share something special for Christmas.

February 12-20, 2025, the young men of the Vocational Center had a missionary pastoral experience in the department of Puno where they were able to serve and help in the diverse and scarce ecclesial situation of that territory.

February 22-26, 2025, a third vocational gathering was held to discern which young men could begin a longer path of accompaniment and discernment in our Vocational Center.

We entrust our work to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that they may guide our steps and inspire in many hearts the desire to follow their call by doing their will. We also ask all of you not to tire of praying for us.



*Young men who attended the vocational meeting held in City of Boy in Andahuaylillas, Cuzco, Peru.*

## Holy Mary, Mother Of The Poor

# HOUSE OF FORMATION



Why  
not?

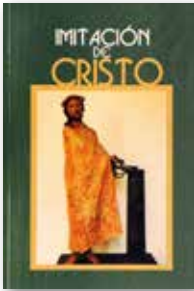
*Through the desert God leads us to freedom... Just as Israel in the desert still carries Egypt within itself – indeed, it often longs for the past and grumbles against heaven and against Moses – so too today the People of God carry within themselves oppressive bonds that they must decide to abandon.*

(Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2024)

“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!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

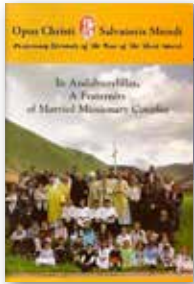
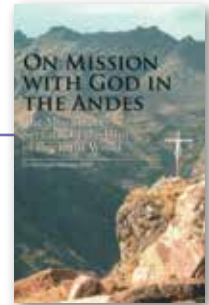


## The Imitation of Christ:

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.

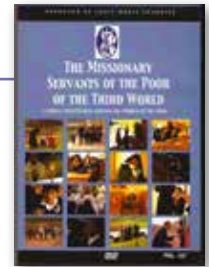


## Missionary Couples:

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.

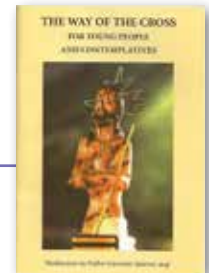


## The Confessions of St. Augustine:

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**