

WORLD CATHOLIC.US *News*

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**CELEBRATING
THE JUBILEE YEAR
TO HELP
“MAKE THE WORLD ONE FAMILY”**



Photo of Black Nazarene : By Constantine Agustin -
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US



NEWSLETTER OF THE XAVERIAN MISSIONARIES USA



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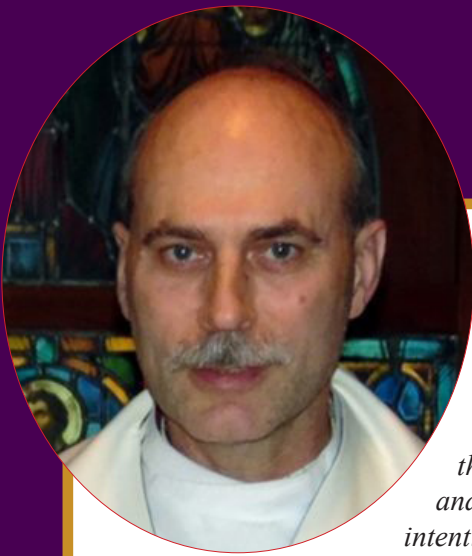
Please consider donating to the Xaverian Missionaries through our Communities listed above or online at <https://www.xaverianmissionaries.org/support/>.

Please also consider naming the St. Francis Xavier Foreign Mission Society in your Will.

Together we can help St. Guido Conforti's vision to "Make of the World One Family" become a reality.



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CALLED TO BE A BLESSING!

Dear Friends of the Missions:

I would like to relate a lovely story: “Every Sunday, after church, a pastor and his 11-year-old son would go through the city giving out copies of the Gospels. One Sunday, on a rainy and cold morning, the boy got ready and invited his father to get going and make the rounds. His father had no intention of leaving the house. So his son asked permission and decided to go on his own. When he got down to the last book, he pounded on the door with all his strength and waited there patiently. After some time an older lady appeared and inquired what the boy wanted. With a big smile the youngster replied, ‘Miss, I’m sorry to bother you, I simply wanted to tell you that Jesus loves you very, very much. And I want you to have this copy of the Gospels which tell you about Jesus and his great love.’ With that the boy disappeared into the rain.

The following Sunday, in church, the pastor asked if any member of the assembly would like to say something. An older lady stood up and said, ‘None of you know me. It’s my first time in this church. I wasn’t raised a Christian. I live alone. Last Sunday, I was tired, sad, and depressed. I had decided to take my life and I was about to do it, when I heard someone pounding on my door. I decided to go and answer, since nobody visits me. When I opened the door, a boy that looked like an angel to me, with a big smile, said, ‘Miss, I came to tell you that Jesus loves you very, very much. He gave me copy of the Gospels and disappeared. I closed the door and sat down to read the Book. Since this church’s address was in the book, I have come to say ‘thanks’ to the angel God sent to me so I could be saved.’ Among tears and applause the pastor went down to where his son was sitting and hugged him.”

It was not a book that God sent to us... but Himself, in Jesus, the Lord and Prince of Peace, the Savior and Redeemer. And those who open their hearts and lives to him, experience Love himself, and they will never be the same again.

Often enough angels come our way bringing a particular message from God... And often enough, perhaps, you and I are unable to recognize them and pay attention to their message... calling us to conversion, to reach out to someone, to share time, talent, and treasure with others... especially those most in need around us and in our Missions overseas. And we may miss opportunities to experience heaven here on earth.

In Jesus our Lord, God gave us his very self, all he had and is. God loved us to the end. And God continues to love us to the end. God won’t change his mind, no matter what, because God is faithful even if we are not.

We are called to be a blessing and ‘Good News’ to others especially at a time of a pandemic and divisions... through our generous love, support, prayers, and sacrifice, working for unity, reconciliation, and peace.

Will you and I heed to Jesus’ invitation this Lent: “Repent and believe in the Gospel?”

If we do so we will experience resurrection and new life at Easter and always.

Thank you for being a vital part, for so many years, of this Mission entrusted to us all. Thank you indeed, from the bottom of our hearts.

~Fr. Mark Marangone SX and the Xaverian Missionaries

Look for God in Everything



**VENERABLE
CELESTINE
BOTTEGO**

by Teresina Caffi MMX

Being able to give ourselves to God in the present moment is the secret of a perfect life and unity with God.

We look to Mother Celestine Bottego's example during these difficult days in which we find ourselves for a helpful example. She found herself living a childhood she did not choose. Her father went back to Parma, Italy from the United States after the death of his explorer brother. Celestine experienced poverty growing up because her brother and sister returned to Italy with their father.

She arrived in Italy as a teenager being torn away from many relationships, a culture and a language she was accustomed to since birth. Then she had to become acclimated to a new family and culture and learn a new language in school.

Celestine found her place in the Italian civil and ecclesial life. She was teaching, caring for the poor who worked on the farms of her family and nurtured her spiritual life by the Benedictines being guided by Abbot Caronti.

The Second World War came and touched many families. The war impoverished families. Celestine heard the appeal for help and trained and became a worker for the Red Cross.

When the armies were still engaged in battle in the Emilia-Romagna area Celestine received a suggestion for something new, something that she never thought of. She was to start a missionary congregation. She hadn't thought of a religious life for herself. When Fr. James Spagnolo SX proposed this to her he found an immediate resistance from her. She felt it was a mistake and that she would spoil a congregation. She replied that she could help, "economically." It was July 2, 1943 that this stone was thrown

into her peaceful pond of life and caused an inner disturbance and she had to say, "Yes."

In life there are events. Sometimes we receive requests that match our thoughts and desires. We welcome them with generosity and new energy. However, at times there are requests and events that disconcert us because they ask us to change our thoughts and our plans. Celestine accepted these changes by confronting herself with "Someone" other than herself.

She said, "Yes." It was May 24, 1944 when she was escaping to Capriglio because of the war. *"Because of the Lord, my life looked so different and my interests were changed as well. First the avenues that separate us from the world were uncertain and confusing, but now there is a real and pure division and detachment from the avenues of the world. Now Jesus and his plans dominate in my soul."*

Little by little, her life and possessions were not important to her. She gave her bedroom to those who were sick or needed a place to rest. Everything changed in her life. She, at this time, had to learn the meaning of living in community. Living in community is the way of a religious and part of the mission that was growing and would continue until the end of the world.

In her seventies, Celestine renounced the directing of this missionary family, accepting to relinquish control over her "creation." The only remaining thing was to love it without pretensions. She accomplished this but continued to relate to the people of the city, with many friendships that extended to the families of her "daughters." During her last years she experienced her fragility. Her memory became slow and her lucidity was less effective. With this she realized she would soon be joined with the *One* she loved.

I think that Celestine, in the terrible circumstances we are living in and with now, can tell us something. It is valid for us to ask ourselves in every moment and not necessarily in chosen circumstances what God wants us to do. We must ask: "How do we answer this appeal of history by offering the best of our humanity?" One day we will hear and see all the collected stories of heroism of these weeks and times. These are the true answers. This is the place to look for God in these dark moments.



ENVISIONING THE FUTURE...

FR. LUIGINO MARCHIORON SX



Pope Francis addressed priests, religious and consecrated in the Cathedral of Rabat (Morocco) on March 31, 2019: "All of you are witnesses of a glorious history. It is a history of sacrifices, hopes, daily struggles, lives spent in service, perseverance, and hard work, for all work, is hard, done 'by the sweat of our brow.' You have a glorious history to remember and recount, but also a great history to be accomplished! Look to the future - envision the future - where the Holy Spirit is sending you."

The biblical icon that can help us envision the future is that of the encounter of the prophet Jeremiah with the potter. (Jer. 18: 1-6) Jeremiah proclaims a time of inner renewal, but in his ministry, he experiences the inability of the people to be faithful to the Law, which is felt as alien and oppressive. In a potter's house, God gives the prophet a lesson in life and faith: Jeremiah, the people of Israel, each one of us, is like clay in the hands of the potter. The Lord - like the potter in his workshop - does not throw away the spoiled clay, but instead molds it again. "Can I not do to you, house of Israel, as this potter has done? Indeed, like clay in the hand of the

potter, so are you in my hand, house of Israel" (Jer. 18: 5-6). These words are a pledge: The Lord will continue to work with Israel until God's plan is achieved.

Through the everyday work of the potter, Jeremiah sees the situation of his time and recognizes the action of God (the hands of God) within the history of the people. What a great lesson for us too! God's mission is where I am, that is, within the reality in which I live.

Envisioning the future is to be recognized as a testimony and collaboration with the way of thinking and doing of God. What is Jeremiah called to do in a particular moment of suffering, uncertainty, conflict, loss, or discouragement? Observing a potter, Jeremiah experiences the mystery of God's merciful love! He cannot only listen and watch, but must collaborate with this vision-experience of life. We ourselves, every day, discover that we carry "this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us" (2 Cor 4: 7). It is a journey that lasts a lifetime. Our mission resides in letting ourselves be grasped and shaped by the "sentiments" of Christ. The "working"

of the potter reminds us of who we are, especially when we lose the sense of our limit and want to reverse the parts, pretending to tell God how God must act.

Reflecting on the "how" of the potter enables us to see not only what is broken (the experience of sin), but to perceive the work of the Creative Spirit, God's openness and merciful patience. For this reason, in the moment of giving shape to the vase, the co-worker of the divine potter knows how to see the possibilities for "the best" even amid the failure, the cracks, and the "wounds" of the failed vase. In the Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, Pope Francis invites us to conceive the totality of our life as a mission ... to envisage the future! "Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life, and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received. Allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today's world. May you come to realize what that word is the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life" (GE 23-24).

The Testament Letter in My Life As a Lay Xaverian



When I had the first contact with the Xaverian Missionaries, what most caught my attention was the charism of their founder, Saint Guido Maria Conforti. His passion for the crucifix and for making it known to non-Christians, were the reasons why at the time I decided to dedicate my life in the Xaverian Missionaries congregation.

Years of religious and missionary formation dedicated to discerning what God wanted for me passed. Together with my spiritual director, I made the decision to continue in the service of God and the Gospel, in lay life. Currently I have a family and together with my wife we have chosen to be lay Xaverian Missionaries.

On this occasion, 100 years after the publication of the Testament Letter of the founder of the Xaverian Missionaries, I allow myself to express the resonances that have had in my life and those that may have in the future of the Xaverian Laity in Mexico and in the world. Indeed, the testament letter is the most precious inheritance that the children of Saint Guido could have received from their Father. However, for me, as a lay Xaverian, it also constitutes that spiritual heritage of the missionary charism that applies in any state of life, in any circumstance of missionary work and as an inspiring source of Christian life, understood as a fundamental value and following of the message of Jesus in the gospel.

Reflecting on the impact of the Testament Letter on my life and what it can bring to Xaverian laity, I can extract most important points that can be applied to our mission as Christians who have chosen the missionary charism. The Founder states, "the apostolic life united to the profession of religious

mand of Jesus: "Go throughout the world and preach the Gospel."

When one is aware of this mission, everything that one does on a day-to-day basis becomes Christian life, asking God to grant us "the spirit of living faith that makes us see God, seek God, and love God in all!"

Remaining in the state in which we are called, seek to share the richness of the gospel in yourself, in your family, at work, and in society. This will not be achieved if personal experiences are not carried out before the crucifix and before the Eucharist, which allow us to have a personal encounter with God through prayer. However everything that can be personally obtained by praying, studying and reflecting, will not bear the expected fruit if it is not translated into turning to others, leaving our selfishness and thinking of others, effectively doing the works of charity in our own surroundings.

May God grant us, as Xaverian laity, to make our charism our own, to increase our faith, so that in our lives it is the complete transparency of the evangelical, human, spiritual and missionary values that were inherited from the life of Saint Guido Maria Conforti and that together with the Xaverian missionaries we make the world a single family so that our Lord Jesus Christ may be known and loved by all.

Federico López Jiménez.
Lay Coordinator
Guadalajara, Mexico



vows constitutes in itself how much greater good, according to the gospel can be conceived."

This phrase is fundamental for his religious children and transfers to us as lay people, as baptized, where the Christian life lived intensely united to the apostolic life that each lay person could choose, results in the task of bearing witness and being bearers of the good news. I feel committed to the evangelical preparation that allows me to continue discovering the perfect state of the Christian is to continually go to the source, the Gospel. Reading, reflecting, praying, and practicing will allow us to be faithful to the com-

God between the Lines...

The reasons I became a Xaverian Missionary are not exactly the reasons I continue to be religious missionary in the church today. My life has evolved and changed over the many years and I have many unpredictable experiences that shape my understanding of faith and response to Christ. I like to think of my life at this point as, "God between the lines," a way of saying it which is something I borrowed from a study of the Asian Study Centre with the same title in 2016.

The essays in this little volume were selected literature from four Asian countries scrutinizing the cultural pluralism through the literature of four Asian authors. It also speaks well of my own journey with the divine, transcendent Lord "between" faiths and cultures, across three continents, revealing the sacredness of all things.

In light of this, the words of the Founder in the Testament Letter reverberate in the changes, crisis, and times where I had to learn to stretch the boundaries of my heart because life demanded it of me. He points to the serious and solemn commitment we undertake, as if that seriousness can

only be understood across the years in a cumulation of experiences, giving our own modest contribution to the fulfillment of Christ's wish: the formation of a single Christian family embracing all humanity.

Drawn Closer to Christ in the Periphery of Faith

The depth of our devotion to Christ will always lead us to love our Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Indigenous, nonreligious, agnostic, atheist, and other neighbors as ourselves. It is trans-institutional, working across institutions, both religious and non-religious, seeking the common good of those inside and outside the movement and the institutions it involves.

It continues to draw me, leaving behind that which is not needed, pledging my years to continue to follow Christ whose salvific power extends both within and beyond the institutional church and beyond religious/secular constructs. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be" (John 1-3).

Obedience and Dialogue

In the Philippines, with little exposure to Islam, I found myself thrust in an experience that would start a thrust in my mission which affects me to this day. It was obedience to a moment and its need. I was substituting for a confrere who was on holiday at the time. We were assisting landless farmers who were trying to dialogue with the government about land titles promised them 20 years prior and never delivered. During this work, clandestine, para-military soldiers, probably sent from people in the government, began a systematic campaign to assassinate the leaders of these farmers' grassroots organizations structured through various local organizations and funded by an NGO in Belgium.

In the early 2000's, more than 200 were killed. One of the targets of this campaign was a village where many men were killed. Their wives and mothers responded by traveling to Metro-Manila in the north and holding a hunger strike in front of the Department of Agriculture, close to our center. Fifteen days into the hunger strike, weak and lying on cots under a blue plastic canopy alongside the highway, a local Muslim chaplain and I were called to join them to provide solace. We were asked to offer some spiritual consolation to this religiously mixed group of women who did not know what the future would hold.

Both he and I agreed that it would be simple. We would both read from our sacred texts, pray to God (Allah) for protection, and then visit each woman by their cots and have a quiet conversation with them. I began with a letter from St. Paul, he from the Qur'an. After our respective prayers, we spent the rest of the afternoon talking individually with each in quiet whispers, hunched over these frail, brave women who shaved their heads in protest. I realized in that interfaith worship, that our common prayer to God to bring justice to the poor and consolation to the grieved hit at the belief and passion of us all, Christian and Muslim.

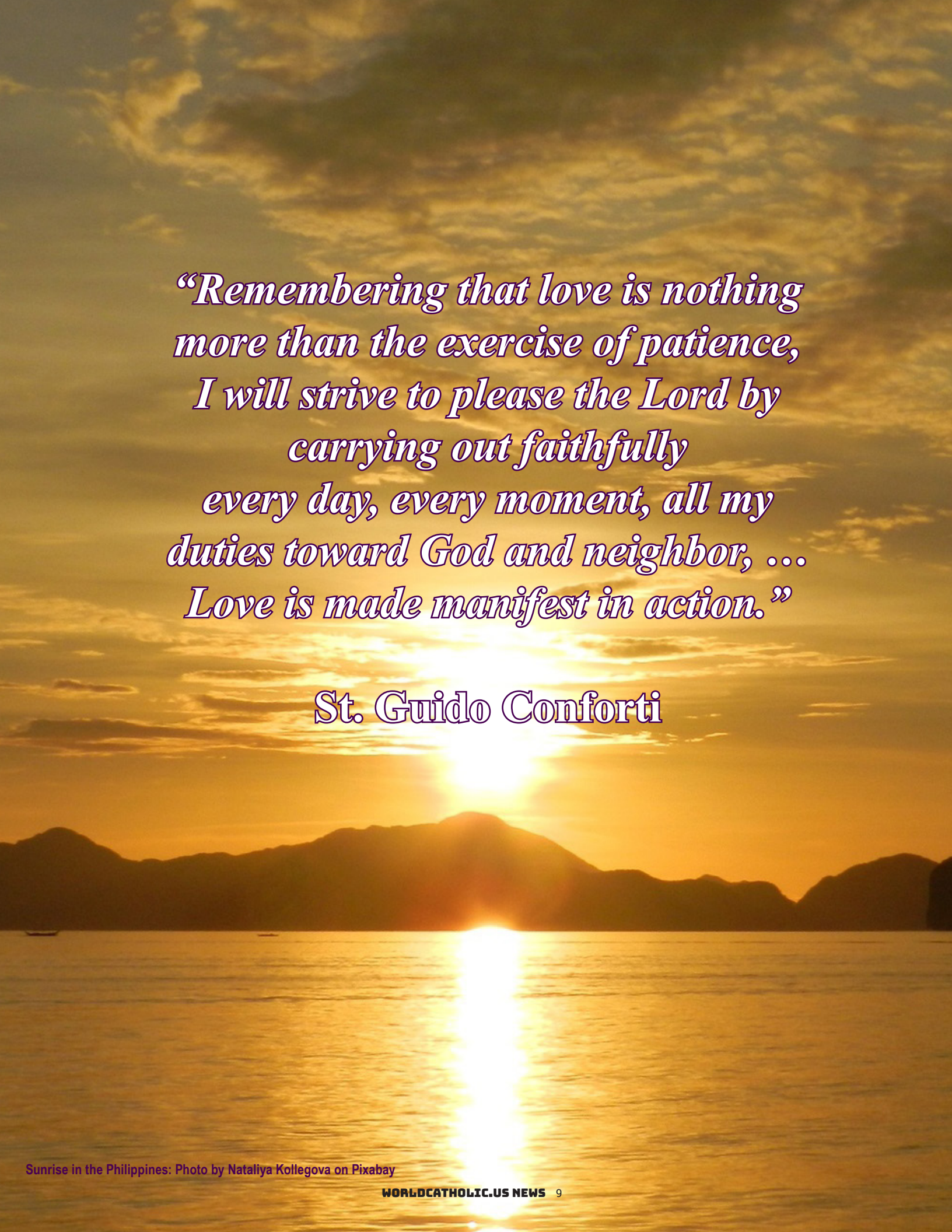
Furthermore, it was a balm of healing we could only carry together to this fearless community. I knew from that time forward; my energies would be about gathering that same kind of collaborative spiritual healing and renewal in front of the great challenges and cancers that afflict our communities and world today. The world has grown sufficiently small, the problems that we share across the globe sufficiently large and common.... While plural in so many wonderful ways, morally the human family is one.

Obedience is teaching me this.

Fr. Carl Chudy SX



Photo of Filipino Muslim Girl by Fr. Carl Chudy SX



“Remembering that love is nothing more than the exercise of patience, I will strive to please the Lord by carrying out faithfully every day, every moment, all my duties toward God and neighbor, ... Love is made manifest in action.”

St. Guido Conforti

World Mission News

“Making of the World One Family...”



THE PANDEMIC AND HEALTH PROTOCOLS HAVE NOT DISCOURAGED CATHOLICS FROM MEETING TO PRAY AND WORSHIP THE “BLACK NAZARENE,” WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST HEARTFELT DEVOTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Manila (Agenzia Fides) - Due to the pandemic and the health protocols in force, the “Translacion” (a Spanish term that denotes the procession held annually in Manila which usually sees the participation of one million people) was impacted. Church authorities in the city, after consulting government officials, decided to celebrate the feast of the Black Nazarene on January 9, with limited participation.

In the church of the Quiapo district which houses the statue of Christ called “Black Nazarene,” 15 masses were celebrated. “At each mass, only 6,000 people were allowed to participate in the Eucharistic celebration inside the church, with a total of about 90,000 people on the day. However, thousands of faithful who were unable to enter the church were nevertheless able to participate in the Mass on large screens placed outside the church,” stated Fr. Douglas Badong, parish priest of the

church in the Quiapo district, where the image of the Black Nazarene is venerated.

Bishop Hernando Coronel, Rector of Quiapo church, encouraged people to attend masses through social media and not to crowd into church due to government health restrictions.

While celebrating the first mass at 4:30 a.m. (local time), Bishop Broderick Pabillo, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Manila, urged Catholics to “continue to love Jesus and to live the Gospel in daily life.” He added, “The Black Nazarene is a powerful magnet that attracts many people and we cannot stop this attraction. We are not attracted to an image. An image is only a symbol. We are drawn to the love of God.”

The police set up roadblocks around the church, where the religious icon is kept, to prevent people from getting too close. According to popular devotion, touching

the image of the Black Nazarene, or simply being in his presence, can heal the sick or bring graces of all kinds.

A devotee, Margaret Seluda, mother of four, stated: “Even looking at the centuries-old statue of Jesus Christ has miraculous healing powers. This is a tradition of faith in the Philippines.” “The feast reminds me and my family that we must live with God and for God, and live love for our neighbor,” added Antony Soriano, a young professional.

The Church in the Philippines sees this devotion as a vibrant expression of faith in a predominantly Christian nation, with 80% of the over 110 million inhabitants being Catholics. Historically, the statue is believed to have survived a fire in the 17th century while being taken to the Philippines on a Spanish ship from Mexico. The statue is called “Black Nazarene” due to its charred color, after the fire aboard the ship, which it miraculously escaped.

USA NEWS



On Wednesday, November 18, 2020, shortly after 9:00 p.m., Fr. Aniello Salicone died at Ascension Hospital in Franklin, WI. He was hospitalized since November 14 with symptoms of Covid-19. He was 80 years old, having been born in 1940, in Ariano di Olevano sul Tusciano, Salerno, Italy.

His funeral in Wisconsin was broadcast on the St. John's Greenfield YouTube live stream on Wednesday, Nov. 23. His funeral in Massachusetts was broadcast live on the Xaverian Missionaries Facebook page on Saturday, Nov. 28.

He joined the Xaverian Missionaries at the age of 21. In 1962, he made his first religious profession. He made his perpetual vows in 1965 and received priestly ordination in 1966. In 1967 he was sent to Salerno, first as a vocation director and then as vice rector. After a year of language in London, he left for Sierra Leone. He worked in Kabala, as assistant parish priest, teacher, and then as parish priest. In 1980, P. Aniello received a Master's Degree in Divinity at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and from 1981 to 1989 he was a teacher in the major seminary of Gbarnga, Liberia. He returned to Italy for treatment, and from 1990 to 1993 he was rector of the house in Finchley, London. Finally, in 1994, he was assigned to the U.S.A. He worked at the Animation Center in Holliston, Massachusetts, St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church,

in Chicago, Illinois, and finally he was assigned to Franklin, Wisconsin, where he continued with ministry.

We are grateful for his work, and for the many hearts he touched.

May the Lord bless you and Keep you! May the Lord's face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

We thank you all for your continued prayers.

~Fr. Alex Rodriguez SX

SCHEDULE 2021

- Sunday Mass: 11 AM
- Please register weekly for each Sunday celebration you wish to attend
- Weekdays: 7:30 am (Shrine Church only) Limit 30 person
- Saturday: 10 am Mass
- Reconciliation: Saturday 3-5 pm in the church hall

Online registration for Sunday mass:
www.xaverianmissionaries.org/fatima-shrine-holliston-ma/

Contact Us
holliston@xaverianmissionaries.org
 508.429.2144

Gift Shop Open
 Tuesday - Sunday
 11 am - 6 pm

Please note the new schedule for Fatima Shrine. Online or phone registration is required for all Masses. Thank you for your understanding as we support each other in this difficult time.

~Fr. Rocco Puopolo SX

The Provincial House community enjoyed lunch with newly-installed Bishop Kevin Sweeney of the Diocese of Paterson NJ on November 13, 2020 (From left to right, Fr. Michael Davitti SX, Bishop Sweeney, Fr. Frank Grappoli SX and Fr. Mark Marangone SX)

~Fr. Michael Davitti SX

The Xaverian Missionaries invite you to share your prayers with the whole world. Everywhere the struggle with Covid-19 makes such demands on our lives, and has taken our beloved away from us as well. When we feel powerless in front of our vulnerability in the sea of microbiology we all swim in, we understand more deeply our dependence on the God of creation. Let's bring all of our prayers together in our global family. Please share your prayers on <https://www.xaverianmissionaries.org/prayer-space/>



Pietro Rossini, a Xaverian Missionary in Holliston, Massachusetts is joining the Communications Board of the Xaverian Missionaries USA. Pietro, 29, after finishing his theological studies and reception of final vows in Italy, has come to the United States to do a Master's program on Journalism at Boston University. His media expertise is shared with us as we learn ways to use the tools of the internet and social media to further the challenges of the mission of the church in the twenty first century.

~Fr. Carl Chudy SX





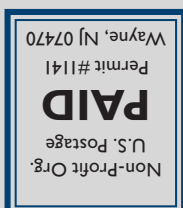
Devotees of the Black Nazarene outside the Quiapo Church on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021. Image: Courtesy of Radyo Veritas

Bring Compassion to the World! Become a Xaverian Missionary Priest, Sister or Brother.

Contact: frrocco@xaverianmissionaries.org, fralex@xaverianmissionaries.org

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Italy • Japan • Mexico • Morocco • Mozambique • Philippines • Sierra Leone • Spain • Taiwan • Thailand • UK • USA



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