

Our year- Sr Mary - Fr Barry - Magugu Rice - Fr Ochola - UAC Thurles - Mission Desk



Our Pallottine Year

Fr Derry Murphy SAC

As I write this, coming to the end of October, I am struck by the first reading in daily Mass from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. He wrote of his awe in receiving "the infinite treasure of Christ", then of his commission from God the Father to go and proclaim this infinite treasure of Christ to others. He marvels at the fact that what was hidden for centuries in relation to God has now been made visible in Jesus Christ who is the mystery of God unveiled.

We have lived through months of uncertainty this year, and I am sure many are worried, and unsure of what kind of Christmas we are going to have. Advent is an opportunity to shift our gaze, our interior eyes, and look to our Lord Jesus Christ, to see in him the 'infinite treasure' of God that he is, and to marvel in awe that he was made visible as baby and then more visible and tangible throughout his life and ministry. May the experience of St Paul be ours, may we know the 'infinite treasure' of Jesus and know ourselves to be graced with understanding of this mystery.

While the pandemic has occupied centre stage since March, life does continue to unfold in all its riches. The Pallottine community has had moments of great joy and celebration; our Province celebrated the Perpetual Consecration of Hillary Massawe (Tanzania) in Gallapo, on 8th September, and just two days later he was ordained Deacon along with the ordination to the priesthood of Faustin Morumbe (Tanzania), Gonzaga Mutaawe (Uganda), Michael Muhia and George Kimina (both from Kenya). Congratulations to each of them. We wish them a long, happy and fruitful ministry as Pallottines.

Fr Michael Irwin, Rector of our Dublin community, and a native of Youghal, Co Cork, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination in July. *Ad multos annos* Michael.

Sadly, we mourned the deaths of four of our Pallottine confreres since the last edition of Pallottine Voices. Fr Ned O'Brien, originally from Midleton, Co Cork, died on 11 December. Fr Ned began his long and fruitful life as a priest in Tanzania in 1957. He was a life-long supporter of our missions through Mission Appeals, organizing fund-raising events and leaving no stone unturned as he sought help for the mission that was dear to his heart.

Fr Hernan Ustariz, a native of Ciudad de Tigre, in Argentina, died peacefully in Castelar, Argentina, on 3rd March following a long-illness which he lived with equanimity and faith while continuing to attend to the people of God up to a few short weeks before his untimely death.

Fr Michael Clarke, a native of Greenock, Scotland, died on 23rd April in Greenock, as televised Mass was concluding. Fr Michael had Multiple Sclerosis for 44 years and accepted his incapacity with an admirable spirit and unwavering faith.

Fr Victor Sanka died in his native Bashnet, Tanzania, on 22nd August. His death was unexpected. However, he had been in declining health for a number of years. Victor was one of the first group of Tanzanians who came to Ireland in 1959 to begin formation. He made friendships here which endured throughout his life, in particular with the families of Brothers Dan Shea and Dan Lynch, so much so that Victor's accent had a very noticeable Cork inflection.

We give thanks to God for the lives, the ministries and the contribution which each of them made to the life of the Pallottine community. May they rejoice in eternal life.



From Left: Deacon Hillary Massawe, Fathers Michael Muhia, Faustin Morumbe, Gonzaga Mutaawe, and George Kimina.

This year is also one of changes for us in our Province. The election for the new Provincial and Provincial Council was held. Fr Liam McClarey was elected Provincial, Fr Martin Mareja, First Consultor, and Brother Stephen Buckley, Fr Michael O'Sullivan and Fr Rory Hanly, Consultors. The newly elected Provincial Council takes office on November 1st. I am sure that you all join with me in wishing them God's blessing, wisdom and strength as they take up the task of leading our Province over the next three years.

This is my final piece as Provincial and it has been a privilege to serve the Pallottine community as Provincial for the past nine years.



A Joy Amidst the Coronavirus Pandemic

Fr Marcellus Okoth Ochola SAC

Indeed, no one can argue that the impact of the coronavirus is something that we have experienced before. It is an invisible enemy, deadly, and unaware of borders. The world is experiencing a pandemic that is oblivious to many of the things we hold dear to us: family, culture, worship, economy and borders.

Within months, despite all efforts, the coronavirus has encircled the globe. We are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity and our common creaturehood under one God, what Pope Francis calls in *Laudato Si*, an integral ecology. We are interrelated, interconnected, and interdependent.

Tanzania has been in the International news since the outbreak of Coronavirus. This is because the pandemic was received and lived through with minimal restrictions. It might look awkward to many, even to us who are working here. Our experience of the pandemic was accompanied by official encouragement that faith be mobilized to defeat it.

With that argument there has been minimal disruption of any form of life in Tanzania. Life has been normal, despite the fear and the uncertainties. But can this be a reason to

rejoice for the early coming of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas? The Pallottines of East Africa had an early joy that can only be compared to Christmas in the ordination of our brothers. It was a joy amidst the challenges of the coronavirus and losing one of our own, Fr. Victor Sanka.

Because of travel restrictions, the families and friends of three of the newly ordained could not attend but thanks to cameras which provided live-streaming they could participate live on Facebook. It was a feeling of being incomplete because they could not share this very important moment with their loved ones.

We are living in unknown and uncharted territories for the Church, for all of us. We, as clergy, are reminded that we are all witnessing a bigger moment now, where the whole Church and our families and friends are encouraging us to choose the uphill path of the “new” rather than the path of the “safe”. We have to be with our suffering Christians. Christmas is about joy and if the joy of the Lord is our strength, then our strength is our Christian strength. We should not let anything steal our joy. However, for us Christmas will mean reflection on the memories of our loved ones, the priests, religious and lay faithful who succumbed to the deadly virus.

The world is grappling with the scourge of the coronavirus and as we move into 2021, our expectations and aspirations are many, but the challenges that will confront us are unknown. I hope and believe that Christ is coming with a consoling solution to this pandemic, which is a sure hope of peace of mind amidst the challenges we undergo.

From the Mission Desk

Fr Martin Mareja SAC

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought our normal life and activities to a standstill. There is an atmosphere of uncertainty and constant worry lingering everywhere, It affects all of us, and particularly those who live away from home and those whose family members, friends or neighbours live and work abroad.

All appeals and fundraising efforts to support those in need in the missions were not possible this year. This means we may not be able to keep on supporting them. As director of the mission office, I am worried about the future of our houses of formation and the education and formation of our 15 students in East Africa, and the support for the Siuyu Rehabilitation Centre for children with special needs. I appeal to you to please continue to support us as best you can in these challenging times that we are all going through.

Public masses are no longer celebrated, and as a result many of you, our helpers, supporters and benefactors, cannot go to communion. However, the Church encourages its members who cannot attend mass to exercise Spiritual Communion, which is a Christian practice of desiring union with Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. In the present

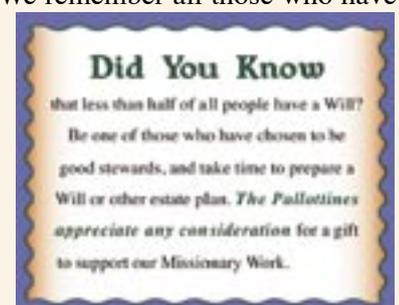
circumstances I recommend this worthy practice.

I invite to you to pray with us this ‘Act of Spiritual Communion’, written by our founder St. Vincent Pallotti:

Jesus, Infinite Love, truly God and truly man, my food and drink, I desire you and I wish to desire you with the fullness of love with which you are desired by angels, the saints and their queen, the Most Holy Mary, with the fullness of the love of her own heart.

And relying on your Infinite Mercy which does not reject even the most miserable, indeed it seeks them out, I wish to receive you in every moment, forever; and I wish to make as many acts of love and of adoration as you deserve and for all the goals that are pleasing to you. Amen

I thank you for all your help in the past. I ask the Lord to continue to bless you. We remember all those who have died due to the pandemic. May the Good Lord grant them eternal rest, for those who are sick a speedy recovery, and for all our frontline workers God’s protection. I wish a Happy Christmas to you all.



Welcome Home, Fr Michael Barry

Fr Derry writes: Michael Barry returned to Ireland on 20 July. He ministered in Tanzania for almost 56 years and the time was right to retire back to Ireland. He spent the last 16 years of ministry as Parish Priest in Boay in the Diocese of Mbulu. It was major wrench for him to leave Boay and all his friends after so many years of very fruitful ministry.

On arrival in Ireland Fr. Michael spent the 14-day quar-



antine period in Pallotti House in Dublin. He then travelled to the Thurles Community where he quickly settled in to the life and routine there. He has already acquired a tablet and an e-mail address and I am sure that given his natural skills in technology he will be using it regularly.

Fr Martin writes: In addition to what Fr. Derry wrote I just want to say to you Mike, thank you very much (Asante Sana) for the great work in the different parishes where you ministered in the dioceses of Mbulu and Singida. In 56 year of ministry, the seed of faith which you and fellow missionaries planted has steadily flourished into a vibrant huge family of God (the church). I remember with admiration the great service you gave to my home parish of Mbugwe when it was left without a resident priest for over ten years, while at the same time managing your own parish of Magugu with over 10 outstations, spread over a huge geographical area. No doubt the legacy you left behind will live forever. Your presence there will be missed by the many people you worked with and by those you helped in so many different ways. Enjoy your retirement “Babu”, as you were popularly called in Boay.

Every best wish, Michael, for your life in Thurles.

UAC Group Thurles Sharing Resources

At the beginning of every year, members of the UAC Thurles group take on a small project to support our work in the missions. It was agreed that donations collected during the monthly meetings in 2019 would go towards supporting our postulancy house of formation in Gallapo, Tanzania. A total of €600 was raised. The money was handed over to Fr. Norbert Mukabwa, director of the Postulancy programme to buy a computer, a printer and stationery.

Fr Norbert writes: Greetings from the Postulant community in Gallapo. I take this opportunity to thank all the members of UAC for their great support of our students in the Postulancy House of formation (Preparatory Stage) in Gallapo, Manyara, Tanzania.

At the moment we have three postulants who have just begun the program which lasts for nine months before starting their philosophical studies in Arusha.

Through your support, we managed to get a modern computer, a colour printer and three reams of printing paper which the students have already started to use.

The computer will be most helpful to the students because most of them had no knowledge of computers before but now they are getting used to using it. It will facilitate easier learning and excellent performance. I am sure this will be helpful for this group and also for other groups in the future.

Thank you very much for your support and we promise to keep you in our prayers in these most challenging times.



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If you receive a subscription form for Associate membership, the Pallottine Voices newsletter and calendar, know that we keep an electronic record of your name and address.

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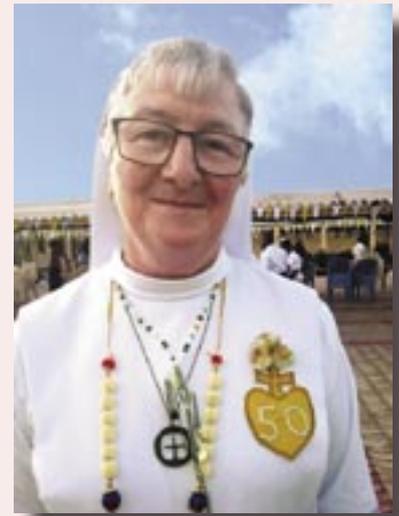
Sister Mary McNulty SAC Golden Jubilee

In October 1966, at the age of eighteen, Mary McNulty entered the Pallottine Sisters Novitiate in Rochdale, England. It was a big challenge for her as it was the first time she had left her native Mayo. Three years later she made her First Profession on the 15th of August 1969.

Her Golden Jubilee celebrations were held at the Pallottine Mission in Tanzania where she had worked for 28 years. It was a joyful day for the Pallottine Missionary Sisters in Tanzania and the day began with a Thanksgiving Mass in the parish church in Siuyu, presided over by Bishop Mapunda of Singida Diocese, together with eighteen priests, twelve of whom were Pallottines. And most of the Pallottine Sisters in Tanzania were present.

There was a huge crowd at the mass and Bishop Mapunda, in his homily, congratulated Sr Mary for her apostolate and generous spirit, saying that she evangelised and touched many people during her twenty-eight years in Tanzania. He commended her for the help she gave to many girls, espe-

cially those from rural areas, to get a good education that enabled them to better their lives and those of their families. He added that the people of Tanzania will never forget Sr Mary “Mother of Siuyu”. After the homily Sr Mary was given a framed “Certificate of Appreciation” by Bishop Mapunda in recognition of her contribution to the growth and development of the spiritual and educational life of the Diocese.



After the mass the guests were invited to a meal and then to an evening of entertainment provided by local musicians and dancers in traditional African style.

Congratulations Sr Mary, and may the good Lord continue to bless you.



Thank You We Love Magugu Rice

Fr Martin writes: On behalf of Fr. Tommy Ryan, Sr. Rosy Ombay, the Staff and Children at Siuyu Rehabilitation Centre in Singida, Tanzania, I wish to express a word of sincere thanks to you, our friends,

benefactors and helpers in Thurles for your generous donations to the basket of Baby Jesus for Christmas 2019.

Fr. George suggested that the proceeds should go to help those most in need. Siuyu Rehab was chosen, and with your donations, I bought a bag of 100 kg of Magugu rice and 40 litres of cooking oil which I delivered to the center in February 2020. The children were very happy when I mentioned to them that the money to buy the rice and cooking oil was a gift from relatives and friend of Fr. Tommy Ryan, or “Babu” which means granddad, as he is popularly known and called at the Centre.

To all of you who have been and are our most esteemed helpers and supporters, let these words of Jesus in the Scriptures sound in the deepest part of your heart, ‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”



Please Help the Pallottines.

Please cut out this form and return it with your donation.
Please remember the Pallottines in your will. Thank you.

Dear Fr. Martin,

I enclose an offering of € to help the Pallottines' mission to assist, educate and empower the people they minister to.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.

Name

Address

Send to: **Fr. Martin Mareja, SAC**
Pallottine Fathers Missions
Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ireland E41A271
Email: palmissions@gmail.com

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