

Society of Saint Pius X

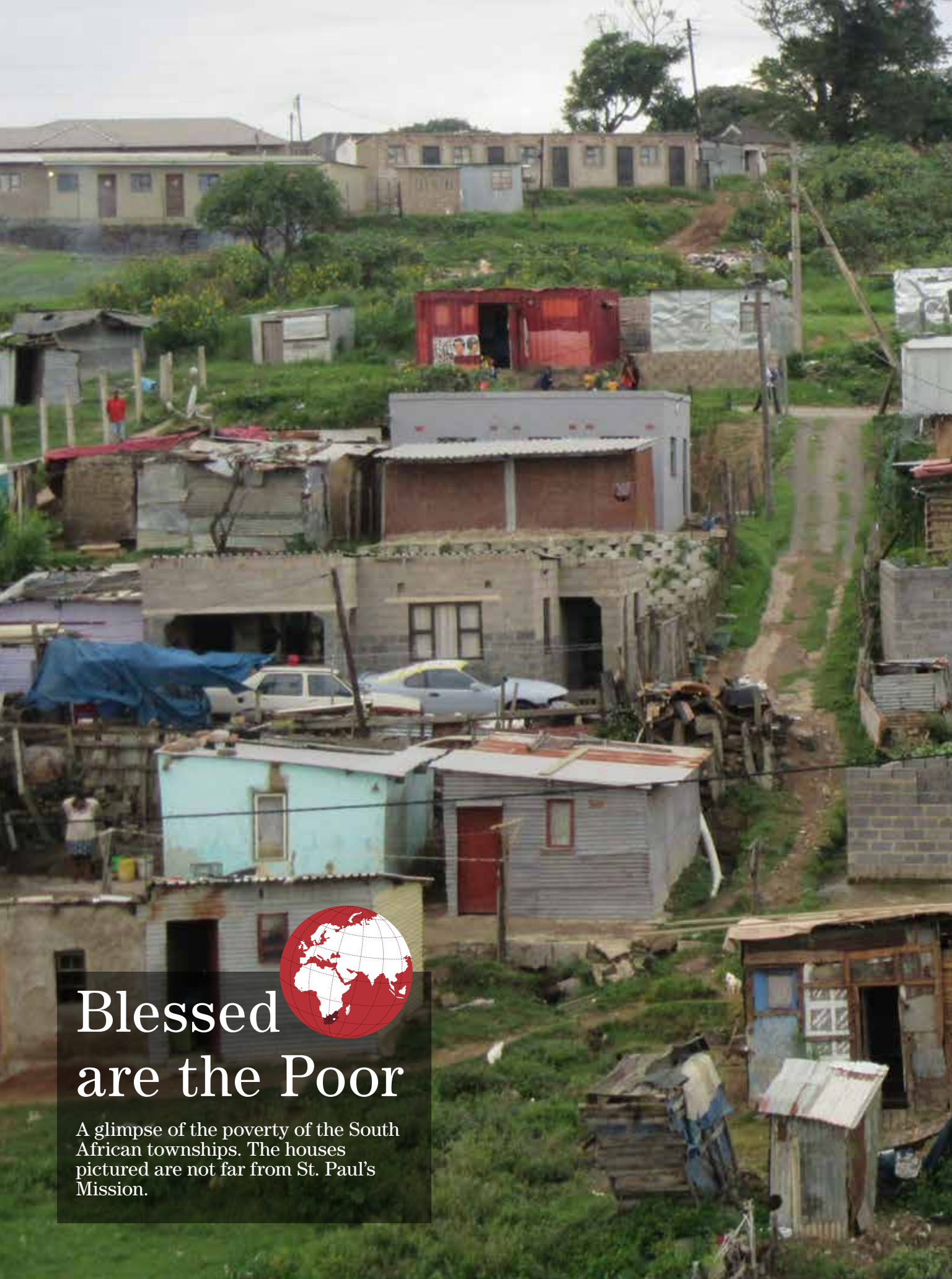


S S P X



The Missions

Foreign Mission Trust **MAGAZINE**



Blessed are the Poor



A glimpse of the poverty of the South African townships. The houses pictured are not far from St. Paul's Mission.



Letter from the Publisher



Dear Faithful,

Everything is grace, and even from evil, God draws some good. This seems to be the theme of the COVID era we all have been living in the past 12 months. We are certainly right to think that we have had much to suffer in our own flesh and in our soul in this blessed land of the United States. Other less fortunate continents are still under heavy hardships, in comparison to which ours are trifles.

The situation in Asia, by far the most distant both physically and culturally among the SSPX Districts, is indicative of the covert or overt persecutions against the Catholic Faith. There has always been red-tape complications with obtaining visas. Added to this, most Asian countries have for a long time closed their borders to international travelers, which makes it difficult to come in and go outside our own priories. Not only Hong Kong and Malaysia are out of reach, but many other minor mission territories are now closed to our zealous missionaries. India has not only closed its borders to international travelers, but it has expatriated all foreign priests and closed the school.

Meanwhile, in the midst of these sorrows, a new priory has seen the light of day after decades. Japan can now boast of having an SSPX priory, and the first article of this issue of *The Missions* is indicative of the impact it is having on the archipelago. May the new priory be a lighthouse for many souls, not unlike the Franciscan house of Nagasaki set up by St. Maximilian Kolbe.

The African district brings you the latest news of the development of things in the priory of Enugu in a largely Catholic area of Nigeria. Likewise, you may appreciate the picturesque and lesser known Zulu mission work in the eastern part of South Africa.

Another prominent country is presented in this issue with a couple of churches under construction in Mexico: the mission chapel of San Luis Potosí connected our northern priory near Monterey, and the lavish church of Puebla (the Rome of Mexico) situated near the capital city.

All in all, we are grateful that our priests from all over the world, with a large percentage coming from the United States, may open the flood of God's blessings through priestly and religious activities upon such varied foreign nations. The ability to reach souls of all cultures and of all latitudes is one of the marks of the Church. And of our traditional apostolate, the Society of Saint Pius X is proud of its work in this area.

In Christo,

Handwritten signature of Fr. John Fullerton

Fr. John Fullerton
Publisher



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FOR THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Asian Expansion

During the Pandemic

During his superiorship, Fr. Daniel Couture extended the borders of the District of Asia to New Zealand and even to some of the Pacific islands. Under Fr. Patrick Summers's leadership, the Asian District further expanded its reach. Due to the current travel restrictions, some priests of the District of Asia are stranded abroad. Prevented from reaching their places of assignment, they are currently working in their host counties, thus extending the District activities to new territories like the United States, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, and even Africa.

Africa

With the Japanese borders closed, Fr. Etienne Demornex was unable to reach his new assignment in Tokyo until after Christmas. Stranded in France, he was offered the opportunity to participate in some exorcisms—a first-time experience for him. During a break, he received a phone call from Fr. Ginoux in South Africa who was desperately looking for a priest to visit Reunion Island

for All Saints' Day. Divine Providence opened the way and everything fell into place nicely as Fr. Demornex was able to purchase an inexpensive plane ticket, get his Covid-19 test results in time, and fly off just the day before the second lockdown started.

Fr. Demornex sent the following description of his most enchanting African stay:

“The weather on Reunion Island was exceptionally pleasant for the season, sunny and cool; the jacarandas and flamboyant trees, orchids and bougainvillea were all blooming. The faithful were very kind to me during all my stay. Work is not lacking on this Island and is quite diverse: Confessions, Masses (around 200 faithful on Sundays), sermons almost every day, conferences, catechism for children (most willingly joined by adults who enjoy listening to the lessons!), formation of catechists, blessing of houses, bringing Holy Communion to the sick, explaining the crisis in the Church to new faithful, blessing many sacramentals, preparing people for the Sacraments (First Communion and marriage), exorcisms and prayers of deliverance for those troubled



Fr. Etienne Demornex

by the devil, practices for altar servers, listening and counseling those in moral or spiritual difficulties...”

United States

Fr. John Hatstrup went back to Spokane, Washington in March 2020 from India. A vacation that should have lasted for a month turned out to be much longer. After an enjoyable time at home, Fr. Hatstrup is now residing in the priory in Post Falls, Idaho, helping the priests with Masses, confessions, sick calls, *etc.* He preached for the Rosary March that took place in Coeur d’Alene on October 3, 2020. As Father reported, it was supposed to be a “march,” but due to the restrictions on public gatherings, they could only pray the Rosary “standing in place” along Lake Coeur d’Alene, which



Fr. John Hatstrup

is normally the endpoint of the March. The following week, Fr. Hatstrup helped preach a women’s retreat in Phoenix, Arizona. As there is no sign of his situation being unblocked any time soon, we await the decision of Divine Providence before Fr. Hatstrup can rejoin us in Asia.

Spain

Fr. Jean-Michel Gomis was assigned to our priory in Singapore, but since he cannot fly there yet, he is currently exercising an apostolate in Spain. Here is the message he sent:

“Almost two months ago our superiors asked me to go and help our confreres in the priory of Madrid. This apostolate included being chaplain to the ‘Siervas de Jesús Sacerdote,’ a contemplative community of sisters dedicated especially to prayer for priests; serving the brand new school of the Dominican Mothers of Brignoles in Madrid; apostolic trips to different parts of the country (Málaga, Granada, Córdoba, Sevilla, Salamanca, Barcelona...) to administer the sacraments to our small local communities; and visiting some of the great sanctuaries of the country, in particular, Guadalupe.”



Fr. Fabrice Loschi

France, Italy, and Switzerland

As for Fr. Loschi, he left Sri Lanka on July 2, 2020 to participate in the Solemn High Mass of a newly ordained priest from his parish in Annecy, France. Permission had been given by the local bishop to celebrate it in the Visitation Basilica. After a month's holiday, Fr. Loschi should have gone back to Sri Lanka, but in mid-July the Sri Lankan government changed its policy and closed the country's airports making it impossible for him to return.

During his temporary exile in Europe, he helped the priests of the priory in Grenoble with Sunday Masses. He then had the opportunity to go to Italy for two weeks in September where he gave an update on the apostolate in Asia to the Consoling Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Vigne. The same talk was also

Fr. Jean-Michel Gomis



given to the faithful in Geneva, Switzerland at the occasion of a Sunday apostolate. Back in France, he is now assisting a school near Versailles replacing a sick teacher and teaching English while waiting for the green light to fly back to Asia.

Austria

Fr. Rainer Becher, who was expected to join the Asian District last August, has meanwhile done some ministry in Croatia. He is still residing in our priory in Jaidhof, Austria, waiting for the travel restrictions to be lifted allowing him to fly to his next destination.

The Rest of Asia

In Asia, all the priests are stranded in the country where they are currently residing. Frs. Benoit Wailliez, Coenraad Daniels, Timothy Pfeiffer, and Peter Fortin had plans to go abroad and visit their relatives during their annual leave. They could technically leave the Philippines, but their temporary visa would not allow them to come back to their field of apostolate. Learning from the unfortunate experience of their confreres stranded in Europe and in the United States, they have chosen to stay in the country.

Fr. Eisenring left the Philippines to visit his dying

mother and is now stranded in Switzerland. Fr. Nelson and Br. Isidore are stranded in Sri Lanka and cannot reach the places of their new assignments.

Japan


Special mention should be made of Japan as his forced isolation providentially allowed Fr. Onoda to develop an apostolate in his own country and prepare for the (delayed) opening of the Tokyo Priory. Stranded in Japan since March, Father now offers three Masses in Tokyo and another Mass in Osaka every Sunday. Since August, the number of faithful at Mass has increased to more than a hundred every Sunday. On November 3, Fr. Onoda organized a Mass in Nagoya where 47 people attended, although the local bishop published a negative notice beforehand. The opening of a new Mass location in that city is under consideration. Fr. Onoda also spent time teaching a diocesan priest how to say the traditional Latin Mass.



Struggles in India

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Facts



Religion in India

In 2010, 94% of the world's Hindus lived in India, making it home to the majority of the world's Hindus. India also has a large Muslim population and is expected to have the largest population of Muslims in the world by 2050. In 2010, only 2.5% of the country was Christian. Religious turmoil has long been a fact of life in India as they have one of the highest levels of social hostilities involving religion in the world.

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Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Since their accession to power, the National Hindu Party has increased its hostility against Christians. This is not news to our readers. Nothing seems to stop them from assaulting the Mystical Body of Christ directly or indirectly. We, the Society of Saint Pius X, have been one of its recent victims. 2020 has been a difficult year in the annals of our history on this subcontinent.

In the first few months of last year, the quantity of priests working here in India was tragically reduced because of legal and travel problems. Additionally, the Covid-19 pandemic which overtook the world nearly crippled our entire apostolate.

Paralyzing Red Tape

Then, we found another cross to bear when the renewal of our school's registration was denied. We have tried our best to get approval for the next five years, but, unfortunately, we were unable to secure the permission to run the school. Therefore, Veritas Academy has been temporarily closed. We are currently working on other options and plans to re-open under a different name and location.

It brings tears to our eyes to see what is happening. But we must not give up. We cannot and we will not. The legal entity of the school may be taken



away unjustly, but we still have nearly 100 innocent souls with us. The responsibility to form them as saints still remains and has even increased. We are planning to provide them with a temporary solution of catechism classes several times a week after they finish their classes in the local schools.

Let Us Storm Heaven

It may tax our already exhausted priests and sisters, but then, what is at stake is more precious and worth more than our very lives. But this work needs even more. It needs your support. This is why I am humbly requesting your spiritual support. You have always been a great help to us and now I ask even more for your prayers. Please keep

these intentions in your prayers and storm heaven with us.

In addition, please continue your financial support of this noble cause. The present times may look bleak but the future does not. Relying on your prayers, we will continue to educate our children with or without a school. As St Paul wrote to the Thessalonians (II Thess. 2:15-16):

“Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God and our Father, who hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation, and good hope in grace; exhort your hearts, and confirm you in every good work and word.”

God Bless,
Fr. Therasian Xavier





Stella Matutina Priory

The new priory of Tokyo opened officially on January 13, Commemoration of the Baptism of Our Lord, under the patronage of Stella Matutina (“Morning Star”), which announces the rising Sun of Justice. The two resident priests in Japan see in this providential date the hope of the baptism of Japan as a nation.



Fr. Demornex is learning Japanese from a very patient tutor.



San Luis Potosí:

An Old Mission Still Growing

As so often happens, divine “coincidence” started a new mission


It was a beautiful Sunday morning in October 1989 when a baker named Don José Vasquez left the city of San Luis Potosí with his wife and children and drove to the capital, Mexico City. He was searching for the Latin Mass that he had known and served in as a child. The changes that had come to the Church in Mexico with the Second Vatican Council had left him unsatisfied. For years he had been searching for some place where they still said the traditional Mass.

One day someone put a pamphlet in his hands with the address of a house in Mexico City where some priests from an order called “Fraternidad San Pio Decimo” (the SSPX) were still celebrating the traditional Mass. So Don José packed up his family and made the seven-hour drive to Mexico City on the feast of Christ the King in 1989. In Mexico City, Don José met Fr. Manuel Joya, and was surprised to learn that the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX) had already been invited and had started to visit

his native city of San Luis Potosí. The priests had said Mass several times in the house of the Amaya Gallardo family. After giving the priests his contact information, Don José returned to San Luis Potosí and found the Amaya family. When these two families got together, a small but promising mission was born.

In the beginning, several families offered their houses for the celebration of the Mass. Soon a large room was converted to a chapel in the house of Don José Vasquez. That chapel is still in use today, though it can no longer contain even half of the faithful. The mission also started with very basic equipment. The first pews were empty oil cans covered with blankets. But little by little the mission has been buying chairs, vestments, copes, and everything else needed.

Over the years, more and more families joined the chapel. The priests came more and more frequently so that in 1992 the group was large enough that Bishop De Galarreta made a special visit and confirmed over 60 people. For about five years now, the priests of the SSPX go to



San Luis Potosí – An old colonial city

The mission of San Luis Potosí stands in the heart of one of the oldest and largest colonial cities in Mexico. The city is the capital of the Mexican state of San Luis Potosí, which is about the size of West Virginia, and is located in central Mexico. The city is more than 6,000 feet above sea level, located in a desert plateau. East of the city, the land slopes down towards the Gulf of Mexico, forming a zone of tropical jungle called the Huasteca Potosina, an area famous for its many waterfalls

San Luis Potosí was founded by the Spanish Viceroy Luis de Velasco on November 3, 1592. The city was named in honor of St. Louis IX of France. The word Potosí was added to the name because it is the site of some famous silver and gold mines in Bolivia. The original Mexican settlers were looking to publicize their own local mines.

The local mines in San Luis Potosí turned out to be just as rich as their namesake in Bolivia, and were the source of much wealth to the Spanish Crown. Philip II of Spain is said to have presented cannons captured in the battle of Lepanto to the governor of San Luis Potosí in gratitude. These cannons were later melted and cast into bells for the cathedral.

San Luis Potosí twice a month, celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, and teaching catechism to about 30 families (110 faithful).

Growing Numbers – Growing Needs

The SSPX priests who visited San Luis Potosí from Mexico City were on the lookout from the first for a piece of land to build a real chapel. In 2012 they bought a piece of land, but were later forced to resell it. In 2018 a new piece of land (about half an acre) was bought for a future chapel. The plan is to build a large multi-use parish hall together with an office, bathrooms, and a storage room, and then to use that complex as a temporary chapel while we build the real church.

Since 2018 the faithful of San Luis Potosí have been working to raise pesos for their chapel building project. Mexican pesos are worth about 1/20th of an American dollar, but every little helps. Every Sunday a different family brings food to sell. The girls youth group made and sold hand-crafted Advent calendars, the mothers of the mission sold traditional Christmas cookies, a clock was raffled, and one person even managed to get a supply of the famous organic coffee from the southern Mexican state of Veracruz to sell for the mission.

In November of last year, St. Joseph the Provider was proclaimed as patron of the San Luis Potosí chapel building project. The parishioners look forward to what his intercession may bring in the new year.

Catholic Heritage in San Luis Potosí

The region around the city of San Luis Potosí was evangelized mostly by Franciscan and Jesuit friars. The missionaries encountered resistance among the native Chichimeca and Guachichile tribes, but all were gradually converted to Catholicism. These missionaries were also responsible for the many beautiful churches throughout the city today, as well as for a number of unique Catholic customs.

The most famous of these customs in San Luis Potosí is the Procesión de



St. Joseph the Provider is the patron of the San Luis Potosí chapel building project. We beg his intercession as overcrowding is a serious problem.



Silencio, the “Procession of Silence” based on a similar custom in Seville, Spain. It is the city’s most important tradition and one of the most photographed events in Mexico, even though it is relatively new as customs go (since 1954). The Procession of Silence takes place every year on Good Friday. It is essentially the Stations of the Cross in the form of a huge but silent parade.

At 8:00 PM on Good Friday, the Procession of Silence begins in the church of La Virgen de Carmen (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel). A group of drummers announces the beginning of the Stations of the Cross. Behind them come the parish confraternities, about 30 groups of faithful in all. They are dressed in traditional costumes, often including the famous long hoods of the Spanish Penitents. These confraternities carry huge floats with images of the sufferings of Our Lord and Our Lady throughout the city. At certain points the procession stops to listen to meditations on the Passion, and special chants which are performed with very high shrill melodies. But for the most part, the procession takes place in complete silence, except for the far-off beating of the drums. At midnight, the procession comes to an end back where it began, in the church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

This rich Catholic heritage in San Luis Potosí has borne fruit in its people. One of the more famous citizens of San Luis Potosí was Blessed Concepción Cabrera de Armida (1862-1937), usually known as Madre Conchita. This mother of nine children sought to promulgate the religious life after the death of her husband, and became the founder of various religious orders and congregations, which were granted recognition by St. Pius X. She is known for her prolific mystical writings (over 60,000 pages), much of which were composed during the turmoil of the Mexican Revolution and the subsequent Cristero wars.

Catholicism on the Decline

Most of Mexico is still Catholic (about 80%). However, the number of Catholics who actually practice the Faith is much lower than that, and the overall number is declining. In most of Mexico, including San Luis Potosí. Protestant and post-Protestant sects such as Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses are gaining ground and Catholicism is in danger of becoming a thing of the past. Most Catholics are ignorant of even the most basic concepts of the Faith, and are thus defenseless against the attacks of Protestants.

In the face of this decline in Catholicism, we can only try to do what we can. The faithful of the SSPX mission in San Luis Potosí are excited to start (with your generous help!) this great project of a future church that we hope will attract many souls. The parish community thanks in advance all the generous people who will support our chapel. You, your families, and your intentions will be present in our prayers and sacrifices.






Panis Angelicus

Fr. Gerald Fallarcuna, a Filipino priest who has labored in Mexico for 15 years is surrounded by a crown of San Luisan first communicants in their traditional attire in the overcrowded chapel.

Construction in Puebla, Mexico

✦

District of Mexico



- District House
- 5 Pories
- 33 chapels
- 20 priests

The District House is in Mexico City. There are four pories located throughout the Mexican territory, and another in Guatemala's capital city.

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The City of Angels

The city of Puebla de los Angeles was founded by the Spanish in 1531, a few years after the conquest of Mexico, and is located at the midpoint between the Atlantic coast and the capital. Tradition holds that the angels themselves traced it and purged the region of the serpents that infested it. The “Angelopolis” (city of angels) developed rapidly, and shortly afterwards the Franciscan Friars left their monasteries and headed north up the coast of what is now the United States. They founded more than 60 cities! Among them are San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Ana, and Los Angeles in California. The latter was thus named in memory of Puebla. In the seventeenth century, Puebla advanced and became the cultural capital of Nueva España, thanks to the indefatigable work of an extraordinary bishop: Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, who was beatified in 2011. During his short time as a bishop, the admirable Juan de Palafox y Mendoza endowed the diocese with 50 churches and consecrated some 180 altars. He promulgated for the archdiocese a canon of rules for the construction of churches according to the directives of the Council of Trent. For many decades, the City of the Angels had the most important library and its Cathedral was one of the tallest towers in America. The unmatched wealth of its 288 churches made it a religious capital as well.

The Mass of All Times in Puebla

It was obvious that in a city with such a prestigious Catholic past, the Mass of All Times would be perpetuated. For years, well-determined families invited faithful priests to celebrate the Holy Mass in the traditional rite in provisional places. That is, until 2011 when Don Ulises donated a fairly large garden with a chicken coop to the Society of Saint Pius X. Here, a stable chapel was established, providing space for about 50 people. It goes without saying that a barnyard, with its sheet roof and its decaying walls was not appropriate for celebrating the divine mysteries.

Start in a Chicken Coop

The project to build a chapel with a rectory was immediately put together. On November 11, 2014, the foundation for the rectory began. This house would function as an oratory while the chapel was being built. But Providence did not agree with such a petty project. That same day a neighbor named Don Miguel came to offer a plot of land adjacent to the property. He insisted that the planned chapel would not be enough and that a bigger church would have to be built to welcome all the people that would come. In fact, this good soul offered his land at such a good price that on the feast of Saint Michael, September 29, 2015, the sale documents were



In 2014, faithful Catholics in Puebla were assisting at Mass in this converted henhouse (left). By January, 2016, the new rectory was taking shape (below).



In October, 2016 the first concrete was poured for the construction of the rectory.





In January of 2016, the new presbytery rises from the ground.



Cement work on the presbytery in February of 2016.



The buttresses for the new church begin to rise out of the ground.



A view of both the new presbytery and the ancient chapel during a visit by Bishop Tissier de Mallerai for confirmations in 2016.



In February of 2017, the foundations were laid for the new church.



signed. The surface area of the property had doubled and it allowed us to dream of a larger construction project.

An Ambitious Project

Marco Torres de la Luz, a renowned architect who had been commissioned to renovate the Cathedral and several emblematic buildings in Puebla, offered to help for free with the design of a real church. The plans were in the “Palafoxian style.” The project seemed too ambitious, but the priest in charge of the chapel began, among other activities, to organize pilgrimages inviting Europeans to know the Guadalupana and to visit the Holy Land in order to raise the funds necessary for the project.

In November 2016, the hall of the future rectory was finished and the parishioners were able to leave the chicken coop. It offered a fairly dignified presbytery and about 80 seats. The chicken coop was destroyed, and in January 2017 the small community faced the first stage of the construction of the church: its foundation. Puebla is surrounded by the highest volcanoes in Mexico. Due to the earthquakes that regularly shake the city, the foundations required a reinforcement of a rather expensive steel. This construction stage was one of the most expensive and lasted half a year, absorbing much of the long-term savings.

In the next two years, the walls were built. In 2020 the vaults and the dome were completed. Right now the plastering is finished and the construction of the bell tower has begun.

On October 6, 2020, the first Holy Mass was celebrated in the still unfinished church on the occasion of the confirmation of 24 children. The community has already grown a lot—just as Don Miguel prophesied—and everyone longs for the day when they finally will be able to regularly attend Holy Mass in the church. The current chapel no longer accommodates the whole congregation, despite the fact that several Masses are celebrated on Sundays.



A beautiful temporary chapel was set up in the new rectory in 2016.



Facts About Puebla

- Puebla maintains its close ties to colonial Spain through its architecture and famous azulejos, containing more than 70 churches in the Historic City Center.
- Puebla was founded on April 16th, 1531 as the first “perfect” city in the Americas; that is, a city built to accommodate only Spaniards
- The Historic Center of Puebla contains 2,619 monuments distributed across 391 blocks allocated over 6.9 square kilometers making Puebla the city with the largest number of monuments in the Americas.
- The famous “Battle of Cinco de Mayo” commemorated internationally. This battle took place in 1862 in Puebla and in it the Mexican army defeated the French army which at the time was considered the strongest of all.
- Talavera, a type of ceramic that has been produced without interruption for more than four centuries, originated in Puebla and is one of the most important folk art expressions in Mexico.
- The Cathedral of Puebla is considered one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the world, in addition to having the tallest towers in the continent.
- La Capilla del Rosario (The Chapel of the Rosary) in Puebla is one of the most grand Baroque jewels of the seventeenth century. Since the day it opened its doors in 1690, the chapel has been seen as one of a kind due to its symbolism and to its decorations which are completely covered in gold foil.

Who Will Help Us Finish Our Church?

But that's why there is still a long way to go, and we are looking for generous souls to help us to move forward with the most urgent tasks. One priority is the bell tower, which is still under construction, and the cladding of the dome and the façade must be finished. The completion of the bell tower with its ornaments is estimated at \$13,000, that of the dome at some \$6,500 and that of the facade at \$9,000—sums that in Mexico represent a great challenge.

On the inside of the church, the decoration of one vault is finished but we are still working on the fine plastering. We will continue with the five remaining vaults when we find sufficient funds. We already have the design for the main altar, the central point of a church. Here, too, the project seems excessive. But it is not if its purpose is considered: to perpetuate the Sacrifice of Our Lord in Puebla, Mexico.



By August, 2019, work on the vaults began.

To the Glory of Our Lady and the Holy Angels

The new church will be dedicated to Our Lady of the Angels, a very appropriate title for Puebla, and it also corresponds to the current needs of the Church and of souls. Will not the end of times be the times of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Angels? “A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ... Then there was a great battle in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought; but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven.”

Nota bene: Every first Saturday of the month, Mass is offered in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the intentions of the benefactors of the construction. To learn more about the construction and follow its development, consult the web site: <https://fsspxdonaciones.wixsite.com/capillapuebla>



Construction of the bell tower (above) and the dome (left).

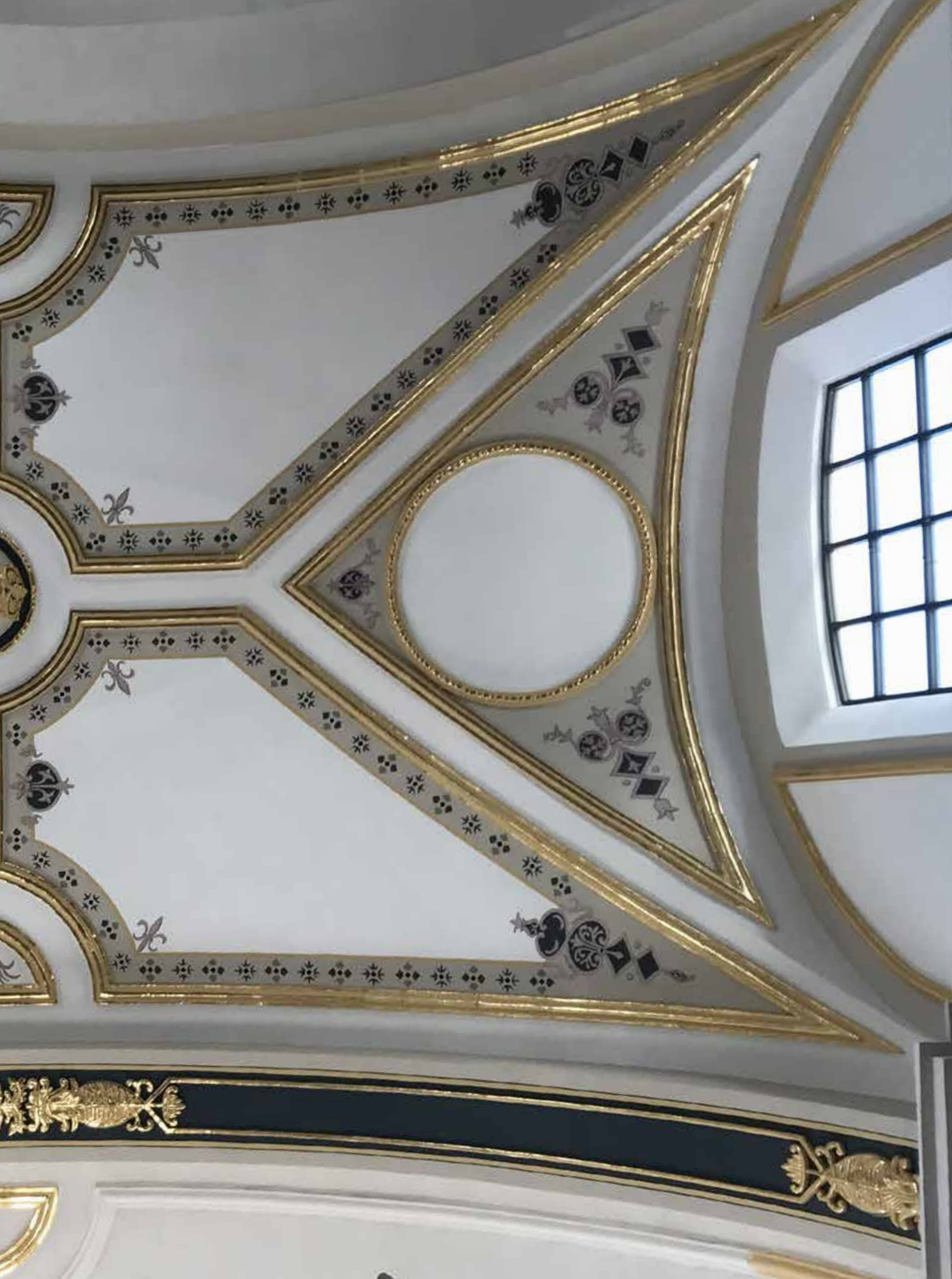
Christmas Mass in the new chapel in December of 2020 (below).






For Our Lady

The new church in Puebla, Mexico was built in the “Palafoxian style” by renowned architect, Marco Torres de la Luz. The painstaking work of the plasterers and painters can be seen on the first of six ceiling vaults adorned in a manner worthy of Our Lady and the Angels.



St. Paul's Mission, Folweni

Facts



Religion in South Africa

According to a 2010 report, 81 percent of the population of South Africa is Christian. Of those, 89 percent are Protestant and 11 percent are Catholic. Around 15 percent of the population claims to adhere to no organized religion and likely follows indigenous beliefs. Muslims constitute 1.7 percent of the population, and Hindus, Jews, Buddhists together constitute less than 4 percent of the population.

KwaZulu-Natal boasts some of the most beautiful coastline of Southern Africa. Rolling hills transition gently to the coast where the warm waters of the Indian Ocean lap the sandy shore. The sub-tropical climate supports healthy vegetation, and the gentle hills are clothed in sugar cane or the green foliage of the diverse vegetation of South Africa. This beautiful land has been the home of the Zulu Nation for centuries. Once a nation of fierce warriors, this tribe is the largest in South Africa. While many speak English as a second language, their first language is Zulu, a peculiar language that incorporates clicking sounds made with the tongue. They excel in singing songs in their mother tongue, and they demonstrate incredible musical ability harmonizing even the most complicated melodies without using written music. The Zulu people are the primary occupants of the province and their homes are clustered among the verdant hills of this beautiful coastal landscape.

Blessed Are the Poor

Tucked away among these hills is St. Paul's mission. It is not much to look at. A former Protestant church, it has none of the luxurious adornment of a temple of God. Four walls, a sacristy little bigger than a walk-in closet, a roof, and two restrooms provide the bare essentials for Sunday Mass. The faithful sit on cheap plastic chairs and read their missals by the light of flickering fluorescent bulbs attached to the ceiling above.



The priest says Mass in tattered vestments hardly worthy of his sacred function. At the time of Holy Communion, he administers this Sacrament at a communion rail made from two dilapidated benches whose unsightliness is hidden by white tablecloths. Yet, this is “the house of God and gate of Heaven” where our little flock comes for spiritual food and for protection against the spiritual dangers of the pagan environment in which they live.

Despite its humble exterior, this church is, perhaps, the best structure that many of our people will enter during a given week. It is difficult for those in the so-called “first world” to comprehend the poverty of the African townships. Many who

live in them have little more than four cinder-block walls and a tin roof. Even running water and a ceramic toilet are luxuries for some. Out of our parish of about 70 souls, there are only five persons who own their own vehicle. Most have very little, and the little they have may be easily taken by the many thieves that prowl these areas. It is a difficult life for these people. Their lives are not spent worrying about the stock market or their wi-fi connection. They are concerned about survival, about how they will pay for public transportation or their next meal. The money of the Sunday collection is truly the proverbial “widow’s mite” of many in the parish.



Sunday Mass is offered for the Zulus in the bare and unadorned sanctuary of St. Paul’s Mission.

Fr. Garno with some of the faithful after Sunday Mass.



A Typical Day in the Harvest Field

These are the people that this mission is meant to evangelize. The priest leaves early in the morning on Saturday to say Mass for his flock. After Mass, there is Rosary and sometimes Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament where those who can attend pray for the parish and for their children and grandchildren, many of whom have strayed from the path of the Faith. After these prayers, the priest sets to work teaching the newly-formed choir the basics of the Gregorian scale. Meanwhile, other devoted parishioners clean the church, meet with the members of the Eucharistic Crusade, or train the young men to serve the Mass. On Sunday, the priest again makes the journey to St. Paul's Mission where the faithful await the celebration of Sunday Mass. While the priest hears confessions, these good people recite the Rosary and sing hymns—all beautifully harmonized and sung in the Zulu language. At 8:30 am, the priest emerges from the little sacristy for Mass. Catechism classes follow and all, without exception, attend one of the four catechism classes in which the catechists endeavor to instruct the people about God and about the moral obligations of our Catholic Faith.

Our apostolate among these people is really in an embryonic stage. The Zulu people did not inherit a Catholic culture, and it takes time to form souls in the habits of Christianity. There is still a long way to go before this little mission is well-established. There is a massive work of spiritual formation still to be accomplished. Nevertheless, we place our hope in prayer and particularly in the highest prayer, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Just as our founder, Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, saw the Holy Mass transform the souls of the Gabonese people, we are confident that the Sacred Liturgy, well-executed in a dignified setting, is the key to success in this mission. This is why we are working toward the formation of a choir. This is why we are working to form a group of well-trained altar servers. This is why we practice the Kyrie with the parish so that it might be sung beautifully during the Mass. As the saintly Archbishop once said, "There I saw—yes, I saw—what the grace of the Holy Mass could do. I saw it in the holy souls of some of our catechists. I saw it in those pagan souls transformed by assistance at Holy Mass..."

The House of God

While the priests here draw on their spiritual and intellectual resources for the formation of the parish, there is still an important work for



The modest church building is often filled to capacity.

Cattle, goats, chickens, and children run free through the streets of the African townships making driving in these areas a dangerous undertaking.





A small yet faithful group of Eucharistic Crusaders gather outside of St. Paul's Mission after Mass.

which we lack the resources: the beautiful and dignified adornment of the house of God. This work is not a little thing, and it demands financial resources to purchase fitting furnishings for the church. This is why we turn to you, dear reader, to supply for our lack. It's not possible to do any significant fundraising among our African parishioners. They are poor; they need the little they have for their families. To realize a work like this, they need the assistance of their brothers and sisters in Christ living in a more wealthy and prosperous land. They need your help. Just as St. Paul appealed to the other churches on behalf of the little community in Jerusalem, we turn to you for help in our work among the Zulus. Please consider donating to the work of this mission. Be assured that this little parish will be most grateful for your support and will pray for our benefactors each Saturday at Benediction. On their behalf, we tell you in advance, *"Siyabonga Kakhulu!"* (Thank you very much!)



A Lasting Apostolate

Interview with Fr. Peter Scott
on the progress of the work



As the world lives to the rhythm of the spread of the virus and suffers from various government measures, Nigeria is in the grip of an unprecedented revolt of its youth against a very corrupt state. Triggered by police violence, this movement has become a more global protest against an abusive and discredited power.

Faced with a disoriented youth, the Catholic missions in Nigeria are trying to provide spiritual and material solutions and are consequently growing!

Luckily, Nigeria seems to have been spared from the major health crisis and our various building sites were able to continue and even accelerate thanks to a very competent project manager and highly mobilized on-site teams.

In this interview, we go back in detail to the major construction project in Enugu in the Southeast of Nigeria. The construction will allow St. Michael's mission to benefit from a very large, welcoming priority and, God willing (as well as the African administration), a school for the start of the September 2021 school year: a very exciting project.

This possibility is only made possible because of the strong involvement of Nigerians, who now make



it possible to partially meet the daily costs of the missions, and by your donations towards building the future. You can be sure of our thanks and our prayers.

Father, after several years of mobilization, fundraising, twists and turns with the authorities and local representatives, here we are—the priory is emerging from the ground! What joy! Tell us about the progress of the work.

Fr. P: Yes, finally! Not only is the priory emerging from the ground, the raising of the walls is almost finished since the framework is in place. In summary: the building is 30 meters [98 ft] by 10 meters [33 ft] with 4 stories and will include a temporary chapel to hold 250 people. It will also have a sacristy, 9 bedrooms with their own bathrooms, the kitchen and refectory, a large hall, 4 offices, and 4 rooms to use for the beginning of the school. In addition, there is an extension with a laundry room and a workshop, a small annex building, and a tower for the guards and water. Thanks to the skill of Mr. Huber and the good work of a local company, the work has been carried out fairly quickly. The shell is almost finished. We should install the roof, doors, and windows before Christmas.

You are not alone in establishing the future roots of Tradition in this country deeply divided between Christians and Muslims. Give us a few words about the commitment of your project manager and the work force.

Fr. P: Whether it is our project manager, the craftsmen, or even the company, all are aware of working directly for God and all have therefore made efforts either by working with more care, or by participating financially through price reductions made on the work done. As for our faithful, they are always happy to visit the site and sometimes to bring their “stone” to it. Above all, they organize themselves with great ingenuity to generate a maximum of participation according to the means of each: lottery, fundraising, auction, regular transfers, reminders. All these means are helpful and their efforts are bearing fruit. Their contributions have greatly increased over the past three years.



This mission will now be firmly anchored in Nigeria for a lasting apostolate. How is this establishment seen by your parishioners and more generally by the Catholic community?

Fr. P: This priory is a strong sign. After the great difficulties in the beginning, it shows the faithful and also the local priests, with whom interesting contacts multiply, the will of the Society of Saint Pius X to settle definitively in this immense field of apostolate and to contribute to the establishment of a Christianity attached to the Traditions of the Church. Of course, the construction of the church itself will make this even more visible, but all in due course...

Listening to you, we note that the work is therefore not yet finished. What are the main challenges before you can fill the school benches, hear the bells ringing, and welcome large numbers of faithful to services?

Fr. P: First, let me clarify, and it is to your credit, that all of this work has been done exclusively thanks to you and the faithful here. I will never be able to thank you enough for your generosity.

I prefer to ask God who never lets Himself be outdone in this area. Of course, one day we will have to move on to the construction of the church and the school, but for now, concerning the priory, all that remains is the interior design (electricity, plumbing, flooring, and walls) but unfortunately we do not have the means to complete it. So, to avoid having to “camp” in this new priory, I would like to ask you for a new effort and kindly redouble your generosity exceptionally in 2021. This would allow us to finally be able to move into a home which will become a center radiating graces and of an ever-expanding apostolate.

Society of Saint Pius X



S S P X

The Society of Saint Pius X is an international priestly society of almost 700 priests. Its main purpose is the formation and support of priests.

The goal of the Society of Saint Pius X is to preserve the Catholic Faith in its fullness and purity, not changing, adding to or subtracting from the truth that the Church has always taught, and to diffuse its virtues, especially through the Roman Catholic priesthood. Authentic spiritual life, the sacraments, and the traditional liturgy are its primary means to foster virtue and sanctity and to bring the divine life of grace to souls.

Faithful to the words of Our Lord—“Going therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”—the Society of Saint Pius X strives to bring the Gospel and Tradition to souls around the world. As a lifelong missionary, Archbishop Lefebvre passed on this charism to the Society. This magazine aims to both inform souls about the work of the missions and how they can be helped.