

SSPX



Foreign Mission Trust MAGAZINE





Letter from the Publisher



Dear Faithful.

The Amazonian synod has been in the spotlight since last October, which is offering rather dubious options to cope with a "peripheral" zone of the world suffering from dire poverty, materially but mostly spiritually. And although the media makes this region sound like a second earthly paradise, the reality may not be as rosy due to pagan and idol worship and the abuses accompanying them which are still prevalent in much of the area.

Also, it is hardly credible that we should take the evangelization of Amazonia—or the lack thereof—as the model for the universal Church. The religious issues which face the jungle missionary and catechist have little in common with city problems. The vastly unpopulated jungle cannot be addressed in the same way as do highly-developed cultures of city dwellers faced with the modern challenges of laicization.

Rather than trying to compromise the Faith with a very dubious type of inculturation, lessening the priestly role in mission work, or opening the door to a married priesthood which tends to vilify priestly chastity, might it not be better to "keep the deposit"? And, by deposit, I mean all the traditional doctrine and praxis of 20 centuries of the Church, which relied mainly on a holy priesthood and sacraments to promote holy congregations, faithful to their marriage vows and their state in life.

In its own humble way, the Society has set foot in what used to be called mission lands, although many of them are now duly settled with dioceses and stable hierarchy. Just think of Asia, Africa, and South America. We are presenting in this issue the most southern point of India where our presence is certainly felt in the town of Tuticorin. Mendoza in Argentina is brought to the foreground as one of the most thriving priories in the Argentinian and South American district. Once again, Nigeria needs to be given a prominent place because the mission, with its priory, church, and future school, is still in its early stages of development and needs much of our attention.

May God reward all those of you who have been involved with the distant work of our missions and its missionaries by your prayers and efforts.

In Christo,

Fr. Jürgen Wegner Publisher



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Lucky and Me

Musings of an Indian Missionary



"Father, we just got Lucky!" I still remember the day—almost 3 years ago when a bunch of our little girls at the orphanage announced to me this good news. I was as equally deceived as you, dear readers! I thought of perhaps, the government generously approving our church building project or perhaps, some 80 benefactors voluntarily showing up and promising to help. "Then I would be lucky indeed." Yes, then I could spend the rest of my priesthood more along the paths of theology rather than economics. All these dreams shattered when I was shown what this "wonderful and exciting lucky" is. A puppy. I repeat a puppy. I asked what is so lucky about him and they shouted. "Father—His name is Lucky!! Now I get it. Yes—we got lucky. Why is he called "Lucky"? What is so canine about the name—you may ask? Well, I have no idea. The children have their reason, of which reason knows nothing (Slight adaptation of la coeur a ses raison que la raison ne connait point—of Pascal).

At any rate, Lucky comes of good canine stock, though he has no pedigree. He is a present from someone—who sent him to us as pup. He looked cute, feisty, and furry. When he was young, he was the object of admiration of all. He was always carried everywhere. Our 8-year olds immediately assumed the role of "big sisters" to him. After 3 years, he is now big. Now the vogue is over. From day one, he took possession of the orphanage. He is to be seen everywhere, though on a hot day he prefers to lie underneath the huge tamarind tree.

We had a wonderful monsoon this year and the garden is lush. It is where I usually take a stroll to relax.





When I came out of the building, Lucky gets up leisurely, stretches himself to his full length, shakes the sleep out of himself, and follows me at his own pace. The garden along with the beautiful stone grotto of Our Lady is a beautiful place. I like it. So does Lucky. Our tastes are the same in this particular, though for different reasons. So, we make for the garden.

I noticed he has three dog friends from the street. They pay him a visit. He receives them and moves his tail ever so little in recognition of them. He wags his little furry tail only on great occasions; he does all things economically. Then he explains to the three curs, who that priest is, that he is looking after these days. "That's the priest who usually spends his time inside the chapel or in the office. He seems to be reading much, thinking little and writing even more little. He sometimes is busy with his beads. As it is not good for a man to bury his head in his books and work, I bring him out in the evening for a stroll. This I do regularly," says Lucky confidentially. Once they are done, Lucky waves a farewell with his tail, the curs set up a chorus of joyous barks

and almost wag their tails off to show how much they appreciate his friendship with the likes of them. To have even a nodding acquaintance with a high-caste dog like Lucky gives them a standing of some importance in the social scale of the canine brotherhood.

We proceeded further on the Seevalaperi Road. There are five disconsolate cows on the street, slowly munching trash dumped on this side of our property. This is not a rare sight, that of a legion of cows devouring wastepaper. I think they misunderstood 'assimilation of what one reads.' These five cows cannot be admiring the scenery as I am. Outside, Lucky passes them completely uninterested. But wait till they enter the orphanage. The cows sometimes may intrude. Cows on the outside are one thing. Cows inside the orphanage premises is quite another. The 'Seevalaperi road' is no man's land. But Servi Domini is a private property. Lucky is in charge of it—it is his domain.

When Lucky has sniffed an intruder, he becomes enormously interested. All the chicken-hunting instinct in him is aroused, though this is a bigger,

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much bigger game. He sets up a furious barkingfiring like a machine gun! This alone can make the disconcerted cows begin to beat a retreat towards the gate. Lucky, good as he is machine gunnery and manoeuvres, is weak in tactics. Thrilled, he turns all his focus onto the poor cow, he accidently stops in front of the gate. The cow cannot get out! Poor Lucky does not realize his mistake. The result is a stalemate. This is going nowhere. Fortunately, Lucky has friends, and the cow has enemies, viz, our girls. They dislike intruding cows as much as Lucky does, because these cows come on the sly and nibble at the sprouting branches of a few stunted trees, which they are trying to grow. These girls are a timely reinforcement and they created a path for the cows to retreat.

Lucky is at his best when dealing with strangers who have no business here. He knows by instinct who they are. He knows each and every single Sister, child, and staff member of the house; he does not bother about them. But when a stranger steps in—he will bark furiously.

Barking dogs do not bite, says an old proverb. The stranger may not have known that foolish saying. Of course, they do not bite when they are actually barking; that requires opening and shutting the mouth, two contradictory actions

simultaneously. But when they have done barking, they may resort to biting in order to lend force to their noisy argument. The stranger has to understand that he must present his credentials. Once done, Lucky having done his duty will return tranquilly.

If the good people had known how many fine qualities lay unsuspected and undeveloped in the wee pup which they gave us, they would never have parted with it, not for its weight in gold and I should not now have a watchful guardian, faithful companion, and friend.

Yes, I got Lucky!—Fr. Therasian







The End of Our Pilgrimage

A little child approached me the other day with a deep, theological question. It was a question that had been troubling her for some time.

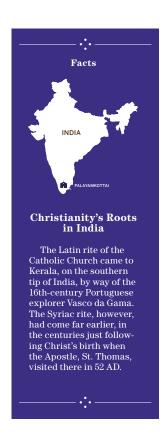
"Father," she asked innocently. "If God knew Judas would betray Him...and die without repentance, why create him in the first place?" Our little 8-year-old, Varshitha, stared up at me with large inquisitive eyes, begging for an answer.

Catholic theology expounds on this question in great depth. Over so many centuries, Catholic authors have written immense volumes on the omniscience of God and the free will of man.

But how was I to instantly condense this learning to the level of a child? Certainly, I could send her away with the typical non-answer: "It is a mystery, little one, and we cannot know the mind of God." But this tactic would merely provoke an avalanche of additional questions. Would the unsophisticated mind of Varshitha be able to understand how God ennobled man with two great faculties of the soul—intellect and free will?

Would she understand that our Creator loves us too much to inhibit our freedom and force us to love Him? Could I make her comprehend that any universe of free creatures would ultimately contain souls that reject Him?

In the end, God left Judas free. Free to choose God. Free to choose self. It is at times such as this that a priest can understand the challenging role of a mother and father. A child's mind is a blank canvas, their intelligence is budding, their curiosity is endless. It is a whole new world, and each moment is thrilling. The apostolate of forming young minds is a delight for every missionary, but I would like to speak of another apostolate, perhaps not as thrilling as the former one. But at the same time, equally rewarding.



A priest ministers to those at every stage in life. Sometimes to those in the beginning of their pilgrimage; sometimes to those nearing the end—the elderly, the infirm, the dying.

I can think of one example that has etched itself upon my memory. An aged woman came to us ten years ago; her name was Ulagammal. I still remember arriving as a newly-ordained priest and providing the sacraments to the 74-year-old lady. She was bed-ridden and suffers from a debilitating form of arthritis. Her limbs had not functioned for over 20 years. Now, a decade later, I visit her still—in the same room, the same bed, the same crooked position, racked with the same agonizing arthritic pain. The apostolate to such infirm who has been in the same position is quite different from educating little ones, who are learning new things every day.

The seasons pass, the world turns, and each week I administer the holy sacraments to this poor woman. I sit there next to Ulagammal, holding her trembling hand. It is at that moment that I think about little Varshitha's theological question.

Previously, I was attempting to explain God to a budding mind, full of energy, life, and questions. Now, in the dim light of a sickbed, I am trying to explain God to a person bereft of all these things.

How do I speak to her? What do I say? How to console her? How to keep up her fervor?

The sick and the infirm are everywhere. It is the role of the priest to bring them hope, to give them

a vision of Heaven. A priest cannot necessarily alleviate their physical pain, but surely, he can bring them spiritual joy. These unfortunate people need the attention of Christ's ministers just as much as the youth.

In its short-sightedness, the world often judges only by external appearances. By this measure, the sick and elderly are useless. People are expected to contribute to the common good. But the feeble produce nothing. Not only that, they prevent others from working. They are a burden to society.

Or so it seems. If we look at life supernaturally, the reality is quite the opposite.

We often say that God is close to children, that He hears their prayers first. Yet the same is true for those who suffer. Suffering makes us resemble Christ. The lonely, silent moments of the elderly are not wasted. God is present. Each act of acceptance has the potential to be meritorious, if a soul embraces the cross with patience and serenity. Such an example is a powerful apostolate. These chosen souls can preach by their submission to the will of God, their peace, their smile and tears.

When the sick pray, it seems they do violence to Heaven, forcing, as it were, the Heart of Jesus to hear their request. In this way, they are great missionaries, or at least they can, if they want to be. If St. Thérèse can win graces for priests by simply walking when she found it difficult, what cannot these poor people do for us, missionaries! How far we can go, if they can remember to offer their suffering for us? So, dear infirm, do keep us in your prayers. I entrust our children and even our priests to your prayers.

We pray each day for our benefactors. Start the year off right with a small donation to our mission in India. Remember, when you donate to us, your money is going to the front line, helping our children directly.

May God's blessings come upon you and remain with you forever.

With my priestly blessing,

—Fr. Therasian Xavier





At the Foot of the Mountains

Absence of the Ideal

Have you ever wondered what the world would be like without great ideals? A world where there were no consuming desires whether it be the "Kill the whale!" of Ahab or the "Death before sin!" of St. Dominic Savio? There would be no more striving for greatness, no more racing to the goal, no more fighting for a cause; no more greats and no more saints.

We know how awfully true this picture is of the world we live in. Everyone goes about satisfied with a measly mediocrity, consumed by the thought of whether they will be comfortable today or whether they'll be able to have fun.

This problem is one which touches so many of us, poor sinners living in a poorer world. Mendoza, Argentina is no exception, where a bustling congregation of faithful, around 600 souls, have to go out to meet the hostile, secular environment with which we are all familiar every day. With more than 20 baptisms a year and a five-year average of five or six new families formed in the bonds of marriage, this growth rate won't let up. Every year the Priory of San José and its chapel Our Lady of Sorrows grow unceasingly, and what a blessing!

But that means that there are more and more souls entering into the world who will be in need of living and breathing examples of virtue. They will need ardent souls who will show them the path to greatness.





- In Latin, the world
 Argentin, the world
 Argentina European
 settlers believed that the
 country was full of silver,
 and established towns in
 the country in order to
 search for the precious
 metal. Unfortunately, no
 silver was ever found.
- Argentina is known as one of the highest literary countries in the world and prides itself in producing highly literate citizens that can easily maneuver around and succeed in the global business world
- Adults and children both travel home after lunch each day to take a siesta. Siestas are short naps that people all around the country partake in. During siestas many businesses and schools close down, and everyone in the country relaxes.
- Argentina is one of the biggest food producing and exporting countries in the world. The country has over 86 million acres of arable land for crops.
- Argentina holds the records for both the highest and lowest recorded temperatures on the continent. The record-high temperature of 120.4 degrees was reached in 1920, while 1907 saw a record low of -27 degrees.
- Mendoza, Argentina suffered a severe earthquake in 1861 that killed at least 5,000 people.

I have chosen you...

Our Lord Jesus Christ has given a fabulous remedy to this sickness, this lack of conviction and zeal. He proposes it in Himself, the great Ideal to be loved and followed. What is more, He offered to His Church outstanding men and women who would continue this example, making it their life's work to make Christ shine through all times.

Such a feat Our Lord achieved in giving to us the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. He did so in instituting the religious life.

What our world needs now are religious souls, consecrated men and women who are generous enough to give up all to follow Christ. That is what the world needs, and it is what Mendoza hopes to give to its faithful with your help and prayers.

The Sisters of the Society of Saint Pius X have decided to grace one of our South American priories with their much needed presence. The Priory of San José in Mendoza will be the first priory to boast of such a boon.

With good reason! As you might imagine, thanks to the sizable congregation, the number of girls and young ladies abound who are in need of the example of feminine virtue. The harvest is great, but in the context of the modern world these young ladies need to come into contact with incarnations of the Catholic feminine ideal if they are to follow the call to consecration. Many will have to raise Catholic families, but where will they look to know and imitate the commitment, sacrifice, piety, and tireless application to their duty of state asked of a Catholic mother?

Mendoza has a desert-like climate, but thanks to vast irrigation systems bringing down water from the mountains and their melting glaciers, life becomes possible.











The Malbec grape variety is the staple of Mendoza wine. Wine culture is a huge part of the Mendoza economy and a very important tourist attraction.

(above left) The Society Sisters have come to visit San José Priory twice already. Here they try out the pew which is surely soon to be the spot from which they will commune with Christ in the Eucharist for many years to come!

Future vocations and callings to higher ideals don't flourish unless someone you can see, touch, and hear is there to incarnate them. Here, Sister tries her luck with some adolescent girls of the priory, hoping that somewhere out there one or other hears Christ gently knocking at the door.

The Land of Sun and Wine

And where exactly will these valiant souls carry out their work?

Mendoza lies at the foot of the Andes Mountain Range, towered over by soaring peaks and home to the highest point outside the Himalayas. It is the desert pass between Argentina and Chile. If there exists a plant above knee-level it is generally because someone has put considerable amounts of time and water into its growth. Thanks to generations of care and systems of irrigation bringing down the little water to be found in the region from the mountains, the city of Mendoza has shaded itself with many trees, in spite of the dryness, meager rainfall, and ever-present blazing sun.

Though the climate seems adverse to much agriculture, Mendoza, with regions like Luján de Cuyo

and Uco Valley, is the Napa of South America. It sports some of the best wines in the world, namely its feature wine, Malbec. It is in fact due to the stark differences in temperature between day and night, rocky soil, and deficiency in water that vines from Mendoza do so well since the grapes tend to flourish when the plant suffers.

Unceasing Apostolate

In this context, life prospers in our priory. Even though the heat would hold back much activity, the apostolate embraces more than 15 separate groups focused on keeping things running, but most of all keeping souls satiated. Among them are groups of formation for young families, classes in bioethics for the priory's many doctors, the choir, the Archconfraternity of St. Stephen, and various unions for girls, adolescents, and young women.

A special mention must be given to the elementary school which has three levels of preschool and kindergarten as well as first to seventh grade. It is certainly this which occupies the greatest attention and action on the part of the priory, as 150 boys and girls come every morning to be formed in the love of God and the wonders of His creation.

Telling Benefits of a Sister's Presence

All in all, the need is great. There is no telling the possibilities of sanctification and Christian education which these dear Sisters of the Society could realize in such a setting. Their devotion to the liturgy and the help given to the priests will brighten the sanctuary and keep a high level of order and cleanliness in the church and the numerous high Masses and liturgical ceremonies carried out in Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

Their motherly care and deep spirituality are precious treasures for the school children in their catechism classes. That same help would go even further, allowing more resources and personnel, namely the priests, to devote themselves to the immense task of founding a high school and attending to its spiritual and catechetical demands.



The Priory's church, Nuestra Señora de la Soledad, and school, Santo Domingo Savio, are situated en Godoy Cruz, a department adjacent to the center of Mendoza city. With your aid, the building which will house the Sisters is to be constructed to the left of the church here depicted.

No Place to Lay their Heads

But where will they lay their heads at night, after a long day's work in the Lord's vineyard?

That is a real and difficult question to answer. What is certain is that, with the help of Providence and your generosity, a plan has been drawn up to give the Sisters their own building on the same property as the priory. The advantages of building their house next to the church are ample, especially when you consider that a close-by property in conditions to house the Sisters are very hard to come by and is—if not more—expensive.

With a three-story building next to the church, these dedicated nuns will be able to easily and quickly attend to their daily tasks in the church and in the school, which is located on just the other side of the church. Even if the construction area is long and narrow, the height of the structure compensates as far as sufficient rooms and size. They will have a reception, a laundry room, and a good-sized kitchen as well as bedrooms for at least four sisters.



Real Challenges

Thanks to Our Lord's goodness and the unwearying cooperation of the faithful, Santo Domingo Savio School and San José Priory manage to survive from year to year, notwithstanding the Argentine peso's 400% inflation since 2014 and the heavy taxes imposed by a government hostile to private establishments. With all their efforts, these good Catholics are able to keep their desert oasis alive.

The problem is that this new financial burden of a building for the Sisters of the Society, over and above the yearly trials, cannot be carried by them alone. The building is projected at around \$100,000 dollars, but such predictions are frequently imprecise. If you consider that the minimum wage per year in Argentina is less than \$3,500 dollars, you begin to see the gigantic obstacles which present themselves.

Faith to Move Mountains

Nonetheless, trust in God and His Providence will surely win out in the end. Can there be any doubt that He desires to plant one of these blessed communities in a place where so much good can be done, so many women edified, and so many calls to religious holiness heard? That Our Lord Jesus Christ wants to give shining examples of virtue and huge ideals to His children in Mendoza is without doubt, especially when you consider that the legitimate superiors are all in agreement.

We are left then, here on the southern face of a world for which God has died, to the east, towering summits attesting to the divine immensity, with the conviction that our prayers will be heard. God will surely bless the efforts undertaken by the souls He has redeemed with that extraordinary power He has, even if such efforts are proportionately small on a human level. What is certain is that the means He will use are known only to Him. Without a doubt, all may be assured of unending gratitude and abundant prayers of thanksgiving to every generous Catholic who joins in this enterprise by his charity or by his prayers.

God bless all who would be instruments of the Divine benevolence so that future generations of Traditional Catholics might enjoy ideals calling them to greatness and to sanctity!

More and more children flood the church and the school, promising a rewarding formative experience for the nuns.







Nigeria Advances



ble for its establishment in Tradition in 2000.

The Society's apostolate in Nigeria is rapidly advancing and at the point of big changes in all its main centers.

Enugu Priory

The Enugu St. Michael's priory is the hub of the action, with a fervent congregation of some 200 souls. A very ambitious building project was just begun last February on the 5.2 acre plot of land very centrally located in the city. The construction of the road, leveling of the property ground, and completing the walls are all being done at the present time. This will be followed by the foundations of the priory to be built in the coming weeks. The priory will have rooms for four priests, several lay assistants, four classrooms, and a good-sized chapel. This will allow the apostolate to be founded on a firm basis. It will also be a help to the numerous parish organizations that meet regularly after Sunday Mass. They include the Gregorian Schola, the Legion of Mary, the, Militia Immaculatae, Our Lady of Good Success, Eucharistic Crusade, the Mens' Society, the Catholic Womens' Sodality, the Purgatorial Society, etc. One of the most important apostolates in Enugu is that of the Ignatian retreats, that are held every year for 20-30 men and again for 20-30 women from all the different chapels.





At St. Michael's Priory in Enugu, Mass is held outside because the chapel is too small.

Fr. Scott and Fr. Nathambwe preached a retreat in January to 28 men in Enugu (bottom).







First Nigerian Priest

It was with great joy that the priory in Enugu celebrated on Sunday January 19, the return of the Society's first Nigerianborn priest, Fr. Martin Anozie. After having studied for seven years at Holy Cross Seminary in Goulburn, Australia, he was able to return and bless the Nigerian faithful with his presence, blessings, Masses and sacraments for two months before taking up his assignment in South Africa. Fr. Anozie is an Igbo, from Anambra State, but having grown up in Asaba, in Delta State on the Niger River. He was a primary school teacher before entering the Seminary, and his training in education will not be lost in the Society of Saint Pius X, especially given that his first assignment will be at St. John the Baptist School in Roodepoort, South Africa.







A procession in the streets of Lagos on the Feast of Christ the King; first communicants are enrolled in the brown scapular; and the altar of St. Pius X Chapel in Lagos.

Lagos Chapel

At the same time, the Society is busy in its second center, St. Pius X chapel, Lagos. It is there in the process of purchasing a church property, with many additional rooms for catechism and parish functions, which take the place of the present rented property. Over the past two years since the Society has been able to provide the faithful with Mass every Sunday, this chapel has shown the great potential for Tradition in this largest city of Nigeria, growing to an average of around 150 faithful.

Onitsha and Port **Harcourt Chapels**

However, our other chapels have not been left out. Just last October the chapel of St. Pius V in Onitsha managed to negotiate a rent for a permanent building, in which the altar and the chapel can be left up at all times. It is hoped to be able to provide this group in Anambra state with Mass every Sunday, as they have been growing to 100 souls. They are determined lovers of the Gregorian chant and sing all the Gregorian propers at every Sunday Mass. Now we are beginning to work in our



youngest chapel, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Port Harcourt. Started only five years ago, it has grown into a group of dedicated, single young persons. The Society has managed to purchase two lots, and so plans are now being established for the construction of a chapel on the Society's own land, funds permitting. As yet, the 70 faithful only receive the visit of a priest every two weeks, but it is hoped that soon it will be every week.

A Sunday sermon at the chapel of St. Pius V in Onitsha.

Abuja Chapel

Abuja is the capital city of Nigeria, and the Society is not absent there either. Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel has only in recent months found a chapel building of its own, instead of the celebration of Mass in private homes. The faithful are making many efforts to purchase a tabernacle, build a communion rail and beautify the chapel that it might be suitable for the traditional Latin Mass.

Fr. Anozie blesses workers preparing the new construction site.

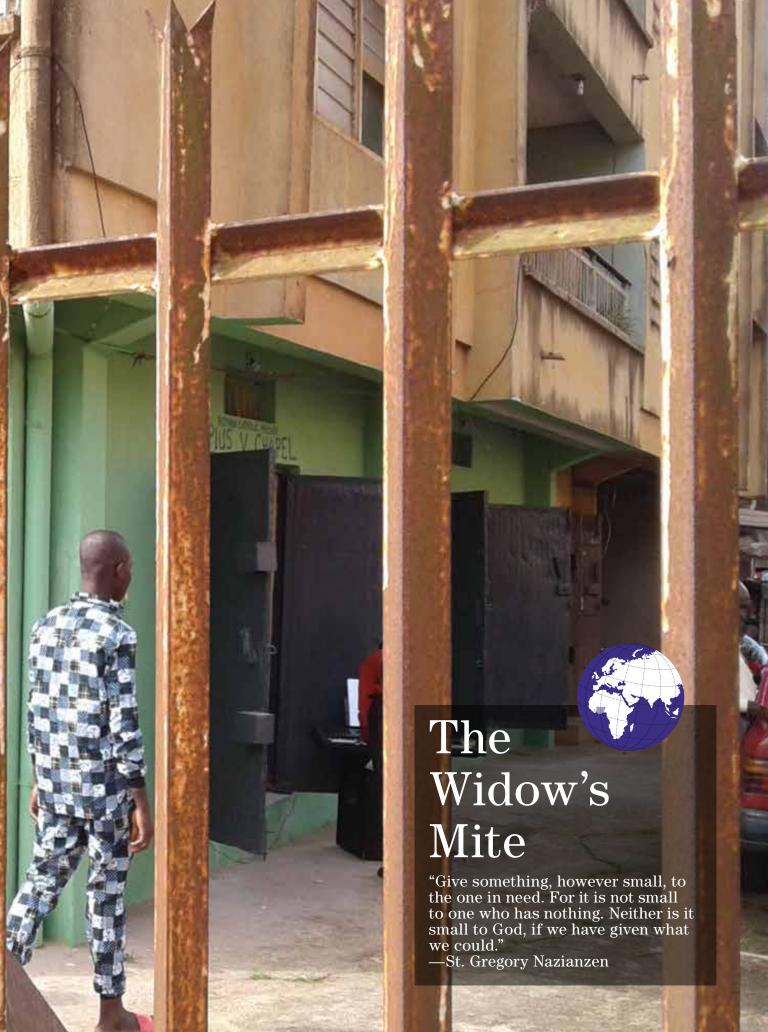






Mr. Joseph Huber, construction manager, explains to the fathers the details of the building project.





Society of Saint Pius X



SSPX

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.