



Mission Circle Advocate

100% of the money we raise goes directly to Mission Parishes:
www.saintagnesmissioncircle.org
September 2011 - Please Support your Mission Circle
Next Breakfast Buffet – Sunday, September 11, 2011, After 8 am Mass

Upcoming Buffet Breakfasts Sep. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13

Thanks for reading this edition of "The Advocate"...the voice of St. Agnes Mission Circle. The first Circle of parishioners met in 1978 to aid missionary friends of the then pastor, Fr. Fox. When Fr. Mel Collier came to St. Agnes he recommended his missionary friends with whom he worked in Botswana and South America.

We hope you enjoy reading letters from the missionaries.

Thank you for your support and fellowship at our monthly Buffet Breakfasts.

Donate any time! Contact the Church office or Conrad Olson at 619.708.5664

e-mail: olson123@gmail.com All donations are 100% tax-deductible.

From Rev. James Feehan in Paraguay (June 2011)

I do hope all is well with the members of the Mission Circle. As you are coming in full Summer time now I'm sure some are thinking about vacation.

Here at the moment it's a warm overcast winter's evening and I've just seen McIlroy make another birdie at the 10th of U.S. Open. For a young lad from Northern Ireland he has gone a long way - and the way he did it too! Though I myself have never played a round of golf my life. When I came to Paraguay in 1967 there was only one nine hole golf course in the whole country. Now there are three or four, maybe. But not more. But my classmate Fr. Brendan, God rest him, was a pretty good golfer, as there were good courses in Botswana, a former British Colony.

Please give my regards to all the members and I look forward to hearing from you.

God Bless to one and all for now.

Fr. Jim



Father Phil Cooke with
Barb Huska & Ruth Cummings

From Father Cooke at St. Agnes, Manderson, South Dakota

I have been meaning to write for a long time now. I apologize for not getting to you earlier.

As of June 6th, 2011, I left St. Agnes and the reservation. My term was meant to be for three years, and this time ended in June of '11, as I arrived right after ordination in June of '08.

Presently, no priest has replaced me. We are hoping that one will arrive soon. In the meantime, Hope Villella, the interim Parish Life Coordinator, and Joyce Tibbitts, the Parish Coordinator, will be handling all administrative activities. One or both of them will be contacting you soon, if they have not already. I forwarded this email from you to both of them.

I was sad to leave St. Agnes. We were really getting organized, and beginning to prioritize our needs within the parish. It was quite exciting, and I am sure that things will continue to improve.

I am grateful for all the help you and the Circle have given to the parish.

Although I left, I will always be connected with the people at St. Agnes. It was a great ministry and there is so much need there, and the people are so faith filled. I really miss it.

May God continue to bless you and the members of St. Agnes. If you need anything from me in the future just let me know.

Be assured of my prayers.

Blessings and peace,
Father Phil Coke

From Fr. Platon in the Philippines

(You may remember Fr. Platon has been a visiting priest at St. Agnes.)

Thank you to all the members of St. Agnes Mission Circle for their untiring support and assistance to our Parish Projects and Mission.

Just to update the Mission Circle, the financial assistance you have been sending has greatly improved our parish church and also we have started building small chapels in the villages. Your financial donation also has helped shoulder the expenses of our catechists for their ongoing formation and training. I need the assistance of the catechists for our youth and adult catechism in the **22 villages** that the parish has. There are still plans to be done but with people like you willing to help out, all things are possible.

Since I came to the Parish four years ago (July, 2007), I have been blessed by your generosity and love for the needy parish communities around the globe. I hope and pray that I be worthy steward of your donations to our people. As our expression of gratitude, I have always reserved the month of September as a month for the St. Agnes Mission Circle. This means that for the whole month of September, intentions of all members of the Mission Circle are included in the daily masses. I wish that our prayers for you and your family be a reward for your goodness.

In the name of the Parishioners of the Holy Cross Parish, I thank you so much!

Fr. Alvin Platon

Mission Circle Members

Charles & Alnora Bishop
Chuck & Joyce Ellison
Mary Ellen Seaver & David Wade
Paul & Kathy Grimes, Julie Umland
Virginia Paul, Anita Simmons
Mary Toomey, Ginny Biewer
Mary Aldous, Lee Collins
Dottie Dring, Izzie Skidmore
Conrad/Cheryl/Hannah/David Olson

Saint Agnes Mission Circle

African Missions

St. Christopher's Catholic Church - Kakata, Liberia
 Rev. Father Peter Paase - Missionaries of St. Paul
 Type of Mission: Parish & School - Year Support Began: 2010
 Mary Ellen Seaver (Mission Circle) served in Liberia with the Peace Corps in 2009/10 and attended this church. Rev. Paase's mission serves parish of 500+.

Kriste Mambo Mission - Rusape, Zimbabwe
 Fr. Wiseman Musemwa - Order of the Carmelites
 Type of Mission: Parish & School - Year Support Began: 1979
 Our first mission. Fr. Conall Collier, Fr. Mel Collier's brother served in Zimbabwe from 1958 to 2007. Mission boarding school for 500 students.

HIV/AIDS Mission and Hospice - Game City, and Gaborone, Botswana
 Sister Nalini Meachariyil - Sisters of Charity
 Type of Mission: HIV/AIDS Mission/Hospice - Year Support Began: 1979
 In Botswana, Fr. Brendan Butler was adopted by St. Agnes until his death in 2005. Sr. Nalini visited St. Agnes in 2008. Fr. Butler referred us to her. See: www.scnfamily.org.



South American Missions



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish - Jamundí, Colombia
 Fr. Luis Alfonso Segura - Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
 Type of Mission: Seminary, Parish work and school
 Year Support Began: 1979
 See: www.colombiamsc.org (in Spanish)

Asuncion, Paraguay
 Rev. James Feehan
 Made a mission appeal here while Fr. Mel Collier was pastor (they served together in Paraguay from 1967-1971).
 Type of Mission: Parish
 Year Support Began: 1978

Philippines Mission

Loaac, Pangasinan, Philippines,
 Fr. Alvin Platon, O.P. Order of Dominicans
 Type of Mission: Holy Cross Parish & School (120 students)
 Year Support Began: 2009
 Fr. Alvin assisted Fr. Mel Collier here at St. Agnes in 2007 and made an appeal for his new parish in rural Luzon Island. Fr. Alvin is a young priest who hosted the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan youth day 2009. See: www.lingayen-dagupan.org about the Catholic church on Luzon, Philippines.



South Dakota, U. S. A. Mission



St. Agnes Mission Parish, Manderson, S. Dakota
 Father Phil Cooke* - Jesuit Fathers and Brothers
 Type of Mission: Parish and School - Year Support Began 1978
 Ruth Cummings and Roberta Spencer spoke at all masses here October 2009 grateful for our years of support for the poor on their Lakota Sioux Indian Reservation. Both women are helping the young people in their isolated lands find a spiritual base. Fr. Cooke says mass at 3 small mission churches on the reservation.
 *Fr. Cooke's term has ended and a replacement will soon be placed.