The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

Every year we do well to commemorate, following the Church’s invitation, all the faithful departed. In their memory, we are reminded that we are pilgrims walking toward our final destination as ‘citizens of heaven’ through our baptism in Jesus Christ.

Surely, death is something serious. It fills us with pain when it touches those close to us and it can frighten us to think about it. Death raises many questions while remaining a mystery. But what distinguishes Christians from others is that we can look at death with the eyes of faith. We still have many questions about death, especially when it arrives tragically and unexpectedly but it does give us the assurance that, death does not have the last word. Just as Jesus’ death on the cross was not the end of his life, but the passage to a new and glorious existence, so we have every reason to hope that it will happen as well to those who die in his friendship.

So yes, it is good to remember the faithful departed. We do not pray for Christians only, but we also ask God to remember “all the dead whose faith is known to you alone”.

As we remember our own dead this November 2nd, let us pray for all those seeking freedom from armed conflict and persecution, the refugees who died this year traveling from Middle East on their way to Europe or crossing the Mediterranean from North Africa in search of a new, and what they hoped, would be a better life for themselves and their children. May the Lord give them a friendlier treatment than they ever received on earth.

Diego Sarrio, M.Afr.
For over 125 years, the Missionaries of Africa have been advocating an anti-slavery campaign which was begun by their founder, Cardinal Lavigerie. In Ejisu, Ghana, Fr. Emmanuel Adeboa, M.Afr developed a program to raise awareness, educate and inform the public and particularly the youth about modern slave trade. As Fr. Emmanuel states “We know that girls are taken from Northern Ghana and used as slaves in different ways in the South”.

This program is conducted in collaboration with Spiritan University and the Kwame Nkrumah University and explores topics on the history of anti-slavery, human trafficking in Africa and child labor in Ghana. Through the generosity of our donors, our missionaries can continue this ministry by reaching out to the youth who are the most vulnerable targets of human trafficking.
As Brother Kizito stated on his grant form, the purpose of a water borehole in his project request “is to get enough clean water for humans, animals and other uses”. The Mbutu area village is about 18 miles south of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania with about 300 people.

While water for human consumption is a priority, most of the inhabitants of this village have animals like cows, goats, pigs, chickens and ducks and water is also necessary for them. There are a few handmade borehole wells, but most of them get dry during the dry season. A permanent water borehole with a submersible pump would guarantee water for everyone. Brother Kizito and the people of the Mbutu village extend their appreciation for your financial support to construct their own water borehole!
In 2012, the St. Catherine’s Mission Dispensary was open for the community of Keroka-Kisii, Kenya and in one year attended to 7,600 patients. While the dispensary was established to provide outpatient medical services, it needed to expand its facilities to maternity and newborn units. With the help of the community, a rented facility was renovated into three rooms - antenatal, birthing room and postnatal room. They put in electricity and bought water tanks to store water.

All that remained was securing maternity and newborn unit equipment. Sister Joyce asked for our help in purchasing an infant incubator, delivery beds, hospital beds, hospital mattresses, delivery and instrument tables. Once again, our donors responded to the needs of the mothers and children. As Sister Joyce said “Be blessed for the support you gave to us”.

Health care for Mother & Child!

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As you can see from the photographs, the students of St. Theresa’s Girls’ Secondary school in Masaka, Uganda are intrigued and enthusiastic about their new computers. The school established a computer laboratory building to train students in computer technology and internet communication. The next step was to set up computers and printers for over 900 students. The gifts of our donors made it possible to purchase twelve computers and two printers. Thank you for helping us educate the youth of Africa for a better future!
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NEW Annuity Rates effective July 1, 2013

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