



September 2018

St John's Mission, Peace, and Justice Society

Volume 1, Issue 1



Upcoming Events:

- Clothes Drive: Oct. 19th
- Adopt a Family: Dec 2018
- Blood Drive: Dec 5th, 8-1 PM
- Talent Show & Auction: Mar 1, 2019

MPJ Team

- Enrique Piceno
- Emmanuel Delfin
- Brian Lazaro
- Jorge Tellez
- Simon Li
- Jorge Moncada Hernandez
- Christian Morquecho

About the Hope in Action Newsletter

In the student handbook it states that MPJ's goal is to respond to "Christ's missionary call to evangelize, the Mission, Peace, and Justice Society seeks to support the Church's missionary, development, and relief activities, especially among poor and marginalized." One of the ways of doing this is to keep you aware and informed on what is happening in and outside the Church relating to the those in most need and the missionary work of the Church. It is my goal that this newsletter will help in this endeavor and provide a glimpse of what is happening outside the walls of our seminary. The newsletter is meant to be brief of about one page with the idea that the newsletter will awaken your zeal for the those that need help and lead you to take action. The plan is to publish the newsletter once per month during the school. Please continue to pray for the marginalized and the poor. Thank you for your continued support of the Mission, Peace, and Justice Society. ~Enrique Piceno, MPJ Lead~

Missionary Work with the Society of African Missions

By Enrique Piceno

The Society of African Missions (SMA) was founded in Lyon, France on December 8, 1856 by Bishop Marion Bresillac. It is a society of apostolic life. Fr. John Brennan has been with the society since the 1960's. On a recent weekday I interviewed Fr Brennan about his experience as a missionary. Below are the highlights of the interview. Please note that these are not Fr Brennan's words verbatim, but a synopsis of his thoughts.

What does it mean to be a missionary today?

We are all missionaries, but the world has gotten smaller. It is a lot easier to travel across the world now. The idea of a mission is a lot wider, who hasn't heard of Jesus today? To be a missionary is to take a stance. It is no longer about going across the world, but can be for specific causes like justice, family, and education.

What was your first experience with SMA?

They ran a school in Ireland and the Priests would play cards with my Father and would tell stories about Africa which caught my attention and eventually led to me joining the society.

Where have you been sent to?

From 1969-1979 I was in Argentina. From 1979-1981 in Rome getting a doctorate. From 1981 to 1990 I was in Nigeria. In 1991 I was sent to St Odilia Parish in South Los Angeles. The parish was originally the first African-American Parish west of the Mississippi.

What is the difference between a missionary and a diocesan way of life?

Diocesan life is focused on a locality, where a missionary could be sent anywhere in the world.

What is the most difficult aspect of being a missionary?

It is integrating yourself into a new culture and society.

Do you have any funny stories during your time as a missionary?

I was teaching young children in Argentina about the Pope. I would say "la papa" and all of the children began to giggle. I didn't realize I was calling the Pope a potato instead of "el papa".



“Man is himself the author, center, and goal of all economic and social life. The decisive point of the social question is that goods created by God for everyone should in fact reach everyone in accordance with justice and with the help of charity. “ CCC 2459

Fr Brennan Interview Cont...

What can we do as seminarians to help with the missionary work of the Church?

We need to keep the missionary dimension alive within our communities. This is especially true when you become a priest and participate in the annual mission appeal. We are a universal Church. A loss of missionary commitment is a loss of local mission. Mission in general is to be sent and as a priest you are sent out to help those in need. A practical way that seminarians can foster a missionary spirit is that they can help offer a scholarship for one Ugandan seminarian.

Additional information can be found here:

SMA Links:

<http://smafathers.org/>

<https://sma.ie/about-us/>

Pontifical Mission Society:

<http://www.fides.org/en>

<http://www.ppoomm.va/index.php?chLang=EN&opera=HOME>

USCCB & Africa:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/global-issues/africa/index.cfm>