



Mission Circle Advocate

100% of the Money we raise goes directly to Mission Parishes:

www.saintagnesmissioncircle.org

April 2007

Please Support your Mission Circle at the second collection on April 29th

Dear St. Agnes Parishioners and Mission Circle Supporters,

We thank you for your faithful attendance at our monthly continental breakfasts after 7:30 Mass.

History of St. Agnes Mission Circle

Begun in October 1978 with 24 members with the purpose of building a personal relationship with missionaries while financially supporting their missionary work.

In 1978, we adopted one mission in the Philippines to support. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, over the years we have provided regular support to additional missions in Africa, South America and the Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Our monthly breakfasts after the 7:30 Sunday Mass have provided the opportunity for parishioners to make donations, as well as to enjoy the fellowship with other supporters.

We thank Father Collier for agreeing to schedule an annual second collection in the spring for the Mission Circle program.

With your continued donations we are able to send \$75 per month to each missionary.

If you are interested in this opportunity to serve the parish and the spread of the faith, please call Charles Bishop at 223-0492.

We realize you are interested in knowing their personal stories and how your contribution makes a difference in peoples' lives around the world.

In this newsletter we introduce Sr. Nalini of the Sisters of Charity, who can be reached via Email at scnbot2@botsnet.bw She is a great pen pal and is working with over 400 patients in an AIDS/HIV center.



Her center was a referral from Fr. Brendan Butler who you may remember as Fr. Mel's friend who visited us here at St. Agnes while serving in Botswana for many years. Before his death, Fr. Butler requested our group continue to support Sr. Nalini's work in Gaborone.

Excerpts from this recent email:

"Thanks a lot for your letter informing us about the donations. I am happy that you got the Botswana photos and you like it.

We have started the program for this year and we have begun with a special program called "Education for Life". These workshops are aimed at helping people to practice abstinence and faithfulness in their life.

All of our patients of the 4 centres will participate in the 4 days of the workshop. One of the big problems we are facing is the alcoholism of our patients, especially those who are on antiretroviral therapy. Here we *have no resources available to help them, not even an audio or video tapes.*

Once more I wish to thank you for your valuable help and support.

I hope one day you both will be able to come and see our work here.

May God bless you and fill your 2007 with every grace and blessing you need. Please give my regards to other members of your Mission Circle.

This year has blessed us with more opportunities to reach out in service to the sick and their families. During the past three years we mainly cared for the adults who are sick. we realized that there is a great need to reach out to the children otherwise the future of the country will be lost. As a result we have started Kid's Club in all 4 villages. Through these children's club we are hoping to impart spiritual and moral values. Besides that we are giving counseling and other guidance, to cope with loss of dear and near ones because many of the children have lost so many of their family members. Death and funerals have become a daily event. Seeing too many deaths daily some people have become numb to pain and loss.

Lots of love, Nalini

(Sr. Nalini sent us a CD's of the wildlife found in Botswana--- let us know if you would like to view them)

Mission Circle Members

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Charlie & Alnora Bishop | |
| Chuck & Joyce Ellison | |
| Paul & Kathy Grimes | |
| Michael & Mari Fink | |
| Virginia Paul, | Anita Simmons |
| Mary Toomey, | Ginny Biewer |
| Mary Aldous, | Feliz Sequeira |
| Dottie Dring, | Izzie Skidmore |

Send your donations to our Chair, Charlie Bishop, 3435 Hill Street, 92106. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Write checks to St. Agnes Mission Circle.

Saint Agnes Mission Circle Missionaries

- Rev. Chris Collins Indian Mission in South Dakota
- Sister Nalini's HIV/AIDS Mission in Botswana
- Rev. Connall Collier's Mission in Zimbabwe
- Rev. Fath's Mission in Columbia
- Fr. Owen Kudumba's Seminary Mission in Zimbabwe