

Summer 2024



# *Missionary Fraternity of Mary* **Newsletter**

## *New mission sites for the Fraternity*



We are glad to report that this year we have been blessed with new mission areas to serve. Shown in the picture above, Fr. Marco Antonio Lorenzo (red chasuble) and Fr. Miguel Gonzalez (red stole) celebrate a welcoming mass with Bishop Jesus Aleman Chavez at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Morris, Cuauhtemoc-Madera Diocese in Chihuahua, Mexico. Both priests previously served in Guatemala for several years prior. With missionary zeal they have embraced this new mission, our first in Mexico. The Diocese of Cuauhtemoc-Madera covers over 23,000 square miles which is served by 29 parishes. The Fraternity's new mission is at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, in Morris, Chihuahua, with a Catholic population in excess of 5300.

Although the Catholic faith still has strong presence in Mexico there are many rural areas that are not well served. It is in just such remote an area as this where the Fraternity's willingness to serve allows the Missionary Fraternity of Mary to live out one of its charisms to go where needed to bring the sacraments and good news to the people.

## ***A new mission in Peru***

The Fraternity has a long presence in the Iquitos Apostolic Vicariate which is deep in the rainforests of Peru. Our new mission is now in the city of Lima at Santa Rosa de Callo Parish in the diocese of El Callao. Fr. Eder Escobar, our former General Superior openly welcomed a new assignment and has been appointed as the new Pastor. He will be assisted by Father Pedro Lima who previously ministered in Belice. It is a blessing to expand our presence in Peru and we look forward to serving in this new mission and supporting our brother priests currently in Peru.



**Fr. Eder Escobar (right) and Fr. Pedro (left) with Rt. Rev. Luis Alberto Barrera Pacheco, Bishop of El Callao, Peru.**

One of the important commitments in Santa Rosa del Callao Parish is to help the new generations of Catholics develop a closer relationship with Jesus. The Youth groups at this parish are very active at the parish level. They have a focus on motivating youth to turn toward Jesus, particularly those who may be struggling with their belief in God. Their motto is “Children helping other Children”. Fr. Eder, shown in the picture enjoys giving spiritual support and guidance to these young missionaries. Every month Fraternity priests celebrate the Eucharist and pray the Holy Rosary with youth, to empower their missionary spirit.



In Lima, Peru, the population continues to grow as many leave the rural areas and come to the big cities such as Lima searching for work. Unfortunately there are only so many jobs available and discouragement sets in. The Fraternity through this parish wants to focus on these people, giving them hope and encouragement while instructing them in the power of prayer and belief in Jesus Christ. Of course, our Blessed Mother is always right by his side as we do emphasize Marian spirituality.



## ***New Mission in Cuba***



**Fr. Mario Villafuerte and Fr. Benjamin Galvez with Parishioners in the Mission**

Early this year, the Fraternity opened its mission in Cuba, our first presence in that country. Two of our missionary priests, Rev. Mario Villafuerte and Rev. Benjamin Galvez have been assigned to this mission. Located in Diocese of Pinar del Rio at the Minas de Matahambre Mission both priests see the need for evangelization. This area has been underserved for many years and many prayers are requested as we try to renew the faith in this new experience,



Our missionary presence in this mission has brought much hope for the local population to receive the sacraments and spiritual guidance.

As shown in the pictures above, Fr. Mario and Fr. Benjamin are building communities of faith through visiting the sick, reaching out the people in need of hearing the Gospel, and giving out Christian formation.

**In the picture, Fr. Mario Villafuerte giving liturgical guidance to a parishioner.**

## Other News

- **Guatemala**— New mission in the Vicariate of Peten, north of Guatemala. Fr. Hugo Donis and Fr. Gaspar Garcia were assigned to this mission in Peten, Guatemala.

In May of this year the Fraternity celebrated the 39th year of its founding in 1985. There have been so many blessings as well as challenges through the years, however we continue to follow the path set forth in our Constitution, to serve in ministry where the need is the greatest, all under the mantel of protection of our Most Blessed Mother.

- **United States** Fr. Fabian Rodas and Fr. Jaime Charuc are back in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI, after receiving visa renewals and were assigned to serve at St. Anthony and St. Hyacinth parishes in the south of Milwaukee.

Fr. Carlos Perechu joined the mission in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, he serves at St. Michael and St. Rosa De Lima Parishes in the North side of Milwaukee City.

Our website: <https://www.missionaryfraternityofmary.org>

All contributions are tax deductible and are used exclusively for the work of the Fraternity in Guatemala and its missions worldwide. For more information or to mail contributions, please send to:  
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