

# SCARBORO missions

January-February 2016 \$1.00

## SPECIAL ISSUE: VOCATIONS

"Being a missionary does not mean proselytising... but bearing witness with lifestyle: this is the Church's great and heroic missionary activity. Talking about Jesus Christ through your life!...Think about what you want to do with your life. This is the time to think and to ask the Lord to let you know his will for you. But, please, don't exclude the possibility of becoming a missionary to carry love, humanity, and faith to other countries. Not to proselytise: no. This is done by people with something else in mind. Our faith is preached, first of all by life-witness and only then by word. And slowly."

*Pope Francis, general Wednesday audience, December 2, 2015*



# Dear friend of Scarboro Missions...

**Thank you for your faithful  
prayers and generosity to us.  
We will continue to be good  
stewards of all your gifts as we  
put ourselves at the service of  
others.**

We welcome enquiries about Scarboro's  
**One-Year Mission program.**  
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The Scarboro Foreign Mission Society (Charitable Reg. #11914 2164 RR0001) is a Roman Catholic missionary community involved in mission overseas and in Canada. Founded in Canada in 1918 by Fr. John Fraser, Scarboro's initial purpose was to train and send missionary priests to China. Forced to leave China after the Second World War, Scarboro began working in the Caribbean, Asia, and Latin America.

Scarboro Missions magazine publishes four editions each year, plus the calendar. The articles published represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Society.

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**Cover: This "selfie" shows Scarboro lay missionaries Ashley Aperoch, Donna Joy Tai, Beverly Trach, and Paulina Gallego who have joined neighbours and friends of all faiths for the Hindu Holi festival, also known as the festival of colours. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, and is a festive day to gather and laugh, forgive wrongdoings, and repair broken relationships. Participants chase and colour each other with dry powder and coloured water, sometimes in water guns and water-filled balloons. Georgetown, Guyana.**





By Carolyn Doyle

## In search of a life of passion, purpose, and joy

In her book *Following the Path: The Search for a Life of Passion, Purpose, and Joy*, Sister Joan Chittister discusses how we discern our life choices and journey. Chittister talks about finding a place where passion and purpose meet to create our call: “It is the passion that stirs the heart and the sense of purpose it takes to move a life beyond the dailiness of life as usual, beyond routine to involvement. No, a call is not a job. It is far more than that. It is the burning desire to do something of meaning in the world.” (p. 147) Chittister refers to a call as being where one’s gifts and “the human thirst” intersect.

In this issue of the magazine, you will read articles from Scarboro priests and lay missionaries, those working in Canada and those working overseas. All are living their own specific call in various ministries whether it involves working in Guyana with children and youth, or facilitating learning sessions in Canada on our vocation to be protectors of creation. You will hear from former Scarboro lay missionaries who were overseas, have returned to Canada, and are now engaged in ministry at home. There are many different avenues for ministry work both locally and globally.

The stories in this issue speak of discernment. As Chittister states repeatedly throughout her book, we each have unique gifts to give and share with the world. It is our responsibility to listen to the inner longing within us and recognize that it is not external to ourselves. She says that all of us struggle with making decisions, with inner turmoil and a “sense of being unfinished.” We face

such questions as: “Should I go there? Or, should I do this? Should I leave this? Should I try something else, do something entirely new? Should I go to this place or that, to this company or that, to this country or that, to this commitment or that? What am I really meant to do in life—and how will I know? What are the criteria for a happy life?” (p. 18)

and resisting the plans and pressures that others have imposed. These spiritual guides help in the journey through confusion and disappointment to acceptance and freedom.

We hope that this issue will help you to follow your path in search of a life of passion, purpose, and joy. Chittister tells us that “following the call within to the

“A call is not a job. It is far more than that.  
It is the burning desire to do something  
of meaning in the world.”

Sister Joan Chittister

*Following the Path: The Search for a Life of Passion, Purpose, and Joy*

As the coordinator of Scarboro Missions’ One-Year Overseas Mission Program, outreach and community engagement are large components of my work, especially in the fall months. One of the elements of outreach is to support potential applicants in discerning where they are called in life by connecting them with trusted spiritual directors and advisors. I have witnessed many campus ministers across Canada fulfilling this role.

Chittister recognizes the importance of friends and spiritual directors when making a “truly life-giving decision,” so that the cry of one’s heart can be realized and heard. People such as campus ministers and spiritual directors can support the realization of one’s interests and abilities while alleviating restless

world outside ourselves takes courage. It demands, too, a deep faith in the fact that there is nothing that can happen to us in the process that will do anything other than teach us more or bring us closer to our true selves. What can possibly be bad about either of those things? Clearly, failure is not failure unless we make it so.” (p. 66)∞

# Called to love

*Our vocation is to live our lives as people of love*

By Fr. Luis Lopez, S.F.M.

On July 11, 2015, I was ordained a priest with Scarboro Missions. It was the end of one part of my journey, a journey that took 11 years of faith and hope. Throughout that time I experienced many joys and challenges in my desire to answer the call that I felt God was giving me. I was being called to love my brothers and sisters, no matter who they are or where they may be.

I was born in El Salvador in a time of violence and chaos. Out of that chaos, Archbishop Oscar Romero came forward and blossomed into a voice of hope and love for the Salvadoran people and for the poor of the world. I grew up hearing about his life and death. He was willing to sacrifice all for the ones who did not have a voice, for the ones who did not matter in the eyes of many. In 1984, my sister was killed by the Salvadoran army at the age of 17. She died following Jesus and trying to make her country a better place.

## Finding my own place

My family immigrated to Canada in the 1980s when I was 12 years old and I was given opportunities that I would not have had in El Salvador. Canada has given me so much that in time I felt the need to give back. Growing up in Canada I also struggled to find my place in the midst of two cultures, two languages, and the feeling that I belonged to neither one nor the other. The first question people ask me in Canada is where are you from. They ask the same question in El Salvador when I visit. My Spanish is no longer like theirs, so they assume I was born in another Latin American country. All of these experiences have



**Fr. Luis Ramon Lopez was ordained a Scarboro Missions priest on July 11, 2015, by Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto. Fr. Luis is serving in Guyana along with Fr. Mike Traher and three Scarboro lay missionaries. All photos by Roy Sakaguchi.**

allowed me to find my own place in a world that is not always kind to the outsider or to the one who does not fit into a predetermined mold.

My vocation has taken me to live in Cambodia, a place that I love, where I learned so much about myself and that being Catholic is not the only way to have a relationship with God. My faith is mine and it allows me to see God in my life and my world, but it is not the only way to know God. It is a humbling experience discovering that God is so much bigger than we can imagine or know.

## What it means to be a priest

All of these experiences have shaped my understanding of what it means to be a priest and my understanding of vocation. A priest is someone who leads but does not tell people what to do, thus allowing them to see their own gifts and blossom into true followers of Jesus at their own pace.

As priests, we go through the same journey as lay people. As a priest I bring the sacraments to others, but more importantly I share my life with them. As a priest I am called to love so that others may see God's love in their lives, because ultimately our faith is about





A chapel filled with family and friends, including Scarboro members and staff, congratulate the newly ordained priest.



Luis's mother, Maria Lopez (above centre), led a large family delegation (mainly from the Ottawa area) to attend this happy occasion. The Scarboro Missions chapel and reception were overflowing with friends and relatives. He celebrated his first Mass in the chapel the following morning.

to speak to us. My discernment has come through my art (painting), spiritual direction, and prayer. Take time with these experiences and they will reveal the path to follow.

If we approach our life experiences as doors and windows to new possibilities, then any experience can help us to see where and who God is calling us to be. Ultimately our vocation comes to us when we live our lives as people of love, as people who follow Jesus. Whether we are a priest or religious, single person, husband, wife, parent, or child, whatever our profession or occupation, our vocation is to love one another. Jesus did not come to build an institution but to show us how to love and care for one another no matter what we do, who we are, or where we are. That is our vocation. It is a call to all of us.∞

love. Jesus came into the world and gave his life out of love for all humanity. We are called to follow that love and that example and to be true to who God is calling us to be.

Our calling comes from God. It is not that God will touch us on the shoulder and say, "This is what I want you to do."

But each life experience and every person we meet or hear about are opportunities to better understand our calling. We discover the best way to live our vocation of loving the other by exploring our experiences and deepening them through prayer, conversations, or simply by sitting with them and allowing them

# Life after mission in Malawi

*Returning to Canada to find new avenues for ministry*

By Beverley Vantomme

**L**ike many missionaries, after several years in Malawi, saying goodbye to friends and colleagues was a sad experience for my husband, Ray, and me. While there were many practical reasons for our departure, it was difficult to leave a community that had become an integral and passionate part of our life and faith.

Our missionary experience in Malawi is not easy to express in words. This was a time of new learnings, both positive and negative. For example, we came to understand that like Canadian parents, Malawians have the same hopes and dreams for their children—that they will be healthy, that they will have a good education and eventually find employment. However, we also entered a country devastated by HIV/AIDS.

There were many challenges. Learning a new language was a struggle. The greatest difficulty was witnessing the reality of abject poverty. When we arrived in Malawi it was the end of a 36-year dictatorship and years of corruption and oppression. Malawi was dependent on foreign aid but that aid

*"It is a profound experience of Eucharist to be among people who care deeply for others, who love those who are abandoned and on the fringes of the community...We who have education, wealth, power, or prestige may have a tendency to close in on ourselves. We dissociate ourselves from the cry of the poor for equality, for education, for knowledge and skills, for employment opportunities, for independence, for autonomy and justice, and for solidarity. When we do not see or hear the cry of the poor, we simply cannot feel with them. Are we inhibiting even one person from realizing the fullness of God's love and their own humanness? In doing so, are we hindering our own journey towards God and our own ability to experience the fullness of life?"*

*Beverley Vantomme*



**As Scarboro missionaries in Mzuzu, Malawi, Beverley (above) and Ray Vantomme were frequent visitors to the home of their friend, Andrew Mkandawire, who was disabled as a result of a stroke.**

rarely, if at all, found its way to the poor. Yet, amid all these hardships, the people thanked God for the life they had. Their prayer of gratitude often erupted in song and dance.

This opportunity to walk with the people of Malawi was made possible by Scarboro Missions and their invita-

tion to accompany them in mission. The preparation program strengthened us in our journey and included workshops and theological reflections on the many facets of poverty and injustice. We learned that we were not going overseas to fix problems, but to walk with the people in solidarity as best we could. These reflections sustained us especially in times of famine and starvation in the country.

## Coming home to a new culture

Coming home to Alberta in August 2007 felt like we were again entering a new culture. Even a trip to the grocery store could be overwhelming with its rows of perfectly shaped and coloured vegetables and fruits. The markets in Malawi were colourful, but the locally grown produce was not perfect.

Alberta's oil industry was booming,





**Above: Beverley at Christmastime with her students from Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Korea, China, Congo, Libya, Afghanistan, Iran, Columbia, and Burma who are learning English. Her husband, Ray, made the sleighs that are full of candy. Right: Ray with Roberto, a colleague from Tanzania, at The Kerby Centre for seniors. The doll houses in the background are made by other volunteers and raffled off by the Rotary Club for their charities.**



with development everywhere. We wondered where we could fit in. The province had also become culturally diverse and multifaith. This excited us as we continued to feel called to be among persons from other cultures. Eventually, we found our way. Ray worked (and now volunteers) among new Canadians at The Kerby Centre where seniors take part in many activities that assist them to live in their communities as long as possible. I worked with newcomers to Canada, teaching them English and helping them with resettlement issues.

We have also been blessed with belonging to an alive and growing parish that has two priests, one from India and the other from Pakistan. It is a parish with a wonderful ethnic and cultural diversity.

After a year in Canada, the “Coming Home” retreat offered by Scarboro Missions was a tremendous support. This week spent with other returning missionaries from several organizations was a time when we could share our experiences of overseas mission, the blessings and the frustrations. The facilitators guided us to bring closure to that chapter of our lives and transition to life at home.

Canada is preparing to welcome many newcomers who have experienced a turbulent history that may have included political and religious oppression or genocide. Their sense of safety and security may have impacted their mental and physical well being as well as altered their world-view. All Canadians will be invited to be part of this rich

experience of being open to the face of God in “the other.”

We feel a sense of pride that Canada has a Multiculturalism Act that protects all—Canadians and newcomers. The preamble in this act states that every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination. Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief, opinion, expression, peaceful assembly, and association. Those rights and freedoms are guaranteed equally to male and female persons. This act is liberating.

Pope Francis writes: “In virtue of their baptism, all members of the People of God have become missionary disciples” (*Matthew 28:19*). Some of us are called to witness this discipleship in another land and some are called to walk this call in Canada.

I read the following statement on the Scarboro Missions website: “Mission is a passion to make known the love of God that is transforming for all peoples and cultures.” May we all have this passion wherever we are.

*Beverley and Ray Vantomme were first missioned to Malawi in January 1996, working in health care in collaboration with the St. John of God Hospitaller Brothers in Mzuzu.*



Ashley Aperochio at the soup kitchen where she volunteers in Georgetown, Guyana.

# He called me by name

*An invitation to follow Jesus is an invitation to love*

By Ashley Aperochio

Let me fill you in on an inside joke some of us have about being a missionary. We say that you have to be crazy to want to be a missionary, to voluntarily leave behind your life, your job, your family, friends, and country. And, after experiencing missionary life, you would be crazy to jump back in.

About six months ago I did just that. I said yes to renewing my contract for another year with Scarboro Missions. Why you ask? Honestly, only God knows. From the moment I decided to return to Guyana, I have been through a myriad of emotions—doubt, fear, excitement. The best way I can describe why I renewed brings me back to the story of Jesus walking on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and calling two fishermen, Peter and Andrew, to lay down their nets and follow him. It is as if Jesus called me by name and said, “Ashley, come, follow me.” In this moment in my life, following Him means being in Guyana.

During my first year, every week on my way to the boys’ orphanage where I worked, I would pass a sign on the seawall that said, “What we see chan-

ges who we are.” I have seen crowds of people protesting on the streets for a better future, small kids abandoned without parents because of domestic violence, young people receiving the opportunity to study abroad with full scholarships, one of the boys from the orphanage learning to ride a bike, and a homeless man I served at the soup kitchen obtaining a job. These things have changed me and allowed me to cultivate a more compassionate heart.

In the midst of being a bridge to those I left behind in Canada and the people I accompany in Guyana, I have become aware of this simple truth: we are not alone. God walks with us always. As I continue to establish myself in a foreign country, I have come to understand this concept even more deeply. Here in Guyana, I’ve been blessed with companions on my journey and I am reaffirmed daily of the extent of God’s providence through little acts of kindness and the people I meet along the way.

For me, mission is sharing your life with those around you, sharing with the world the gifts and talents God has

given you. I truly believe that every act of love—big or small—makes a difference. Jesus’ invitation to follow Him is ultimately an invitation to love, an invitation to lay down one’s life for your brothers and sisters. I spent last year being immersed in the love of God through the hospitality and generosity of the Guyanese people. This year I hope to focus more intently on living out the second half of the greatest commandment: love of neighbour.

As St. John Climacus says, “Hope is the power behind love.” My hope for the rest of my time in Guyana is to be able to witness to the love of Christ in all that I do. By responding to the call of Jesus, I hope that my actions may inspire others to do the same—to respond with open hearts and minds to the call that Jesus has for them. Together let us continue to hope for a better world, hope for peace between one another regardless of race or religion, hope for the courage to say “Yes” like Mary did. I don’t know if renewing makes me crazy. All I know is that Jesus called me by name and I answered.∞



## PROMOTING SCARBORO MISSIONS' ONE-YEAR MISSION PROGRAM

In August 2015, Ashley Aperocho did outreach and promotions in Western Canada for the One-Year Mission program. Ashley met many individuals who were interested in mission and she distributed the program brochure in parishes throughout Victoria, the Greater Vancouver Area, Calgary, Lethbridge, and Edmonton. After her outreach efforts, Ashley returned to Scarboro Missions' central house in Toronto to make promotional videos for the program featuring the mission team she worked with in Guyana. Ashley has now returned to Guyana for her second year.

The program is seeking candidates for the July to August 2016 formation session, with mission placement from September 2016 to May 2017. The application deadline is February 22, 2016. For more information, contact Carolyn Doyle, coordinator of the One-Year Mission Program:

Email: [oneyear@scarboromissions.ca](mailto:oneyear@scarboromissions.ca)

Tel: 416-261-7135, x 280; Toll free: 1-800-260-4815

Visit our webpage at:

[www.scarboromissions.ca/one-year-mission-program](http://www.scarboromissions.ca/one-year-mission-program)

Four promotional videos featuring lay missionaries serving in Guyana are available online through the One-Year Mission Program webpage and through the YouTube link on the homepage.



Ashley Aperocho at home in Calgary with former Scarboro lay missionary Beverley Vantomme, staffing the Scarboro Missions booth at the city's annual Music and Faith "One Rock" festival.



Sharing her experience at St. Mark's Parish in Vancouver, which serves students of the University of British Columbia (UBC) as well as residents living nearby. Before joining Scarboro, Ashley served in chaplaincy at St. Mark's and her missioning mass was celebrated there before leaving for Guyana.

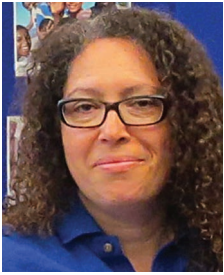


The lay members of the Guyana mission team (L-R), Paulina Gallego, Donna Joy Tai, Ashley Aperocho, and Beverly Trach, at the Mary Ward Centre in Toronto where they gave a presentation on mission in Guyana. Summer 2015.



Friends from UBC who helped Ashley distribute brochures for the One-Year Program. L-R: Chris and May who teach First Communion Preparation; Raffaele, a seminarian; and Edward and Linnette, Youth Group leaders.





By Paige Souter

# Protectors of God's handiwork

*The Christian vocation to care for creation and vulnerable peoples*

"Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth,  
who sustains and governs us,  
and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs."  
*Opening words of Laudato Si, taken from St. Francis' Canticle of Creatures*



Have you ever noticed the awe and wonder in children when they interact with nature? They seem to have an intimate connection to their surroundings. They don't hesitate to play in the mud, or splash in puddles, or hug a tree, or talk to a ladybug. When my children were young, they often picked dandelions as a gift for me, carefully selecting them as if they were the most beautiful flowers on the planet and then gently placing them in a glass filled with water. My children would proudly present the dandelions to me with a loud, "We love you Mommy!" The flowers were always granted a place of honour on the windowsill beside the statue of St. Francis. They were a beauty to be shared.

Just as Jesus called his disciples to become like little children (*Matthew 18:2-3*), so, too, Pope Francis in his ground-breaking encyclical, *Laudato Si* —*On Care for Our Common Home*, calls us to awaken to God's presence in the beauty and majesty of creation. He calls us to a new way of living with creation as its protector and nurturer: "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." (217) Pope Francis poetically points out that creation goes beyond the natural







“Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.”

*Excerpt from “A Prayer For Our Earth,” the concluding prayer of Laudato Si*

environment and includes humanity. “Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river, and mother earth.” (92)

### **Our responsibility**

Pope Francis says that because of our own dignity and intellect (69), we have a responsibility to respect, foster, and nourish creation; to give witness to its dignity and its value to God. Humanity

is called by God to be instruments “so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty, and fullness.” (53) Drawing from the wisdom of Biblical creation stories, Pope Francis states that it is our vocation to “till and keep” creation (*Genesis 2:25*). For Pope Francis tilling involves “cultivating, ploughing or working while ‘keeping’ means caring, protecting, overseeing, and preserving.” (67) There is no dominion in the relationship but rather a “mutual responsibility between human beings and nature.” (67)

As protectors of God’s creation we

recognize and celebrate the integrity of creation. We honour our common origin and the universal communion that holds everything together. “As part of the universe, called into being by the Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect.” (89) We are in an integral relationship with God, with nature and with each other. God’s spirit is imbued in creation. “Every creature is thus the object of the Father’s tenderness, who gives it its place in the world. Even the fleeting life of the least of beings is the object of

Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudato Si, On Care for Our Common Home*, reminds us that the Earth is our common home. He calls us to address the environmental problems facing our world by seeking justice that hears “both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” In the fall of 2015, Scarboro Missions launched its new **Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Office Education Program**.

This new educational offering helps youth and adults deepen their faith while focusing on caring for creation and caring for vulnerable peoples. The program provides workshops, retreats, devotionals, and mini-missions for parishes and schools, as well as for other organizations. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about *Laudato Si*, Catholic Social Teaching, ecological justice, climate change, and an option for the poor in an interactive and faith-filled format.

To learn more about the program, please email Paige Souter, Education Program Coordinator, at [jpiceducation@scarboromissions.ca](mailto:jpiceducation@scarboromissions.ca)

his love, and in its few seconds of existence, God enfolds it with his affection.” (77) As protectors we live with the deep understanding that creation is a gift from God, and that every creature is loved and valued by God.

### An ecological conversion

In order for us to live our vocation to care for creation, we need to undergo what Pope Francis calls an “ecological conversion,” a change of heart towards the planet and towards each other that is “grounded in the convictions of our faith.” (216) With this conversion, the pope says, the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us (217), our hearts open to the unseen bonds that connect all of creation, a sense of fraternity prevails, and nothing and no-one is excluded. (92)

Because creation has both an ecological and a social component, we can no longer separate environmental issues from social justice issues. When we see the earth suffer, we see humanity suffer. When we see humanity suffer, we see the earth suffer. “A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings.” (91) As Pope Francis states, in order to address environmental issues facing the planet and the issues facing vulnerable peoples, we must deal with

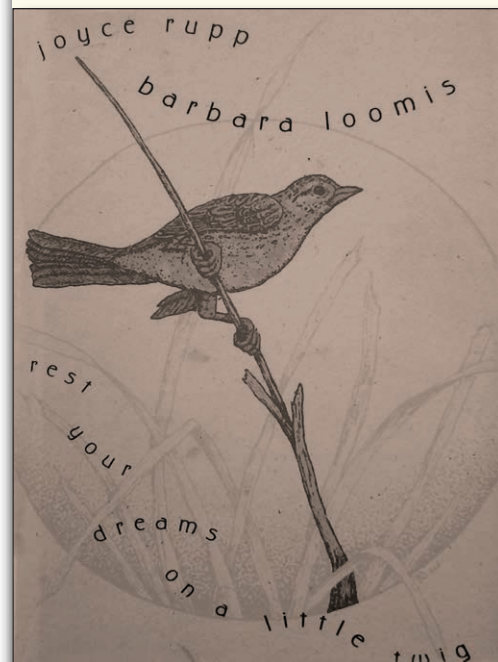
them as a singular issue. As we care for creation, we must listen to both the “cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (49)

### A communal endeavour

Caring for creation is not a solitary vocation; it is a communal endeavour that requires both an individual and a community conversion. The spirit of gratitude, loving awareness, and universal communion (220) will sustain us as we build a new “culture of care” (229, 231), a culture that protects and respects nature, nourishes our brothers and sisters, and fosters a relationship with God, nature, and each other.

It takes courage, hope, love, and prayer to live out this vocation. But we do not undertake it alone. Jesus walks with us. He shows us how to look at dandelions not as pesky weeds but as edible plants used by First Nations as a source of vitamins and minerals, and as beautiful flowers that give glory to God.∞

*Paige Souter is the Education Program Coordinator for Scarboro Missions’ Department of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation.*



*Rest your dreams on a little twig* © 2003  
text by Joyce Rupp, OSM, art by Barbara Loomis, OSM; Sorin Books  
([www.sorinbooks.com](http://www.sorinbooks.com))





# Rest your dreams on a twig

*Finding guidance, sustenance, and hope for life's journey*

By Donna Joy Tai

As part of my discernment journey prior to becoming a missionary, I participated in my first-ever silent retreat at Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre in Pickering, Ontario. My trepidation at the thought of not speaking for more than 36 hours quickly disappeared as soon as I began to explore the beautiful natural environment of the centre. I could resist any temptation to speak by going for a walk: under the tall whispering pines of the Rosary Way; along the convoluted, surprising path of the labyrinth; down the hill and through the woods to the meandering stream...

On this silent retreat, God spoke to me in astonishing ways during my various nature walks. However, God really grabbed my attention through a slim book of poems inspired by nature: *Rest your dreams on a little twig*, by Joyce Rupp, with pencil drawings by Barbara Loomis. I would randomly choose a page and be delighted and amazed by the appropriateness of the

poem, providing necessary answers and unexpected insight... especially regarding my impatient and yet unfulfilled desire to go to mission overseas. I was gently reminded that

*Life unfolds  
slowly,  
surely. (like a fern)  
However, within me  
There's a bluebird  
in my soul  
seeking wings,  
longing  
for the freedom  
to fly  
in new untried  
meadows.*

It was as if Joyce Rupp knew me, a total stranger, more intimately than perhaps I knew myself. She certainly captured the essence of my state of mind then. Currently in my third year of mission in Guyana (life surely unfolding), this little book remains a constant and clairvoyant presence—soothing

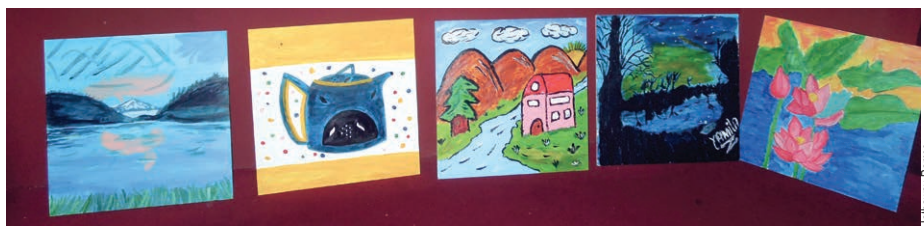
and reassuring at times, probing and demanding at other times, always challenging me to enter more deeply into my experience of mission, of faith, of life in general. I have learned to draw on nature and on people for inspiration when in the grips of misunderstanding, frustration, solitude, and fatigue.

*The loveliness  
of a single flower  
in radiant bloom  
can sing  
my drooping spirit  
into joy.  
The loveliness  
of a single person  
with a listening gaze  
can sing  
my heavy heart  
back into life.  
I've come across  
both kinds  
in my time of need  
and both  
have brought me hope.*

And hope, I believe, is essential for any rewarding and successful mission experience—certainly for the missionary and perhaps even more so for the people being served.∞

**Left:** Scarborough lay missionary Donna Tai making papier mâché piñatas with students at the St. John Bosco Academy, a school for orphaned boys in Georgetown, Guyana. Donna's ministries include the orphanage, catechesis, and bringing music and friendship to the elderly and shut-ins. She hopes to begin working with victims of human trafficking, an initiative of the Sisters of Mercy.





# Art for hope

*Nurturing hope and creativity through the gift of art*

By Jamila Hathaway-Ramos

Art has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I have been blessed with many opportunities to develop my gifts in this area. I have been able to go to art camps and classes. I can afford materials and get resources from libraries and the Internet to improve and learn. I even attend a high school where I specialize in visual arts. Many kids do not have these same opportunities.

I have frequently travelled to the city of Chiclayo, Peru, where my mother is from and where my father worked for eight years as a Scarboro lay missionary. During my visits there, I have seen the difficult situations in which many children live. Centro Esperanza, an organization founded by women from the local Christian communities, is doing amazing work with women and children from poor neighbourhoods. I wanted to contribute to their work in some way. Since my talent and passion is art, I asked the organizers at Centro Esperanza if I could come and teach art to children during July and August of 2015. I was delighted when they offered to arrange the classes for children in three different areas around the city.

The winter of 2014 I spent painting and building my website ([www.art-for-hope.com](http://www.art-for-hope.com)) and I sold my paintings and notecards to raise money for art supplies for the project. I am very thankful to all the people who supported me and made this opportunity possible.

My classes with the children focused on two aspects: learning artistic techniques and encouraging the development of creativity. We worked in watercolour, acrylic, and pastels with



**Above and facing page: Jamila with some of her art students in the classes she offered in three communities around the city of Chiclayo, Peru. Summer 2015.**

lessons on shading and painting techniques. We also played games to help nurture creativity and I led activities that encouraged them to express themselves and their experiences through art. The women of Centro Esperanza provided lots of support and my mom also helped to plan and organize the classes.

The artwork produced was amazing. One girl drew a picture of an old man. When I asked her to tell me about her drawing, she explained that her grandfather had recently passed away and she had decided to draw him as a way to remember him. She told me that drawing him made her happy.

In Chosica del Norte, I taught in a school where the kids all felt they were

poor artists. With some encouragement and simple lessons, they produced beautiful artwork. One mother told me that her son had never shown any interest in art. Yet, when we did our closing art show, the boy was enthusiastic about his artwork and showed pride in everything he had made.

All the children were kind and caring. This was particularly true in La Ladrillera, the poorest community in the countryside. At the end of the day, it took several minutes to leave as the kids held on to me, some of the smaller ones clinging to my neck and wrapping their legs around me while I walked around carrying them. On the last day, almost all the kids wanted to give me one of





their art pieces instead of keeping everything for themselves. I had to convince them to keep their art so they would remember the experience. Still, a few pieces went home with me to Canada.

The love and enthusiasm of these children was incredible to experience. I suffer from social anxiety, which makes it difficult for me to speak in public. At the beginning of my first class I was shaking, and as I started to speak, I began to stutter. But the children didn't care. They gave me warm smiles and were so excited to begin working that I almost immediately became less nervous. They were so full of energy and enthusiasm that I lost myself in the work and in their bright spirits.

Art and creativity can help people to overcome difficulties. About four years ago, a serious infection in my right hand and arm left me with severe, chronic pain that makes it difficult to hold a pencil or paintbrush for long periods. At first, doing art was almost impossible, but my love for drawing and painting helped me push through. Even though it is still sometimes painful, art has become my passion.

Looking at the faces of the children in Chiclayo and feeling their love made

me realize that sharing the gift of art also brought joy, enthusiasm, and self-affirmation into their lives. They were able to do something they love and to create beauty in the world. Together, we shared a wonderful gift with each other. I am deeply grateful for this experience and hope to one day be able to work with these children again.∞

*Jamila Hathaway-Ramos is currently in grade 12 at Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts in Toronto. To read more about her trip and to view some of her art, please visit the Art for Hope website at [www.art-for-hope.com](http://www.art-for-hope.com)*





# Young and restless

*“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled”*

By Fr. Ron MacDonell, S.F.M.

**M**y father, after completing eight years of schooling, went to work on the railroad as a linesman. He liked to quote St. Augustine: “Our hearts are restless until they rest in you” (*Confessions, Book 1, Chapter 1*). Dad quoted this so often it became engraved in my heart.

When we are young, we are often restless. That was my experience during my university years. What career should I choose? How can I be happy? Am I called to marry and raise a family? Should I follow religious life? How can I participate in church now that I am an adult? Should I become a missionary overseas?

I attended Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, and sought answers in Christian groups on campus, at the Newman House, and in the Student Christian Movement. Participating in Newman House strengthened my Catholic faith and sense of volunteer service in the community. In the ecumenical Student Christian Movement, I learned about the social gospel and became interested in issues of international justice. These formative years at university played a large part in my becoming a missionary with Scarboro Missions and serving for many years in Latin America.

Last October, I had an opportunity to revisit my student years and to feel young and restless again. As part of Scarboro Missions’ vocation outreach team for our One-Year Mission Program, I attended two student conferences of the Canadian Catholic Student Association. The first, at Campion College in Regina, Saskatchewan, had



After ordination in 1986, Fr. Ron MacDonell was assigned to Brazil’s Amazon. He returned to Canada in 2012 to serve in leadership on Scarboro Missions’ General Council.

“In the ecumenical Student Christian Movement, I learned about the social gospel and became interested in issues of international justice. These formative years at university played a large part in my becoming a missionary with Scarboro Missions and serving for many years in Latin America.”

the theme “Looking Inward, Going Out: Growing in Spirituality and Putting Faith into Action.” I shared a 90-minute workshop on social justice with Andrea Scapinello of Jesuit Volunteers Canada. We met students from Edmonton, Regina, and Winnipeg, and found them to have a high awareness of social justice issues. Most were engaged in issues

such as eradicating poverty, working for fair trade on campus, indigenous rights, and immigrant issues, and acting on their concern for prisoners in our jails. I was reminded of the Beatitude of Jesus, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (*Matthew 5.6*). In these young, committed Christians, I saw mirrored





Jack Lynch, SFM



Ron arrived among the Makushi people in northern Brazil in 1993 and used his linguistic training to help teachers and catechists to produce dictionaries, radio programs, and publications of traditional Makushi stories. He has also worked with a group of Makushi women on the translation of a children's bible. Like many indigenous groups, the Makushi recognize the importance of language in determining and preserving their cultural identity.

“Perhaps some young people’s restlessness may lead them to service overseas among our sisters and brothers who live life on the margins.”



*Fecisti nos ad te et inquietum  
est cor nostrum donec requiescat in te.*

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord,  
and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”

*Opening words of Saint Augustine’s Confessions*

my own idealism when I was that age. A new and just world is possible by following Jesus and seeking the Kingdom of God.

The second conference took place at the University of Toronto’s Newman Centre. The theme was “Called to Love—Journeying with the Synod on Marriage and the Family.” Along with Carolyn Doyle, coordinator for Scarborough Missions’ vocation outreach team for the One-Year Mission Program, I attended interesting talks about marriage and the family. We met students from across Ontario and Quebec and felt

the vibrancy of their faith in Jesus and their commitment to church. I recalled my own involvement at Newman House where I, too, found my faith nurtured through student meetings and assemblies.

In many of the students I met in Regina and in Toronto, I sensed the restlessness of their young years—what to do after their studies, how to make financial ends meet, how to discern God’s call in their relationships, how to be part of the church, how to nurture a strong prayer life. Perhaps some young people’s restlessness may lead them to service over-

seas among our sisters and brothers who live life on the margins.

This restlessness isn’t only a phenomenon of youth. It follows us all our lives. Over the years, I have come to see restlessness as a gift from God. We are perpetually seeking God. I have come to see my father’s wisdom and why he liked that prayer of St. Augustine so much. I discovered its full context: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” Let us thank God for the gift of restlessness that impels us to seek God. Let us pray for young people, that they may find the peace of Jesus in the midst of restlessness.∞



# In the service of others

*When it comes to vocations, we are asked to make a journey of faith*

By Paulina Gallego

For many years I had this idea that having a vocation was linked with being a priest or sister and choosing a religious life. Only recently have I discovered that a vocation is meant for everyone and we are all called to put our gifts and talents to the service of others. I believe that these gifts are always connected to the teachings of Jesus—to do good wherever we are, to be kind and generous, to share each other's pain and suffering.

It is hard to live one's life without a goal, and for me that goal is to be happy, which means being healthy, having my basic needs met, being loved, and finding meaning in what I do. I began to ask God to help me discover what I could do with my life, what were my strengths, what was I really good at. God allowed these questions to percolate in order to take me deeper into discernment.

There are many things that make me happy, but the only time I could remember being truly joyful was when I was able to share my gifts and talents in helping others.

After graduating from college, I felt a deep desire to serve those in need and to leave behind everything that was familiar to do so. I wanted to live my life in a way that would leave me exhausted at the end of the day because I was giving my all to others. It was then that I discovered that the desire of the heart is the longing of the soul because God makes us desire what God is calling us to be.



Paulina with some of the children at the daycare where she worked in Georgetown, Guyana.

In 2014, I joined the Scarborough Missions' One-Year Mission Program and went to Guyana. I worked in the Missionaries of Charity daycare and came to know many stories of domestic violence, harassment, rape, and murder. Many times I felt overwhelmed, but for a few hours each day I had the privilege to be with these small children who often-times were the bystanders and victims in these stories. It was there that I found true joy in loving, caring, and providing a safe place for these little ones where their talents and abilities were recognized and nourished.

In my journey I have learned that our God-given talents will always exceed our expectations. When we discover what God is asking of us, we may experience fear—fear of the unknown, fear of our ability to meet unknown challenges. At the same time, our desire to serve will grow. It is during this time that we will

take the leap of faith and say “Yes” to God's call without absolute assurance that everything will be okay or that we will be able to do what is asked of us. But when it comes to vocations, we are asked to make a journey of faith, and when we give our desires to God, our joy will surpass all fear.

God is calling me, calling you, to be the best that we can be. This means being generous enough to share with the world, with those in need, with the marginalized. A vocation is when the grace of God guides us to do things we never thought possible for the service of others. Go on. Take the next step. Do not be afraid.∞

*Paulina Gallego has now returned to life in Canada after serving in Guyana for a year with the One-Year Mission Program.*



In Antigonish, Nova Scotia, people taking part in the global climate march of November 28, 2015, as part of the town's Santa Claus parade.



# What would Jesus have *me* do?

*Bringing faith and values into all aspects of life*

By Fr. Roger Brennan, S.F.M.

As Christians we are required to bring our faith and values into all aspects of our life. This brings us to the area of discernment, judging our actions today by the standards of the Gospel message we have received from Jesus Christ. It is not so much a question of “What would Jesus do?” as “What would Jesus have *me*, in my circumstances, do?” This requires a deep sense of the spirit of the Gospel and an understanding of the matter in which we may become involved. It also requires a mature knowledge of ourselves; our strengths and weaknesses; our skills, limitations, interests, and motivations.

In especially important matters, discernment may also require consultation with others who are knowledgeable about the particular issue and who may also know you. I am always intrigued by the incident in St. Matthew's Gospel (16:13-17) when Jesus and the apostles are in Caesarea Philippi and he asks them, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” and then, “Who do you say that I am?”

From a human point of view, Jesus may have been asking his closest friends to help him discern his vocation. Peter responds, “You are the Messiah,” thus confirming what Jesus himself had con-

cluded.

In a number of cases in the Gospels, Jesus himself guides people's choices, as when he says to Peter, Andrew, James, and John, “Follow me.” On another occasion he points a man in another direction. When the man who has been freed from many demons in the country of the Gerasenes (*Matthew 5:1-20*) asks to stay with Jesus, he is directed to go to his home and his own people and tell them about the wonderful things God has done for him.

## The signs of the times

At the end of his ministry, as Jesus approaches Jerusalem, he begins to speak to his disciples about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world. He tells them that just as they know that summer is coming when the fig tree is about to bloom, they will know that the things of which he is speaking are about to happen if they observe what is happening around them (*Matthew 13:28-29*). Jesus is telling his disciples that they must discern the signs of the times.

This admonition of Jesus was picked up by the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) as an important tool for the Church to use in bringing the message of

Jesus to the world. It enables the Church to sense where the Spirit of God is present and moving in world events and where world events call for a particular response from the Church. A good example of this dynamic is found in Pope Francis' recent encyclical *Laudato si*, in which he challenges all peoples with the need to address concerns in our treatment of the Earth and its resources and in the just distribution of those goods that are necessary for a decent human life. The Church's reading of the signs of the times is a kind of discernment by the Church at the global level.

God is present and active in all events—those in our personal life and those that affect the whole world.

We can only respond to these appropriately as Christians if we remain alert and open to the guidance of God's Spirit; in other words, we must be prepared to discern the way forward, aware that we are in a partnership with the Lord of the Universe.∞

*Scarboro missionary Fr. Roger Brennan assists the One-Year Mission Program as a member of the outreach team, the application screening team, and the formation team.*

# The next step in the journey

*Finding a place in Canada after the transformative experience of mission*

By Sr. Ann MacDonald, C.S.J.

From a place of restlessness and an inner desire for a new challenge in ministry, when I turned 60 I began to pray the words of the Prophet Jeremiah in earnest, “I know the plans I have in mind for you, plans for peace...” I was confident that the Spirit was working within me and knew my desire for the *more* in my life. I would have to trust and wait on God.

I began to look at possibilities to serve in an African country and visited the missions of the Sisters of St Joseph of Chambery who were working in Tanzania. It was a six week “come and see” visit. Upon my return to Canada, the attraction to serve in Africa was still present, but as part of my discernment journey I had to complete a training program for people seeking to be volunteers in overseas mission.

With the blessing of my religious community, I began the four-month preparation program at Scarboro Missions along with lay people who were also discerning a call to join Scarboro Missions for a three-year commitment. The program prepared us in various ways to live and work in another culture. We were given tools that we could use in mission when we felt overwhelmed walking in a new culture and learning a new language, as well as ways to deal positively with our own loneliness.

I was missioned to Malawi, to the Diocese of Mzuzu where other Scarboro missionaries served. I had been told that Malawi was known as the Warm Heart of Africa and I was curious as to what that might mean personally as my journey began.

“One goes overseas so as to come back—as an activist, a marginal person, and a perpetual sojourner...

It is impossible to unbecome what our overseas experience has helped us to be.”

## At the end of my comfort zone

My first days in Mzuzu were a blur. I met many people and visited various places where I might choose to do ministry. I found the market and grocery store, arranged to get a phone, and found the shop where I could send emails. Even with all the activity of settling into a new environment, I was feeling sure that this was the place where I was called to be at this moment in my life. Language classes began and I tried to adjust to a very relaxed pace of living, which was indeed a challenge for one who loves activity.

I met other religious, both sisters and priests, who were working in the diocese of Mzuzu and stood proud when I heard of the legacy left by previous Scarboro lay missionaries. Hospitality is a value among the Malawian people. An invitation to share a meal with a family was a time to meet all of the relatives and neighbours who gathered around the table because the *mzungu* (white person) was visiting. I was experiencing, firsthand, the warm heart of Africa.

As I spent time meeting people in various places, one of my learnings was that in spite of their personal situation or their daily struggle for survival, they lived from a deep faith and trust in God that all would be well. Nothing was

termed bad luck; it was always “God will look after us and we will be fine.”

Education for African students comes at a price, as school fees are required at all grade levels. If a family is not able to pay the fees then donors have to be sought, which is often a problem. With the awareness that having an education is a way out of poverty, families make huge sacrifices to find money to send at least one of their children to school. I was often aware of how much we as Canadians take education for granted.

My full time ministry began at St. Peter’s Secondary School and I was asked to teach a life skills class to Grade Nine students. This was a new initiative put forward by the Ministry of Education. I was up for the challenge even though there were no textbooks, teacher guides, or background notes that I could use to create lesson plans. I enjoyed the classroom teaching and learned that kids in Mzuzu have the same hopes and dreams for success as kids in Canada.

One of the needs I saw early on was that a very small space had been designated at the school for a library. The room could hold no more than 15 students at a time, so I began raising money from donors and friends to renovate a good-sized classroom into a library with a computer room attached.





**Above: Scarboro lay missionary Sister Ann MacDonald, CSJ, with student tutors Thumbiko and Phillip. Right: With after school students. Malawi, Africa.**



I also began an after-school program to assist students who were sponsored by Scarboro Missions benefactors. Three student tutors were hired and two rooms in my house became classrooms. At times, chairs were set up in the front yard to accommodate everyone who showed up that day. It was wonderful to watch relationships grow between the tutors and the other students as they tried to solve mathematics problems or determine the meaning of the words of a poem. Having role models was helpful for the students as they worked toward their goal of going on to university.

### **New beginnings**

After completing two three-year contracts with Scarboro Missions in Malawi, it was time to return to Canada and find my place again within my community and family. This indeed has been a challenge as I did not want to forget what I had learned and lived during my time in Malawi. It seemed that life in Canada had changed in the time I was away and technology had a hold on young people. Having lived in Malawi, a country where relationships are held with such import-

ance, I was taken off guard by the way that people in Canada relate with their cell phones.

It felt like I was in reverse culture shock, which was at times overwhelming as I looked for a place where I could fit. I was a different person because of the past six years of living with only what I needed in terms of material things. Suddenly I found myself wanting more than was necessary. I think this is part of our North American culture that easily seduces many of us into thinking we really need this or that.

Since my return in 2013, I have attended a workshop for returned missionaries at Scarboro Missions and reflected on one of the handouts we were given at the closing session. In it, the writer Cyril Powles describes our next step in the journey of coming home as "For the sake of others." For Powles, one goes overseas so as to come back—as an activist, a marginal person, and a perpetual sojourner. These are tough words, yet if we recognize that it is impossible to unbecome what our overseas experience has helped us to be, then the next logical step is to use our experience, skills, and

knowledge to become a missionary to our own culture.

Now back in Windsor, I have been volunteering at the refugee office sponsored by the Diocese of London. I now have a house and am able to take the overflow of refugees coming through the diocesan office when the shelter is full. So as of now I have a family of five from Nigeria and a single woman from Ethiopia. Being able to meet and accompany many people who are seeking a home here in Canada seemed to be the next logical step in my journey to be with and among God's people here in my own country.∞

# Remembering Fr. Art MacKinnon, SFM

*On the 50th anniversary of his martyrdom*

*The following by Laura Jean Grant is reprinted from the Cape Breton Post, June 21, 2015*



At home in Cape Breton and in the Dominican Republic where he was killed 50 years ago, Rev. James Arthur (Art) MacKinnon was remembered. A memorial mass held in his honour at St. Leonard's Parish in New Waterford drew hundreds of people, including Bishop Brian Dunn of the Diocese of Antigonish and representatives from Scarboro Missions with whom MacKinnon, a native of New Victoria, was serving when he was killed as a young priest in 1965.

His nephew, JB MacKinnon, travelled from Vancouver to be at Sunday's memorial, which marked the 50th anniversary of his uncle's death.

"It's very heartwarming for the family to realize that Art is so well-remembered and so much cared for after 50 years, and I know that's also the case in the Dominican Republic where one of my brothers has gone for a memorial service there," he said. "I'm sure that Art would be surprised to know that he was filling a cathedral here in New Waterford."

JB, who researched and wrote a book on his uncle's life and death titled *Dead Man in Paradise*, said Art's story captured his interest as a young boy.

"I think every family has stories that are told whenever everyone gets together, and Art's story for me as a child was certainly the most memorable," he said. "When I got older I realized that nobody really had an absolutely clear sense of what happened and why, and I decided to go to the Dominican Republic and try to figure that out for myself."

In his travels to the Dominican Republic, JB said he was struck by how



**(L-R) Frs. Ron MacDonell and Brian Swords of Scarboro Missions' General Council, Bishop Brian Dunn of Antigonish Diocese, and Scarboro Fathers Russ Sampson, Ambie MacKinnon, and Gerald Curry. St. Leonard's parish, New Waterford.**

his uncle's story has had such an impact on so many people over so many years.

"The story was incredibly alive down there. People all across the country remember the day that Art died, especially in the town where he was killed," he said.

MacKinnon died in Monte Plata in the Dominican Republic on June 22, 1965, after two men asked him to accompany them on a sick call... He was shot and killed just outside of town, presumably at a military checkpoint. To this day, no one has been charged with his murder.

St. Leonard's parish priest Rev. Ray Huntley said the memorial mass was a chance to honour MacKinnon's memory.

"It's important not to forget these stories that inspire us to work toward more justice and compassion in the world," he said.

Rev. Ron MacDonell, Scarboro Missions vicar-general, delivered the homily during the mass: "(We're) here today to celebrate and to remember the



**Family members including Fr. Art's brother Martin (front left) and his nephew JB (back row, 2nd from right) at the memorial.**

sacrifice that Father Art gave for the people of the Dominican Republic," he said. "Father Art MacKinnon is a saint because he gave his life as a martyr."

...Art's brother Martin MacKinnon said it was great to see so many family, friends, and community members gathered to remember his brother.

"It's quite an honour," he said. "Thanks to everybody that put this together."∞



# Rev. Paul James McGuire, SFM

1933 – 2015

“The longing of people everywhere is for peace, freedom, justice, and equality. It is through dialogue and sharing as brothers and sisters that a new world is being born... We are confident that the ‘sunrise’ of the Gospel will bring light and hope to the entire world.”

*Fr. Jim McGuire, SFM*

Fr. Jim McGuire died peacefully on September 11, 2015, at the age of 82, after a short illness. Born into a large family of seven siblings in Omemee, Ontario, on March 3, 1933, Fr. Jim went to elementary school in Emily Township and high school at Omemee’s Lindsay Collegiate. He graduated from St. Michael’s College in Toronto with a BA in 1954.

Following his desire to be a priest, Fr. Jim studied for the priesthood and was ordained for the diocese of Peterborough by Most Rev. B.I. Webster on May 31, 1958. He spent his early years in the diocese at Immaculate Conception parish and at the cathedral before joining Scarboro Missions.

His first assignment as a Scarboro missionary was to the Philippines in September 1962 where he served for 33 years. In 1980 Bishop Claver in the diocese of Bukidnon, Mindanao, asked the Scarboro missionaries to begin serving the

large non-Christian indigenous population. Jim saw the missionaries as “friends of the *lumad*,” the tribal peoples who were the poorest of the poor. Mission today, he said, is listening and receiving as well as speaking and giving. “We are here to learn as well as to teach. We have seen that all peoples are abundantly blessed by God with their own culture and dignity.”

At the memorial mass celebrated at Scarboro Missions on September 15, homilist Fr. Dave Warren, SFM, said: “Jim looked below the surface of the Gospel. He prayed. He went on retreats. He read. He also went beyond the boundaries of the Christian world. His passion to communicate the Gospel in a new setting inspired him to leave his home diocese of Peterborough and come to Scarboro Missions. This passion inspired him to go to the Philippines to communicate the Gospel in a new setting. And after we closed our mission in the Philippines, his desire to share the Gospel led him to Malawi.”

Jim believed in the goodness of the Good News. “The longing of people everywhere,” he said, “is for peace, freedom, justice, and equality. It is through dialogue and sharing as brothers and sisters that a new world is being born... We are confident that the ‘sunrise’ of the Gospel will bring light and hope to the



entire world, and especially to the struggling continent of Africa.”

Jim served in Malawi for 10 years and returned home to retire at the age of 80. Throughout his missionary life, he held a number of administrative posts and did further studies. He was twice elected by Scarboro Missions personnel in the Philippines as their regional superior. He served on the Secretariat for Scarboro’s VIII General Chapter in 1986 and was a delegate to the General Chapter in 1992 and again in 1997 when he was elected to leadership on Scarboro’s General Council, a post he held until 2002.

Fr. McGuire was predeceased by his parents Paul and Margaret; as well as three sisters, Margaret (Fitzgerald), Ann (McLennan), and Bernice (Collins). He is survived by one brother, Joseph; two sisters, Janet (Purcell) and Ruth (Lamantia); and 27 nieces and nephews.

The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at St. Luke’s Church in Downeyville, Ontario, on September 16, 2015, with a great concurrence of Scarboro priests and laity. Jim was laid to rest in the family plot in Downeyville. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light fall upon him. May he rest in peace.∞



By Fr. Frank Hegel, S.F.M.

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