

Scarboro Foreign Mission Society 1918-2018

Moments in History

Part Five, 2010-2018

Mission closings, the future of the Society
and its legacy

In 2010, Scarborough closes its mission in Ecuador.

A look back at the Ecuador mission



Fr. Frank Hegel with seminarians in front of Christ the Good Shepherd Seminary in Chambo, Riobamba, founded by him in 2000.

A look back at the Ecuador mission



Fr. Raymond O'Toole (back, right) visits married lay missionaries Thomas Walsh and Julia Duarte in Ecuador. 2000.

A look back at the Ecuador mission



Fr. Charles Gervais joined the Ecuador mission team in 2001.
He worked in the Diocese of Riobamba until the mission closed.

Thirteenth General Chapter, May to June 2012





Thirteenth General Chapter

Fr. Brian Swords is elected
Superior General.

In 2012, Scarborough closes its mission in the Dominican Republic.

A look back at the Dominican Republic mission



Visitation of Superior General, Fr. Thomas McQuaid, to the Dominican Republic. Haina, 1956.

Back row, L-R: Frs. L. Quinn, G. Donovan, V. Vachon, P. Ouellette, P. McHugh, J. Ernewein, J. Keeler, G. Courtright, J. George, Francis Burke, R. Moore, J. McCarthy, J. Curcio, L. Hart, F. O'Grady, J. O'Connor, J. McIver

Front row: Frs. J. Gault, J. Murphy, J. Walsh, D. MacNeil, J. Maurice, J. Fullerton, T. McQuaid, J. King, L. Hudswell, L. McAuliffe, H. Steele, M. Dwyer

A look back at the Dominican Republic mission



Fr. Gerald Donovan distributes ashes on Ash Wednesday in Yamasá. 1969.

A look back at the Dominican Republic mission



Fr. Joseph McGuckin with a farmer. 1960s.
Fr. McGuckin is still in the Dominican Republic today.

A look back at the Dominican Republic mission



Fr. Louis Quinn and local women speak with a representative of CIDA, the Canadian government's foreign aid agency, to discuss community development projects in San José de Ocoa. 1997.

In 2012, Msgr. Ambrose MacKinnon leaves the Bahamas.

His departure marks the end of the Society's 58 years of service in that country.

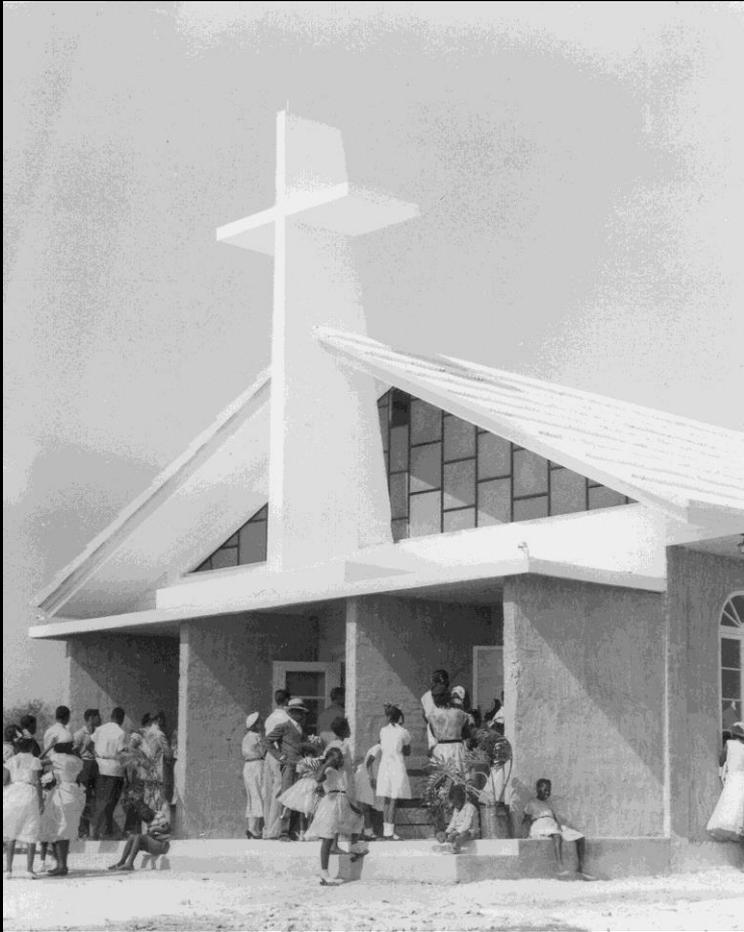
A look back at the Bahamas mission



Blessed Sacrament Church, Harbour Island. Circa 1971.

The church was pastored by Bahamas mission co-founder Fr. John McGoey for 14 years.

A look back at the Bahamas mission



St. Anne's Church in Rock Sound (left) was built by Fr. Paul Pendergast and local labourers in 1956. It was blessed by Bishop Kenneth Turner and subsequently pastored by Bahamas mission co-founder Fr. Craig Strang. In the right-hand image, Fr. Strang stands between the Grey Sisters and the Sisters of Charity. Fr. Pendergast is at the far right. 1959.

A look back at the Bahamas mission



Msgr. Ambrose MacKinnon. Circa 1990.

In 2014, the Justice and Peace Office is renamed Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation to highlight the Society's commitment to working for ecological justice.

That same year, Fr. Raymond O'Toole is named Secretary General of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conference, based in Hong Kong.

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As of 2018, Fr. Raymond continues to serve in Hong Kong.

Fourteenth General Chapter, May to June 2017





Fourteenth General Chapter

Fr. Jack Lynch is elected
Superior General.

At the end of 2017, Scarboro priests and lay missionaries in Guyana return to Canada, marking the closing of that mission.

A look back at the Guyana mission



Scarboro priests serving in British Guiana (Guyana). February 9, 1956.

A look back at the Guyana mission



Back row, L to R: Frs. Kenneth MacAulay, Joseph Moriarty, Linus Wall, Joseph McNamara, Wallace Chisholm
Front row: Frs. Ronald Reeves, Thomas McQuaid, Edward Moriarty, Basil Kirby

A look back at the Guyana mission



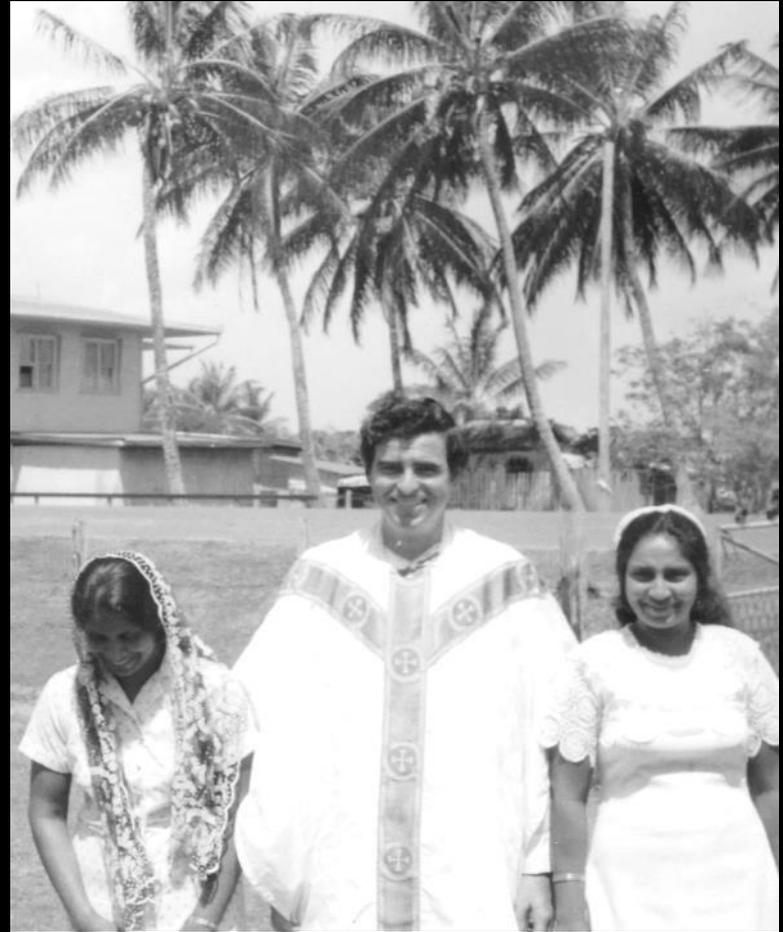
At the Central House in Providence. Circa 1970.

L-R: Frs. Ron Pete, Stanley Des Roches, John Quinn, Frank Thornley, lay missionary Gerald Heffernan, Robert Ling, Graham Clark, Albert Felix, Fred Wong, and Edward Morris.

A look back at the Guyana mission



Fr. Anthony Marsh, pastor of the Church of the Ascension in New Amsterdam, visits the Port Mourant parish. Circa 1962.



Fr. Vincent Heffernan with newly-baptised parishioners. 1970s.



While still a deacon, Fr. Luis Lopez worked in Ascension parish in New Amsterdam, Guyana. One of the parish ministries was the summer school program which he did with the help of members of the youth group.



He now serves in Honduras ministering to refugees and migrants.

Currently, Frs. Ronald MacDonell and Omar Dixon are the last remaining Scarboro missionaries in Brazil.

A look back at the Brazil mission



(L-R) Frs. Raymond O'Toole, Paul McHugh, Malcolm Burke, and Timothy Ryan outside the parish house in Itacoatiara. Circa 1971.

A look back at the Brazil mission



Fr. Omar Dixon with catechist teacher
Leticia Mendes de Oliveria. 1977.

Fr. Dixon departed for Brazil in 1968
and still resides there today.

A look back at the Brazil mission



Bishop George Marskell (left) and Fr. Ron MacDonnell in Itacoatiara. Circa 1989.

A look back at the Brazil mission



While serving in the Brazilian Amazon, lay missionary Karen Van Loon worked with lay leaders in preventative health care for women and young children as part of the Brazilian Bishops' Pastoral to Children. She later worked in Scarborough's Justice and Peace Office, becoming its Director in 2002.

A look back at the Brazil mission



Today, Fr. Ron MacDonnell works in language revitalization. Above, Fr. Ron coaches an Apurina child at a language workshop in Manaus. The Apurina, an indigenous group, have moved to Manaus so their children will learn their ancestral language in a modern urban context. Credit: Luisa Fernandes, 2006.

In this pivotal moment in the Society's history,
Scarboro Missions is undergoing great change.



In 2016, the property at 2685 Kingston Road is sold to the Toronto District Catholic School Board.



Since 1924, the central house at 2685 Kingston Road has served as the base for most of Scarborough Missions' activities in Canada. It also served as a residence for senior members and missionaries on leave, and has welcomed many groups to its Mission Centre.

Scarboro Missions is distributing the proceeds from the sale of its property at 2685 Kingston Road to various organizations which share its vision and which will continue its work.

Among the beneficiaries from the sale of the property are the following:

- The Missionary Societies of Apostolic Life under the jurisdiction of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
- The Quebec Foreign Mission Society
- The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
- The Coady International Institute in Antigonish, Nova Scotia
- Canadian Jesuits International
- Citizens for Public Justice
- The Scarboro Missions Chair for Interreligious Dialogue and the John Mary Fraser Institute for Practical Theology at Regis College in the University of Toronto
- St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto for scholarships for lay students of theology
- The Office of Refugees of the Archdiocese of Toronto

December 2017 marks the closing of the Mission Centre,
the Interfaith Department, and the
Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation office.



In the fall of 2018, Scarborough Missions, along with other religious communities in Toronto, will relocate to Presentation Manor, a newly built seniors' residence in Scarborough.

**The year 2018 marks the 100th Anniversary of
the Scarborough Foreign Mission Society**

Scarboro Missions is profoundly grateful to God for the many blessings received over the past century from benefactors, collaborators, and partners in support of the work and vision of the Society.

At this time in our history, we find ourselves letting go of our more active ministries. But we will continue to live the Gospel.

We remain pilgrims at every stage of our journey.

We find hope in the knowledge that God continues to inspire men and women to reach out to the outcast, to welcome the stranger, and to befriend people of other faiths.

Mission is not ended.