

# *Messenger Cover*

# *The Messenger of the Holy Family*

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# *Provincial Perspective*

Winter 2003/2004

Dear Readers:

Seventy years ago the first issue of THE MESSENGER OF THE HOLY FAMILY was published to bring the work of our Missionaries to family and benefactors, as well as to present helpful articles to assist families with their Christian responsibilities.

Today, our task is much the same as we resume publication of our mission magazine. This family magazine contains a variety of articles to assist parents, youth, married and single, young and senior. I hope you welcome "The Messenger" and the message of Good News it strives to bring into your home.

The Missionaries of the Holy Family, working throughout North America, appreciate your prayers, continued support and contributions. Your help is vital to those we serve. In Thanksgiving, a daily Mass is offered for all who assist us in the task of evangelization.

May God bless you and your family with a generous, loving and caring heart.

Very Rev. Joseph P. Roelke, M.S.F.  
Provincial

## **Photo Place Holder**

Fr. Joe's Photo

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FrJoe

Very Rev. Joseph Roelke, MSF

# *Apostolate Up Close*



## The Mission of Missions

It's a hot and humid Sunday in August. You want to go to Mass, but you have no car; there is no public transportation, but *fortunately* Mass is being offered only a couple miles away! So you walk under the hot sun and arrive for the Mass which will be celebrated outdoors by a missionary priest.

Surprisingly this is a real experience for some Catholics and it

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Jpeg File: MSF-Patio Mass

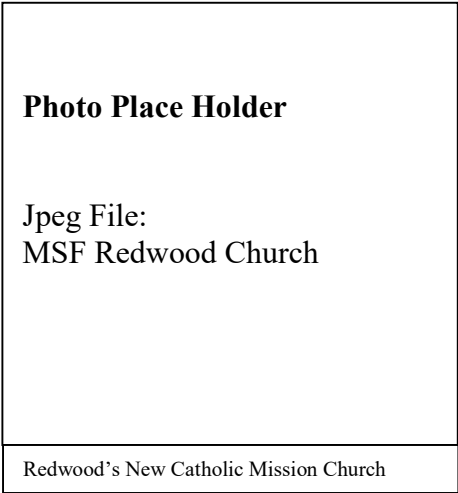
Mass on the Café Patio in Redwood, TX

happens here in the United States. Missions are commonly thought of as work in remote and distant places; a foreign country where the population is suffering greatly, but North America has its mission fields too!

The Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF) work to meet challenges like in Redwood, Texas that was experiencing challenging conditions (*see above*

*photo*). It be hard to imagine that walking a couple of miles to a Mass being held outside on a patio would be considered *fortunate*, but it was for Catholics in Redwood. Years before there were no Masses in Redwood. The nearest parish in their diocese is Our Lady of Guadalupe in Seguin, which is a 36-mile round trip. A general lack of transportation made the trip impossible for many. Some people would go years without receiving communion. There were even 30-year-old Catholics who had not received their first communion.

Today, just a few years after Mass began on a weekly basis; Redwood has opened the doors to a new church (*shown in the photo to the right*). This St. Joseph Mission has a weekly attendance of over 100 people and a CCD program has also begun. The official status is a mission, but there are hopes for it to become a parish church some day.



The Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF) shepard the Redwood mission with priests from the parish in Seguin. Fr. John Kilburg, MSF most frequently celebrates Mass at the mission, but also has the assistance of Fr. David Tonary, MSF who is the pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. Together they support the growing needs of the mission.

The Cristo Rey Mission is just outside of Donna, TX. The mission is

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MSF CristoRey

Cristo Rey Mission Chapel near Donna, TX

sponsored by MSF through St. Joseph Parish. Fr. Herman Defler, MSF who is 81 has been regularly celebrating Mass at the mission for years. Recently Fr. Phil Sosa, MSF who is pastor at St. Joseph parish has also been a frequent celebrant. While Cristo Rey is located only a mile from St. Joseph Parish, it serves a population of over 100 people at every Sunday Mass. Historically the

mission served a large migrant worker population. While the mission is only a mile from the parish it was and still is a great aid to those in Seca who don't have a car. In the years to come it may be possible to combine the mission into the parish, but for now this arrangement best serves the people and they have developed a strong sense of community. Cristo Rey is Spanish for Christ the King and the mission has developed a yearly tradition that takes place in November on the feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. They hold a procession praising Jesus and honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe that travels the mile walk from the Cristo Rey mission to St. Joseph Parish.

The St. John Mission in Hunter, Texas has been a part of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish (OLPH) and the Missionaries of the Holy Family for over 50 years. Fr. Eugene Ronan, MSF is pastor at OLPH and celebrates Mass at both churches on Sunday. 14 miles separates the mission from the parish and the mission is fortunate to not only have masses celebrated there, but also Baptisms, 1<sup>st</sup>

**Photo Place Holder**

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MSF Hunter

St. John's Mission Chapel in Hunter, TX

Communions, Confessions and this year there is the possibility of the Bishop traveling to St. John's to provide the sacrament of Confirmation to 8 young adults. The mission is blessed to have CCD classes on Wednesdays and occasionally Fr. Ronan is able to teach there as well.

The MSF legacy of service at missions in Mexico is wonderful, but unfortunately was just recently interrupted in the year 2000 because the MSF priests serving there reached the mandatory retirement age of 75. Fr. Jim Lienert, MSF and Fr. Charlie Zeyen served in Mexico for decades. Their contributions to the missions were numerous and inspirational. We are fortunate that they have both agreed to provide details on the people and their lives in the Mexico Missions. Fr. Jim Lienert has been writing a series of articles which are being printed in The Messenger in the section "Mexico Mission Reflections". Fr. Charles Zeyen is the subject of this month's Messenger in the "Profile of Service".

The MSF Mission says, "Our Mission to evangelize encompasses far away places, different cultures and wherever the Good News needs to be proclaimed." North America is a fertile mission territory because both the poor in rural Texas and the urban middle class have a need and desire to have the Good News proclaimed to them. Please consider how you can support this mission work of MSF.

# Mexico Mission Reflections

Photo:  
Mission Ref

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Padre Jamie

Fr. Lienert Rings the Bell for Mass

It is best for the author to introduce himself right from the start; my name is Rev. James Lienert, Missionary of the Holy Family (MSF). I worked in our Mexican mission territory for 33 years from 1967 to 2000. During these years I was the pastor, and sole priest, Our Lady of Refuge parish located in the state of Coahuila, Mexico (blue star on the map). In the year 2000 I turned seventy-five, at which age it is obligatory to present a letter of resignation. It is true that the letter of resignation would have

been put on hold had I been willing to continue, but I realized that I was no longer able to adequately take care of the needs of the faithful, and that it would be for the good of the people to have a younger and more up-to-date priest serve the people of the parish.

The MSF territory (shown as the blue box on the map) was comprised of only three parishes spanning the counties of Cuatro

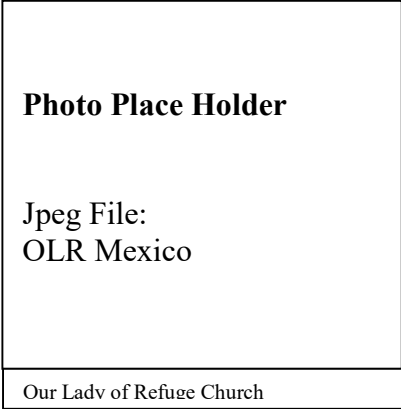
Cienegas, Ocampo and Sierra Mojada. Ocampo is the largest county in all of Mexico. These three counties are located in the northwestern area of the State of Coahuila. The area is roughly 175 miles wide and 200 miles long. All this area is semi arid, sparsely populated, and similar to the borderlands of the Southwest. Until more recently, there were only about 75 miles of paved road in the entire area, and this on the eastern edge. The rest of the roads were made by simply “driving that way”.





Before the Missionaries of the Holy Family arrived in 1967 there was only a priest in Cuantero Cienegas, which is on the far eastern edge of this three county area. While he frequently visited the larger communities to the west it was at special times, such as Christmas and Easter that a priest from the Diocese would be in the smaller communities of Ocampo, and La Esmeralda. So in general, the faithful in this large area were provided with only the most basic spiritual services, and in the more remote areas, not even that. The reasons for this were that the area was remote and inaccessible, and secondly, the people were mostly too poor to support a priest. It was for these reasons that the Bishop of the Diocese of Saltillo granted this territory to the Missionaries of the Holy Family.

My area of work was on the far western side, the most remote part

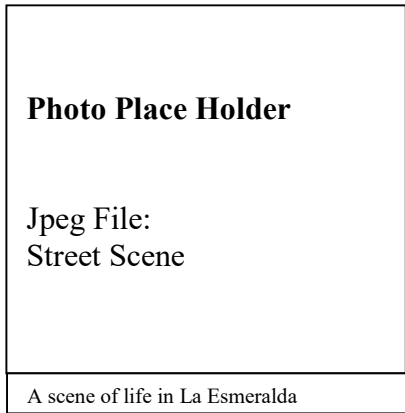


of the territory. This is parish of Our Lady of Refuge. It is roughly seventy-five miles wide and two hundred miles long. The church of Our Lady of Refuge, is located in Sierra Mojada, while I made my residence in La Esmeralda, which is only a couple miles away, but it is where most of the people live. The reason for the church being in Sierra Mojada dates back to 1879 when Sierra Mojada was a

vibrant silver ore mining community. Sierra Mojada became the largest town and the official seat of district, or country so the church was built there. The ore and the mines at Sierra Mojada were closer to the surface so mining was easier. During the days of the bonanza Sierra Mojada continued to prosper, but later more abundant ore was found in deeper mines at La Esmeralda and Sierra Mojada slowly declined. Today, most of the abode houses of the miners are now heaps of dirt. Only some of the better-built homes of the wealthy are still standing. Many of the man-made caves where miners used to live are still inhabited. It is said that at one time the town had a population of 23,000 (likely exaggeration), and now only about 700 people live in Sierra Mojada.

Today La Esmeralda has about 1,500 residents. In the 1930's the mining companies closed the mines, so the miners then formed a cooperative and rented the mines, but mined on a reduced scale. Later, by law, the ownership of the mines passed to the cooperative. By this time all the silver and lead ores had been depleted, and now only zinc was being mined, and it was a marginal grade of ore. Around 1992 the smelters refused to accept the

marginal ore, and so the mines closed completely. Later the Cooperative sold the mines to a company based in Seattle, and it is almost certain that the mines will reopen on a large scale, and the ore will be processed right at the mines.



So now you have a sense for the geography and history of the area. In the next Messenger I will share with you about the area's most fabulous natural resource— the people & their faith!

Until next time,

*Padre Jaime.*

PS: I am presently stationed in the parish of St. Joseph, Donna, Texas as the second Parish Vicar. This parish is sheperded by the Missionaries of the Holy Family.

# Holy Family Life



**MISSION** by Fr. Andrea, Spatafora, M.S.F.

The word mission evokes in many people the image of religious priests, brothers and sisters, members of missionary congregations working in distant lands preaching the Gospel to peoples who have not heard it before, involved in schools and hospitals and medical dispensaries. This impression is confirmed by the many magazines published by missionary congregations or institutes which inform their readers about the work accomplished in such mission fields. This is, however, but one aspect of mission but mission is not limited simply to this. Mission is the activity of the whole Church. To understand what mission is, we must reflect on the origins and purpose of the Church.

Jesus Christ came into the world to reveal God to us and to accomplish through his death and resurrection the divine plan of salvation and thus to bring us into communion with God, the Holy Trinity. Jesus began his ministry proclaiming the kingdom of God: "After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God: 'This is the time of fulfilment. The reign of God is at hand! Reform your lives and believe in the gospel!' (Mark 1,14)." Through his preaching and in particular his parables, Jesus taught about the kingdom of God and by his miracles he showed that it was already present. By the paschal mystery, Jesus brought us salvation, the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life. After the resurrection, Our Lord entrusted his mission of preaching the good news to his apostles and disciples: "Then he told them: 'Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation.'" (Mark 16,15). The proclamation of Christ's work of salvation is at the heart of the Church's preaching of the Gospel: "The Paschal mystery of Christ's cross and Resurrection stands at the centre of the Good News that the apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the world. God's saving plan was accomplished 'once for all' by the redemptive death of his Son Jesus Christ."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Revised in Accordance with the Official Latin Text Promulgated by Pope John Paul II, Città del Vaticano, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 19972, p. 146.

The Church born on Pentecost with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the sign of the kingdom of God: “To fulfill the Father’s will, Christ ushered in the kingdom of heaven on earth. The Church ‘is the Reign of Christ already present in mystery.’”<sup>2</sup> Its mission is to proclaim the Gospel and thus to help build up the Kingdom of God. The very nature of the Church is missionary. Preaching the Gospel is her fundamental task. This task is often referred to as evangelization.

What does evangelization mean exactly? In his encyclical letter of 1974, *Evangelii nuntiandi*, Pope Paul VI states that evangelization is more than simply preaching or catechizing or administering the sacraments, although all of these activities are part of it. Paul VI defines it as: “the carrying forth of the good news to every sector of the human race so that by its strength it may enter into the hearts of men and renew the human race.”<sup>3</sup> To evangelize is to seek to convert individuals and society so that all our values and activities reflect the Gospel and so that our communities are truly signs of the kingdom of God. To preach the Gospel or to evangelize is, therefore, more than preaching with words or simply celebrating the sacraments. It means witnessing to Christ and to the Gospel values by our person, in all our activities.

The Church’s mission is the task of all Christians as Paul VI reminds us: “Those who sincerely accept the good news, by virtue of it and the faith which it generates, are united in the name of Jesus so that they may together seek the kingdom, build it up and implement it in their own lives. In this way they establish a community which becomes itself a herald of the gospel. The command which is given to the twelve: ‘Go preach the gospel’ applies to all Christians in different ways.”<sup>4</sup> Paul VI also writes: “Moreover, the gospel of the kingdom which is coming and has already begun concerns all men of all times. All those, therefore, who have received this message and by virtue of it have been united in the community of salvation have the power and the obligation to hand it on and disseminate it.”<sup>5</sup> The missionary activity of the Church is not restricted to any geographical area, to certain “mission territories” but it is the Church’s task in all

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<sup>2</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, p. 201.

<sup>3</sup> *Evangelii nuntiandi* 17.

<sup>4</sup> *Evangelii nuntiandi* 13.

<sup>5</sup> *Evangelii nuntiandi* 13.

areas of the world. This task remains urgent in our post-modern secularized Western world. Although the nations of Europe and North America are culturally Christian and the Church was established there centuries ago, there has been a secularizing trend since the end of the Second World War. This has resulted in a drop in church attendance, a loss of Christian values and even of Christian culture. It is, therefore, the Church's urgent task to proclaim the Gospel and to teach Christian values.

Every baptized Catholic shares in the evangelizing mission of the Church. Each person is called to discern the concrete ways in which to respond to this call and to fulfill one's baptismal responsibilities. Paul VI states that the Pope, the successor of St Peter has the primary responsibility to preach the Gospel. In this task, he is supported by all the bishops, successors to the apostles who in their dioceses have the responsibility and the authority to teach the faith.<sup>6</sup> Priests share in the evangelizing mission through their preaching, as ministers of the Word and of the Eucharist and the other sacraments. Religious men and women participate in the Church's mission through the witness of their consecrated lives as well as in their numerous apostolates.<sup>7</sup> Lay persons participate in the mission of evangelization by their involvement in the many areas of society including politics and economics, arts and culture: "If laymen who are actively involved in these spheres are inspired with the evangelical spirit, if they are competent and determined to bring into play all those Christian powers in themselves which so often lie hidden and dormant, then all these activities will be all the more helpful in the building up of the kingdom of God and in bringing salvation in Jesus Christ."<sup>8</sup>

However, Paul VI stresses the fact that lay persons evangelize in a particular way in the family. The Pope reminds us that the family is the domestic church and it must be evangelized as well as being a source of evangelizers: "Therefore in a family which is conscious of this role all the members of the family are evangelizers and are themselves evangelized. Not only will the parents impart the gospel

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<sup>6</sup> See *Evangelii nuntiandi* 67-68.

<sup>7</sup> See *Evangelii nuntiandi* 69.

<sup>8</sup> *Evangelii nuntiandi* 70.

to their children's lives. Such a family will bring the gospel to many other families and to the whole social circle to which it belongs."<sup>9</sup>

The task of teaching the Gospel is not the work of a select few but the responsibility of all baptized Catholics. We are called to accomplish this task by our person and by the witness of the Gospel values that inspire us in all that we do.

Fr Andrea Spatafora M.S.F.

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fr spatafora-5

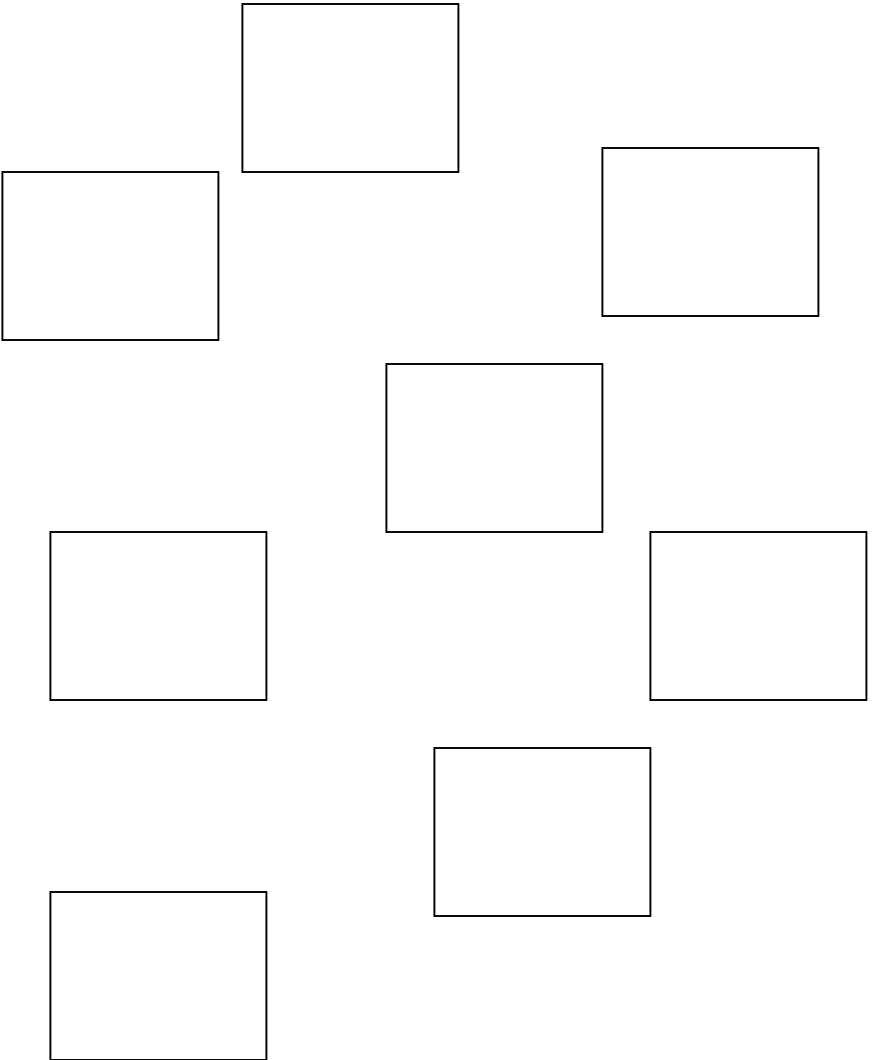
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<sup>9</sup> *Evangelii nuntiandi* 71.

## Around the Province

1. Rev. Camillo Botello, M.S.F. at his ordination to the priesthood. Archbishop Flores of San Antonio, TX presided and MSF Provincial Very Rev. Joseph Roelke concelebrated.
2. Fr. Aloysius Liu Fut Kihn arrived in America from the MSF Indonesia Province to help with the needs of the North American Province. Here Fr. Aloysius is shown with new friends at St. Wenceslaus Parish in St. Louis, MO.
3. Fra. Mario Galindo, M.S.F. (Left) and Br. Robert DeLong, M.S.F. (Right) shown with Fr. Joseph Roelke, M.S.F. Provincial (Center) after renewing their profession of vows on August 15 The Feast of the Assumption. This feast day is the traditional day MSF members renew their vows.
4. Bro. John Griffin, M.S.F takes his Final Vows to the MSF Brotherhood one the Eve of the Feast of the Assumption.
5. Evangelization - Neighborhood Mass celebrated in the yard of a parishioner by Fr. Jim Wasser, M.S.F. Several Masses have been celebrated in MSF parish neighborhoods as way to reach out to the community.
6. Vocations Fair. MSF takes every opportunity to be visible at local vocation events. MSF is looking to begin holding vocation fairs at parishes to further personalize the out reach.
7. Fr. Simon Brzozowski, M.S.F. serves as a priest at a nursing home. Living at the nursing home makes his role in the life of the residents more significant. Fr. Simon turns 84 on December 10<sup>th</sup> and continues to provide a vibrant service to others.
8. Fr. David Tonary celebrating Mass at the St. Joseph Mission Church in Redwood Texas. With the help of benefactors from the Catholic Extension Society and MSF, the new Redwood church was built and provides a comfortable setting. Previously Mass was being said in the local restaurant.

# Around the Province







MSF is pleased to provide you this reprint from Dr. Ray Guarendi's book titled "Back to the Family". Dr. Ray is a popular Catholic radio personality and guest speaker offering parenting advice in concert with Catholic values. More information about Dr. Ray's books and tapes can be found on the internet at [www.DrRay.com](http://www.DrRay.com)

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### ***Parenthood; Pace Yourself, Brace Yourself***

***"If I had it to do all over again, I think I would relax and have more fun. Things that were so important to me then, for example, how old they were when they learned to tie their shoes or read, were really not all that important. Finally, I was just smart enough to realize that." Mother, Califon, New Jersey***

Parenthood is like a marathon race. It's long, demanding, and exhausting. Few pursuits, though, give a greater sense of accomplishment or "high." To carry the analogy a little further, three quarters through the race, marathoners get to a point called "hitting the wall," when their body is screaming, "Stop, I'm out of gas," just prior to getting their second wind and moving on strong again. Parents, too, hit the wall -sometimes literally- most often about three quarters through the race, when they're raising teenagers, although it can happen at any time with any age child. You can reach the limits of your energy to cope raising a baby with colic, a two-year-old whose every third word is no, or a ten-year-old who has decided schoolwork isn't for him. As we will soon see, strong parents, like strong runners, have found that if they can persevere past the point of near-exhaustion, a smoother going often follows. Stamina is a core quality of successful parenting.

Good distance runners know that to run successfully, you must pace yourself. Push too fast and hard, and you're spent before the race is over. Each racer must find the pace, or stride, that's best suited to her. She must brace herself for "the wall" or any other obstacles to be expected in such a long-term endeavor.

The length of a marathon race is 26.2 miles. The length of an "average" parenthood is about 26.2 years, give or take several years. No question, when compared to parents, marathoners are out for a Sunday stroll around the block. All the more critical, then, that to run the best parenting race possible, you must learn to pace - and brace-yourself.

## **TRAINING COMES NATURALLY**

The rookie runner isn't sure what is a comfortable pace for her. She needs a few races under her feet to find a rhythm. So, too, the rookie parent. She needs a few years, or maybe a few kids, to develop a comfortable stride. Nearly all the veteran parents we interviewed said they naturally mellowed and more fully enjoyed childrearing as they received parenting training, courtesy of the kids. With the first child, they often were overanxious to do everything perfectly and, consequently, shot off threats like, "If that car comes home fifteen minutes late, A.J., you'll walk to the drive-in until you're thirty." On the other hand, by the time the last youngster rolled around, the older parents were more likely to force out tired lines like, "Please, Mario, I told you before, don't park your car on the front porch." Not really, but they did admit to being less excitable with the passage of time.

Then again, applying the logic of "more kids = more mellow" to its limit would mean that after five or six kids, mom and dad would be near comatose. While some of the larger families smiled at the grain of truth to this, overall the parents agreed that it takes only a little parenting experience to relax a lot:

- "As a brand-new parent I tried very hard to do everything just right and was very precise. Everything was of monumental importance. So I was hard on myself and on Michael as well, With Kristen, I was much more relaxed, realizing that my expectations were pretty unreal and that some things were just not all that important."
- "All stages of the first child were really a first for us and were probably more of a crisis, more anxious, more intense than the same situations with succeeding children. We really learned and were trained on the first child. God bless her for surviving us."

- "You are always hardest on your first child. You expect more at an earlier age. You probably discipline a little more strictly. Willie and I have often later laughed about some of the things that happened to our older children back in elementary school that we thought were just going to ruin their lives. Now they don't even remember those things. We agonized over them, and they didn't affect the kids at all."

Even after growing more relaxed with each succeeding child, a few parents still wished they could have been more easygoing. Jerry from New Hampshire said, "We might not have allowed ourselves to get caught up in the American life-style as much as we have. Although we had some goals to become more self-sufficient, we kind of got caught up in that achievement life-style, with more working and less fishing. If I could go back, I would probably spend more quality time with my children in leisure."

His wife, Rita, concurred simply, "I would go fishing more."

A Michigan mother, when asked, "If you could do it all over again, what would you change?" left no doubt as to what she considered vital to content parenthood. "Relax. Relax. Relax. Be quiet. Be quiet. Be quiet. Wait. Wait. Wait." I think she must have three kids.

Parents pass through developmental stages as do young children. As they mature, we mature. As they get more settled, we get more settled. If you're a young parent, what these mature parents are saying should be encouraging, that is, "Hold on. Time and experience can soothe even the worst case of parenting jitters." Ron, a father of nine, quipped, "We played it by ear. After the first two or three, it was easy."

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## Youthful Outlook



### Surviving middle school with help from God

By Andrea C. Harper Age 15

Middle school is hard for teens everywhere. Young people my age have to deal with getting up super-early in the morning, the hectic homework, challenging teachers, pop quizzes, tests, hot or cold weather, and trying to stay awake and make it through the day in one piece. Even with all of this pressure, a lot of teens struggle the most with peer pressure and with popularity. Just like everyone else, I wanted to be liked or at least respected by my peers when I came to school each day, and middle school was the start of my journey of finding myself, and finding God.

I attended the same Catholic grade school since kindergarten. Every year in religion class, we were taught that God is always there for us and helps in ways that are sometimes hard to recognize. I never realized that he could help me as much as he did in grade school until I saw the gifts and the help he was sending me through other people.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the popular cliques started at my school and got more serious as time went on. I was never considered as one of the popular people. As I discovered what it took to be in the popular group, I realized that it was not what I believed in and not how God intended for me to serve him. My family, caring teachers and my two very best friends were the supporting roles during these years. They showed me that I didn't need to change anything about myself. And I had another special guide through the challenging years – God. He had done some previous planning that I wasn't aware of until now. Back in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I had signed up for volleyball too late to play with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team. Fortunately I was offered the option to play with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team rather than missing a whole year of volleyball. I really enjoyed that season of volleyball and my new friends. I was glad I took them up on the offer.

7<sup>th</sup> grade is the year where I really discovered the kind of person I was and towards the end, started feeling more self-confident. I used

prayer and support of my family and friends to help me do my best. For a reason, only God knows, a large group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, some I had played volleyball with, welcomed me in to their group. They became my friends at school and outside of school. The greatest part of these gifts of friendship was that it made me realize all the other gifts God had been giving me all along and continues to give still today.

Once I discovered these blessings, it was so easy to recognize the gifts God continues to send my way. Probably the most unexpected gift I ever received though came from one of the girls that really had harassed me the most in grade school. After being criticized by another girl, she told me that she really admired the kind of person I was. She said that I didn't back down from what I believed in and didn't have to be mean to another person to make my point. God works in very strange and unexpected ways. At the time, I was in shock and awe, yet somewhat flattered that this girl had said she admired me because a few seconds ago I didn't think she'd want to even look at me, much less give me a compliment. Looking back, I think God was telling me that I handled that situation just fine and to hang in there.

Now I look back at middle school and I'm so glad that everything happened the way that it did. Even though I was not the most popular girl at school, I found out how strong of a person I am and that I can be my own person and not mask my personality to follow someone else. I also learned that there are very different definitions of being cool or popular. I liked mine the most. This experience made me a lot more confident about myself especially since I have now started high school and joining with new friends and experiences.

Surprisingly, I wasn't really nervous starting at a new school. High school is so much fun now. This is the first time in my life where I don't really want to go home some days, I just feel good being at school. It's nice liking school for a change.

I didn't write this paper to paint the picture of a rough middle school experience. I enjoyed many experiences during middle school. The point is that no matter what kind of situation you're in, if you need help, God will be there for you and will get you through it. All you

have to do is ask. Believe in God and in yourself and don't ever give up!

## A Profile of Service



### Photo Place Holder

Jpeg File:  
Fr. Zeyen

Fr. Charles Zeven. M.S.F.

### 50 Years of Priesthood – A Golden Jubilee Reverend Charles Zeyen, MSF

Born: October 26, 1920  
Ordained: May 30, 1953

**Biographical Interview**  
by Frater Mario Galindo

### Before the Priesthood

Father Charles Zeyen is of German decent and was born in Spokane, Washington but received his education in Kellogg, Idaho. The Jesuits through the university years gave Father Charles his education. He attributes his calling to Father John McKistacher a Jesuit who was in charge of the altar boys at the Church he attended when he was growing up. When I asked if there was anything in particular that Father John had done or said, that would have inspired him, he said no. It had more to do with his family upbringing, as well as the teachings of the church and school. Father Charles informed mentioned that there were three siblings in his family; two of the three became priests. Joe was married and is now deceased, Father Charles became a Missionary of the Holy Family and his brother Tom became a Jesuit. Fr. Charles offered this observation, “a vocation is something that has to be nourished just like your mother nourished you.”

After he finished with his education, he served in the U. S. Navy for four and a half years in the Pacific aboard a submarine. When I told him that I was claustrophobic, he replied that he was too. After serving in the Navy, he worked for Hormel Company as a salesman. As a secular he used to attend mass everyday. One day he saw a pamphlet that attracted him which read, "Come follow me." The pamphlet gave information on different religious communities including the Missionaries of the Holy Family. He wrote to Father Ernest Braun, MSF who invited him to come and visit. Upon arrival for his visit he felt that it was not the place for him to be and wanted to leave but was convinced to stay a week, which turned into a month, which turned into years until the time that he was ordained a priest on May 30, 1953.

### **Photo Place Holder**

**Jpeg File:  
Fr. Zeyen Ordin**

Fr. Zeyen with his parents on his day of ordination.

I asked why he had chosen the Missionaries of the Holy Family. He said that through his experience during the war in the Pacific, he had intermittently met the inhabitants. In fact, he had hoped that he would be sent to Indonesia to do his apostolic ministry-but was never guaranteed to go there.

### **Ministry Work**

After ordination he became the MSF vocations director for two years. Then he was transferred to Sacred Heart Monastery in Corpus Christi, Texas where Father Henry Romer was pastor. Here Father Charles organized the Boy Scouts and was instrumental in starting a boys baseball team and a girls softball team. At the request of Bishop Garriga, he was assigned to the tuberculosis hospital in Harlingen, Texas. Father Charles says that he came across many fulfilling encounters with the residents while chaplain. He was also able to formalize the chapel by obtaining the tabernacle and vestments from Bishop Garriga and bibles from Mrs. Dougherty from Beeville, Texas.

Father Charles says that he was seriously sick and that his illness played a big part in his being assigned to Mexico by Father Berg His first parish was in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, which is about 50 miles



south of Monterrey. When he arrived he did not have any money and was unable to speak the Spanish language. He was fortunate enough to find accommodations at a hotel that gave him a place to stay without charge. He started learning the language by reading the local newspaper everyday making full use of a Spanish-English dictionary. In Saltillo, he started working by himself on the church, which was just a shell of a building. As time went on the people from the *colonia* came around to help him. Father Charles would work during the day and in the evening when the men had finished their work they would come and volunteer their help. Nonetheless, through his efforts and his ability of communicating with the residents the church was finished.

There parish atmosphere fostered many wonderful project:

1<sup>st</sup>. The women’s sewing group would sew clothes for the neighborhood and eventually sold to retailers. Father Charles remarks that at one point these women were making more money than the men.

<p><b>Photo Place Holder</b></p> <p>Jpeg File: SewingClub</p>
<p>A growing sense of community</p>

<p><b>Photo Place Holder</b></p> <p>Jpeg File: FrZeyenBaseball</p>
<p>Community Pride shines</p>

2<sup>nd</sup>. The parish started a baseball team for the boys. At a later point he started a men’s baseball team which was good enough to become champions. The championship celebration down the main street is shown in the photo.

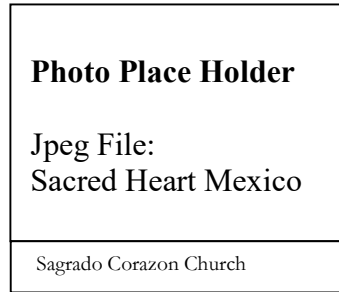
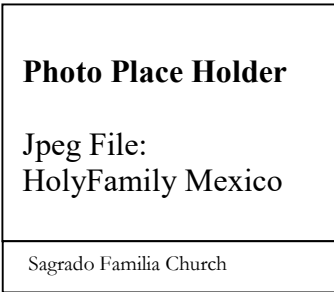
3<sup>rd</sup>. Fr. Zeyen made arrangements for two women’s congregations to be sent to the church for the purpose of catechizing and the other for necessary parish work. He arranged for the purchase of a house, which became theirs at the end of a certain period. Father

<p><b>Photo Place Holder</b></p> <p>Jpeg File: FrZeyenSrs</p>
<p>The Sisters arrive</p>

Charles says that the sisters still own the house.

4<sup>th</sup>. He also established a successful credit union. He explains that those people who borrowed money were very punctual in paying back.

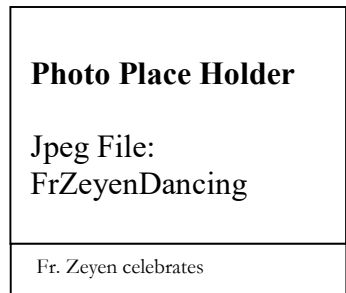
After Saltillo, Father Charles was transferred to San Jose Church in Cuatro Cienegas, Coahuila. He says the work was just as hard but went smoother since he knew the language and how things worked. In the Cuatro Cienegas area he erected two churches, which were *Sagrado Familia (Sacred Family)* and *Sagrado Corazon (Sacred Heart)*



His missionary work involved traveling long distances. Father Charles says that the land was very rich.

### **Biographer's Reflection**

While listening to Father Charles, I realized that he made many friends in Mexico and became well known in the community. People looked up to him for answers as he had outstanding rapport with them. One can only assume that he was always there as a true messenger, not only of the Word but in everyday living. The people were his concern and he took them to heart to make sure that they were able to earn their "daily bread."



All that which was made available to him would be used for the good of all. His association with the bishop was excellent and there were

many times where the bishop could be found in attendance at the celebration of mass. I asked him if there had been many religious vocations and he disappointedly answered that there had only been one.

While discussing the time he had spent in Mexico, Father Charles says that he turned down offers for a parish in the US, and also an invitation to go to Rome. I asked him why? His response was that while working in Mexico he was like “the figure on the bottom of the totem pole, holding up those figures that were on the top. He did not want to be in the top. More importantly, he said: “all my life I have been working for the salvation of my soul.” After hearing his story I know that not only was he working for the salvation of his soul but of all those he met.

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Fr. Charles Zeyen resides at a home for retired priests. If you would like to mail Fr. Zeyen a letter please use this Provincial mailing address found on the Table of Contents page.

## Messenger Time Capsule – 1934



*Many remember Fr. Joseph Mathey, M.S.F. for his candor, humor, spiritual guidance and most certainly his distinct German accent. He was an articulate and frequent writer for the Messenger. Fr. Mathey was called home to his eternal reward in 1995. This article of his from the Messenger in 1934 is included in this 2003 issue because the topic still applies to our lives today. Enjoy!*

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## What is Wrong with Our Homes?

Written by Joseph Mathey, M.S.F. for *The Messenger* in 1934

The enemies which threaten the home, both from within and without, are numerous. In the last fifty years we have experienced a complete change in our environment, and we have not yet been able to adjust ourselves to it. On the contrary, we allowed destructive forces to enter the sanctuaries of the homes. We could not help that the changed conditions in industry reflected themselves in the life of the home. The demands of modern industry very often separated members of the family; then only too often took father and mother away from the family hearth, much to the detriment of the children.

It almost seems as though the picture of the Holy Family united in their daily occupation, has little application to the modern scene. But it teaches us another lesson, sadly neglected today, that of the unity of the family in its leisure time. In most modern families recreation is no longer a family affair. If modern industry has made for the loosening of the family ties, and increased effort should be made in our recreation to cement these firmer again.

But how is this being done in reality? Formerly the home was the center of leisure-time activity, but today it is robbed of this privilege. Very often the younger generation is accused of having become wild, selfish and in quest of pleasure outside the home; but isn't it only too often true, that the fault lies with those who are wont to make such indictments? Does not example speak louder than words? If the father spends his evenings at the club, it is little surprising that the mother will soon run away from her enforced loneliness and find relief in the gaities of crowds and parties. It is not to be surprised at,

if the children soon follow the example of their parents. The allurements outside the home are in themselves very great; but when to this is added the silent encouragement of the parents, outside attractions take on an even ruddier hue. Facilities for entertainment away from the home are increasing; in but a short time the automobile will carry the young far from the hearth fire of the home; moving picture palaces send out their lurid invitations to an evening of pleasure. All these tendencies make for the weakening of the fibre of home life and its eventual dissolution. Recreation soon becomes "wreck-creation."

But what practical remedy suggests itself to overcome this undesirable tendency in modern life? Shall the creations of inventions and genius be destroyed? Are the mechanical devices of modern civilization an unmixed and unmitigated evil? We do not think so. These fruits of man's ingenuity can be made real blessings instead of man-made curses. The radio, automobile and motion picture can be made potent instruments for the good and noble things of life as well as the low, debasing elements. The question in this as well as in many others affairs of modern life is not one of use but of abuse; not one of destroying the devices of invention but of using them in a proper manner. The X-ray, for instance, when used with the proper precautions is an important healing factor; but when used carelessly it will become a most destructive and fatal force. So it is with the radio, automobile, moving picture and the like; these, too, can be made most effective, under proper control and use for good. The ties of family life need not necessarily be weakened by these; on the contrary, family life can be made more solid and firm by these very means. It is the duty of parents to so control these instruments that they are used properly and to a good advantage. Instead of the subversive influence of jazz and sentimental croonings, radio be made to bring into the very heart of the home cultural and educational influences. The automobile, too, instead of breaking up the family group can be the very means of keeping them together by affording the entire family a means for a common outing or pleasure trip. Carefully selected motion pictures also, can aid in the unity of enjoyment of the family group and even stimulate an increased affection and regard for family life by proper and desirable presentations.

Thus the enemies of the home could be converted into its friends. If parents save their children, then the home-makers of tomorrow will

be saved. And if we save the homes, the nation will be saved; for the home is the very heart of the nation. Or as Dr. Ferry very appropriately expressed it: "If you want to discover what America is and what America is going to be, do not go to Washington, D.C. do not listen to the debates in the halls of our National Congress, for you will not get your information there. There is only one place you can find it and that is in the homes of America."

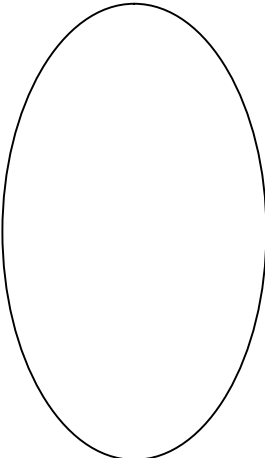
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# Missionaries of the Holy Family

## Holy Family Novena

### Strengthen Family Life with Mass & Prayer

December 28, 2003 - Feast of the Holy Family  
to  
January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004

<p><u>Day 1:</u></p> <p><i>Engaged Couples</i></p>	<p>Photo: Medallion</p>  <p>“© info”</p>	<p><u>Day 5:</u></p> <p><i>Families struggling through addictions</i></p>
<p><u>Day 2:</u></p> <p><i>Families with Teenagers</i></p>		<p><u>Day 6:</u></p> <p><i>Families with Special Needs Children</i></p>
<p><u>Day 3:</u></p> <p><i>Single Parent Families</i></p>		<p><u>Day 7:</u></p> <p><i>Blended Families and those with mixed religions</i></p>
<p><u>Day 4:</u></p> <p><i>Families with Abused Children</i></p>		<p><u>Day 8:</u></p> <p><i>Families caring for their elderly</i></p>
<p><u>Day 9</u></p> <p><i>Your Family's Special Intention</i></p>		

If your family is together or apart this Christmas Season you can strengthen your family life by joining our Novena through attendance of your Daily Mass at your parish and offering the daily intentions.

**Let us know if your Family has a Special Intention.** Please use the enclosed envelope to mail us your family's intention. All the intentions will be placed at the altar **each day of the Novena so that your personal intention will be remembered at the 9 Masses.**

## From the MSF Email In-Box



**When an inspirational piece of email arrives, we want to share it.**

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Heavenly Father, Help us remember that the "jerk" who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear.

Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive; show patience, empathy and love.



Photo: HF Logo	<p>Kindly remember us in your will as:</p> <p><b>Missionaries of the Holy Family</b></p> <p>For more information you can call our office at 314.577.6300</p>
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Photo:  
CamillolayingonofHans

Archbishop Flores ordains  
Rev. Camillo Botello, M.S.F.

## *From Convert to Priesthood*

A Journey in Faith with  
the *Missionaries of the  
Holy Family*

*The self-biography is a wonderful witness of how MSF has fulfilled all three goals of its mission in one person. As you will read below MSF helped to “Draw Camillo Botello Close to the Gospel” through RCLA and his conversion to the Catholic Faith. Then*

*by example MSF priests and brothers “Promoted Vocations” and consequently sponsored Camillo through his years of formation for the priesthood. Now as a newly ordained priest Fr. Camillo Botello, M.S.F. is beginning to “Stress the Pastoral Care of Families” in his ministry. On the night of his ordination Fr. Botello saw how God has already been using him to “Draw Others Closer to the Gospel” because Fr. Botello’s cousin told him that evening he was entering the RCLA program.*

### **Self-Biography by Camillo Botello, M.S.F.**

I was born in Beeville, Texas, to Camillo and Sofia Botello as the second oldest of eight children (five boys and three girls). I graduated from A.C. Jones High School in 1979. My parents raised our family in the Pentecostal religion and we were regular attendees. At the age of 16 years I got a job and was then allowed to decide for myself about going to church. I chose not to go anymore.

Through the death of both my father and my oldest sister, I needed something to help me make sense of the things that were occurring in my life. My cousin is a devout catholic and I began to want some of the peace and joy that she expressed in her daily living. Enrolling in R.C.I.A. classes began my wonderful journey. I received the sacraments at the Easter Vigil in 1993 and by October of 1994 went to live my Crusillo, which is a course in Christian living. It is an intense three-day retreat. It was at this retreat that I felt my vocational calling. I went back to my parish to ask the priest about

joining religious life. He handed me a book that contained all the different communities. I handed him back the book and said that I wanted to join his congregation, the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF). These priests had served my home parish for many years. I had observed their way of life and the joy they brought to the people whom they served. After speaking with the MSF vocational director, I received my application.

I entered formation in August of 1995 and began my college studies. In 1997, I began my noviciate and took first vows in 1998 and perpetual vows in 2002. This past February of 2003 I was ordained to the Diaconate.

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*It is with great Joy and through the grace of God that we are happy to announce that Archbishop Flores conveyed the Sacrament of Holy Order to Rev. Camillo Botello, M.S.F. at the parish of his Baptism, St. Jame's, Beeville, TX on October 17, 2003.*

**Please support MSF with a financial contribution to help cover the cost of formation to the priesthood. Together we can help the next man answer his call to the priesthood. Please send your contributions using the envelope in this magazine or write to the Provincial Office 3014 Oregon Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118-1498.**

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Prayer for Vocations