



mission

magazine

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SOCIETY *of* OUR LADY

of the Most Holy Trinity

A message from the
**GENERAL
PRIEST
SERVANT**

The Three P's of Consecrated Life

This past May, a few of us in SOLT had the privilege of attending a conference in Rome on consecrated life. Part of the conference included an audience with Pope Francis who shared with us three essential pillars, all beginning with the letter 'p', of consecration: prayer, poverty and patience. While the first two pillars of prayer and poverty were relatively expected, the third pillar of patience was much more surprising, but no less fitting!

The word 'patience' is rooted in the Latin verb pati, meaning, 'to suffer.' I suppose this is the reason why those recovering in hospitals are called 'patients' – they endure suffering and have to wait to get better. The virtue of patience is rooted in enduring suffering well, of waiting with dignity and composure for things to improve. From this perspective, we can also perceive that patience applies to the many areas of life where suffering can occur – physically, emotionally, in relationships with others etc.

When we think of enduring suffering well, our minds also turn of course to Jesus, the one who was most patient in persevering through the emotional agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, the physical anguish of the Cross, as well as the pain caused by the betrayal and lack of support from His apostles throughout His passion. Despite the tumult, Jesus not only endured His suffering, but offered it freely as a gift for our salvation, and waited patiently for His closest disciples and friends to finally grasp the lessons

On the Cover:

Fr. Anthony Blount, SOLT celebrates mass for the students at Holy Redeemer, in Detroit.

Opposite Page:

Fr. Tristan Abbott, SOLT and SOLT Sisters view the crucifix at Nuestra Señora del Refugio in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

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He had been trying to impart to them during His walk with them.

Patience is required of all of us. Whether in community or family life, we are invited to suffer through one another's imperfections, patiently waiting for the slow process of improvement and maturation to occur, all the while mindful that we ourselves are in the midst of the same process! We are also aware as Christians of our call to patiently take up our cross daily, suffering through the injustices of the world around us, of many different forms of turmoil, recognizing the opportunity to transform suffering

into something of redemptive value by offering it up with the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. We are called to endure suffering well, to wait for things to get better, knowing that this is a lifelong endeavor that will only truly end in the glory of the resurrection!

Through Baptism, each of us has been consecrated to God, set apart for Jesus Christ, and placed on the pilgrimage of faith to become conformed to the Lord Jesus. Let us pray for the grace to be patient – to endure the sufferings of life well, waiting for the glory of the resurrection!



FR. PETER MARSALEK, SOLT

Fr. Peter is currently serving as the General Priest Servant of SOLT. He resides in Corpus Christi, TX.



WITNESS TO A LIFE IN CHRIST

"Are you real sisters?" A voice called from the bench as I made my way along the water front in downtown Detroit, Michigan with two SOLT sisters. The voice repeated, "Are you real sisters?" Two men were eagerly waving down the two sisters next to me, inviting them into conversation.

"Yes, we are," answered Sr. Kateri Marie as we walked over to the two men, "We are with the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. We are new here in Detroit."

The SOLT sisters in Detroit give their lives in daily service to the people of southwest Detroit, more commonly known as Mexicantown. Sr. Kateri, Sr. Solanus Casey, and Sr. Agnus Dei serve students and their families at Holy Redeemer School and Parish.

"These kids are just so good!" Sr. Kateri exclaims to me as we talk about her day teaching at Holy Redeemer Catholic School, "and to know what they struggle with every day - it's just amazing."

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They deal with serious problems every day, I see that when they come into my class.

And yet, they are so good.



Above: Just outside the doors of the parish and school, in southwest Detroit.

The children and families of southwest Detroit face serious issues everyday including poverty, hunger, violence, and discrimination. "They deal with serious problems every day. I see that when they come into my class. And yet they are so good."

"We have a prayer room here!" One eighth grader exclaimed to me as I was ushered into a simple classroom that has been transformed into a prayer chapel for the students to use. The students are proud of their prayer room. "It would be very different at a public school, not like this. People are different," another eighth



Students from Holy Redeemer attend school mass with their teachers.

grader says with a sober look on her face. In December, Sr. Kateri asked the students if they were interested in starting a prayer group at school for the Advent season. Regardless of the fact that they would have to give up their recess, the students have persevered in prayer group far past Advent, through Lent and into the Easter season.

As these students and their families persevere to learn their Catholic faith, the sisters give witness to a life in Christ, a life of self-sacrifice, day in and day out. Parishioners and

students alike see the witness of the SOLT Sisters, Brothers, and Priests who are not merely fulfilling the requirements of their faith, but strive to live out the Gospel message as fully as they can. Each day, they share in the pain of their students as they suffer, and their joys as they succeed, walking alongside them on their journeys.

"Wow, a real sister!" exclaimed the man on the bench. "I'm a [protestant] pastor and I just want to say, it's amazing how you all give your life to God like that."

Please keep the Detroit SOLT Team in your prayers as they proceed with the work of the Gospel. To learn more about the specific monetary or prayer needs of the Detroit Mission, please contact Sr. Mary Mediatrix of All Grace, in Corpus Christi.

Submitted by **SARAH KESSLER**

GO OUT TO ALL THE World

"We go out as a team," explained Fr. Tristan Abbot, SOLT, when asked about evangelization efforts of the ecclesial team at the SOLT mission in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

Recently, a group of us had the opportunity to spend a few days at the SOLT mission in Nuevo Laredo. Nuevo Laredo is located just south of the Texas border, about three hours from our SOLT headquarters in Corpus Christi. Although it is very near geographically, the economic disparity is pronounced. The SOLT team, led by Fr. Anthony Anderson, includes Fr. Tristan Abbott, two deacons from the local diocese, and three SOLT sisters, Sr. Angelina Soto, Sr. Angeles Ramirez and Sr. Veronica Xiquen.

It is very much an evangelization-based work. Pope Francis would be proud of this evangelization effort, that of reaching the peripheries! It is a very simple but direct approach. "Basically, we tell people about the kerygma," Fr. Tristan explained. The team, which



also includes a number of lay missionaries, goes door to door in small groups, bringing to whoever will listen, the story of Christ's love for each of us, the story of His death and His resurrection. Most of the people they encounter have only a basic education and are widely unchurched. The fragmented family dynamics make it difficult for people to respond to grace and to accept that God, in His love, is constantly seeking them.

Some of the lay missionaries working in the parish belong to the Mexican community, "Missionaries of the Word." They are men and women ranging in age from 16 to 30. They have six months of intensive training resulting in young missionaries with strong initiative, a "go get e'm" attitude, a clearly established strategy, and a devout prayer life as well as a capacity to able to deal with the tough living conditions in which they often find themselves.



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It is a great gift of the local church... to also offer hope in the Lord in a society with minimal hope.

Two young lay missionaries prepare to go out and evangelize during Holy Week.

Others are lay members of the parish's evangelistic outreach. They receive their training locally. All of them have been on one of the 12 kerygmatic retreats held at Our Lady of Refuge each year. Here they encountered Christ in a new and personal way. Following the retreat, they become involved in follow up catechesis and on-going formation, most often as members of small base-communities, a



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It was truly inspiring to visit the parish of Nuestra Señora del Refugio and the associated mission churches.

SOLT Sisters travel to visit the team in Nuevo Laredo.

primary unit of the parish as described in the Aparecida document, an important publication by the Latin American {and Caribbean} bishops. As envisioned by the region's bishops, these base-communities are required to be actively involved in the parish. From them are drawn the key members of the retreat teams, hospital out-reach and evangelization, catechists, youth group leaders, and door-to-door evangelists. Those new to door-to-door work are paired with others who have more experience and learn by observation and practice, along

with discussions and short talks on the topic before and after the mission.

It was inspiring to visit the parish of Nuestra Señora del Refugio and the associated mission churches. It is a great gift of the local church, not only to love the people, but to also offer hope in the Lord in a society with minimal hope. To see Christ in the face of the poor is truly a gift for the one who God has called to serve!

If you know of any persons who have an ability to speak Spanish and desire to share the faith with others, please contact Fr. Tony Anderson padreantoniosolt@hotmail.com about the possibility of serving as a SOLT mission volunteer.



Sr. Mary Mediatrix of All Grace, SOLT

Sr. Mediatrix has been serving as Director of Mission Advancement for SOLT since 2012.



WELCOME

TO THE TURTLE MOUNTAINS

In May 2010, I drove 1,000 miles to start a journey that would change my life. That summer was the first of many spent at St. Ann's in Belcourt, N.D. I have been youth minister for our five parishes here in the Turtle Mountains for five years, from 2010-2013 at St. Ann's and from 2016-May 2018 at St. Michael's in Dunseith. As I write this I'm packing my car to move back to St. Ann's to run summer camp again this year.

You hear a lot about serving in foreign missions but I want to tell you about serving in rural North Dakota, where it gets to -30F on a regular basis in the winter and the sun shines from 5am-11pm in the summer. The people on the Turtle Mountain Reservation are some of the most welcoming people I've ever met. Right now, I live with parishioners who have welcomed me into their home and family without even having met me first. From being invited into people's homes, community meals, retreats, prayer groups, fundraisers, there is always something going on.

*Want more information about
serving at St Ann's Mission?
Email: Sr. MaryAnn Richwald at
soltvolunteersaintann@gmail.com*



At our mission, we have five parishes served by SOLT. The team includes priests, sisters, and lay volunteers. We have opportunities to serve at our camp during the summer, where we minister to 150 youth from ages 6-17. We have a school serving pre-K through 6th grade children that is completely free to attend. We offer youth ministry to 6th-12th graders and there are opportunities to help in our development office and maintenance department. We have several college and high school mission trips that come and serve for a week at a time. We are always looking for people with a willing, serving heart to be part of the mission

for the summer or the whole school year.

Last night at youth group, the youth were told to look at the crucifix and write down how they would describe it to someone who had never seen one. One of them said, "It is a vessel for the Lord, where He will remain. Many great things happen through it and there will be many more to come. It is a staple item for blessing and it explains what happened that day on Calvary. It shows His death, and its hidden meaning is that He died for us. I believe it isn't an item but more a necessity."

It's not an easy life here, serving in the Turtle Mountains, but it's a life that is so worth it.



AMANDA ESTABROOK

Amanda has volunteered with SOLT since 2010. She is currently Summer Camp Director and Youth Minister at St. Ann's Catholic Church, a SOLT parish, in Belcourt, North Dakota.

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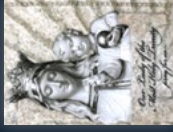
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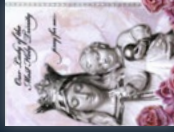
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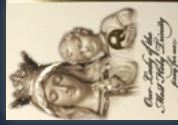
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