



mission

magazine

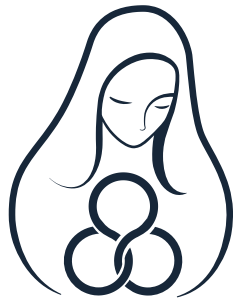
FALL 2021



ST. ANN'S SUMMER CAMP:
Turtle Mountain Reservation

SOLT AMERICAN REGION:
Photos from the 2021 Assembly

LITTLE NAZARETH:
San Pedro, Belize



SOCIETY *of* OUR LADY

of the Most Holy Trinity

A message from the **GENERAL PRIEST SERVANT**



Redemptive Suffering

St. Peter is one of the most remarkable yet relatable figures in the Gospels. He seems to go back and forth between moments of pure brilliance, professing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God; and moments of great failure, even being rebuked by Jesus with the words, "Get behind me Satan," after Peter had objected to Jesus revealing that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be killed, and then rise after three days (Mk 8:27-33). Even more shockingly, those two moments appear to have come within mere minutes of one another! The roller coaster pattern seemingly continued in Peter's life: he shared the heights of being present at luminous moments like the Transfiguration, but then succumbed to the brutal low of denying Jesus three times on the night of his crucifixion. Only at the end of his earthly pilgrimage was St. Peter finally ready to completely lay down the ultimate sacrifice of his life when he was crucified upside down in what is now St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

So, what was the stumbling block for St. Peter in these moments of failure? It all

seems related to the same theme: the notion that Jesus, though He is God and therefore Almighty, did not come to subdue peoples and nations under Him through strength and physical power, but rather came to surrender and empty Himself on the Cross in redemptive suffering. Clearly, it wasn't the script that Peter imagined. It took him a lifetime to learn the lesson to the point where he was truly ready to give everything, including his very life, for Jesus. Peter learned very clearly that God's ways are not our ways!

As for so many people, the past year has been very difficult for us in SOLT. We have lost some beloved members unexpectedly and have other members who are quite ill and suffering greatly. The losses and incapacitations are felt deeply on a personal level, and secondarily on a practical level when we have to find replacements in ministry at impacted missions. It is precisely in times like these that an act of faith is needed to trust that God's ways are not our ways, and that the unseen spiritual benefits of intercession and redemptive suffering

*In loving memory of
Sr. Maria of Merciful
Love, SOLT, who
entered eternal life on
August 7, 2021*





Disciples of Jesus through Mary living in Marian-Trinitarian communion, serving on Ecclesial Family Teams in areas of deepest apostolic need

outweigh the losses in active ministry. Working in administration, I have had the opportunity and privilege to spend quite a bit of time with some of our suffering members and the same thought always strikes me while in their presence: you may not be able to actively minister and serve as you would like, but in the economy of God, these moments of suffering are potentially the most spiritually fruitful and powerful time of life! It is a mystery of faith that precisely when we are suffering the most, even to the point of physical incapacitation, that we are able to be the most spiritually fruitful. This truth is also witnessed in the life of Jesus. It was His sacrifice on the Cross that was the most powerful of all his works on earth, which won for us the gift of salvation and redemption.

Like St. Peter, we all know that it is much easier to verbally affirm the truth of sacrificial redemptive suffering than to actually live it. Nonetheless, while

we pray for the grace to be able to follow Jesus down the path of redemptive suffering according to His will, let us also never forget that the most fruitful and powerful times of life are not when we are at the peak of our physical and intellectual capacities, but when we are able to make an act of the will to fully offer and unite our sufferings to the one saving sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. This is the road to glory and resurrection. I give thanks to God for our brothers and sisters in SOLT who have so faithfully witnessed to this truth in a particular way over the past year. And I pray that those who have gone before us enjoy eternal communion with the Most Holy Trinity and may intercede for those of us who remain as wayfarers in our pilgrimage of faith.

FR. PETER MARSALEK, SOLT

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

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St. Ann's Summer Camp

Summer Camp in the Turtle Mountains

this year was an adventure! It reminded me of Matthew 13:52: "And Jesus replied, 'Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.'"

Our summer camp in Belcourt is an old and cherished treasure for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewas and Metis. For many children on the Turtle Mountain Reservation, this is the only time in the whole year in which they get to hear Catholic teaching and attend Mass. However, this year presented several challenges. The greatest

challenge was the lingering Covid crisis, which meant we had to limit indoor activities and large group gatherings. The schools in the area also had to extend classes for an extra month due to lost school days. In years past, summer camp usually started after the school year ended, but for this year the typical camp weeks found school still in session. Another challenge was two new priests being sent to St. Ann's, with me as the new pastor, and Fr. Dave Brokke, a newly ordained priest who was put in charge of the camp. With new challenges come new opportunities and the revealing of new treasures at St. Ann's.





Previous page: Fr. Belcourt's Lake at St. Ann's Church on the Turtle Mountain Reservation.

(Left) The arts and craft station is always a favorite activity.

(Right) Volunteer Matthew Cockrell and SOLT Aspirant Andrew Collart lead the stations of the cross.

Above: *(Left) Volunteer Raquel Doll gets ready to go canoeing with her campers.*

(Right) Hannah Weinwuth has a great time preparing the arts and crafts station at St. Ann's Summer Camp.

Below: *Students and counselors gather together for Catholic teaching and fun before daily Mass.*

They say that when things get dark the light shines brighter! The first treasure on my list I believe is the brightest for our mission: Fr. Dave Brokke. Fr. Dave was personally responsible for the summer camp and used a lot of his experience with other camps to do an outstanding job. Another treasure was a condensed camp. In the past, there were six weeks of camp which were divided into four sessions with different age groups, with 10-30 kids per group. Due to the circumstances, we had a two-week camp for the four different age groups, grades first through twelve, serving 80 kids total. The result was four camps happening at the same time with the different

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The third and final treasure was our volunteers! ... They are the heart of our mission.





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The camp was amazing and unforgettable! I hope it is like this every year!

age groups using different areas outside, but also coming together for Mass and other activities. Families with multiple age groups were then able to send all their kids at once. The third and final treasure was our volunteers! Just as Fr. Dave arrived, we restarted our SOLT missionary volunteer program in the Turtle Mountains. They are the heart of our mission. Many of the missionary volunteers, who came for a year, also stayed to help with summer camp, but we also received some amazing “camp only” volunteers. Instead of six weeks with us, it was an intense three weeks. The old pattern had the same camp repeated four times, but with this group, it was one BIG camp time. The camp was amazing and unforgettable! I hope it is like this every year! May we all use our treasures to bless the world!



Above: After a long day of summer camp, volunteers get together to unwind by the fire.

Right: Volunteers Carlena Lim and Jordan Luiz get ready to go canoeing on Fr. Belcourt's Lake.



FR. MICHAEL SLOVAK, SOLT

Fr. Michael Slovak, SOLT is originally from Beaumont, Texas and was ordained in 2014. He currently serves as the pastor and team leader of the St. Ann's Mission in Belcourt, North Dakota.

SOLT

AMERICAN REGION

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APOSTOLIC VICARIATE
OF EL PETEN

MEXICO

NUEVO LAREDO
QUERETARO





2021 AMERICAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY



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The assembly was incredibly energetic and hopeful. We had so many wonderful events: dynamic mission reports, panel discussion and Sr. Mary Rachel's Perpetual vows.

- Sr. Mary Emmanuel Schmidt



Opposite page (from top):
SOLT Brothers in Formation renew their promises annually at the SOLT Regional Assembly.

Sr. Mary Ignatius of the Holy Family and Sr. Gianna Marie share their joy with the community after professing their first vows.

Donna Spence (right) with SOLT General Lay Servant Rosalie Buerger after renewing her temporary lay commitment to SOLT.



This Page (from top):
The children's program at the Regional Assembly was hosted by the SOLT Lay Association and featured participation from the SOLT sisters.

(Left) Br. Ryan Avery, who loves to be in community, always has joyful a presence around the assembly.

(Right) Maureen and Michael Murray are definitive SOLT Lay Members who serve with the Ecclesial Family Team in Kansas City.

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Joseph will be our example and our guard, and we can sing merrily as we journey to the house of the Lord: *Ite ad Joseph.*

- Matthew Moore

Fr. Jerry Drolshagen co-chairs the Regional Assembly Committee with Sr. Mary Emmanuel Schmidt and serves as the SOLT Regional Priest Servant. He sits and visits with fellow priest Fr. Dan Estes during a community meal.



Little Nazareth

"When you're assigned as a pastor, you fall in love with your people and you want to bring everyone to Jesus." - Fr. Scott Giuliani, SOLT

The SOLT Mission in San Pedro, Belize, which was recently featured by Guadalupe Media in Belize City, is building what hopes to be place of refuge and healing for the island community of San Pedro.

The story begins with the donation of six undeveloped acres on the small island of San Pedro by the local Escalante family. With the full support of the San Pedro City Council and in collaboration with the greater island community, the San Pedro Catholic Church, with Fr. Scott Giuliani, SOLT as the pastor, has begun transforming the plot of land into a place of hope and healing.

Almost immediately, people were attracted to the land now called "Little Nazareth," especially those struggling with addiction. Little Nazareth is a humble project, being developed by the creativity and labor of the community. With an initial small pilgrimage structure, Fr. Scott brought prayer to the plot of land. Then, a local community garden with chickens was developed, and a small workshop called St. Joseph's Workshop was built. A local man named Roberto currently tends the land. Roberto himself is a recovering addict. He expresses that this place is where he finds tranquility.

From the top: St. Joseph's workshop is a part of Little Nazareth; locals volunteer their time and labor to build up the land; Bishop Nicasio visits Little Nazareth in Ambergris Caye.





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The whole church is the Body of Christ. It is a beautiful diversity that we have. I really believe that the beauty of this land will touch many hearts.

- Fr. Scott Giuliani

Above: Fr. Scott Giuliani, SOLT and local donors pray as Bishop Nicasio (right) formally blesses the land and the little Nazareth project.

During Lent of 2020, Fr. Scott called the people of San Pedro to help in the construction of a stone chapel on the land. “The foundation of the chapel began with an invitation to the men of the island,” Fr. Scott says. Local men from all walks of life showed up to crack rocks and haul them from miles away to build the foundation for the chapel.

The community plans to start the development of a new building called St. Francis Recovery Center. Saul Nunez, a local Belizean is grateful to be involved in the project. Saul, who was positively affected by attending a rehab center two decades ago, said, “I went for my family, but I stayed for myself.” Saul is grateful to work with the community to help San Pedro Catholic Church transform the land into a place where he hopes others can find serenity. In an interview, he tells Guadalupe Media, “I think it is a wonderful thing that [Fr. Scott] invited me to do this project.”

Fr. Scott shared that the vision of Little Nazareth is to have a land oriented toward holiness where

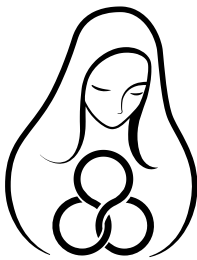
people can pray, recover and heal. “The fullness of the Catholic life,” he says “flows from the altar, goes into our homes, our work places, our relationships, our marriages, the sorrows of life and the joys of life. To have a whole land that’s ordered toward holiness, not just what happens within the four walls [of the church], but in the farming, the labor, the volunteers... it gives people an opportunity to show their goodness in different ways. Being a disciple is not limited to praying novenas in the Catholic Church. The whole church is the Body of Christ. It is a beautiful diversity that we have. I really believe that the beauty of this land will touch many hearts.”

To watch the feature length story, produced by Guadalupe Media, visit solt.net/belizecity or connect with Guadalupe Media on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GuadalupeMedia/videos/248232140513820/>)

SUBMITTED BY SARAH KESSLER



Above: Sr. Mary Lauren, SOLT, who currently serves in Detroit, Michigan, shares her joy to be with the community at the Regional Assembly in Corpus Christi, Texas.



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of the Most Holy Trinity
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INSIDE

SUMMER CAMP AT ST. ANN’S
 Turtle Mountain Reservation, ND

SOLT AMERICAN REGION
 Photos from the 2021
 Regional Assembly

LITTLE NAZARETH
 San Pedro, Belize



On the front cover: The solemn consecration of Sr. Mary Rachel, SOLT, during her perpetual profession on July 16th.

Right: Current SOLT Missionary Volunteers, serving in Belize and North Dakota, spend time with the greater SOLT family at the Assembly.



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