

MISSION FACTS

- More than 1 billion people worldwide have no access to clean drinking water, 3 billion live without proper sanitation, and 2 billion have no access to electricity.
- In the mission lands, 1 child dies every 8 seconds from drinking contaminated water. That's 6,000 children daily.
- Many children die each day from preventable causes such as malaria, diarrhea, and respiratory illnesses. In Africa statistics show that per minute; 2 children die from Malaria, a woman dies from complications during pregnancy, 9 people become infected with HIV, and 3 people die of TB.
- Almost half of the people in the world live in severe poverty, living on less than \$2 per day.
- AIDS drugs cost \$40 per month in Uganda, but the government spends just \$7 per person per year on healthcare.
- One flush of the toilet (about 1.6 gallons) uses as much water as the average person in the missions uses in a day for cooking, cleaning, drinking and bathing.
- The poorer the country, the more likely it is that debt repayments are being extracted directly from people who neither contracted the loans nor received any of the money.
- According to UNICEF, 30,000 children die each day due to poverty. And they "die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world."
- Worldwide, 2.2 million children die each year because they are not immunized and 15 million are orphaned due to HIV/AIDS.
- The statistics fail to capture the humiliation, powerlessness, and daily brutal hardships of the impoverished people of the world.
- The statistics cited use children under 5 years of age. The numbers would be higher if children ages 6+ were included.

Websites for more info: www.globalissues.org, www.povertymap.net

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Despite the sad statistics of impoverished people, there are stories of great hope and courage thanks to the work of missionaries.
- Donate to the **SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH (SPOF)**. Offerings from Catholics in the U.S. are combined with offerings from Catholics worldwide. The funds provide ongoing help for the pastoral and evangelizing programs of the Church in Africa, Asia, the islands of the Pacific and remote regions of Latin America. This includes aid for the education and support of seminarians, Religious novices and lay catechists; for the work of Religious Communities in education, health care and social services; for communication and transportation needs, and for disaster and emergency relief, when necessary. All of the General Fund of support is distributed in its entirety each year.
- **PRAY DAILY FOR THE CHURCH'S MISSIONARY WORK.** Through your prayers and sacrifices the poor in mission lands experience God's love and mercy and know of the hope offered through His Son, Jesus Christ. Pray the World Missions Rosary with your family and friends or say - Our Father * Hail Mary * Glory Be *St. Francis Xavier, pray for us.* St. Thérèse of Lisieux, pray for us. - for those who are suffering and the missionaries who help them.
- Offer your personal sacrifices for the suffering people. Perhaps you can fast for a day while considering the people around the world who have little or nothing to eat everyday. Give up something you WANT to purchase but DON'T NEED and give the money you would have spent to the Missions. Give up a day of listening to the radio/stereo for the people who have no electricity. Offer your pain, your loneliness, your anxiety, your sickness or sadness - in union with the sufferings of the crucified Christ for the redemption of the world.
- Considerations: Be conscious of your use of water for a day, considering how easy it is to get it from a faucet and select its temperature rather than having to walk miles to and from the closest river/well for your family's daily water supply. Show appreciation and respect for even the smallest things that others do for you, considering that many of the poor have lost or been separated from their loved ones.
- Be creative and think of ways you can make a difference through your prayers, sacrifices and financial support.

Lord, help us to follow the example of Jesus. Through our prayers and sacrifices, may we learn what it means to be faithful disciples. Help us to be missionaries to the poor around the world especially those who live in fear. And we pray that people everywhere will learn of Jesus' great love for them. Amen.

(adults)