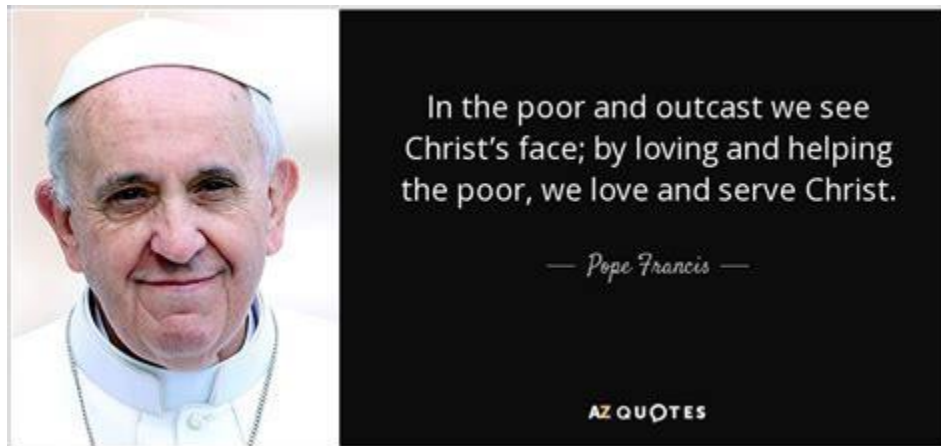


**FROM FR. JOHN:** *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” (Matthew 25:31-46)*



*“Its [the Church’s] desire is that the poor should rise above poverty and wretchedness, and should better their condition in life; and for this it strives.” (Rerum Novarum - paragraph 23) “The Church continually combats all forms of*

*poverty, because as Mother she is concerned that each and every person be able to live fully in dignity as a child of God.” (Pope St. John Paul II, Lenten message, 1998)*

Bishop Hicks (and Bishops Imesch, Sartain and Conlon before him) has asked every parish in our diocese to conduct an Annual Mission Appeal for a Diocese, Church Institute, or Religious Institution that is in mission territory somewhere in the world. He has asked that we do this at least one time per year in order to actively reach out to, and help, the needy and the poor throughout the world.

This year our parish is going to conduct a mission appeal for the impoverished Diocese of Chipata, Zambia on the weekend of September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

The people of Chipata are seeking our financial support in order to send men to the seminary to study for the priesthood. These are men from their diocese who cannot afford a seminary education but are called to the priesthood. I was fortunate when I was in the seminary. The Diocese of Joliet paid for my entire seminary education through the auspices of the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal.

Unfortunately, the Diocese of Chipata struggles to find the funds to pay for their seminarian’s education. Chipata (Eastern Province of Zambia) struggles with extreme poverty and difficult conditions. Their needs are many.

Sixty percent (60%) of the population live below the poverty line, with 42% living in extreme poverty. Food insecurity and chronic under-nutrition remain critical issues, with almost half of the children under 5 years of age stunted in growth. Also, family members must walk miles each day to obtain water from the streams and rivers which are often contaminated. This and unsanitary conditions cause cholera and typhoid. Malaria is a common illness. All of this contributes to the high morbidity rate (2014-USAID). Hopefully, this gives you an idea what the diocese faces and why it’s difficult for the people of Zambia to support the education of their seminarians financially.

Fr. Dennis Phiri, the Vicar General of the Diocese Chipata, is visiting the United States this August and September. Fr. Dennis undertook advanced studies at the

University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary from 2007 through 2009. I met Fr. Dennis through Mundelein Seminary.

Supporting the education of seminarians from Zambia is a wonderful opportunity for our parish to reach out and help people of such an impoverished country. One of the reasons we are supporting the Diocese of Chipata is that I have known Fr. Dennis for almost fifteen years, have established relationship with him and his bishop and am confident that the financial support we give to the Diocese of Chipata is truly going to help the seminarians from their diocese become priests serving their people.

In turn, we will also be helping the poor people of Chipata by helping to provide them priests to bring them the sacraments. I believe the poor people of Chipata will be well served by these young men when they are ordained as priests.

If you'd like to meet Fr. Dennis and learn more about the needs of the Diocese of Chipata before our Mission Appeal weekend, St. Paul the Apostle in Joliet is hosting an Open House (with refreshments) for him on August 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm in their Parish Ministry Center. Everyone from St. Ann's is invited and welcome to attend the Open House.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.

