

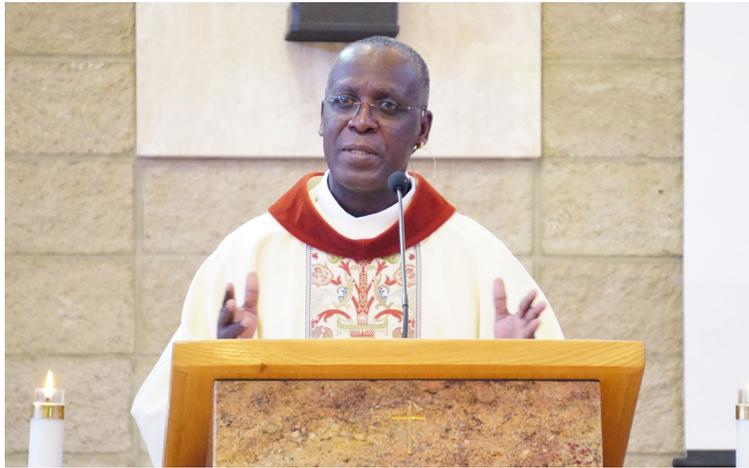


BAPTIZED & SENT

Catholics Making a Difference



Evangelization of Peoples **Faith and charity to the ends of the earth**



The Pontifical Mission Societies promote and support the missionary efforts of the Church through prayer, self-sacrifice, and missionary vocations. The societies, which are present in 120 countries around the world, are under the jurisdiction of the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Father Alex Osei CSSp, National Director of the Mission Societies in Canada, reports that our gifts through *Together We Serve* in 2018-2019 are helping to support missionary projects in places such as Hosanna, a developing city in Ethiopia, and Yangon, the capital city of Myanmar. Projects include:

- building schools to enable catechism for up to 100 students on site
- training catechists to provide faith-based teaching for adults and children within the parishes
- constructing maternal and child health clinics
- drilling water wells and constructing churches
- supporting 40 kindergarten schools and providing them with meals

“Remember, dear friends in Christ, that we are called to share from our abundance with those less fortunate who lack so many of the basic essentials to know, love and praise our God,” Father Alex writes. “Thank you for your prayers and your generosity.”

Pope Francis, in his video message for World Mission Sunday on October 20, describes the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies as vital to the Church but not very well known by many Catholics.

“Why are the Mission Societies important? They are important, above all, because we need to pray for our missionaries and for the evangelizing activity of the Church. Prayer is the first missionary work — the first! — which every Christian can, and must, carry out. It is also the most effective, even though this cannot be measured. Indeed, the principal agent of evangelization is the Holy Spirit, and we are all called to collaborate with Him.

“Furthermore, these Societies guarantee, in the name of the Pope, an equitable distribution of aid so that all of the churches throughout the world may have a minimum of assistance for evangelization, for the sacraments, for their own clergy, the seminarians, for the pastoral work, for the catechists.

“I encourage everyone to collaborate in our common task of announcing the Gospel and in sustaining the young churches through the work of these Pontifical Mission Societies. In doing this, in every nation, the Church continues to open herself to all and to proclaim with joy the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. Thank you, with much affection!”

About Evangelization of Peoples

Pontifical Mission Societies have been the official missionary arm of the Catholic Church since 1922, charged with the work of evangelization and charitable works throughout the world. All the funds collected for Evangelization of Nations are used for the care of Christian communities in need and for supporting the proclamation of the Gospel even to the ends of the earth. Your gift through *Together We Serve* makes a difference to our brothers and sisters in the world's poorest mission dioceses.

**Thank you for your generous support of
Together We Serve !**



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The Pope's Pastoral Works

Cardinal 'Fix It': Papal Almoner models direct charity



Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, visits the Hope and Peace Centre for refugees near the Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos May 8, 2019. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

When Cardinal Konrad Krajewski sees a human problem, he doesn't hesitate to step in and do what he can to fix it. As head of the Office of Papal Charities, the 55-year-old Polish cardinal holds the title of Papal Almoner, an ancient office devoted to mostly small, direct acts of almsgiving.

In May of this year, the cardinal went to an apartment building in Rome where some 450 people, including close to 100 children, were living without electricity after the power company cut it off because no one was paying the bill.

Cardinal Krajewski fixed it. While he did not explicitly admit to climbing down a manhole to reconnect the power, he took full responsibility for overriding the electric company's decision to cut service to the building, calling it a "desperate and humanitarian gesture to help families struggling to survive," and said he was willing to pay any fine.

Earlier that week, he had been offering respite and food to refugees at three camps on the Greek island of Lesbos and some privately run centres that offer migrants and refugees a place to relax, to get new clothes, to drink tea or coffee with their friends, to watch a movie or borrow a book, and to watch their children on a playground.

He gave little bags of candy to the children and rosaries to the adults, although most of them were Muslims. He also handed out small containers of dates and nuts, which the adults would eat when they broke their day's Ramadan fast that evening.

Pope Francis had sent him to Lesbos with more than \$100,000, mostly for Caritas Hellas, the Greek Catholic charity. But he had cash in his pockets, too, and he quietly made donations to the small charities assisting the refugees.

Cardinal Krajewski did not ask for grant proposals or budget reports or a future accounting of how the cash was spent. He saw people helping people in need and, in Pope Francis' name, gave them resources to do more.

Direct contact with the poor is so important to the Catholic Church that the papal almoner is one of a handful of top Vatican positions that is not suspended when a pope dies.

As Pope Francis said on the first World Day of the Poor in 2017: "Drawing near to the poor in our midst will touch our lives. It will remind us of what really counts: to love God and our neighbour. Only this lasts forever, everything else passes away. What we invest in love remains, the rest vanishes."

(Sources: Catholic News Service, Vatican News)

About the Pope's Pastoral Works

The tradition of papal charities goes back to the earliest centuries of the Church. The almoner's duties are twofold: carrying out acts of charity in the name of the Pope, and raising the money to fund them. Your gift through *Together We Serve* helps extend that hand of charity to thousands of people each year.

**Thank you for your generous support of
Together We Serve !**