

February 10, 2016

Dear Parents,

On December 8, 2015, Pope Francis opened the **Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy**. When the Holy Father announced the holy year, he urged Catholics to participate as fully as possible in accepting and in giving mercy. The Holy Father also reminded the faithful of our need to **practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy**.

Today, **Ash Wednesday**, each of the **children received a mission box** to use for their gifts for the poor. As the children “fast” from something they would like, they donate the money for what another child would need. The children are asked to use the box during Lent and to **return it to school during the last week before Easter**. The donations will be used to purchase phonics books for the children at St. Julie School in Buseesa, Uganda, the Cleveland Diocesan Mission in El Salvador, the Childhood Missionary Association, and the Notre Dame Global Missions.

Financial assistance that Notre Dame Elementary School has **given to the missions** in the **past** has been **greatly appreciated by the recipients**. Here are some excerpts from notes we received.

“By your prayers and your support, you ... sustain the work of priests, religious and lay leaders in the Missions who bring concrete help and offer the Lord’s compassion to the poor and the forgotten, to the sick and the dying, the abandoned and alone, the refugee and the orphan.” (Father Andrew Small, OMI, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith)

“...I give THANKS to you for your gift to the missionary work of our Church. This work has the goal of bringing the presence of Christ to the entire world. Your prayer and sacrifice assures that this missionary work continues. May God bless you for your goodness and generosity. Thanks for your support of Missionary Childhood.” (Father Stephen Vellenga, Diocesan Mission Director)

“Thank you ever so much for all that you did in order to procure the phonics books for St. Julie Mission! I am SO very grateful . . . I want to again thank everyone involved who made these books a reality to our students here. The books have been invaluable to us since the children really learn the fundamentals of the English language using these texts. So God bless you and know that you are held in prayer for your generosity and outreach to the SND mission in Buseesa.” (Sister Mary Paulyne, SND, Principal)

Sister Mary Chetana from **India**, lived here at the Provincial Center a few years ago while she studied for her Master’s Degree. She is principal of a poor school in India. Some of our mission donations were directed to her to help **build additional rooms for the school**. She is very grateful for our assistance and so are the children and parents.

Thank you for whatever sacrifice you can make this Lent. Through your donations, you will feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, instruct the ignorant, and share the gift of mercy.

Gratefully,

The Mission Committee: Sisters Mary Deborah Carlin
Barbara Knuff
Donnalee Resar
Barbara Soplata