

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Mission Day

Fr. Kavungal Davy CMI

My dear friends, you may be wondering who this handsome priest is. My name is Fr. Davy. I am from India, a member of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate religious community. I am here this weekend to share with you my mission experience and request your prayers and financial support for the missionaries. We have almost two thousand priests and almost one thousand seminarians. We are working in all continents in thirty three countries.

When I became a priest I thought a priest celebrates Mass and administers sacraments. But when I went to Kenya, Africa, I realized that a priest does everything. A priest becomes a nurse, social worker, doctor, engineer, contractor, etc.

I served in Kenya, East Africa for almost ten years. I enjoyed my mission there. It was very rewarding and satisfactory. I served in a parish and started a Catholic school.

The parish I served had twenty-eight mission churches. There were only two priests. The parish geographically was bigger than the diocese of Brooklyn. We were not able to celebrate Mass every Sunday at all churches.

The Eucharistic celebration is very lively. People sing and dance together. They bring offerings to church, a lot of things, including live chicken, goat and other things.

In the year two thousand I blessed every home in the parish. It took six months for me to finish the blessing. I walked Monday through Friday from 7 AM till 9 PM. After the blessing many people returned to the Church. I blessed three hundred and thirteen weddings. I baptized more than one thousand three hundred people. The longest Mass I ever celebrated was for four and a half hours with 165 baptisms and 55 weddings. It was the most wonderful year for me as a priest.

Besides many sweet memories, I had some bitter experiences as well. I started an elementary school in a remote area. There was no water, electricity and road to that area. It was not an easy job. On December 21 the year two thousand and one the small house where I was living was broken into. More than twenty five people came at night and broke in the house. I was beaten up and they took away everything they wanted. A few people from the neighborhood came to rescue me. The thieves ran away. I felt very bad. I was working hard day and night far away from my homeland. Why should I be beaten up for no reason?

I decided to stop the construction of the school. One of the neighbors challenged me. He asked me: "Father Davy, didn't we come to rescue you risking our own life? As long as we are alive you are safe." Though it was a challenging statement, I didn't change my mind. Then I thought about Saint Thomas. He went to India to preach about Christ. He became a martyr there. If he was afraid there wouldn't have been Christians in India. This thought encouraged me to continue my mission courageously. I heard the gentle voice of Jesus: "Do not be afraid I am with you." The school construction resumed, now Mount Sinai School I started is number one in the district.

I just shared a few experiences, sweet and bitter ones. All the missionaries go through the same daily challenges. What can we do for them? We have to pray for them every day. Saint Theresa of Lisieux prayed for the missionaries every day. She became the patron of all the missionaries. All of us can do it. All of us cannot go to Africa or other countries as I did. But we can do missions in our parish and families by helping out in the soup kitchen, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Bible Study group, etc. We also can support them financially. Your generous support will help the missionaries to buy medicine for the sick or food and water for the poor or pay tuition for an orphan or shelter for a homeless family. We build many churches every year.

Let Jesus reduce our suffering and the sufferings and challenges of all missionaries. May God bless you all and our parish!

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