

MISSION REPORT (Extra)
Mission Saint Therese of the Infant Jesus
Reaching out to the “Poorest of the Poor”
Mouila, Gabon, Africa – May 2017
by Rev. Canon Henry Fragelli



(For any new reader: These *Mission Reports* are letters to my family and friends. So don't be surprised to find in them very little order and a family-like casual style.)

Dear Friend of the Mission,

This is GOOD NEWS! Certainly, another chance for you to help save a soul, perhaps many. The good news is that.. we can't do it without you.

I am talking about the building of our Mission's Saint Francis de Sales School.

- What can you please do to help us?
- Can you help by speaking to others that can help?
- PLEASE do read this to the end. It's GOOD NEWS!!!

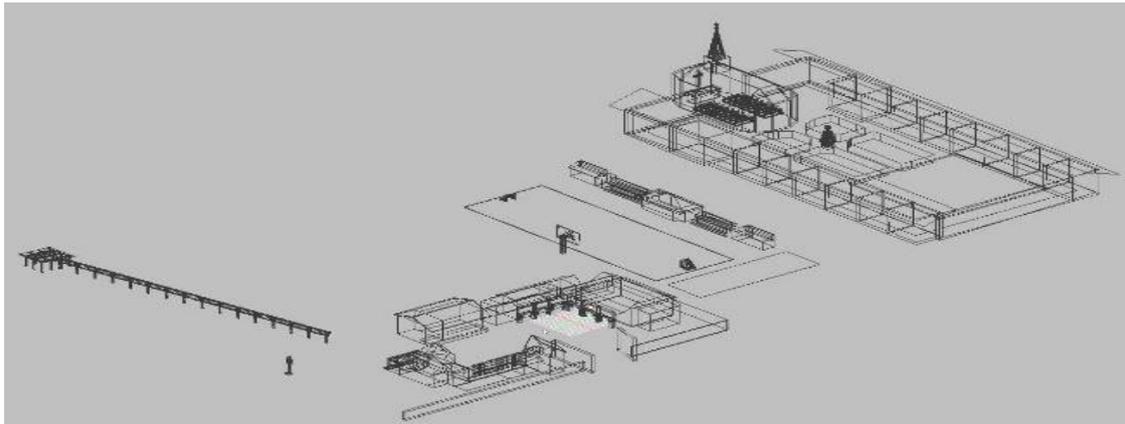
We cannot wait any longer. It is as simple as this: ***If we can't educate them, we can't save them.*** That is the reality out here. That is why EVERY Catholic Mission out here, in the past, had a school attached to it. So, in pure faith, and for the love of these poor souls, we are determined to open the school this fall. Yet... we have only the means for building the school's chapel. (It is the donor's wish.)



So please STOP for a minute and think of the hundreds of children that will have a chance to a true and beautiful Catholic School! A chance that you might have had but they do not. And for most of them, truth be said: it's probably their unique chance of making it to Heaven.

So, what can YOU do to give these children that chance? You might not have the means yourself, but certainly you can speak to others that can, talk to your parish Priest, or perhaps organize a little a fundraiser with friends and family. Anything helps! And if you already donate (God bless you because the Mission exists thanks to your generosity) the fact that you already give is your greatest tool in asking others to give too.

The budget for building of the School (fifteen buildings) is U\$ 758.000. This includes:



- A large chapel (already paid for.)
- The Good Lord also sent our way a beautiful marble altar (from a church in France that closed down.) The dismantled marble altar is already at the Mission.
- An administration building with Teacher's Headquarters.
- A Nursery. (Almost finished already.)
- A building with cantina and bathrooms.
- 6 large buildings for the Class Rooms
- A Grotto to Our Lady
- A garden (in front of the chapel)
- A recreation space (playground)
- A cloister and building for the Sisters that will teach at the school.
- A soccer field and sport center.
- A dorm (almost finished)
- A storage.
- This budget also includes all the school furniture (all made at the Mission's carpentry shop), electronic equipment, a bus, and one year worth of teacher's salaries, so that we can have a smooth first year, as we iron things out and get around our learning curve.

BUT... we have GOOD NEWS for you!

Locally:

- Catholic business owners that I visited already offered to give the electrical and the plumbing for the school.
- Another offered floor tiles.
- Another a new oven for the bakery.
- Another offered an electrical generator.

More: Abbé Alexander, the Institute's architect, has volunteered, with the kind approval of Msgr. Schmitz, to draw the plants for the chapel, and to assemble the marble altar.



And don't forget: as stated above, the dorm and the clinic are almost ready. Little by little generous donors have come forward to help with that.

More good news: a team of medical doctors are organizing the sending us all that is needed for the school's nursery. A container should be arriving soon with all that medical furniture and materials.

Another good news: A *Knights of Columbus Council* from California offered the school's Clinic (that will also be the Mission's a *Pregnancy Center*) an Ultra-Sound Machine.

And if you wish still **more good news:** we have got almost all the permits for the opening of the school and for the opening of the clinic.

To make things even better:

- we have 2 volunteer nurses ready to work full-time at the School's Clinic.
- we have already started the selecting and recruiting of good Catholic teachers. We have 3 so far.

God has also blessed us with the assistance of the *National Director of Catholic Education* who is a good friend and part of our School-building-team. He has come twice, from Libreville, to work on the school project with us.

To top it off... in a quick car-trip to Cameroun I bought the fabrics for the school uniform (there, fabric is a

third of the price). And our *Mission's Sewing Workshop* is all geared-up to start putting the uniforms together.

And, **music to the ears**, the rumor of us building a school is spread far and wide all over the region, and parents flock to sign-up their children.

To get things going... as you can see in these 3 pictures, with the help of local entrepreneurs, the terrain is being prepared (woods knocked down) and leveled for the building of the school.



But... "small problem"... we don't have the buildings yet. **Is there anything that you can do to make this happen?**

The Mission craves, begs for a school. It's a MUST at this point! The much-needed crowning of all the beautiful things that you have seen and read in the past ten *Mission Reports*.

If it helps you speak to others: We send you a brochure that we put together about the school.

So PLEASE, shoot me an email today to tell me what you can do to help, even if "only" pray. And if you are already a donor... *oh! God bless your good heart!* God has blessed this Mission so much... I can only imagine how much blessing he has stored for you.



With my anticipated gratitude... on behalf of the "*poorest of the poor*", hope to hear from you soon.

Cn. H. Fragelli

PS. I'll be checking my email every day.

Mission Report # 11 with its beautiful pictures and all the activities and growth of the Mission these past 6 months, IS READY. But I am holding on to it so as not to distract people from what is MOST NEEDED right now: the SCHOOL.