

J.M.J.

Christmas 2020



Beloved Co-Missionaries,

A blessed Advent and Christmas to each of you and your families! It has been a difficult year with many trials and sacrifices for all. It is the fervent prayer of JCADF that each of you continues to remain safe and healthy until our good Lord decides to remove this Covid cross from our world. A year ago, we had no idea this plague would be upon us and now with so many affected we find ourselves and all of Sr. Sponsa's children in Liberia praying for the purification of our souls and the souls for whom we pray.

Advent is a time of waiting for our savior Jesus Christ to arrive and bring us peace and joy. He will arrive again in glory and splendor and will illuminate our world once again with love. From the bottom of our hearts and all in Liberia who you have helped so much, we send our prayers, love and best wishes for a beautiful, hope-filled year to come. Our gratitude is unending.

Some of you may know that Sr. Sponsa's biological sister, Angie Cebulski, had a stroke a few weeks ago, before Thanksgiving. She is currently in a hospital rehabilitation center and we ask for your prayers to strengthen and heal her. We know that each of you misses her beautiful thank you notes and her words of comfort and encouragement. I have tried to send as many thank you notes as possible for your generous donations.



However, if you have not received a note, I deeply apologize. Most of my time has been focused on Sister's children in Liberia, making sure their needs are met and that they are in good spirits. War has broken out again on the Ivory Coast where Sister sought refuge in exile during the civil war of the 1990s. Refugees are fleeing to Liberia and all are seeking shelter, food and medical care.

Sister's children are amazing and even in the midst of the Covid crisis and civil strife, they continue to sacrifice and share with others in need. They know what it is like to have grown up with so little and they continue to carry on Sr. Sponsa's work, seeking out those in need and offering help. It is your donations that continue to make this possible.



This last week, we sadly lost three beautiful mothers during childbirth. Each of their babies survived. We are trying to place them with new caring families and make sure they have bottles and formula so they receive the proper nutrition to stay healthy and survive. We also have two little girls who were removed from their families by doctors because of unfit conditions. We hired a caretaker and have them living with our now famous triplets. The girls are two and six years old. Both were unable to walk and are mentally challenged. The youngest, Nesley, is beginning to make strides in a walker and is enjoying the company of the triplets. The stimulation is

helping her progress and she is now standing on her own.

The three little guys have just reached their first birthday and they compete to try to push Nesley in the walker. The triplets were recently moved closer to our team since a local doctor volunteered to work with them each week after it was determined they had delayed motor skills. Dr. Patrick initially believed they had cerebral palsy but after physical therapy and a



change to their diet, we are so overjoyed to see them now standing and starting to walk. Lovetta decided that they had to have a birthday party. Because of busy schedules, it was held at 7:30am and the triplets had their first taste of ice cream. I know you will enjoy this picture with Meshach and Shadrach sitting in adult chairs and brother Abednego fast asleep with their mom. Lovetta

said they could really hear him snoring! The party hats with the sparkly fringe were our personal favorite. It is a miracle that they survived after being born prematurely and they are now thriving because of your generosity. Thank you to each of you!



With all the medical and funeral bills, we rarely celebrate birthdays. But this one was special and it came with a special request. It was Sam Karto's birthday and he asked if he might form a committee to give away food to the senior citizens who were unable to get out due to Covid and other ailments. Because we had extra funds that month, we were able to help. We discussed what Sam wanted to give away for his birthday and with the funds on hand, he and the team bagged rice, maji cubes for flavoring, eggs, mackerel, tea, and bottles of Boost nutrition

supplement and soap. They also included masks to help prevent the spread of Covid. Fortunately, Yah has continued to sew these precious masks for so many and the demand for them is high. The team packed up 200 bags, so they did an amazing job of stretching the extra funds. God multiplied the fishes for over 5000 of his followers so why not for these, His Least? When they arrived for the food giveaway, there were at least 300 seniors who arrived. Sam and the team separated everyone on the line six feet apart and handed out masks. It did not take long before the food bags were distributed and there were so many more seniors who arrived looking for help. Sam told them we would try again for another food give away soon. It was a joyous birthday for Sam and all did their part to help our seniors in need.

The pastor of Immaculate Conception parish had a beautiful Rosary procession with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima for the month of November and the souls in Purgatory. He is presently working to begin a chapter of the Legion of Mary and a choir of Sister's children. So in the midst of such terrible poverty and suffering, there is growing excitement and happiness as all work to help so many Liberians. We are also eagerly awaiting the beginning of Fr. Yao's marriage instruction classes which begin in January.



We have six couples so far who will be enrolled and many babies and children who will be baptized. I know Sr. Sponsa is smiling down from heaven.

Not a day goes by without more disabled knocking on our door, seeking help. While we have noticed there are increasing food lines here in the U.S. because of high unemployment rates due to Covid, this is nothing new in Liberia. It saddens us to see so many in need of medical and surgical assistance. Our largest outlay of funds is to clinics and hospitals in an attempt to save lives. With your donations, so many lives have been saved from motorcycle accidents, malaria, typhoid, birth deformities, parasites, congenital deformities and pneumonia. I only wish you could see the huge smiles on these faces when we tell them we can offer assistance. It brings us some hope and positivity during this time of crisis in the world.



A short while ago, a very young mother was introduced to us with a beautiful one month old baby girl. As usual, Sister's team took a video of the child with their phones and sent it through to us. We could see that every breath the baby took was a severe struggle. We took her to three different hospitals for evaluation. From watching the video over and over, I was convinced the baby had a heart condition. It was only at the third hospital that mom and baby were finally admitted for testing. After three days, doctors told us the baby had severe pneumonia and they believed they could help her. They also took a chest x-ray of the mom and they found out that she had pneumonia as well. So, to this day they

both remain in the hospital. They believe mom had pneumonia when she gave birth and had very few symptoms. Baby Arena and her mom will soon be discharged. We evaluated their home and it looks like it is full of mold, which is terrible for anyone with a breathing condition. If they were to move back in there, they probably would eventually contract pneumonia again and in such a weakened condition, they might not survive a second round. We have a room for them in

Mary's House with another young mom and her first baby. Please pray that we continue to come up with solutions to improve and save these people's precious lives.

Matthew Dickson and his soon to be wife just gave birth to a healthy baby girl. Matt is one of Sister's sons and is confined to a wheel chair. They are one of the couples who will be marrying at the beginning of the





year. It is nice to hear some happy news in such difficult times for so many. In the past month alone, we have accepted five new disabled into our program:

David, an amputee, and Nuna, his mentally challenged nine year old daughter who is in a wheelchair.

Jacob, who is 20, and whose two arms are congenitally malformed. He lives a long distance from where we are located but he walked the entire distance to see if we could give him a half a cup of rice. He lives with his mom and younger brother.



Little Grace, who was abandoned. Irene, one of our team members recently took Grace into her home. Grace is two years old

and unable to speak. She is so malnourished, we want to cry. Irene loves children and she has



two of her own but she could not say no to this little one. We have put Grace on a special formula and she sure is responding to all the love Irene is giving her. She is gaining weight and loves to sit in Irene's wheel chair.

Simon, who our friend Pastor Teh, has taken in. Simon is seven and was abandoned by his parents. His left arm and leg are paralyzed. He can walk but he drags his left leg and has no feeling on his left side.



We could sit and cry this Christmas over all the disabled who come seeking help. But I do not think that is what the good Lord wants from any of us. We have so much work left to do. He sends us many who need help and we promise to always try our best. We are blessed to have kind donors like each of you who have cared and shared and enabled us to change so many lives for the better.

This Christmas, we are grateful that each of you has done your best to make a difference in this world. You are loved and appreciated by so many! A Blessed Christmas to you and your loved ones and may God bless you for caring and sharing with those in need.

With love and prayers of thanksgiving,

In His Holy Name,

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Angie Cebulski, Co-President

bileen R. Rickensies

Eileen Rockensies, Co-President

And the entire JCADF Team!!!

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All contributions should be made out to: JCADF and sent to: Jerry Cebulski African Disability Foundation 47 Harford Avenue Shavertown, PA 18708 Donations are tax deductible Matching gifts are appreciated!





## Year of St. Joseph



It was announced yesterday on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception from Vatican City, Rome, that from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021, this next year will be devoted to St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. We know that our world is in terrible disarray and not only from Covid, but also corruption and sinfulness. We are being asked to pray, sacrifice and ask forgiveness for the sins of the whole world. I am inserting here a special Memorare to St. Joseph and I ask you to say this prayer for his intercession in obtaining peace for the whole world.

## Memorare of St. Joseph

Remember, O Most Chaste Spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought they intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, my spiritual father, and beg your protection. O Foster Father of the Redeemer, despise not my petitions, but in your goodness hear and answer me. Amen.

## **Our Lady of America**

In 1954, Our Lady began appearing under the title *Our Lady of America* to Sr. Mary Ephram (Sr. Mildred Mary Neuzil). Because the U.S. was consecrated to the Immaculate Conception, Jesus requested that a medal be struck in this image of Our Lady. On the front of the medal, is the image of Our Lady as she appeared and the back has the Coat of Arms of the Christian Family. The triangle in the center represents the Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity. The medals can be purchased at <u>www.ourladyofamerica.org</u>.



## Prayer to the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of Our Land

(Written at the behest of Our Lady, October 5, 1956 by Sister Mary Ephrem)

Oh Immaculate Mother, Queen of our country, open our hearts, our homes, and our land to the coming of Jesus, your Divine Son. With Him, reign over us, O heavenly Lady, so pure and so bright with the radiance of God's light shining in and about you. Be our leader against the powers of evil set upon wresting the world of souls, redeemed at such a great cost by the sufferings of your Son and of yourself, in union with Him, from that same Savior, Who loves us with infinite charity.

We gather about you, O chaste and holy Mother, Virgin Immaculate, Patroness of our beloved Land, determined to fight under your banner of holy purity against the wickedness that would make all the world an abyss of evil, without God and without your loving maternal care.

We consecrate our hearts, our homes, our Land to your Most Pure Heart, O great Queen, that the kingdom of your Son, our Redeemer and our God, may be firmly established in us. We ask no special sign of you, sweet Mother, for we believe in your great love for us, and we place in you our entire confidence. We promise to honor you by faith, love, and the purity of our lives according to your desire. Reign over us, then, O Virgin Immaculate, with your Son, Jesus Christ. May His Divine Heart and your most chaste Heart be ever enthroned and glorified among us. Use us, your children of America, as your instruments of peace among men and nations. Work your miracles of grace in us, so that we may be a glory to the Blessed Trinity, Who created, redeemed, and sanctifies us.

May your valiant spouse, St. Joseph, with the holy Angels and Saints, assist you and us in "renewing the face of the Earth." Then when our work is over, come, Holy Immaculate Mother, and as our Victorious Queen, lead us to the eternal kingdom, where your Son reigns forever as King. Amen.

Nihil Obstat: Daniel Pilarczyk, S.T.D. Imprimatur: +Paul F. Leibold, V.G. Cincinnati, Jan. 25, 1963

Interesting to know that on March 11, 1958, Our Lady said to Sister Mary Ephram, "St. Joseph will come on the eve of his feast. Prepare yourself well for there will be a special message. My Holy Spouse has an important part to play in bringing peace to the world." St. Joseph has many other messages for us, which you can read in the Our Lady of America Diary of Messages which can be downloaded for free at <u>www.ourladyofamerica.org</u> under "Devotionals".



Mary also requested that a statue be made as she appeared as *Our Lady of America*. She requested that the statue and the Bishops of the U.S. process in to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Funds were donated and the statue was made but when the Bishops saw it, they refused to process with it into the Basilica. Yesterday, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the statue was put on display in the Mother of Mary Chapel in Rome City, IN. A Rosary & Mass was livestreamed and is available for viewing at <u>www.patronessofamerica.org</u> and click on the smaller logo near the top of the screen.

In recent apparitions around the world, Mary repeatedly explained that we must stay close to her Son in the Eucharist and pray as a family because her Son is coming soon, not for the end of the world, for the end of the sinful, demonic period in which families continue to be torn apart. Her Son will come during this period of time to judge each of us individually, regardless of whether we are Catholic, Jew, Muslim or atheist. This will be followed by a tremendous miracle in the sky which will remain until the end of time. Please spread this story of *Our Lady of America's* apparition as far as you can.

"Making the Rosary a family prayer is very pleasing to me. I ask that all families strive to do so. But be careful to say it with great devotion, meditating on each mystery, and striving to imitate in your daily lives the virtues depicted therein. Live the mysteries of the Rosary as I lived them, and it will become a chain binding you to me forever. They who are found in the circle of my Rosary will never be lost. I myself will lead them at death to the throne of my Son, to be eternally united to Him."

Our Lady of America, pray for us and the whole world!!