



FRIENDS

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST JAMES THE APOSTLE

APRIL 2020



UT COGNOSCANT TE

Dear Friends,

Each year current and former members of the St. James Society gather at our center house, in Lima, Peru, for a week of prayer, reflection, and fraternity. This year we gathered in Lima during the week, January 13-17, and we were very fortunate to have Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, as our guest speaker. Archbishop Eamon reflected with us of the theme of Mission Spirituality, in particular he focused on the Gospel of St. Mark, when Jesus called his first disciples (Mk 1:16-20). He highlighted the point of invitation and attraction made on the part of Jesus to simple ordinary people to become his followers, and he connected that with the vocation of the priesthood as a sacred calling from Jesus. His time with us provided valuable opportunity for dialogue and discussion. His visit to Peru was also an opportunity for him to meet with Irish born missionaries based in Peru, and on Wednesday January 15th over fifty religious sisters, brothers, and priests from other congregations gathered at our house for a conference with the Archbishop.

Diocesan priests serving the poorest of the poor in Latin America since 1958.

The week culminated on Thursday evening with concelebrated Mass during which the 'Cardinal Cushing Award' was bestowed on four worthy honorees: Mr. Vicente Gutierrez Rivero, Fr. Ray O'Sullivan, Fr. Des Tynan, and Fr. Eugene Kirke. The Cardinal Cushing Award is the highest honor the St. James Society can give to those who, in one way or another, give selfless service to the St. James Society.

Mr. Vicente Gutierrez Rivero lives with his wife and four adult children in Santa Cruz de la Sierra,

Bolivia. Don Vicente, as he is affectionately known by us, has been a friend and benefactor of the St. James Society for more than fifty years. His association with the Society began with his friendship



Bishop Hennessey presents the Cushing Award to Vicente Gutierrez

with Fr. John Sullivan (RIP), a Boston priest and longtime member of the St. James Society, who spent more than 40 years on mission in Bolivia. As a young man, Vicente came to know Fr. Sullivan in his hometown/parish of Santa Rosa de Zara, a small remote rural village about a two-hour drive north of Santa Cruz. Fr. Sullivan was instrumental in helping Vicente and his cousin Jorge Paz (RIP) set up an agricultural business which Vicente directs in Santa Cruz and the surrounding area. In later years, when Fr. Sullivan became ill, Vicente and Jorge ensured that he was cared for at his own home in Santa Rosa de Zara. I have reason to visit Santa Cruz each year, together with Fr. Roger Clarke, and I always enjoy meeting

with Vicente and being welcomed to his home by his family. So, I was especially edified that I was able to welcome Vicente and his wife and family to our house in Lima, Peru, for the Award Ceremony.

Fr. Ray O'Sullivan is from Ireland, born in Mullingar Co. Westmeath, he spent a lot of his childhood in Kanturk, Co. Cork. He studied for the priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Carlow, where he was a member of the Ordination class of 1967. It was there that he was recruited for the St. James Society by Cardinal Cushing. Due to his young age he had to wait to be ordained to the priesthood in February 1968, spending time as a transitional deacon, in the meantime, at St. John's Parish Quincy, MA. Upon arriving in Peru in 1968 Fr. Ray spent time at language school before moving on to the Diocese of Abancay, high in the Southern Peruvian Andes. It was here that he would also learn Quechua, the indigenous language. From Abancay Fr. Ray spent a brief spell in Bolivia before returning to Peru, this time to the Prelature



Bishop Hennessey presents the Cushing Award to Fr. Gene Kirke



Bishop Hennessey and Bishop Bustamante present the Award to Fr. Ray O'Sullivan

of Sicuani. Fr. Ray is credited with having worked in almost all of the parishes in the Prelature of Sicuani, a poor diocese high in the Peruvian Andes. Bishop Pedro Bustamante recognized Fr. Ray's knowledge of the diocese by naming him Vicar General shortly after his arrival there as Bishop. After 50 years priestly service high in the Southern Peruvian Andes Fr. Ray retired in 2018 for health reasons. Currently he lives at a retirement home in Lima, but he is still very active as a spiritual director to many seminarians and priests of the Prelature of Sicuani.

Fr. Desmond Tynan was born in Co. Tipperary, Ireland, but his family soon moved to Hackettstown Co. Carlow, where his father was the local police sergeant. Fr. Des and Fr. Ray were classmates at Knockbeg College (minor seminary) before moving on to the major seminary at St. Patrick's College. Like Fr. Ray, Fr. Des was recruited for the St. James Society



Fr. David and Jerome Kiley with Fr. Des after receiving his Award



Frs. Des, Gene, and Ray

while still a seminarian. He was ordained priest for the Archdiocese of Boston in 1967, spending a year at St. Philip Neri parish in Newton, MA, before moving to Peru. Fr. Des also worked in the Diocese of Abancay, in fact he and Fr. Ray worked for a while together in the parish of 'St. Gabriel', Huancarama, high in the Peruvian Andes. After twenty-two years in the mountains Fr. Des moved to the coast, first to the town of Huarney, in the Diocese of Chimbote, about four hours north of Lima. His next move was to the parish of 'Christ the Light of the World',

in the Diocese of Carabayllo, on the extreme north side of Lima. He remained there for twelve years before moving to the parish of 'The Resurrected One', in the Diocese of Chosica, on the East side of Lima. Fr. Des is fondly remembered in each of the parishes where he ministered, and he says the fifty-two years living and working in Peru were the greatest joy and blessing he could ever have received. After fifty-two years of service to the poorest of the poor in Peru, Fr. Des recently retired to Regina Cleri residence in Boston.

Fr. Eugene (Gene) Kirke is from Hackballs Cross, Co. Louth, Ireland. He spent six years in formation at Mellifont Abbey, Co. Louth, which



Conference with Archbishop Eamon



PRAYER AT THE TIME OF A PANDEMIC

Lord Jesus, Who promised to remain with us always,

When information overwhelms us
and fear overtakes us,
speak to us again those comforting words,
“Peace be with you.”

Though we cannot be physically close to others,
give us the ability and courage
to love as well as we can,
since “perfect love casts out all fear.”

Direct your caring gaze on doctors and nurses,
researchers and safety personnel;
Come to strengthen the sick, the vulnerable,
and comfort those who are grief stricken.

And when the pandemic has passed,
and this frightening crisis is resolved,
teach us to know You more certainly
as our dearest Friend and our only Hope.

You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. Amen.

(offer one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Glory be...)

Our Lady, Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for us.

was the first Cistercian Monastery in Ireland, founded in 1142 by St. Malachy of Armagh. Fr. Gene says that while he very much felt at home in the monastery, he also sensed a desire to serve as a missionary priest. So, having heard of the St. James Society, recently founded by Cardinal Cushing in Boston, he transferred to All Hallows College, Dublin, where he completed his formation studies and was ordained priest in 1962 for the Archdiocese of Boston, specifically with the intention of serving with the St. James Society. Fr. Gene arrived in Peru in 1963 and spent eight years working in the Diocese of Abancay, in the parishes of Limatambo, Curahuasi, and the Cathedral in Abancay, high in the Peruvian Andes. He returned to Boston in 1971 and spent three years at St. Paul Parish, Dorchester, MA, before returning to Peru in 1974. Since then Fr. Gene has lived and worked in a shanty town area on the south side of Lima known as Villa El Salvador. Fr. Gene now lives in retirement,

in the small simple wooden house which he built himself in Villa El Salvador.

The St. James Society was proud to honor Don Vicente, Frs. Ray, Des, and Gene, at our annual gathering in Lima. Each of them in so many ways have spent their life and ministry emulating Cardinal Cushing’s vision for the St. James Society...that we would make Christ known by serving Him among the poorest of the poor. We are grateful to each of them for their service, and grateful to all of you our benefactors and friends who made it possible and continue to make it possible for us to make Christ’s presence known among the poorest of the poor.



With Every Good Wish in Christ,

*Rev. David Costello
Director*

For the purpose of wills, bequests, and living trusts, our official name is:

The Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle, Inc.

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