



FRIENDS

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST JAMES THE APOSTLE

August 2020

A JOURNEY TO THE MISSIONS



Fr. Chateau with Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, Papal Nuncio to Peru, and two parishioners

Dear Friends,

At our annual gathering in Lima, earlier this year, we welcomed two new members to the St. James Society. Fr. Eddie Rogan, and Fr. Ixon Chateau. Fr. Ixon is a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston and he introduces himself to us:

I am Fr. Ixon Chateau, a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston, Massachusetts. I am from a family of four children and I am the second born. The first born, my older brother, was murdered on the way to school by a stray bullet back on the Island of Haiti. My parents are snow birds, as they say

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



in the States, they live in Cambridge, Massachusetts, during the summer and when winter comes, they fly back to the summer heat of the Caribbean Island of Haiti.

I was born into a deeply religious family in the countryside of the southern part of the Caribbean Island of Haiti called “Chateau”, which is why my last name is Chateau. In this part of the mountainside of the Island, it is tradition to take the name of one’s village as a last name and pass it on. My great uncle is a retired bishop, and five of my mother’s cousins are priests. I have an uncle who is a professed religious brother, two cousins who are priests, three cousins who are religious sisters, and three extended relatives in the seminary.

Growing up, I was an Altar server and a Catechist in my village. Back then, priests visited the village every six to nine months because there were few of them. In the absence of the priest, I was the Catechist responsible for the service of the word and funerals in the village. Thank God, now the village has its own priest.

At a very early age, I had many great priests who nursed my vocation besides my parents, my grand-parents and parishioners. The first priest I can remember who truly had an impact on my life was from France; he spent a great amount of time in Haiti. He so inspired me that I always wanted to be a priest like him to spread the Good News of Christ’s salvation to all.

To achieve my dream of becoming a priest, I entered the seminary at a very young age. After elementary school, I entered the high school seminary and after that, my brother and I moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts to be with our parents who had immigrated a couple years before us. After moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts, I entered St. John’s Seminary College and I was in the last class prior to the Seminary College closing. In my first year in the major seminary, the rector organized a trip to visit the St. James Society priests in Peru. Since that



experience, I knew, God willing, I would one day join them. For an unknown reason, throughout my seminary formation and after ordination, I have always been assigned where former members of the St. James society ministered. They instilled in me the thought and encouragement of joining the St. James Society.



My first summer assignment as a seminarian was at St. Stephen, Framingham, Massachusetts, where two former members of the St. James society, Fr. Bill Pearsall and Fr. Bert Stankard were assigned. They always talked about their great experiences which had changed their lives forever. The second and the last of my summer assignments, which



was also my weekend assignment for two years before my priestly ordination, was at St. Joseph Parish, West End, Boston, where Fr. Gabriel Troy was pastor. Fr. Gabe was a member of the St. James Society for thirty years before returning to Boston as Director (1994-2000). Fr. Gabe is a great friend and has had a great impact on my life, not only as a seminarian, but also as a priest. In addition, at the seminary, former society member Fr. John Grimes encouraged us to consider becoming a missionary, a vocation within a vocation.

In May 2006, I was ordained for the Archdiocese of Boston, the third-year group to be ordained by Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley. My first parish assignment as priest was at St. Clement Parish, Somerville/Medford, Massachusetts where the late Fr. Dennis Dever RIP, a former director of the society who spent many years in South America, was pastor. My second assignment was at the Star of the Sea, St. Johns the Evangelist and St. Margaret in Beverly/Beverly Farms, Massachusetts where Fr. David Barnes was pastor. From there I was sent to the border of New Hampshire, Holy Family and Star of the Sea parishes, in Amesbury\ Salisbury, Massachusetts with Fr. Scott Euvrard as pastor. From the Merrimac Valley, I was sent to the South Shore, St. Mary and St. Bernadette parishes, Randolph, Massachusetts, the most diverse parish in the archdiocese of Boston, with Fr. Phil McGaugh as pastor.

From the above it was not a surprise when last year, I signed up to join the Society, although it was not easy. The parishioners were against it but my siblings and parents were the biggest obstacles to overcome when I shared with them my calling to become a missionary priest. My family is still not happy I chose to go on mission. After arriving in Lima, I was sent to study the Spanish language for three months after which I was assigned to the Prelature of Sicuani in the Andes. I thought I was going to fall in love with the Andes, due to the slow pace of life, the unpoluted atmosphere, the great scenery with its green pastures and animal life among others, but it was not to be. I stayed for only six weeks. Due to the cold weather and the high altitude with its lack of oxygen, I decided it was not for me. I asked to be transferred to the coast.



Fr. Chateau and Fr. Rogan each receive their Mission Cross.

I am now assigned to El Resucitado parish in the Diocese of Chosica, where the auxiliary bishop is a religious priest of the Holy Cross Order, who was born in Dorchester, MA. I am ministering with two great priests of the society; one from the Philippines and the other from Ghana. The parish we serve was founded in 2006 by our current Director, Fr. David Costello. The Parish has thirteen communities where we have chapels or Mass centers. It is a very young, vibrant and busy parish. I have a lot to learn from the parishioners and it will take time to become accustomed to



life in the parish. The people here are very warm, faith filled, joyful, and hospitable. These people have truly strengthened my faith, to be a better servant of God and most of all a better human being.

Sometimes we are afraid of the unknown yet God is always on the other side to welcome us. He never tires of inviting and challenging us to leave our comfort zones to meet and serve Him through His people.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Mother to Her Divine Son Jesus, may we remain close to His Sacred Heart.

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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