



For We Are God's Helpers

2024 Summer Newsletter

Share your gifts, live your faith, change the world ... and let the world change you.

God's Providence and You

We are thrilled to share a remarkable story about God's providence and you - a story about the light of education illuminating countless futures in Kabale, Uganda, made possible by your generosity and prayers.

This light started to shine when St. Ignatius University Kabale (IGUKA) opened its doors on January 8, 2024. The university's acronym is also a word in the local Rukiga language that means "welcome." It is a very appropriate word as all, not just Catholics, are welcome at IGUKA to embark on the transformative journey of academic excellence.

Initially offering degrees in tourism, agriculture, and business administration, the university lacked a crucial department: education. However, through what we believe to be God's providence, Bishop Callist Rubaramira reached out to us for help at the same time when Dr. Nancy Magloire, Ed.D. was discerning her call to mission as a Lay Mission-Helper. Her professional and spiritual journey towards mission perfectly aligned with the university's needs. With a rich academic background spanning from York College and Howard University to Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Magloire's expertise had a potential to become the cornerstone for developing IGUKA's Education Department.

Your support empowered us to guide Nancy through her discernment, training her for mission, and sending her to Kabale. Deeply involved at IGUKA, she spearheads the efforts to develop the Education Department by finalizing curricula for all A.A, B.A. and B.S programs in primary and secondary education and pursues accreditation which is expected to be granted this September. If all goes as scheduled, IGUKA will welcome education students already this November! As you can see, your support of Nancy is paving the way for future



Children in Kabale, Uganda, will be educated because of your generosity!

educators who will shape the lives of countless students in Kabale and beyond.

But your support of Nancy's mission extends beyond the creation of the Education Department. As the newly appointed Quality Assurance Officer for the university, she ensures the overall academic excellence of IGUKA. From monitoring instructional processes to fostering community engagement, her dedication echoes your commitment to holistic transformation of the human person. (continued on page 2)

Taking Care of the Lifeline

The Apostolic Vicariate of San Jose del Amazonas is as old as LMH, but it was not until this year that we formed a partnership at the request of Bishop Jose Javier Travieso Martin. The bishop asked us to help the Vicariate with administrative and financial duties, specifically with tracking, monitoring and reporting on projects supported by outside funding.

According to the UN's Human Development Office, over 68% of inhabitants in the area live in extreme poverty. Due to this abject, pervasive and ubiquitous poverty in the area, all services offered by the Vicariate depend on funding from European countries and the United States. Foundations and various organizations that award grants for projects in education, healthcare, environmental initiatives and others have very strict guidelines that must be adhered to in order to comply with legal and ethical requirements associated with those funds. Lack of compliance will result in a demand for the return of the funds and in ineligibility for further assistance. When Bishop Travieso sought our help, he specifically wanted someone who could assist with this crucial aspect of the Vicariate's ability to operate, someone skilled in financial administration and also fluent in Spanish and English.

While not glamorous, our service in the Vicariate is critical because over 168,000 inhabitants of the area depend on the services provided by parishes, clinics, and schools – all supported by outside funders. This lifeline needs to be maintained, cultivated and developed which is our primary responsibility.

As our missionary Maria Luisa Garcia observes, "My ministry/work has to do, not so much working WITH the native population, but rather working FOR the native



Maria Luisa Garcia's work in the Vicariate of San Jose serves people throughout the Amazon.

population. What I mean is that the job of our office is to make sure that missionaries out at the mission posts have what they need to best serve the folks they minister to."

Your generous support allows us to serve the people in the Vicariate and to assume all the expenses for our mission there, except lodging which is the Vicariate's contribution to our mission. Students, patients, parishioners in the Amazon won't ever meet us, just like they'll never meet you, and yet, our efforts are essential for their access to education, healthcare, catechetical and other services.

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Through your partnership, IGUKA is poised to produce a new generation of skilled, ethical, and spiritually mature professionals. So, your contributions are not just funding a mission; they are igniting a beacon of hope in Kabale, Uganda.

You are an integral part of this journey and your generosity is the driving force behind the transformation of families and communities in Kabale. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being an instrument of God's providence.

Dr. Nancy Magloire, Ed.D. (right), is spearheading the education department at IGUKA in Uganda.



We Listened to You!

In response to popular demand and to ensure that your gift goes even further to support our work directly, the Annual Rose Gala 2024 will be at the Mission House and the Parish Hall of St. John the Evangelist in Los Angeles on Saturday, October 5, from 12:30 to 4:30 PM. It will be an opportunity to come together in a new setting, lowering the overhead cost, eliminating the need for evening travel, and fostering the spirit of generosity and community.

Set against the backdrop of St. Therese of Lisieux's Feast Day, our gala promises to be an uplifting celebration of mission and compassion.

Expect a day filled with joy, featuring an engaging silent auction, a sumptuous meal, and the prestigious presentation of the Ernst Ophuls and St. Therese of Lisieux awards. This year's deserving recipients, Peter & Joy Newburn who served in Cameroon and Kathy Clay from St. Cornelius Parish in Long Beach who has supported us for decades, embody the spirit of service and generosity that defines our mission.

Yet, the true highlight of the event lies in the impact of your generosity. By sponsoring and/or attending our Gala, you're not just supporting an event, you're investing in the transformative power of compassion. From the jungles of Peru to the savannahs of Ghana and the halls of St. Ignatius University Kabale in Uganda, your support will resonate far and wide, touching countless lives with its ripple effect of kindness and care. Ready to make a difference? Visit www.laymissionhelpers.org/gala and sponsor the event today. Tickets will be available for purchase in August.

Together, let's make this year's Rose Gala a celebration of compassion, service, and solidarity.



Peter and Joy Newburn (top) and Kathy Clay will be honored at this year's Rose Gala on October 5.

"I Freely Receive, so I Freely Give"



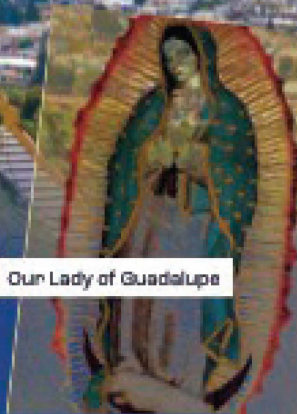
Lorraine Sampson first heard about Lay Mission-Helpers at St. John the Evangelist Church during a missionary commissioning ceremony. Inspired by their dedication, she decided to support the mission. Starting with contributions during Lent, Christmas, and our annual Gala, Lorraine (left) soon became a monthly donor.

She finds joy in giving as an expression of her faith, saying, "God blessed me with a job. I freely receive so I freely give." Lorraine encourages others to give according to their means, as every gift helps. You can join Lorraine in supporting monthly our mission at www.laymissionhelpers.org or by mail.

Aerial view of Puebla



Journey with us to Mexico Next Spring!



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas. To honor her and celebrate our 70th anniversary, join us on a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Mexico City from April 29 to May 5, 2025. All are welcome!

On this journey, you'll experience the best of Mexico's religious and cultural heritage! You'll visit the revered Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where we'll pay homage to the Patroness of the Americas and seek her intercession. You'll even get to see St. Juan Diego's tilma, which still bears the miraculous image of the Blessed Mother from 1531!

The Shrine is not the only sacred ground you'll walk! Our pilgrimage will send you to the sites of other apparitions, including the Shrine of San Miguel del Milagro, where St. Michael the Archangel appeared to Diego Lazaro back in 1631.

Our exploration will also take you to other spiritual, cultural, and historical sites all throughout Mexico City. Be captivated by the stunning cities of Puebla and Tlaxcala, each brimming with their own rich heritage and traditions. Discover the enchanting beauty of Xochimilco, often called the Venice of Mexico, as we float along its picturesque canals. Marvel at the ancient wonders of Teotihuacan, an archaeological jewel that embodies the enduring legacy of Mexico.

This pilgrimage will be led by the Lay Mission Helpers Executive Director, **Damian Kabot**, who studied and served in Mexico. He'll be accompanied by our chaplain, **Fr. Paul Redmond**, who served as a Lay Mission-Helper in Thailand before answering the call to the priesthood.

You can register and learn more about the itinerary on the pilgrimage portal versoministries.com/lay-mission-helpers.

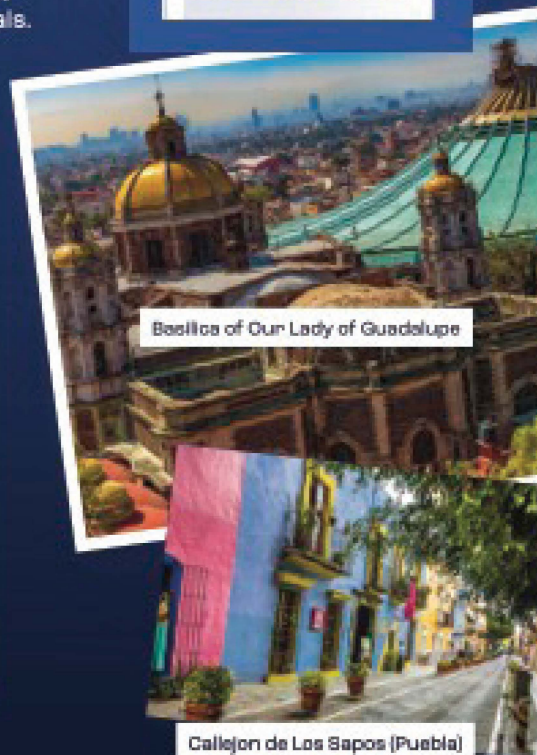
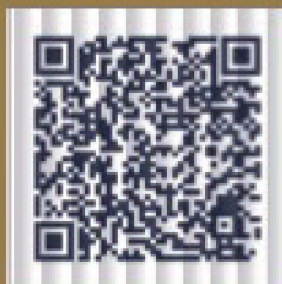
Prices start as low as \$2,385.

Get a Sneak Peek! Join us at our Zoom meeting on Jul 16, 2024, 9:00 p.m. (EDT). Register for the meeting for free here.



Registrations are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so don't wait!

Scan this code to register!



Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Callejon de Los Sapos (Puebla)

As we prepare for this sacred journey, let's unite with one another in prayer, invoking the blessings of Our Blessed Mother for our pilgrimage and all who will take part in it.