



*The Redemptorists Denver Province
Mission Advancement Ministry*

FALL 2011 † FINAL PRINT EDITION

Hope



**We Are All Called to Serve
THE POOR**

BILOXI, MS

BROOKLYN CENTER, MN

SEATTLE, WA



**Making 2 Million Friends
Keeping Hope Alive**

NEED HOPE? Please send us your email & look for our debut online issue the first quarter of 2012.



Dear Friends,

In our part of the world when we experience the trees changing colors and the weather getting cooler, we know winter is not far away. The first part of winter brings thoughts of the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

One of the most significant ways of giving thanks is by sharing one's bounty with others who do not have much.

This was brought home to me many Christmases ago when I served as pastor of our Redeemptorist parish in Minneapolis. Each year the parish was very generous in providing multiple gifts to various local agencies that ministered to people in need. In addition to that there were also special cases referred to me as pastor. In the days before Christmas I would deliver "baskets" to people who had need for something extra because this gift would be both their Christmas food and presents.

One year we helped a single-parent and her children. The next year we presumed that she could still use some help. Many of those we helped did not want to ask because they were so embarrassed by their situation. When I came to her door with a basket, she

thanked me and graciously refused the gift. "I'm doing much better this year than last," she said. "But my neighbor across the street is in the same situation I was a year ago. She can use the help this year. Give her and her kids the basket."

More recently when I was pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Seattle, the parishioners at Christmas time were very generous in donating gifts through our "giving tree." The teens at the local juvenile detention facility were some of those who benefited from this giving. More than one wrote to thank us for the surprise of receiving a Christmas gift with their own name on it.

Christmas is a time for giving and sharing and giving thanks. After all, we have received the greatest gift anyone could ever receive, a gift with our very own personal name on it: "From God with love. Jesus Christ."

*In Christ the Redeemer,
Fr. Harry Grile, C.Ss.R.
Provincial Superior, Denver Province*

P.S. I'd like to thank our loyal readers and supporters of HOPE Magazine for their years of support, and I pray that you will allow us to continue our relationship with one another through our new online version of HOPE Magazine. For our friends without email, I will be writing you every quarter with news from and about the Denver Province Redemptorists. Please be assured of our blessings and prayers for the Advent season and the New Year.

Letter From the Editor

This issue of HOPE will be our last print edition of the magazine. The donations, which have been increasing and fairly steady since our format change two years ago, have simply not kept pace with the cost of producing and mailing the magazine four times a year.

Beginning with the winter issue of 2012, we will be moving to an online version. Each quarter, we will continue to feature the multiple ministries of our Denver Province Redemptorists. Plus, we'll be adding some new features and stories that we hope will add to the magazine's appeal.

If you'd like to continue receiving HOPE, or receive it for the first time, please send your email address to me: bcrane@redemptorists-denver.org.

Thank you for your support and understanding. Have a blessed Christmas and joyous New Year.

Bruce Crane
Editor, HOPE Magazine



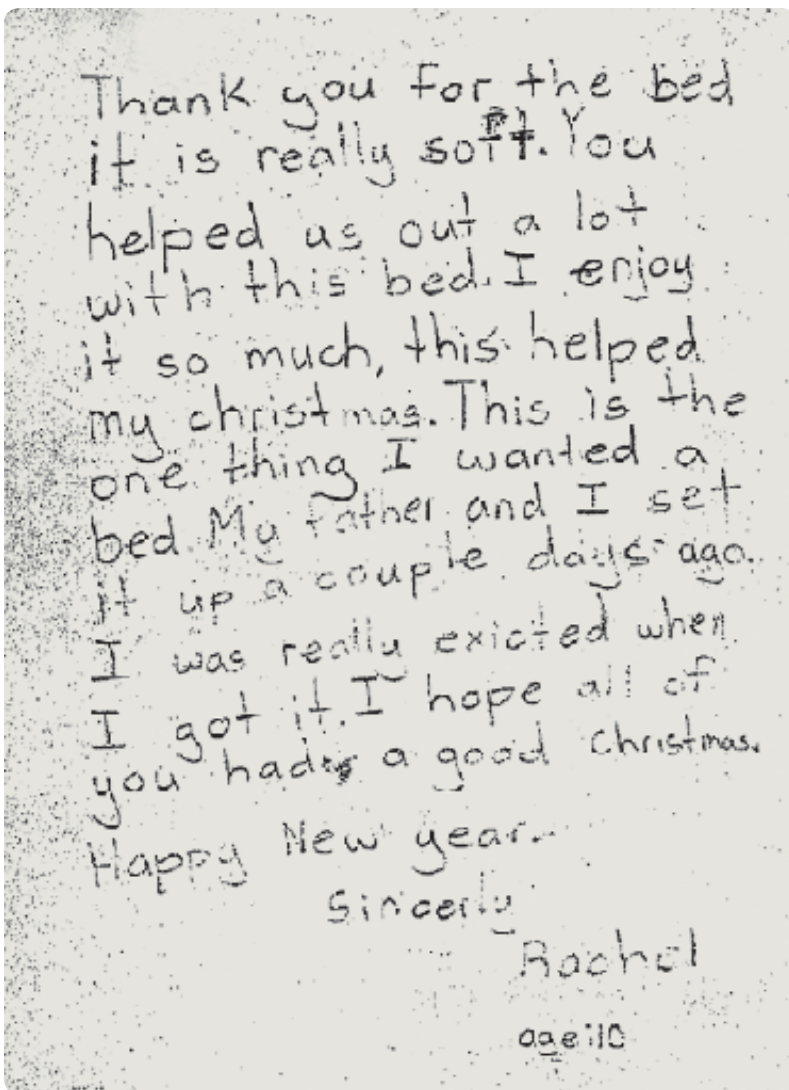
Hope

Toll Free: 866.788.0343
Denver: 303.565.5450
Email address:
bcrane@redemptorists-denver.org
redemptoristsdenver.org
OMPHicon.org



We Are All Called to Serve The Poor

*The poor will always be with us... and never more
in our hearts and minds than at Christmas.*



A little girl praying for a bed instead of a toy! How sad is that?

I'm sure we all know families that will be hoping for the bare minimum this Christmas. Many of them won't ask. The shame and embarrassment is just too painful.

For these people, Christmas has lost much of its color and appeal. All of sudden, the season of joy and gift giving has become a painful reminder of better times.

When you're losing control of your life, it's hard to get excited about a birth in Bethlehem.

People who recently knew success and comfort are now reduced to a state of mind-numbing fear, worried that they will soon be joining the ranks of the homeless.

The poor live in a world of gray. They no longer see the bright colors of hope and promise. They're living day to day, doing whatever they can just to stay warm, find food, and jump into a hot shower once in a while.

We have to use Christmas to talk about the poor. It's the one time of the year when most people are paying attention. It may be depressing but it is necessary. We owe it to them because we are all God's children.

So, to show some small measure of regard for our struggling brothers and sisters, the next few pages of this magazine will be mostly gray.



The Gloves

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
Seattle, WA**

One typical wet, cold winter morning in Seattle, a homeless man lined up for a sack lunch at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. He asked the lady handing out the lunches if they had a pair of gloves he could use. The lady went downstairs to look for a pair of men's gloves in the storage room but could not find any. She came back upstairs and told the man that there were no men's gloves. But if he didn't mind, he could have hers. The surprised man gratefully accepted the lady's gloves and went off with his sack lunch.

This is just one example of the many ways parishioners at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Seattle, working with volunteers from St.



Six Years Later

**Our Mother of Sorrows & Blessed Francis Seelos Parish
Biloxi, MS**

When you walk through Biloxi, MS today, you can still see signs of Hurricane Katrina's devastation. Piles of broken homes and wind-swept debris sit on the landscape like giant sores. You can still see people wandering once-familiar neighborhoods in search of food and shelter.

The storm not only destroyed a city; it demolished the hopes and dreams of many of its residents.

In the intervening years, hope has reemerged in the form of life-saving projects like Rebekka's House, a shelter for homeless families. Redemptorist Father Steve Wilson, pastor of Our Mother



The Gift

**Saint Alphonsus Parish
Brooklyn Center, MN**

Bob's been a resident at the home for several years now. He suffers from HIV/AIDS. His family has stopped their regular visits. He tends to keep to himself. He doesn't show a lot of emotion anymore. But last Christmas something happened...

For the past 23 years, the parishioners of St. Alphonsus Parish in Brooklyn Center, MN have been pooling their creative energies to make sure the poor and the forgotten throughout the area have something to open on Christmas morning. It is part of the "Gifts of Love" program started by the parish.

Every year, starting the weekend before Thanksgiving and run-

Vincent de Paul, help those in need at Christmas, and throughout the year. For example, in the cold months, volunteers hand out blankets, winter jackets and socks to the homeless who visit the food bank for their daily sack lunch.

Every year, the parish sponsors the Giving Tree event, which invites the public to drop off gifts and donations that help several local organizations provide for families in need. A Christmas tree is set up in the church vestibule with tags for the parishioners to pick. Each tag contains the gift wish and age of the boy or girl for which it is meant. A few days before Christmas the gifts are distributed to the various organizations so they can be wrapped and given out for Christmas day.

Last Christmas, Sacred Heart supported the Sacred Heart Shelter (for single mothers and their children), the King County

Juvenile Detention Center and the Matthew House (supports families of the incarcerated). More than 300 gifts were distributed to the three organizations combined. The parish received many letters of gratitude from the children and families who received these gifts.

Even the youth get involved. The Sacred Heart Young Adult Ministry adopts a family, collects gifts for the children, wraps the gifts during a gift-wrapping social, and then distributes them to the family for Christmas. Every year parishioners of Sacred Heart of Jesus gladly commit full participation in making this a Christmas success, for givers and receivers both! ❧

Please send your gift with the form on the back cover. Or go to www.poorandmostabandoned.org to make an online donation. Thank you.

of Sorrows and Blessed Francis Seelos parishes, is the current vice president of the board of directors for the shelter. Both parishes provide volunteers to work in the shelter. The monthly pancake breakfast, held at Blessed Seelos, not only benefits the shelter but raises awareness for homeless families throughout the area.

Father Steve's two parishes also sponsor an annual walk-a-thon to raise funds. This year they are being joined in their sponsorship by the third Redemptorist parish in Biloxi, Vietnamese Martyrs Parish.

In addition to Rebekka's house, the Redemptorists assist people in the area through the St. Martin DePorres Society. Each year, the parishes distribute roughly \$20,000 in assistance to about 200 families to help with their utility bills

and medicines. This is along with food collected and distributed at both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The local soup kitchen is also a beneficiary of the parishes' help. Fr. Steve's parishioners help with both cash and food donations. In addition, during the summer months, the parish youth involved in the summer enrichment programs spend several hours a day assisting in the kitchen.

One of the beautiful things about Christmas is that it tends to help us focus on the needs of others. And the need in Biloxi is overwhelming. ❧

Please send your gift with the form on the back cover. Or go to www.poorandmostabandoned.org to make an online donation. Thank you.

ning throughout Advent, volunteers place different colored slips of paper in the pews for people to specify whether their gifts are for a boy or a girl. Volunteers sort the presents and prepare them for distribution.

One of the stops was the home where Bob lives. The volunteer walked into his room. He was holding a present. "Merry Christmas," said the volunteer. He handed the box to Bob. He held it for a moment, staring intently at the beautiful package. The volunteer noticed Bob starting to tremble a little bit. Then he noticed tears on Bob's cheek. After a minute or so Bob looked up and said "Thank you."

That small gesture of thoughtfulness has turned a season of dread for Bob, and for thousands like him, into one of joy and happy anticipation.

To see tears flowing at these gift-opening events is not uncommon. And their gratitude is very heartwarming! Many will send handmade "Thank You" notes to show their appreciation for being remembered during Christmas.

Advent is a busy time of year for this experienced team of volunteers. But it is such rewarding work. And with God's help, they have been able to make Christmas a special time of year again for many who used to dread this holiday.

The "Gifts of Love" program could not be done without the wonderful generosity of the parishioners of St. Alphonsus. ❧

Please send your gift with the form on the back cover. Or go to www.poorandmostabandoned.org to make an online donation. Thank you.

Send Attach Insert Priority Signature To Do Categories Projects Links


From: Redemptorist Denver Province
To: All Our HOPE Readers
Cc:
Subject: Keep Hope Alive

Attachments: none

Font 10 B / U T

My Dear Friends,

Keep Hope Alive! Keep Hope Alive!



I'm not in the habit of channeling the Reverend Jesse Jackson. But his campaign slogan from the 1988 presidential campaign seemed like the perfect exclamation point to put on this last print issue of HOPE.

Beginning in January, we will be producing only an online version. It will continue as a quarterly. We simply cannot afford to do it anymore. Nor can we afford to lose you as readers and supporters.

Yet I worry that once we stop showing up in your street mailbox, you'll forget about us or assume that the need has gone away with the magazine. And I'm not quite sure what to say to keep that from happening, except perhaps to remind you that this magazine is not about the Redemptorists alone but the people on the previous pages as well.

Now, we realize a lot of you don't use the Internet or email. But you may know people who do. Perhaps you could ask them to sign up for HOPE and print you a copy. Just a thought....


For our readers who do use email, we pray that you will allow us to continue our relationship online.

For so many of the poor and abandoned around the world, it is our presence in their neighborhoods that fills them with faith, hope and love. But it is your faith in us through your financial generosity that allows us to bring hope and love to these good people overwhelmed by loss, want and despair.

Our Holy Redeemer called all of us to serve the poor. We all try in our own ways to answer that call.

I'm asking you to keep HOPE alive for us and for the people who depend on us.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you...



*In Christ the Redeemer,
Fr. Harry Grile, C.Ss.R.
Provincial Superior, Denver Province*

P.S. To continue receiving Hope, or to get it for the first time, please send an email to our editor, Bruce Crane, at bcrane@redemptorists-denver.org. Or give us a call toll free at 866.788.0343.




Keep HOPE Alive.

For Us. And For Those We Serve.

Merry Christmas.

Please send your gift with the form on the back cover.

Or go to www.poorandmostabandoned.org to make an online donation. Thank you.



Hope

Redemptorists/Denver Province
Mission Advancement Ministry
1230 S. Parker Road
Denver, CO 80231

Toll Free: 866.788.0343
Denver: 303.565.5450
redemptoristsdenver.org
OMPHicon.org

This magazine is printed on FSC Certified paper.

SERVING THE POOR All Year Long!

Our work in Biloxi, Brooklyn Center and Seattle is typical of what Redemptorists do all year long across the country and overseas. If you would like to support our work, please send a check in the enclosed envelope. Anything helps, as the poor most certainly understand. *Thank you and God bless.*

\$50 \$150 \$250 Other _____

This donation would truly help our cause.

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please Check One:

Check Cash VISA MasterCard

Amount \$ _____

Card# _____

Exp. Date _____

3 Digit Security Code _____

Please send HOPE magazine to my e-mail address above.

Please mail your payment and this form to the **Redemptorists/Denver Province** in the provided envelope. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. To make your secure gift online, please visit us on the web at www.poorandmostabandoned.org.

Help Us Gather 2 Million Friends for Our Mother

Please join our worldwide Facebook campaign to gather two million friends for Our Mother of Perpetual Help by Christmas! Right now we're just over 1.8 million friends. Share the page with your friends and family. Let's give Our Mother the gift of 2 million friends to unwrap for Christmas morning! Help us make her known!



**Our Mother of Perpetual
Help needs your Like**

OMPHicon.org/facebook



Omphicon.org

Mary, our Blessed Mother, will soon give birth to Our Lord and Savior. Like the star of David, let us light up the heavens with candles to help guide the way for those in search of Him.

Go to www.OMPHicon.org to light your candle announcing his arrival!



theMotherssaint.org

As we prepare for the coming of the Messiah, let us remember and pray for those women who are expecting a child.

Visit www.themotherssaint.org to light a candle and pray that St. Gerard Majella grant them safe and happy deliveries.