

THE MAGAZINE OF CATHOLIC MISSIONERS TO RURAL AMERICA

Glenmary Challenge

Autumn 2005

www.glenmary.org

MISSION MENTALITY

Michigan and Mississippi teens team up to serve

TRUSTING IN GOD

That's what led Christine Ramirez to Glenmary's Clintwood, Va., mission

GEORGIA'S ONION WORKERS

Searching for a better life,
giving new life to Glenmary missions

GLENMARY HOME MISSIONERS



Founded by Father William Howard Bishop in 1939, this Catholic society of priests and brothers, along with numerous coworkers, establishes the Catholic Church in small-town and rural America.

Glenmary is the only religious community devoted exclusively to serving the spiritually and materially poor in the rural U.S. home missions. Today, supported entirely through freewill offerings, it staffs over 60 missions and ministries in Appalachia, the South and the Southwest.

Glenmary missionaries serve in areas where less than three percent of the population is Catholic, a significant percent have no church affiliation and the poverty rate is almost twice the national average. Glenmary is known for deeply respecting the many cultures encountered in the home missions—Appalachian, Native American, African American and Latino among others. Its missionary activity includes building Catholic communities, fostering ecumenical cooperation, evangelizing the unchurched, social outreach and working for justice.



FATHER WILLIAM HOWARD BISHOP
Glenmary Founder

GLENMARY CHALLENGE

This quarterly magazine has three goals: to educate Catholics about the U.S. home missions, to motivate young men to consider Glenmary priesthood or brotherhood, and to invite all Catholics to respond to their baptismal call to be missionary by partnering with Glenmary as financial contributors, prayer partners, professional coworkers and/or volunteers.

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Look at that spider web!

FROM THE EDITOR / Karen Hurley

The one on page 4, that is! This is the headline I wanted to use on Father Dan Dorsey's column, but he insisted on "Arachnophobia revisited!"—and he's publisher! So I stole the headline for this page.

For me, these words seem almost like a mantra for Christian living. They provide a reminder to pay attention, to look beyond first impressions and, most important, to not let fear blind us to God's creation (like a spider web)—or to God's incarnate presence (in migrant onion workers like the one on our cover).

So read Father Dan's column (page 4) about the importance of putting aside any fears of spiders in order to notice the beauty of a spider web.

Then read Father Vic Subb's article (page 9). The headline on this story could have read: *Look at these onion workers!*

He tells of the plight of the field workers who put Vidalia onions—and so many other items—on our tables. But he also sees the beauty in these workers and in the faith and life they share with one another and with the Glenmary missions that reach out to them.

To continue with my mantra: *Look at these young people!*—the ones from Midland, Mich., and Eupora, Miss., that Peggy Gabriel writes about on page 15. Anyone who worries about what's happening to kids today needs to put

aside their preconceptions and read about the can-do spirit of these mission-minded teens.

And can-do spirit is not limited to the young. Glenmary pastoral coordinator Christine Ramirez shows what a woman who trusts in God can do when she decides to go back to school at age 50. See what she is doing in Glenmary's mission in Clintwood, Va. (page 14).

Look at everyone in this issue!—the missionaries, the people in the missions, the partners in mission. If you really take time to notice, you will get a glimpse of the kingdom of God in our midst. ✚

Look at all the people in these pages!



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COVER PHOTO / TONY BARBOUR

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Arachnophobia revisited

Like dew on a spider's web, missionaries illuminate God's presence in our world!

Walking to the office early one morning, I was silently grumbling because my shoes were wet and getting covered with yesterday's newly mowed grass. It was a late summer morning and the dew was particularly heavy—so much so that I wondered if there had been a light rain during the night. But as I approached the office entranceway, I was stopped abruptly in my tracks by an amazing sight in the bushes that line the sidewalk.

What caught my attention was *a spider web*. The heavy dew of the morning illuminated the web. The effect, a combination of sunlight and dew, was mesmerizing. I marveled at how delicate and intricate it was, yet I was also reminded of a satellite photo of a hurricane—with the eye surrounded by a great swirling mass of white.

Now before you drop this magazine and run away screaming (I know many of us suffer from arachnophobia), take a moment and reflect with me on this image of a spider web.

How many mornings had I walked by the web and never noticed it? In a sense it was the dew that brought the spider web to life and to my attention.

Our fear of spiders (also known as “Little Miss Muffet syndrome”) should not keep us from admiring the exquisiteness of their work. The web they weave is often poetic in its beauty.

God's love and activity surrounds us every

day and in every circumstance of our lives. Yet, like the spider web, it often goes unnoticed because our thoughts are elsewhere and our days are busy. The pace of our lives is frenetic. We drive, eat and talk on our cell phones—all at the same time! A Carly Simon song a few years back succinctly summarized this way of life: “I haven't got time for the pain!”

It is easy to be oblivious to God's love and presence in our world—to figuratively and literally “walk right by it” every day. Jesus chides us with his observation that we “have eyes but we do not see.”

The task of a Glenmary missionary is to share this good news: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16). Gathering people for the Eucharist, building homes, helping the transient, driving someone to chemotherapy, delivering meals to shut-ins, visiting other Christian churches—all of these activities of a missionary are like the heavy morning dew that brings God's love and the presence of Jesus to our attention.

The missionary's ministry proclaims that God's love surrounds us. All we need to do is *notice* it.

Whether a missionary is responding to people's spiritual or physical needs, it is the presence of Jesus that makes a difference. And it is this presence that the missionary seeks to illuminate.

The missionary's goal is to help people see something that was always there but often goes unnoticed: the beauty of God and the joy and the hope that God brings to our lives.

So the next time you see a spider web, don't be frightened away like Little Miss Muffet. Instead, think of the Glenmary priests, brothers and coworkers who are laboring to illuminate the presence of God in the mission regions of the United States—and the important role you play as our partners in this home mission ministry. ✚



FATHER DAN DORSEY
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PHOTO / BROTHER TOM KELLY

MESMERIZING: The presence of dew—like the presence of Jesus—makes all the difference.

Glenmary news & notes

MEN IN FORMATION

Four novices begin new program at Maple Mount

*Glenmary welcomes
largest class of novices
since 1991*

[KENTUCKY] Members of the largest Glenmary novitiate class since 1991 began the first year of a new two-year program on July 15 in Maple Mount, Ky. Austine Duru, Dennis Makokha, Uwem Enoch and Leonard Mulama, will be led through this time of intense prayer and reflection by novice director Father Dave Glockner and Father Tom Kirkendoll.

The first year of novitiate offers “a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the novices to step back from everyday life, spend more time in prayer and concentrate on their spiritual lives and human growth,” says Father Dave.

The second year is spent in a supervised mission setting allowing the novices to learn more about Glenmary ministry firsthand. Because two of the current novices—Austine Duru and Dennis Makokha—have already spent extended periods in mission settings, they will forgo their second year of novitiate and become eligible to make First Oath next summer. Leonard and



PHOTO / JERRY BIRGE

NEW NOVICES: Uwem Enoch, Austine Duru, Dennis Makokha and Leonard Mulama at the Glenmary novitiate in Maple Mount, Ky.

Uwem will be placed in a mission setting for one year before making First Oath.

The entire Glenmary formation program was recently revamped using the model of pre-novitiate, novitiate and post-novitiate. The men in pre-novitiate will spend one year in the Glenmary House of Studies in Hartford, Ky., and then advance to the novitiate. In post-novitiate men will continue with appropriate education.

According to Father Dave, the novitiate experience is a chance for mutual discernment by the Glenmary community and by the novices. It is also a time for novices to further authenticate God’s call to the Glenmary way of life.

New to the position of novice director, Father Dave says the first month of the program has been an opportunity for the novices, Father Tom and him to get to know each other and to become familiar with their new home. The novitiate house is located on 750 acres owned by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph. “Their motherhouse is here and we share lunch with the sisters each day,” Father Dave says. “It’s very rural and quiet—an ideal environment for meditation and prayer.”

The four novices:

Austine Duru, 30, is a native of Nigeria. He has been with Glenmary since 2002 and, after novitiate, will complete his theology

studies at Catholic Theological Union.

Dennis Makokha, 30, is a native of Kenya. He spent the past year in the candidacy program, now the pre-novitiate, in Hartford, Ky. The year before he lived in the House of Residency in Owingsville, Ky. He has been with Glenmary since 2003 and is pursuing priesthood.

Uwem Enoch, 31, is from Nigeria and comes to Maple Mount after one year in the Owingsville House of Residency. He is pursuing ordination and has been with Glenmary since 2004.

Leonard Mulama, 31, is a native of Kenya and, like Uwem, comes to the novitiate from the House of Residency. Leonard, with Glenmary since 2004, is discerning between priesthood and brotherhood.

The novices’ days are structured, filled with prayer, reflection, meditation and classes such as the history of Glenmary, a history of Christian spirituality and human development. Some of the classes are more practical in nature, such as their recent cooking class taught by one of the Ursuline sisters!

“The program is solid,” Father Dave says, “and things have gone very well this first month. I think it’s been—and will continue to be—a very enriching experience for all of us.”

FAMILY IN MISSION

Guatemalan family serves U.S. missions

[MISSISSIPPI] After only six weeks in his new position as pastoral minister for outreach at Glenmary's mission in Eupora Miss., Lorenzo Ajú and two of his four children went on a mission trip to the Glenmary Farm. (See page 15.) Lorenzo, newly arrived from Guatemala, calls the experience in rural Kentucky a good introduction to the cultural difference between the United States and his homeland.

This week-long immersion into a mostly English-speaking

group will serve him well upon his return to Eupora, says Lorenzo, who is the brother of Luis



AJÚS: Lorenzo with children Chito and Magda.

Ajú, the Glenmary pastoral associate in Pontotoc, Miss.

"English is Lorenzo's *third* language," says Sister Alies Thérèse, pastoral coordinator of the Eupora mission. "His first is *Quiche* [pronounced *key-che*], a native dialect. And, of course, he also speaks Spanish."

Before coming to Mississippi Lorenzo was a pastoral minister in a Guatemalan parish.

Around the Missions

❖ **Father Tom Charters** began his new assignment as pastor of Glenmary's three missions in **Logan County, W.Va.**, June 15. He previously served as Glenmary's director of novices.

❖ **Father John Brown** arrived in **South Georgia** July 15 to assume the pastorate of the Glenmary missions in Swainsboro and Metter. He previously pastored missions in Oklahoma.

❖ **Father Bob Dalton** began his new pastorate of three Glenmary missions in **Northeast Mississippi** (Aberdeen, Okolona and Houston) Aug. 29. He previously served as director of Glenmary's Pastoral Coordinator Program.

❖ **Father Tim Murphy** moved to Mississippi's Pontotoc County on Aug. 29 to become pastor of Glenmary's mission in **Pontotoc, Miss.** He had pastored Aberdeen, Miss., and its satellite missions in Okolona and Houston for the past 13 years.

❖ **Father Don Tranel** moved to **Oklahoma** Aug. 29 to pastor three missions (Idabel, Plunketville and Valliant). He previously served as pastor of Glenmary's Pontotoc, Miss., mission and of the mission in New Albany which was returned to the Diocese of Jackson in January 2005.

❖ As of July 1 Glenmary has another new mission in **North Carolina: Washington County**, adjacent to Bertie County, where Glenmary arrived a year ago. **Father Mike Langell** will pastor both counties, with **Rebecca Boudreaux**, based in Plymouth, serving as pastoral associate for Washington County.

❖ To achieve better integration of services and more effective use of personnel, Glenmary's Department of Pastoral Services is now the **Department of Pastoral Ministers and Pastoral Services**. The department will recruit, train and support pastoral coordinators, pastoral associates and multicultural workers.

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PHOTOS / COURTESY VOCATION OFFICE

CALL TO MISSION: Fathers Bruce Brylinski, Steve Pawelk and Vic Subb bless and send forth participants at the close of Glenmary's Young Adult Gathering in Cullman, Ala.

VOCATIONS

Glenmary extends vocation invitation to mission youth

'Hearts on Fire: Mission for Christ' attracts both English- and Spanish-speakers from three states

[ALABAMA] Nineteen young people from Glenmary missions in Arkansas, Kentucky and Mississippi gathered in Cullman, Ala., July 29-31 to reflect on their call to mission. The Glenmary Young Adult Gathering, for young men and women 18-30, was sponsored by Glenmary's vocation office.

"We wanted to focus on everyone's baptismal call to be missionary," says Father Steve Pawelk, Glenmary's vocation director. Working from the theme "Hearts on Fire: Mission for Christ," Father Steve says the weekend "gave young people a chance to interact with lay ministry professionals as well as religious sisters, brothers and priests whose hearts are on fire about mission life."

Through that interaction, participants were able to discuss what it means to be missionary in a broader way, learning that they don't have to be professed or ordained to carry out their baptismal mandate. Yet they were also able to see how those who are

professed and ordained work and minister in the missions.

Four young men asked to remain in contact with Glenmary's vocation office and three young women expressed interest in exploring religious life. Others saw ways they could become more active in their mission parishes.

Prayer, workshops and entertainment filled the retreat-like weekend—with many participants saying that this weekend was too short. Glenmary Brother David Henley and Fathers Bruce Brylinski and Vic Subb participated along with many coworkers.

"This is a very positive thing for these young people and for Glenmary," Father Steve says. "Many times young people in the small towns Glenmary serves think they can't make a difference. But this weekend, they learned that's not true. They *can* make a difference. It doesn't matter where they live. It's what they do and believe."

Of the 19 participants, 12 were Spanish-speaking, so workshops

were given in both English and Spanish. "Language was not a barrier," Father Steve says. "If anything, it actually brought participants together as they helped each other communicate."

The vocation office hopes to offer a scaled-down version of this experience in Advent and Lent. These one-day retreats will offer a chance for reflection and continued exploration of mission in the lives of young people from Glenmary missions. The longer weekend may be held every two years.



HEARTS ON FIRE: Kyle Brandon (left), associate vocation director, introduces musician Sam Rocha in Cullman, Ala.

ADOPT A MISSION

Green Bay diocese challenges its parishes to reach out

Catholics must 'go forth and live the Eucharist,' pastoral services director says

[WISCONSIN] Support for home missions received a great boost in the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis., following Diocesan Stewardship Day in March. The event, held annually, featured the importance of supporting home mission ministry through adopting mission parishes, or "twinning." Three Green Bay parishes currently twin with Glenmary missions, and three others have expressed interest since the Stewardship Day.

The day was organized by Tom Donovan, Green Bay's consultant for pastoral services. Tom and his wife, Maureen, members of St. Raphael Parish in Oshkosh, were instrumental in beginning their parish's relationship with a Glenmary mission. They first adopted Holy Spirit in Hamburg, Ark. When that mission was returned to the Diocese of Little Rock in July 2003, St. Raphael followed Glenmary Father Neil Pezzulo to his new assignment where they established a relationship with St. Jude Thaddeus, the Glenmary mission in Waldron, Ark.

"Father Neil is really a friend, now," says Tom. "The knowledge we've gained from our relationship with his missions fits well with what we wanted to share on Stewardship Day."

Packets of information prepared for each of the 85 participants included copies of Glenmary's *Home Mission News*, issues of *Glenmary Challenge* and Glenmary's brochure outlining its Adopt-a-Mission Program. (This brochure can be downloaded at www.glenmary.org. Search "Adopt-a-Mission.")



PHOTO / DENIS L'EMPEREUR

PARISHIONERS RESPOND: A group from Resurrection Parish in Green Bay, Wis., visited their adopted mission in Okolona, Miss., in May to renovate additional classrooms for Project EXCEL, a community education center. From left: Sheila DeLuca, Mike Grzeca and Judy L'Empereur.

Tom and the other presenters also made liberal use of the map from Glenmary's Religious Congregations & Membership Study showing the percent Catholic in every county in the United States. (Available at www.glenmary.org/grc/RCMS_2000/maps.htm.)

"In Wisconsin, most of our towns have a majority of Catholics, so it's good for people to see the number of places in the U.S. where Catholics might be one percent of the population or less," Tom says.

People from Wisconsin's adopting parishes make periodic trips to visit their adopted Glenmary missions. And St. Raphael recently hosted young people from

Waldron, Ark., all members of the Hispanic community there. The Arkansas youth gave a talk and conducted a service to give their northern friends an idea of the importance of *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead)—or what we celebrate as All Souls Day on Nov. 2. Such exchanges give twinned parishes the opportunity to share prayer, culture and knowledge.

"It's important to emphasize the message that stewardship is a way of life, not just a matter of giving financial resources," Tom says. "As we're sent forth from the Eucharist, the last prayer is for us to go forth and *live* the Eucharist. By sharing outside of ourselves, we can do just that."

Building Church in South Georgia's ONION FIELDS

Reaching out to serve the needs of Vidalia onion workers has given life to small mission parishes.

By Father Vic Subb

We turn off the main highway to begin our trek down a winding, dusty road. Two members of Holy Trinity Church in Swainsboro and I are on our way to visit a migrant camp hidden amidst the pine trees of South Georgia. Our van is filled with food, clothes and medicine for newly arrived onion workers from south of the border.

The road ends and, as we make our way a few more yards up a narrow path, the camp appears: one large cinder-block barrack, with a kitchen, divided into about 10 smaller rooms (where families live) and a group of falling-down trailers suffering from years of neglect. This camp, home for about 120 people, has one open shower room, one bathroom and one telephone.

Migrant camps like this one are often located a long distance from the main road. And when you find one, you enter a way of life that few of us ever see or know about. The first impression of Glenmary Brother David Henley when he recently visited a South Georgia migrant camp was that he had entered a Third World country.

The purpose of this day's visit is to see if the new-



PHOTOS / COURTESY TONY BARBOUR

PRESENCE: Glenmary pastoral associate Tony Barbour greets an onion worker in the fields during the spring harvest season.

ly arrived onion workers are OK. Do they have food? Are there medical needs? What are their concerns—spiritual and otherwise? After their often traumatic and dangerous journeys, it is reassuring for these workers to know that someone cares—and that the Catholic Church is present to them.

Usually they have been transported across the country for two or three days without food. When they arrive at the camp, they are often faced with some period of idle time before work begins—which means no pay. Since they have no money, they must depend on meals brought in and sold on credit at inflated prices.

For many years Catholics in South Georgia have been there to help with the needs of the newly arrived. The

generosity of parishes in the Diocese of Savannah along with the generosity of many who send gifts from around the country allow Glenmarians and Glenmary missions to help these fellow Catholics with food and medicine—and to be present to them.

On a recent trip to one of the migrant camps, I met four men who had bad burns on their ▶



EUCHARIST: Father Brian LaBurt celebrates Mass at a camp for onion workers near Reidsville, Ga. Night-time temperatures during the fall planting season can dip to near freezing.

◀ legs and feet. They had been transported with 16 others in an RV from Phoenix, Ariz. They were piled, in prone positions, one on top of the other for the cross-country trip—and these four men

were on the bottom. They had to lay the whole way, immobile, right on top of a hot muffler.

Two of the burned men, brothers Francisco and Carlos, could hardly walk because their feet had been so severely burned. But the contractor told them to get to work immediately because the onions needed to be harvested. And they did try to work because their wives and children needed money to eat back home in Mexico.

Within a week's time, however, Francisco and Carlos ended up in the hospital. And, after several weeks of treatment, they returned home to Mexico, still unable to walk without assistance.

Glenmarians have always sought to serve the poor. Father Brian LaBurt, pastor of Glen-

mary's St. Christopher mission in Claxton, has long been a familiar sight in the onion fields. He and his parishioners visit often during the spring and fall migrant season. He celebrates Masses in the fields, brings food and blankets and a message of hope.

And Glenmary Brother David Henley's keen interest in better understanding the life of migrant workers led him to volunteer to work with some other men in the tobacco fields.

It was hot, Brother David reports. Yet the men carrying the tobacco leaves *ran* from the stalks to the trailer—always under the threatening gaze of the owner who kept shouting, "If you leave one leaf on the stalk, I will beat you with the stalk." Brother David's aches and pains after just one day of field work testified to the difficult labor of migrant field workers.

I am always amazed, however, at the sense of community and



HOT SOUP: Glenmary missions provide hot soup and warm clothing. Most onion workers are not prepared for Georgia's cool fall evenings.

support among these field workers. “We help each other get up.” “We support one another.” These are the kind of comments I always hear.

In the close society of a migrant camp, there is life.

Reaching out to these needy Catholic brothers and sisters has given life to Glenmary’s small South Georgia mission parishes. And the love and support migrants have received from these parishes over the years has led many to settle in the area. Some of the best lay leaders in Glenmary’s churches in Metter and Swainsboro were first introduced to South Georgia through the onion fields. These include seven music ministers and lay catechists.

The onion fields may not seem like a “field of dreams” to most of

us. But they offer hope for a better way of life for these workers and their families back home.

After ministering to migrant workers for 15 years—first in Arkansas and then in Georgia—I have come to greatly appreciate these workers’ deep faith in God, their love of family and their desire to do the U.S. agricultural work that no one else wants to do.

When someone asks me, “Why serve the migrants?” here is my answer: First, they are poor and Jesus commands us to serve the poor. Second, most are Catholic. And, third, I find life in their presence.

My best Christmas experience as a missionary was a Christmas Eve Mass in a chicken coop in

Arkansas with pine tree planters. More than 70 men, young and old, huddled in this cold, stark building that they called home. The sense of community, the singing—it lifted my soul to experience the joy of Christ’s birth. It was my first Christmas as a priest.

It is down the road less travelled that we find the migrant workers who put the food on our tables. It is in our hearts that we discover they are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. ✚

FATHER VIC SUBB *pastored Glenmary missions in Swainsboro and Metter, Ga., since 2000. He has recently moved to Hartford, Ky., to become the director of Glenmary’s pre-novitiate program.*

Vidalia onion workers: facts and figures

By Father John S. Rausch

In 1931, when Mose Coleman harvested his onion crop in Toombs County, Ga., he discovered an onion without the usual heat and sharp taste. Vidalia onions, named for the town at the hub of a 50-mile production radius and later promoted as the “world’s sweetest onion,” owe their mild flavor to the unique combination of soil and climate in southeast Georgia.

Although Vidalia onions can be grown in a 20-county area, the bulk of the crop comes from counties served by, or close to, Glenmary missions: Candler, Appling, Montgomery, Tattnell, Toombs, Treutlin and Wheeler. About 140 growers cultivate approximately 14,000 acres of Vidalia

onions with a market value of \$75 million.

The sweet Vidalias furnish a livelihood for the growers, while offering employment to more than 9,000 migrant workers who plant the crop from September through February and harvest it from late April through mid-June. About 70 percent of these onion workers follow the migrant stream during the season starting first in Texas, then moving to Georgia, and finishing in Washington State. Only a few Vidalia onion farmers have housing for their workers, so most migrants rent from private trailer parks at inflated prices.

Harvesting Vidalias during the six-week picking season pays only 75 cents per 50-pound sack.



BACK-BREAKING LABOR: Onion workers plant Vidalia onions in the fall and winter. The crop is harvested in the spring.

New workers must scramble to make a minimum wage of \$250 to \$300 a week. But experienced workers generally double that production, earning weekly between \$450 to \$600. Still, migrant workers find no certainties. Bad weather means no work,

and scorching heat can threaten their health.

Meanwhile, few customers realize the contribution of farmers and field workers as they purchase the sweet Vidalias at their local supermarket for about 99 cents a pound.

THEN & NOW

Calling all U.S. Catholics

Mission education—always a top priority for Glenmary

Father William Howard Bishop, Glenmary's founder, always knew that the home mission challenge was bigger than his small society could tackle alone. The only hope was to sound that challenge loud and clear so that Catholics all over the United States would respond to their baptismal call to be missionary—right here at home! That's why, even before Glenmary's official founding in 1939, Father Bishop published the first issue of *The Challenge* to begin this mission education process.

Over the years mission education has taken many forms—from mission awareness talks in parishes and schools to circulating maps that reveal the extent of home mission need to an Internet presence at www.glenmary.org.



▲ **1938:** The first issue of what has become Glenmary's primary tool for mission education. Today's name: *Glenmary Challenge*.

PHOTO / JEAN BACH



▲ **1999:** Father John Rausch, left, is cofounder of the Appalachian Study Tour program. The annual immersion experience, led by Father John for members of the Catholic Press Association, offers opportunities to experience the home missions firsthand. Those experiences are turned into stories and shared with the larger Church through diocesan or national media outlets.

PHOTO / GLENMARY ARCHIVES



▲ **1950s:** Eye-catching displays designed by Father Pat O'Donnell (upper left) during his years in Glenmary's Promotion Office brought the needs of the home missions to Catholic youth at youth fairs around the country.

► **2000:** Maps have always played a key role in Glenmary's mission education efforts. This map, based on data gathered for *Religious Congregations & Membership in the United States: 2000*, highlights mission need in Appalachia, the South and Southwest—the blue area Glenmary calls "Mission Land, USA." Earlier generations were alerted to home mission need by Glenmary's No-Priest-Land map, similar to the one on the first issue of *The Challenge* (page 12).

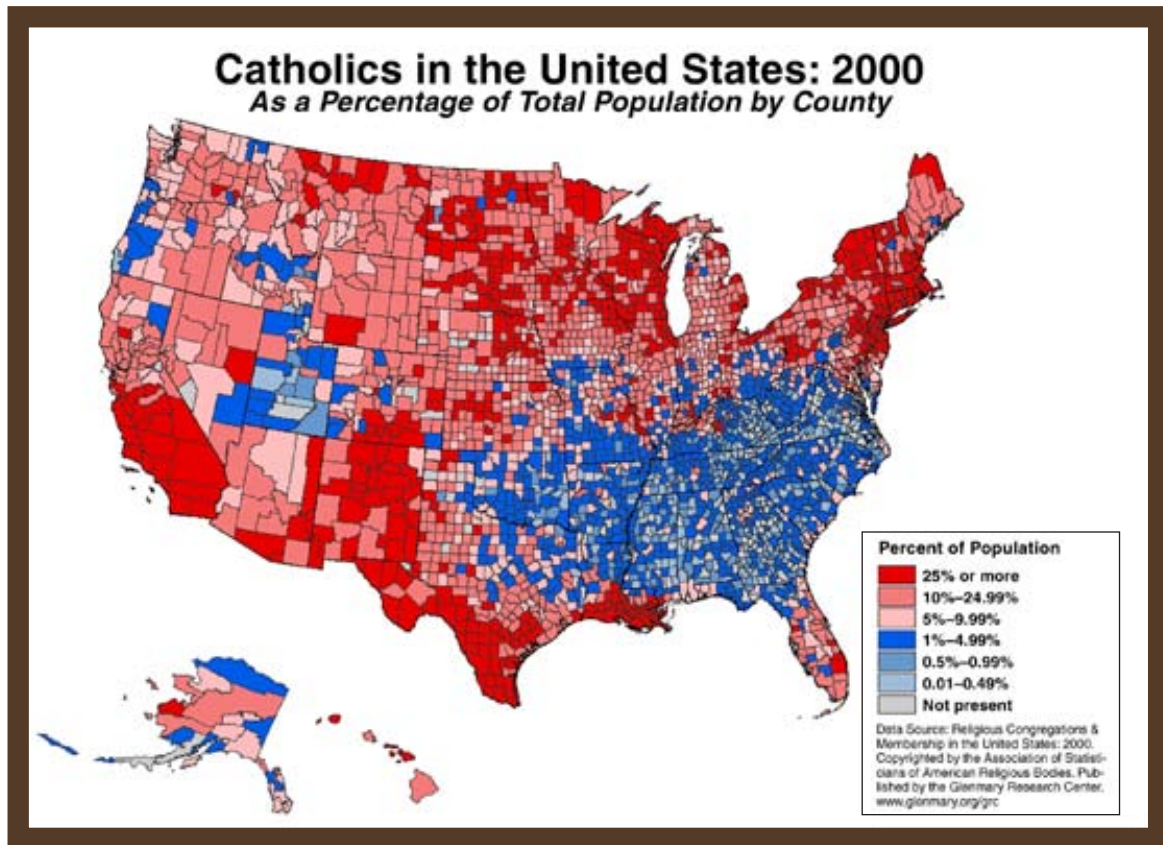


PHOTO / COURTESY ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY

▲ **2003:** Father Gus Guppenberger spends much of his time educating about mission. This year he will give at least 17 mission awareness presentations in parishes across the country. He also talks with school groups like this one in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, where he spent a week in 2003 visiting five schools. Wherever he travels he finds that many people are surprised to learn of the mission need in our own country.



PHOTO / COURTESY HOLY SPIRIT MISSION

▲ **2005:** Glenmary sponsored a Home Mission Essay Contest in Glenmary dioceses, asking high school seniors to reflect on their baptismal call to be missionary. Father Mike Kerin presents a \$500 prize to his parishioner Savannah Watts, winner in the Birmingham diocese.

Serving Dickenson County, Va.

Trust in God led pastoral coordinator Christine Ramirez exactly where she needs to be.

God puts you where he knows you'll do best," says Christine Ramirez, pastoral coordinator of Glenmary's Clintwood, Va., mission. "It may not be doing what *you* thought you wanted, but if you trust in God, you will end up exactly where you need to be."

This convert to Catholicism, mother of three, grandmother and great-grandmother started college for the first time at age 50 at Loyola-Marymount in California. She lived with first-year students in the dorms for three years as she pursued a degree in pastoral ministry.

From there she worked for a parish in California before serving as a pastoral associate in a small Iowa parish and moving on to teach family ministry for the Diocese of Lafayette, Indiana.

"It was in Indiana that I became familiar with Glenmary," she says. She saw Glenmary's ad in *National Catholic Reporter* for a pastoral coordinator. She applied, interviewed and for the last five years has led St. Joseph Church in Clintwood.

Dickenson County is far removed from the corn fields of Iowa and Indiana. Approximately 17,000 people, 50 percent over the age of 50, live in its 300 mountainous square miles. The unemployment rate is a whopping 15-17 percent. And the next closest Catholic church is 30 miles away.

The numbers can seem daunting, but Christine chooses to focus on all the good she has found in this secluded area of Southwest Vir-

ginia. "I love mountain living," she says. "I knew from the time of my interview that this was the type of parish that I really wanted to be a part of. There are multiple ministries and everyone is involved. It's truly life-giving."

There are about 35 people registered at the mission parish, with several families in RCIA preparing to enter the Church next Easter. "Many times these families bring their extended family with them," she says. This is quite a change from some years ago when most local people looked at the Catholic Church with suspicion.


"People seem to be losing their fear of the Catholic Church," she says, perhaps in part because of her weekly column for the local newspaper dispelling Catholic myths and providing basic information about what Catholics believe. And, she says, Catholics are very visible in the county: providing health care and home repair and providing computer job-skill centers.

One elderly Baptist woman told Christine that she isn't sure if Catholicism is right or not, but "everything you write in that paper is right!"

The members of the mission also help other local organizations in their outreach ministries. All of this, Christine says, is part of Catholics being more accepted into the community and helping build a community that works together. Almost every one of the 35 registered parishioners is involved in some form of outreach.

St. Joseph members are also focusing on enhancing their liturgy as part of their celebration of the Year of the Eucharist. They have hired a musician, which they have never had before, and are busy learning to sing the parts of the Mass. In addition, they are studying about Eucharist and liturgy as the foundation of Catholicism. Glenmary Father Bob Rademacher also helps enhance their liturgies as the mission's sacramental minister. "And we're blessed to have him," she says.

She talks a lot about the blessings of her life, including her family with whom she maintains daily contact via e-mail.

"The blessings carry us through," she says. She believes that if we "are faithful in following where the Spirit leads, then things will flow no matter the obstacles." 

'The blessings carry us through.'



PHOTO / BROTHER BOB HOFFMAN

OUTREACH: Christine Ramirez (left) in one of the outreach centers run by her Clintwood, Va., mission where, she says, "Ordinary people do extraordinary things."



PHOTO / MARY LOU OWCZARZAK, MSSP

WORKING TOGETHER: Jaime Hernandez (Eupora, Miss.) joins Brian Urbanovich (left, Jersey City, N.J.), Katherine Kummeth and Michelle Leppel (both from Midland, Mich.) to sort donated items for The Something Else Shoppe in Vanceburg, Ky. Volunteer director Joe Grosek is on the right.

¡SÍ SE PUEDE! NO PROBLEM!

This slogan captured the can-do spirit of the young people from 'twinned' parishes in Michigan and Mississippi who joined each other for a mission trip to the Glenmary Farm.

By Margaret Gabriel

The higher the sun rose in the sky and the hotter it got, the quieter the workers became—as if talking and joking would take too much of the energy needed for weeding between the rows of peppers, tomatoes, corn, beans and onions in the good-sized “kitchen garden” at the Glenmary Farm. As the weeders finished, they knocked the dirt from their hands, dumped the last wheelbarrow of weeds in the large pile and said, “*Sí se puede!*” (“We are able!”).

This was the phrase the kids from the Glenmary mission in Eupora, Miss., used as a rallying

cry—and they shared it with the youth from their “twinned” parish in Midland, Mich. The groups were participating in a joint mission trip to the Glenmary Farm in Vanceburg, Ky.

Momentum for the trip began in October 2004 when Sister Alies Thérèse, pastoral coordinator of Glenmary’s missions in Ackerman and Eupora, Miss., visited these missions’ adopting parish, Blessed Sacrament in Midland, Mich. Sister Alies and the Michigan youth ministers discussed a way for the folks from their respective parishes to work together towards, what she calls, “a ▶

All Christians are called to be missionaries—whether from big parishes or small missions!

◀ mission mentality.”

“When we live in the missions, we can begin thinking that people have to be helping us and doing for us all the time,” Sister Alies says. “But all Christians are called to be missionaries, not just people in big parishes.”

Sister Alies suggested that, in an effort to live up to their baptismal call, youth from the Michigan and Mississippi parishes could gather at the Glenmary Farm, a place where young people (and some not-so-young people!) come for an experience of service, mission education, prayer and reflection shared in an environment of simple living.

Since Blessed Sacrament’s youth ministry collaborates with nearby St. Brigid and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parishes, their youth would also be included in the mission trip.

But when Sister Alies returned home to Mississippi and began planning for the trip with the youth in her area, one obstacle after another seemed to stand in the way. “At times we didn’t think we could make this trip happen,” she says. “But every time something went right or we made something happen, we said, ‘*Sí se puede!*’”

The literal translation of the phrase is “we are able,” but Sister Alies says that Eupora youth began to use the phrase to mean “no problem.” And the trip was finally made.

The four young people Sister Alies brought to Vanceburg, all of them Hispanic, and the 10 youth and four chaperones from



PHOTO / COURTESY ST. JOHN NEUMANN MISSION

YOUNG MISSIONARIES: Sister Alies Thérèse (center) and Lorenzo Ajú (right) are surrounded by the young people from Glenmary’s Eupora, Miss., mission that went “on mission” to the Glenmary Farm.

Michigan blended with the other groups visiting the Farm the week of June 18: students from St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago and St. Peter’s Prep in Jersey City, N.J. The young people, over 40 in all, were divided into six groups that every day went to work sites that included a home construction site, the local nursing home and a day program for the developmentally disabled.

“One thing that really changed me was the nursing home,” says Jaime Hernandez, a junior from Eupora High School. “I saw a sign outside some of the rooms that said, ‘Don’t walk by, come in and say hello.’ And I did. People were very happy to see me and I was surprised that a little thing like saying ‘hi’ could mean everything in the world to them.”

In the coming year, Paula Dachsteiner, youth minister at St. Brigid in Midland, hopes to

involve those who went to the Farm from Michigan in retreats in which they can give witness to their experiences working with their fellow volunteers from Mississippi.

“And we’d like for them to make a display of pictures that they’ve taken and quotes about the things they’ve learned,” she says. “Hopefully this trip will be a stepping stone for them to participate in other mission trips.”

Chrissy Fritsch, a junior at Midland High School and a member of St. Brigid Parish, calls her week at the Farm “the best week I’ve ever had. It was fun to work together and to meet people from other places.”

Chrissy was assigned to a group with Chito Ajú, from Eupora, and was often called on to translate English to Spanish and Spanish to English, using the Spanish she has studied in school. “And I liked hanging out with Magda [Chito’s sister]. We would sit and talk and found out that we had a lot in common.”

As they got to know each other better, the students from the twinned parishes found they had many more things in common than divided them. And a desire to be of service to others was one of them.

“In 1948 Father Bishop [Glenmary’s founder] wrote about the importance of changing entrenched thinking,” Sister Alies says. “The Farm really gives people [like the youth from Michigan and Mississippi] the opportunity to think in a different way!” ✚

Missouri parish supports its 'sons'

Through the Sons of Dominic Savio, missionaries are supported at home and abroad.

Jack Magee recalls a Mission Sunday 13 years ago when Father Dan Dorsey spoke at the Masses at St. Dominic Savio Church in Afton, Mo. A son of the parish, Father Dan was then serving Glenmary missions in the tomato-growing region of southeastern Arkansas.

It was on that Sunday that Jack's parish decided to take a significant step in supporting missionary activity both at home and overseas.

"Father Dan didn't talk about 'tomatoes,' but 'tomaters,'" Jack remembers. "He also talked about the people who picked the tomatoes and were paid five cents a pound at the time. And he also talked about the people who grew the tomatoes and received only a few pennies more per pound—all while we paid a dollar a pound for them in the stores," Jack says. "Father Dan asked, 'Where is the justice in that?'"

Father Dan's question of justice and the stories of the people he served in Mission Land, USA, struck a chord among members of the parish where he grew up and where his mother, Celeste Dorsey, has been a member since 1951.

"I thought the parish should support missionaries with ties to our parish," Jack says, "partly as an obligation of the parish family to assist our own and partly as a spiritual effort to be involved in their mission work." In addition to Father Dan, another son of the parish, Jesuit Father Dick Perl, was serving as a missionary in Central America.

And so the Sons of Dominic Savio was formed to provide support, both material and spiritual, to missionaries at home and abroad. Since then the group now has two additional "sons": Franciscan Brother Jerry Wintz, who serves in Papua New Guinea, and former St. Dominic Savio pastor, Father Jim Michler, a diocesan priest who ministers in Bolivia.


To raise the needed funds, Jack produces a quarterly newsletter that features messages from each of their adopted missionaries and asks for donations. Jack estimates that the newsletter raises \$10,000 each year.

The Spring 2005 newsletter included a message of thanks from Father Dick who told supporters that their contributions had helped provide food for his Belize parishioners during times of drought.

Father Jim wrote about the political unrest in Bolivia which caused national tension and led to job shortages for his people. "I ask for your prayers and thank you for your generous support," he said. "May the risen Lord...lead all of us to a greater hope in God's loving providence."

"The physical help we get from the Sons of Dominic Savio is very important," says Father Dan, now president of Glenmary. "But most significant is the moral support we receive. When you're in the missions, sometimes you're tempted to think, 'What good is this?' But to know that you have people who support you is a real shot in the arm. It's great to know that people are behind you with prayers and tangible assets."

In addition to the money raised annually for Glenmary, the Sons of Dominic Savio gather clothing and deliver the items to Glenmary's mission in Monticello, Ark., a tradition that began when Father Dan was pastor. Since 2000 the group has worked with Father Chet Artysiewicz, the current pastor. Jack and the other members of the Sons of Dominic Savio know that, regardless of where Father Dan is assigned, their support is not only for him but for Glenmary.

"Each of our four 'sons' is very special," Jack says. "I never thought our group would still be going 13 years later. And with the good Lord willing, we'll keep going." 

'Each of our four sons is very special.'



SONS OF DOMINIC SAVIO: Wayne Kinman, Nick Jacobs, Don Nash, Bob Kessler and Jack Magee have taken clothes to Glenmary's mission in Monticello.

Discovering God's greatness

Readers' responses take many forms—but only letters and e-mails can be shared.

APOLOGIES TO 'RUTH AGNES'

GLENMARY CHALLENGE never fails to impress me. Each issue is both interesting and inspirational—and faithfully reflects the missionary spirit of Glenmary.

But I would like to note an error in the Summer 2005 issue. While visiting relatives in Mississippi a few years ago, I had the pleasure of meeting Ruth Agnes Crosthwait. The article on page 7 correctly identifies her and her family as the first Catholics in Houston, Miss. The caption under her photo, however, mistakenly names this wonderful southern lady as "Mary" Agnes rather than as Ruth Agnes.

SISTER JANE ZAWADZKI, SSJ
Crestwood, Ill.

A BIGGER GOD OUT THERE

IN THE UNITED STATES we have been deprived, in a sense, by our isolationist views and our ability

to live seemingly independent of others because of our resources. But globalization is challenging us to grow in the diversity of the Spirit. In the words of Ed-

wina Gately, "There is a bigger God out there."

We need to explore and discover the greatness of this God through ministry to the Spanish-speaking, the Filipinos, the African-Americans and the many immigrants who come across our borders—as Glenmary is doing.

As I listen to the voices of many Glenmarians and read of

'I feel proud to be associated with [Glenmary] and feel challenged by their ability to love.'



PHOTO / FABWIENEN TAYLOR

FIRST CATHOLIC: Ruth Agnes Crosthwait is a member of the first Catholic family in Houston, Miss. Here she stands for recognition at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Glenmary's mission in Houston.

their work in *Glenmary Challenge*, I feel proud to be associated with such a dynamic group and feel challenged by their talents, gifts and, above all, their ability to love. I see a group of men in touch with the Spirit of Jesus—a Jesus who came to establish the kingdom of God and not merely a Church.

RUTH HOLTEL
Cincinnati, Ohio

COVER TO COVER

YOUR MAGAZINE is the only one I read cover to cover. And I really enjoy Father John Rausch's articles [e.g., "Rural Clinics," Summer 2005]. I get excited every time the *Challenge* comes in the mail. Thank you for such a great magazine.

PEGGY PARTIN
Williamsburg, Ky.

Editors Note: I wish I could share all the interesting reader comments that come my way via phone calls. Take the one from a doctor in Mississippi asking for phone numbers at the three rural clinics featured in Father John Rausch's article (Summer 2005). He wanted to offer assistance.

It's so much easier to pick up the phone these days than to write—even than to e-mail. But we do appreciate those who do write, because those are the only thoughts we can share on this page. So keep the letters and e-mails coming!

READERS' VIEWS WELCOME! Send comments to: Editor, Glenmary Challenge, P.O. Box 465618, Cincinnati, OH 45246. Fax: 513-874-1690, E-mail: challenge@glenmary.org. Please include a postal address.

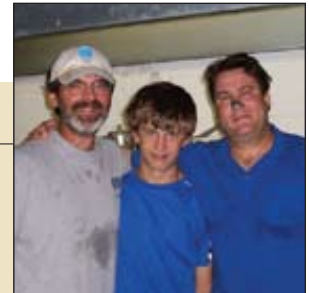
www.glenmary.org

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WHAT'S NEW

Finding God's Kingdom at Summer Camp

Another summer, another batch of counselors and another group of Mississippi kids who have gained a greater appreciation of God's love and an experience of God's kingdom at Camp Glenmary. [SEARCH: CAMP GLENMARY](#)



Camp Staff

DEPARTMENTS

Meet a Missioner

Brother Terry O'Rourke, now a senior member, continues to reach out—with his dogs—in Aberdeen, Miss. [SEARCH: TERRY O'ROURKE](#)



Brother Terry O'Rourke

How to Help

Make a gift online! A secure page for online giving is now available. Check it out! [SEARCH: SECURE DONATION](#)

Glenmary Farm

Check out the latest Vanceburg View from Joe Grosek for a wrap-up of summer at the Farm. WWW.GLENMARY.ORG/FARM



Farm Garden

Glenmary Research Center

For a look at the research center's past, present and future—and why it has a national reputation. [SEARCH: RESEARCH CENTER](#)

FEATURE STORY

Arkansas Mission: The Place to Be

Father Chet Artysiewicz expects the unexpected in Glenmary's mission in Monticello, Ark.—even a Baptist-Muslim couple asking to become Catholics. [SEARCH: MONTICELLO](#)



Monticello, Ark.

Learn More About Glenmary's Missions

Each mission now has a Web page with basic information, a photo and links to more info. [SEARCH: MISSION NAME OR LOCATION](#)

New Icons Facilitate Navigation

To make it easier to get around our growing site, icons in the lower left corner of www.glenmary.org—and other sub home pages—link to these areas: The Farm, Glenmary Research Center, Department of Pastoral Ministers and Pastoral Services, Commission on Evangelization, Vocations. And there's more to come!



Web icon for the Glenmary Farm



GLENMARY GLIMPSE / Brother 'godfather'

Glenmary Brother David Henley (center) is the proud *padrino* (Spanish for “godfather”) of José Alejandro, baptized at Glenmary’s former mission in Beaver Dam, Ky. Brother David met José’s parent’s while living in Glenmary’s House of Studies in Hartford, Ky., where he reached out to the growing number of migrants in the area. Brother David, who speaks Spanish, is spending the fall semester studying catechetics in Mexico and learning firsthand about the culture of the many folks, like José’s family, that Glenmary now serves.

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