



Dear Benefactors,

March invites us into the special season of Lent—a time to pause for quiet contemplation of the Way of the Cross. Along this path we discover Jesus, who in His mystery is not a symbol of suffering for its own sake, but a revelation of **love without limits**—a love that gives itself completely. In the Heart of Jesus each of us can find a safe space: a place of comfort, meaning, and restoration. There we encounter **the truth of a God who**

does not reject but welcomes. A God who does not accuse but saves.

At the same time, so many of our brothers and sisters—equally beloved by God—still do not know where their home is. They do not know the way that leads to His Heart. That is why signs along the road are especially needed today: presence, witness, and quiet companionship that help others rediscover the meaning of their earthly pilgrimage. Only love that has been personally experienced can become a gift carried to the ends of the earth.

We give thanks for all who accompany missionaries on their journey of faith—often difficult and marked by challenges—through prayer, solidarity, and quiet presence. It is this shared path that allows the witness of the Gospel to be carried forward with hope and responsibility.

Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver

Modern slavery

PAKISTAN

Slavery is often associated with a distant past: chains, slave markets, and the history of colonialism. Yet even today, in the 21st century, millions of people around the world live in conditions that are, in reality, a modern form of bondage. One of the most striking and tragic examples of this is the situation of the Kutchi Kholi people in southern Pakistan.

The Hidden System of Enslavement

The Kutchi Kholi are a tribal community, largely Christian, living in the Sindh province. Around 94 percent of its members work as **bonded laborers**—forced laborers trapped by debt. The mechanism of enslavement is simple, yet brutally effective. Families, having neither land nor means to survive, take loans from landowners. In return, they commit to working in their fields. But the debt never decreases.

On the contrary, it grows through arbitrary charges added by the landowners. People receive no fair wages and often are denied even their rightful share of the harvest, including basic food such as wheat. With no land and no home of their own, they can be evicted at any moment. They have no voice, no knowledge of their rights, and no ability to read or write. They live in constant fear, entirely dependent on the decisions of the landowners. It is slavery without chains—but with debt, fear, and powerlessness.



Photo: Z. Adet

The Church on the Side of the Enslaved

For more than forty years, the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Hyderabad has stood alongside the Kutchi Kholi people. Its mission goes far beyond emergency aid; it consistently seeks paths to liberation inspired by the Gospel and Catholic social teaching. One question proved decisive: **How can people regain their freedom in a lasting way?** The answer emerged through concrete action: purchasing land and creating community settlements for families who choose to break free from the landowners' control. A small piece of land means more than a roof over one's head. It means safety, dignity, and a future.

The Path to Freedom: Land, Community, Education

The first such settlement, Josephabad, dedicated to St. Joseph—was established about fifteen years ago. Today, 26 families live there. Another settlement, Shanti Nagar, the "City of Peace," was created three years ago with the support of religious sisters. Fifteen families have already settled there, and a school now operates on-site, attended also by children from nearby villages. Experience shows clearly: families who free themselves from landowners' control begin to flourish. They send their children to school, take up honest work, and learn shared responsibility for their community.

Education for girls is especially important; many were previously kept from school due to safety concerns. The new settlements operate on principles of self-governance. Residents elect their own committee, which helps resolve problems without outside interference. It is a school of freedom and responsibility, the first steps toward true independence.

The Fruits of Missionary Work

The story of the Kutchi Kholi shows that mission work is not only about proclaiming the Gospel with words, but also about restoring human dignity in the most fundamental dimensions of life. Where fear and dependence ruled for generations, hope begins to grow. Where children once had no future, a school now stands. Where people were once "someone's property," they are becoming a community. Today, the Church in Hyderabad is planning another settlement for Kutchi Kholi families. It is a response to real needs and a sign that modern slavery is not an irreversible fate. Freedom has its cost. But as experience shows, it becomes possible when the Church stands with the weakest, and people rediscover faith that their lives can be different.

*Fr. Zachaes Okoth Adet MHM
Pakistan*

A Life Dedicated to God and Missions

Sister Maria Aleksandra Gancarczyk was born in Przylek, in southern Poland on November 19, 1933. She grew up during World War II, which was extremely difficult and challenging. This was compounded by the death of her mother, Anna, when Mary (Sr. Alexandra) was only 14. So, from a young age, she had to work to help her father support the family and care for her younger siblings.

She joined the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver in Krosno, on the Wislok River, in November 1958 and made her first vows there on July 1, 1961. In July 1967, she moved to Toronto, Canada, and made her perpetual profession there on July 1, 1971. She worked primarily in Canada, but also traveled to the US and England for several years; she spent one year in Poland.

In 2001, Sister Alexandra moved permanently to the religious house of the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver in Toronto. She was an exceptionally simple, humble, and joyful person—completely devoted to God. She possessed an immense missionary zeal and a desire to spread God’s love and

mercy always and everywhere. Sister Alexandra served the missions and our Congregation through prayer and hard work. As long as her strength permitted, she helped in the office, cooked, drove, and tended the garden.

In 2020, after hospitalization for a COVID-19 infection, Sister Alexandra was no longer able to walk. Since then, she lived at Copernicus Lodge, in the long-term care unit. Even though she struggled with dementia in the last years of her life, and did not always understand where she was or what was happening, Sister Alexandra always knew that she was a nun and recognized us as her sisters—while she could not remember our names.



Always smiling, Sister Alexandra knew how to comfort others. We witnessed her profound life of prayer, desire for adoration, and for the participation in Holy Mass.

Sister Alexandra passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at the age of 92. She was buried in the Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery on February 27, 2026. We commend the late Sister Alexandra to the prayers of all our friends and benefactors. We trust that the Lord will reward her life of sacrifice by welcoming her into the Kingdom of Heaven.

With deep gratitude for Sister Maria Alexandra Gancarczyk,

*S. Renata Szawara
Toronto, Canada, March 3, 2026*

Can You Help?

Renovation of the St. John Paul II Formation Center

MADAGASCAR

As the bishop of the Diocese of Fénérive-Est in Madagascar, I am reaching out with a heartfelt request for support for a project that holds deep importance for the future of our young people and for the life of our local Church. In the parish of St. Vincent de Paul in Ampasimbe–Manantsatrana, located in a vast rural area of the diocese, the St. John Paul II Formation Center has been operating for several years.

The Center was created to offer young people integral formation: human, spiritual, and communal. It serves as a place of gathering, learning, prayer, and growth in responsibility. For many young people from remote bush villages, it is the only space where they can discern their vocation, learn cooperation, and strengthen their faith. Unfortunately, the Center’s current facilities are in poor condition

and urgently need renovation. There is a lack of adequate housing, a reliable energy supply, and spaces suitable for formation. Without this assistance, the Center will not be able to continue its mission.

I appeal earnestly for your prayers and for material support for this work. Every gesture of solidarity helps build a place where young people can grow in faith, hope, and love.

With gratitude from the heart for your kindness and spiritual unity.

*bp Marek Ochlak OMI
Fénérive-Est Diocese*



One of the current buildings of the Centre, Photo. M. Ochlak OMI

Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver

USA:

265 Century Ave South
St. Paul, MN 55125-1155
Tel: (001) 651 738 9704
E-mail: sspcweb@usfamily.net

5634 S.72nd Court
Summit, IL 60501 USA
Tel: (001) 708 5947822

667 Woods Mill Rd. S.
P.O.Box 6067
Chesterfield, MO 63006-6067
Tel: (001) 314 4694932
E-mail: sspc.np667@gmail.com

Canada:

14 Connaught Circle
Toronto ON, M6C 2S7
Tel: 416 781 3925



Enclosed is \$ my gift for the renovation of the St. John Paul II Center in Madagascar

2/2026

Please remember the following intentions in your prayers:

Name (Mr. Mrs. Miss)

Address:

Zip Code Phone E-mail: