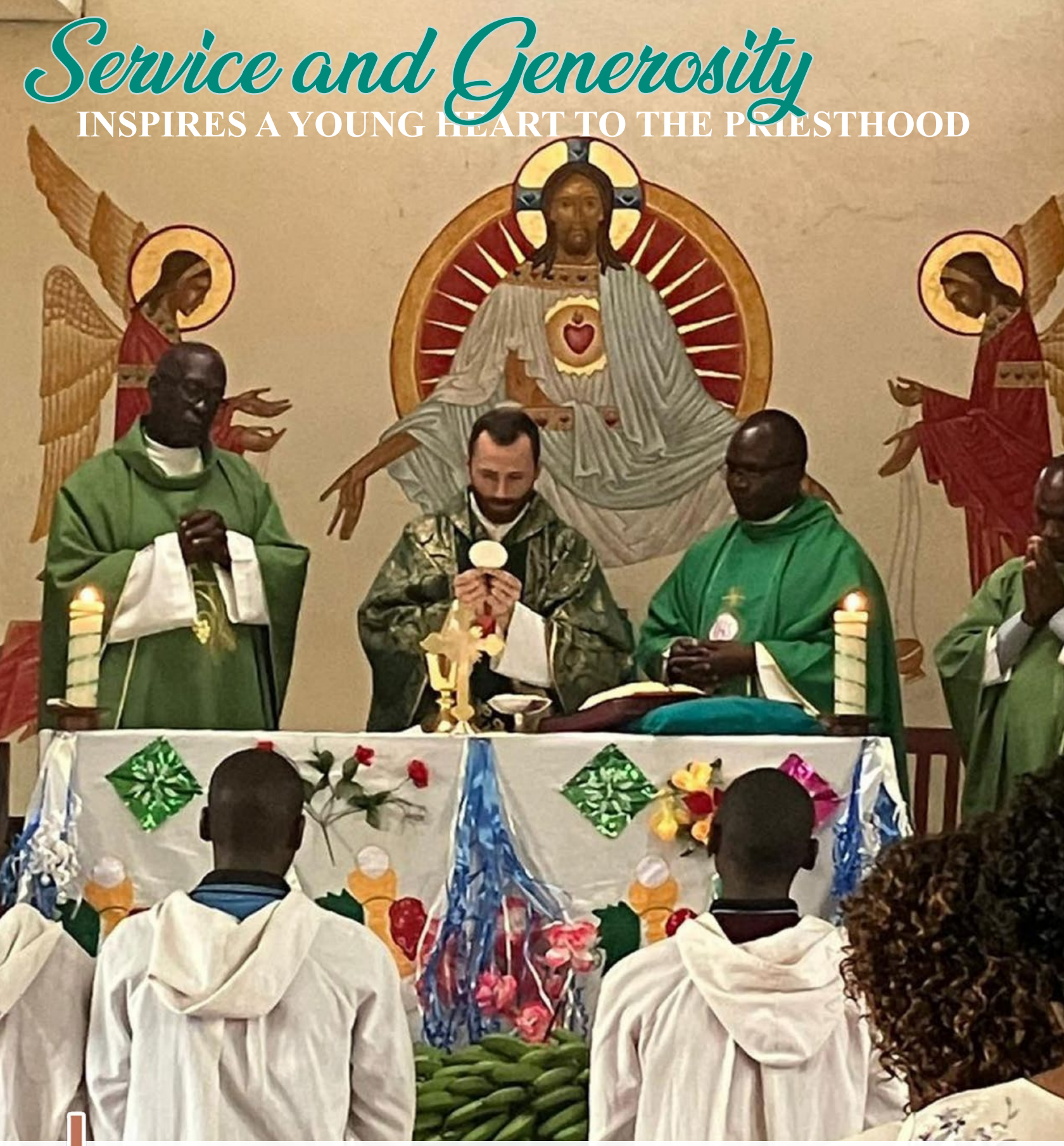
Service and Generosity

INSPIRES A YOUNG HEART TO THE PRIESTHOOD



Healing and Hope

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

This is not our usual newsletter feature, yet we felt compelled to share the inspiring journey of Dr. Mark and Mrs. Molly Druffner's son, Julian, now Father Julian.

Fr. Julian was just fourteen years old when the family of nine traveled to the Same mountains of Tanzania for the first time. Dr. Mark provides direct patient care and training, and Molly works with the community to improve education, opportunities for women, and supporting the local faith community in countless ways. Each year, their seven children would be involved in everything from painting hospital rooms and construction to working alongside their parents in so many aspects of their service.

This trip was special and returning with his parents, Fr. Julian celebrated Mass in Bwambo. This marked a poignant moment in his vocation and brought joy to the entire community. We asked Fr. Julian what this opportunity meant to him, *"As a young man, my parents were an incredible example to me and they continue to inspire me by their zeal to serve the Church through medical mission work in Tanzania."*

Fr. Julian was inspired by the faith of this community, the service of his parents and partners like you. Thank you for being our faithful partner in this Mission of Hope and Healing!

Tucking myself into their suitcase

Imagine transforming the lives of countless individuals through the power of generosity. We interviewed Veteran Mission Doctor, Lisa Gilbert whose remarkable journey of giving has touched hearts and changed futures.

Lisa shared "I have supported MDA monthly for some time, initially because I believed in the mission of the organization and because I went on a short-term mission trip to Cameroon. However, I became a bigger monthly supporter once I personally knew some of the MDA doctors. Several of the current long-term physicians with MDA trained at a global health fellowship program in Wichita Kansas where I work. These are excellent doctors of the highest caliber, both medically and spiritually. Having adequate and consistent financial support is often a challenge for mission organizations and for individual physicians serving overseas."

Dr. Gilbert is a board-certified family medicine physician and core faculty at Ascension Via Christi Family Medicine Residency Program. She has served in Liberia, Cameroon, and Niger, and volunteers regularly at a free clinic for the uninsured in Wichita, KS.

Lisa says of supporting, "This is my way of going with them -- tucking myself into their suitcase so to speak! By giving, I hope to share my resources with them, with the patients they care for, and with Catholic hospitals faithfully living out the Church's mission around the world."

Thank you, Dr. Gilbert and all of our monthly donors, VitalCorps! Donating monthly provides sustainability, enabling MDA to plan for the future and expand our impact and partnerships around the world.

You can join Lisa and other VitalCorps Members by visiting our website or scanning the QR code.

Heal the Sick

"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."

Matthew 10:8

I have received all freely! Freely I give! I embrace my Mission. The more that I give, the more that I am Alive! The people of Kabale continue to teach me about sacrifice, patience in the face of suffering, and powerful love and perseverance! They have taught me the meaning and power of faith! They have been an inspiration!

On my very first Mission to Ecuador with Mission Doctors Association, I returned home with an unknown very deep, different, and enduring Joy that did not leave me, even after three long days to travel from Our Lady of Guadalupe Hospital in the Andes Mountains to home. I thought I felt this way because I was very glad to be home.

But that penetrating Joy continued. All day, every day! It was a thing that I had only heard others describe. At home, I attend a Cistercian Benedictine Abbey for Mass each morning. I briefly got to speak to the Prior with this question. He stated that the Spirit was most often ignited by an Act of great Charity. Had I made a large donation? Had I done anything like that recently? Spirit and Flesh! The Flesh is to no avail. But the Spirit is Real!! Veni Sanctu Spiritu!

Art Eddy, DDS, has been instrumental in the installation of a suction unit essential in providing dental care and infection control. Returning for the second time to Uganda in 2024, Dr. Eddy will bring a portable X-ray, and other supplies to provide care and training with the goal to improve the dental services provided for this rural community.

Uganda is a county of nearly 46,000,000 people for whom there are a total of 310 dentists, most working in the capital city of Kampala. The additions Dr. Eddy has made possible with your help at Our Lady of Good Health will have a significant and lasting impact. Access to quality, compassionate dental care improves not only oral health, but overall health outcomes as well.

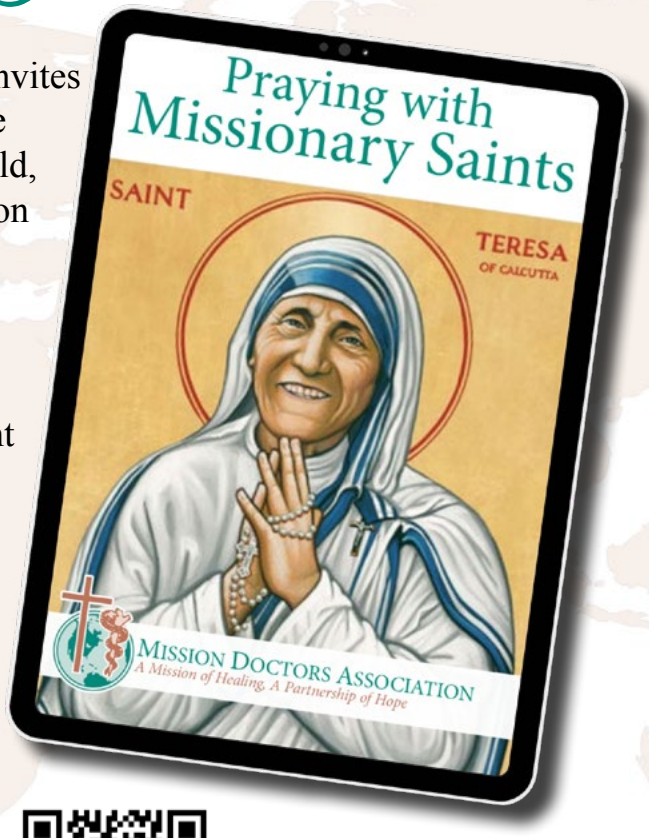
Thanks to your support, Mission Doctors like Dr. Eddy are on the ground meeting the needs of the community, following Christ's call to heal the sick. And this year, YOU have also made it possible for more dentists to attend our Annual Retreat/Seminar who are already making plans to serve!

Just as Jesus restored sight to the blind man, Mission Doctors strives to bring healing and hope to those who lack access to essential medical care. Your support empowers us to be instruments of healing, providing critical medical services, education, and resources to our brothers and sisters around the world.

The need for medical care in rural communities is immense. Your support ensures access to critical medical services, transforming lives one smile. at a time.

Praying with the Missionary Saints

Embark on a spiritual journey with a complimentary eBook that invites you to delve into the lives of Missionary Saints. These remarkable individuals have left an indelible mark on the Church and the world, inspiring countless souls with their unwavering faith and dedication to serving others.



In this eBook, you'll find captivating accounts of the lives of Missionary Saints, including: St. Paul, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Damien of Molokai, and more. Each saint's story is a testament to the transformative power of faith and the profound impact one person can have on the lives of others.

Join us on this enlightening journey as we reflect on the legacies of these holy men and women and explore how their lives continue to inspire us today.

Visit https://bit.ly/MDApray or scan the QR code to sign up now to receive your free copy of this guide and deepen your spiritual connection with these remarkable Missionary Saints.

Upcoming Events

April 19-21, 2024
Discernment Weekend
Doctors and their spouses interested in long-term (3 year) service with MDA are invited to a Discernment Weekend at our Mission House. The weekend provides an opportunity to meet with the formation team, learn about current service sites, and discuss the joys and challenges of mission life. Contact our office for more information.

October 13, 2024
Archdiocese of L.A. Healthcare Professionals Mass
Mission Doctors Association is honored to be the co-host of this celebration with the Archdioceses of Los Angeles. In recognition of the dedicated work of Catholic Health Care Professionals, we invite all Catholic medical professionals to the celebration of a Healthcare Professionals Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. www.CatholicWM.org

Mission Doctors Association

Following Christ's call to heal the sick, Mission Doctors Association provides life-saving medical care for the poor and training for local healthcare professionals around the world.

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