



# MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR

FALL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2011

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Fr HoLung's 72nd Birthday
- 30 year Anniversary of the Missionaries of the Poor
- Look back in time

## ...A LOOK BACK IN TIME...

In 1980, a horrific fire burned Eventide Home in Kingston, killing 144 elderly women. The incident shocked Jamaicans, including Richard Ho Lung, a priest and lecturer at the University in Kingston.

"I asked myself, 'Where would Christ be if He were in Jamaica right now? Would He end up just preaching or would He be attending to the blind, the deaf, the cripple, the hungry, the forgotten ones?' The answer to me was very obvious," Father Ho Lung recalled."

As a result, a man born to poverty, Father Ho Lung and a couple of good men, managed the first home for the homeless and destitute beginning in 1981. To now, 2011, MOP has over 600 brothers around the world who serve the poorest of the poor.

On September 17, 2011 we celebrate our Founders birthday, an anointed man of 72 years. And, this year, we celebrate the founding of the Missionaries of the Poor 30 years ago. This issue is intended as a Tribute to it's Founder,

**Fr Richard HoLung, MOP**

Message from Fr Hayden Augustine,  
Vicar General of Missionaries of the Poor



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"...*Still full of sap, still green...*" This scriptural epithet has been hurled at **Fr. Richard Ho Lung** by our youngest Brothers as Father celebrates his **72<sup>nd</sup> birthday on September 17<sup>th</sup>**. And I beg to agree with them as I look back on the past 31 years of my friendship with Fr. Richard ever since our first encounter in the summer of 1980 as he tended the garden of his Jesuit residence at 25 Monroe Road.

Father's has truly been a life of flourish and fruitfulness - planting seeds of faith, hope, love....and joy! in hundreds of young men like myself, tending us, nurturing us, cultivating us with *a vision and a mission, a purpose and a plan*, all of which have been enshrined in the lofty ideals *and acts* of the Missionaries of the Poor which he founded in July 1981.

Father's *mission* has flourished in countries and among peoples we scarcely knew even existed. And I am abundantly blessed to have spent almost 20 of my 30 years in MOP in these wonderful places and among these beautiful peoples of Asia and Africa in fulfillment of Father's prophetic vision when he sent me out to south India to begin our first mission outside Jamaica, the beginning of our *genuinely missionary charism*. (con't page 3)

website: [www.missionariesofthepoor.org](http://www.missionariesofthepoor.org)

## Fr Richard HoLung's Early Years



**Fr Richard HoLung's**  
Ordination  
Ceremony in 1952

Thank you for the privilege of serving the poor with you... for your love, friendship and many prayers. You are **Christ's light** and our treasure. From Your Canadian Associates

Fr Richard HoLung posing with the poor he cares for



Fr HoLung was born of poor and simple parents in 1939. They were new immigrants from China, now living in Jamaica. Fr Richard remembers his own father as a quiet strong presence. Never a day in their poverty did they have anything in their hearts but grateful thanksgiving.

He was taught by Jesuits in high school. They encouraged his vocation. They were warm, friendly, strict and demanding but they possessed a vision that captured his heart. Graced

with great faith and a vision of life with Christ, Fr Richard HoLung was ordained a Jesuit in 1952.

By 1981 this same man, founded the order of the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica.

Bound under vows of chastity, poverty, obedience and free service to the poor the Brothers live a strict, disciplined, simple and joy filled life.

And such is the fullness of this life in the Spirit that the community now

stretches around the world in seven countries with ten missions. These missions serve the poorest of the poor. They are homeless, sick, destitute people who have no one to care for them. They have HIV/AIDs, leprosy and many are handicapped.

MOP is a living witness of the love of Christ and when they work it is not only filled with love but with a vibrancy, joy and peace.

### ....A REFLECTION by Jack Marder, MOP Atlanta Associate

All of us can probably reflect back over our lives and think of people who have profoundly affected the paths we have chosen for ourselves and have helped us become better versions of ourselves. Fr. Richard HoLung is one of those few people who have had that kind of influence on my life and I'm truly grateful to God that our paths have crossed.

Twelve years ago I journeyed through a difficult time in my life when I struggled with a job decision that caused me great anxiety and distress. As a manager, I struggled with having to carry out company policies which required me to deal with people in ways that I felt were demoralizing. I knew in my heart that I couldn't continue working for a company like this but the thought of quitting and walking away was too frightening to consider. I wanted to trust God to help me make the right choice but letting go of a sure thing and trust God blindly was just too difficult. I felt trapped and very unhappy with my lack of courage to do what I knew had to be done.

Fortunately, God was very patient with me and in the course of the next several months, He used Fr. HoLung and MOP powerfully to infuse renewed faith and courage into my life. Nothing would ever be the same after my first visit to Kingston in September, 1999. For a few days in Jamaica I was completely free of the stress and pressure I had been living with back home. I knew I wanted more of this MOP joy but still not sure what I should do next. A few weeks after returning home from this first trip, I returned to participate in a retreat Fr. HoLung was hosting in the Blue Mountains. By that time, I knew I had to choose to quit my job but I was still unsure of what to do after that since I had no sure job prospect to step into. *(A REFLECTION...continued Page 5)*

## More Early Years...in the beginning Fr HoLung and Friends



Fr  
HoLung  
and 5 of  
the  
earliest  
members  
of MOP



### (cont'd from page 1) Fr Hayden Augustine's Tribute

Father's potent and practical vision of the Beatitudes has brought joy, peace and communion to multitudes of our fellow suffering human beings in the establishment of **our apostolates for the homeless, the abandoned, the orphans, the elderly, the diseased**. And I have been privileged to be called a servant of these poor ones at our homes which are truly *oases of the gospel-life* in a worldly desert of doubt and despair.

**Father is still green with the mysterious, mellifluous music of his soul.** He has creatively crafted and scripted hundreds of songs and ballads - really *celestial hymns of joyful praise* - reflecting his profound faith in God and his desire to honor Him for the love and truth that God has bestowed so bountifully upon him. Almost despite myself and my natural shyness, my life has been transformed by the music of Fr. Richard and has been an inspiration and a boon to my own vocation and my relationship with God. The music has adorned MOP with an unmatched character and a unique energy and has lightened the load of so many heavy burdens and troubles in our Brothers' living out the demands of the gospel.

As we move into a new phase of our life as a young Institute in the Church, with Father founder fast becoming a **prodigious grandfather and even great-grandfather of many sons and daughters**, it is my prayer that *the sap and the green*, still so palpable in dear Father Richard, will be imbibed and assimilated by us his descendants in ways that will continue to give great pleasure to Christ as Fr. Richard has certainly done by being such a marvelous and fruitful tree in the vineyard of the Lord. We love you, Fr. Richard so dear. Happy 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday! ..... Fr Hayden

## Wishes from Africa: Fr Henry Lozano, MOP, Mission Superior, Kampala

Happy Birthday,  
Fr HoLung. Thank you  
for your friendship, love  
and laughter. You have  
brightened our lives and  
are a treasured  
blessing.

With love from your  
friends and Associates  
in Bishop, California

**“Blessings on Fr**

*HoLung on his  
birthday. I will  
be celebrating  
the Eucharist  
for you and your  
intentions.”*

*Fraternally &  
affectionately  
yours in Christ,  
Fr John Roach*

**Our best wishes to you Fr  
HoLung. We were  
excited & blessed by your  
first Wisconsin visit &  
concert. Fondly, your  
“new” & very  
enthusiastic, Wisconsin  
Support Team**

For some 8 years, I had the privilege of working closely with him as his personal assistant. Although I had to oftentimes work long and hard—going late into the night at times, and having to start fairly early in the morning—I never actually got tired doing what I was asked to do. One thing I knew was that, I was serving the community and the poor that way, and I was in the presence of him whom I would consider ‘holy’.

Surely, I got to know some of Father’s personal weaknesses; indeed I got to witness them with my own eyes. Yet his undying love for the Lord and His indomitable faith make them fail in comparison. In the middle of the night, I would oftentimes hear him speak to God out loud and express his concerns, his personal aspirations, and his solicitude over our religious Brothers, the poor and the world at large. Sometimes I would wake up wondering who he was talking to. But as you pay close attention to the subject matters of his colloquy, you come to realize that he is in a loving conversation with an intimate Friend he simply calls “**Jesus.**”

His humility is also such that one cannot fail to notice it and be edified by it—a real mark of a true servant of God. In the first overseas trip I made with him to Atlanta in 2001, for instance, I was truly amazed to find him in the kitchen of the rectory where we stayed, preparing our breakfast! Now this is the Founder and the Superior General of the *Missionaries of the Poor* himself, known internationally as Fr Richard Ho Lung, the male version of Mother Teresa in the Caribbean!

Even with all the accolades and public acclaims he has received over the years—and there have been several of them, by the way—Father Ho Lung has remained humble, simple, and unassuming as he is. If anything, he will always attribute them to the hard work of us Brothers and, of course, the workings of grace!

As he crosses into the 72<sup>nd</sup> year of his earthly life on September 17, and having completed his 40<sup>th</sup> year as a priest on July 4, I can only pray that the good Lord will continue to give him strength—physical and spiritual—and that He will lengthen his life so that he will continue to touch and affect the lives of many, both at home and abroad, even as he leads them to Christ.

Happy birthday, Father, and congratulations on your 40<sup>th</sup> year as a priest!

## Greetings from India: Bro Anil Minj, MOP

30 years of Missionaries of the Poor has only seen growth and expansion. Single handed, Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ho Lung, MOP, now rejoices to see what God has done for him. From his very early years, God formed within him a Spirit of discipline, prayerfulness, and mysticism. None can describe the inner relationship of our dear Founder with the Lord, but his accomplishments are a clear sign that the Lord Himself journeyed with this man bringing to fruition all that has been done so far for the Kingdom of God.

At 72, nothing is more dear to our Founder's heart apart from the beautiful song of Mary: MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD!

There is no human being who is perfect. Our Founder also has his weaknesses. But those weaknesses only make him more rich in his spirituality as he struggles with the rest of the Brothers 'to be holy as our heavenly father is holy'.

The personal touch we have had with our Founder reminds us that we are mere instruments in God's hand and we are to allow Him to use us as He wishes. Because only when He is at work, can something beautiful happen in and through our lives.

**“Father we thank you with immense love and blessings for all that you have been to us and continue to be for us. *Blessed are you for you have found favour with God!* Pray for us your spiritual sons that we too make walk in the footsteps of Christ just as you have, so that we all can rejoice together as a big MOP family around the banqueting table of our Lord in Heaven. GOD BLESS YOU!”**  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHER!**

Now, September 17 is Founder's Day for MOP communities around the globe. Not our Foundation Day which is July 19, but our Founder's Day. Usually we celebrate it simply by offering the Holy Mass for Father and of course, everyone is happy for the ice-cream! Happy Birthday Father!

*By Fr. Kulandairaj Ambrose, M.O.P. Philippines*

### (Continued from Page 2)...A REFLECTION

Fear was still a major player in my life. The theme of the retreat was “Seeking First the Kingdom of God”. Fr. HoLung shared incredible experiences of how God has provided for himself and MOP so many times over the years after being obedient and trusting in Him faithfully. As I listened to Father's witness and teaching I felt myself growing in courage to do the same in my life. By the time I returned home a few days later I was ready (at least much less afraid) to let go of my security blanket and trust God to provide what I needed. When I quit my job shortly thereafter, I could feel the fear gradually falling away as the Lord provided the grace, courage, and everything else I needed to follow a completely new path by starting my own business.

Since then I have been privileged to spend time with Fr. HoLung and the MOP brothers on many occasions. I've watched in awe and admiration as Father has boldly spoken out against evil and sin in our society and hope that I too can be courageous to speak up for truth and God's glory. And more than anything else, I'm grateful that God has allowed us to see His faithfulness when we trust him completely. Thank you, Father HoLung, for teaching us so much by your example. We wish you a very happy birthday! *MOP Atlanta Associate, Jack Marder*

## Steve DeBaun, MOP Atlanta Associate

About this time last year, I accompanied Fr HoLung on a three-week trip for his official visit to MOP's African and Indian missions. While it was a unique opportunity for me, what amazed me most was how busy we were the entire time. What was accomplished in three weeks should have been done in at least a six week period.

For travel, we flew on eighteen flights, half of which lasted 7 to 9 hours, took two four hour train rides and spent innumerable hours in the car. We stayed in London, Nairobi, Kampala, New Delhi and Raurkela, India. Of course, Fr HoLung's presence, as Founder and Superior General, prompted many festivities, dedications, and meetings with dignitaries and others. Despite all that, Fr HoLung had numerous meetings with the MOP communities and managed to meet with each professed brother and priest, which caused those meetings to begin at 2AM!

Having completed that trip, Fr HoLung managed to oversee and be present at concerts in Chicago, New York, Charlotte, Orlando and Toronto, then England, Germany and an entire series of concerts in several cities in the Philippines. He has overseen on-going construction of monasteries and apostolates in India, Indonesia, Kenya, Uganda, Haiti and Jamaica. Holy Innocent opened this year, Busaga Children's home in Kampala was dedicated and the Orissa mission dedicated its new monastery and is working on the new apostolate building.

MOP has grown to over 600 professed brothers and priests. MOP sisters began this year. In a few weeks, Fr HoLung will present his new production, in Jamaica, "Acts of the Apostles" which, of course, he wrote and produced. And in his spare time...That's how he spent some of his 71st year. What about his 72nd? Actually, the true question is not what but why.

The Lord planted a seed long ago which has driven Fr HoLung in his quest to serve the Lord. Fr HoLung has committed himself, without reserve, to the mission of Christ in the world. Fr HoLung has responded with deep faith and an unwavering dedication to building the Kingdom of God.

He demands much of himself and those who say they wish to serve. Indeed, he demands that I (we) embrace the Cross of Christ. He demands that I (we) accept the Truth and that this life is passing and nothing compares to the Kingdom of God and eternal life. He asks me why don't I (we) act like I (we) believe it. I tell him, I'm working on it (Not sure about your response).

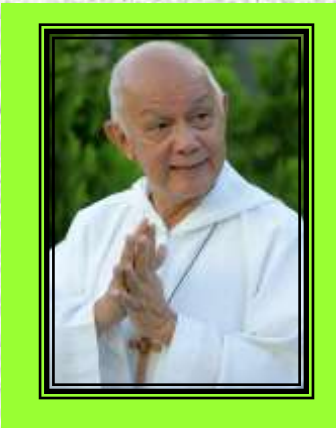
He demands I (we) genuinely seek Christ, nothing less. He demands not only words but actions as well, not for himself but for Christ. At the same time, Fr HoLung is a wonderful friend and full of fun. He is a truly holy and humble man.

While I have no idea what he will do in his 72nd year on this earth, I do know he will serve the Lord and will continue in his efforts to build the Kingdom of God on earth. I also know he is slowing down and looks to others, including me and you, to join the effort. In demanding much, he reminds me that the Lord demands much, not just our things but ourselves. Thanks, Father. Let's move ahead!!



*Be assured of our  
thanksgiving &  
prayers on the  
occasion of your  
birthday. The Lord  
has truly blessed all  
of us here, through  
you and especially I  
am grateful to God  
for knowing you as  
my friend. May the  
Lord continue to give  
you His peace & joy  
in His service. From  
all of us here in  
England,  
Fr Ken*

# GUSI Peace Prize Award



The **GUSI Peace Prize** represents one of the highest honors for distinguished individuals from the four corners of the globe. In recognizing the most brilliant examples of those working toward the attainment of peace and respect for human life and dignity, the GUSI Peace Prize brings out the best of human achievements, ideals and values.

It is a charitable foundation who's main objective is to give proper recognition through the conferment of awards of excellence and distinction to individuals or groups worldwide.

In November 2011, Rev Father Richard HoLung, MOP will receive this award.

## “Fr HoLung & Friends” send greetings

Our Challenge: “Love God”; Love one another as I have loved you”. Fr HoLung your life exemplifies these commands. We are blessed to watch you lead like Jesus, as we struggle to follow. You are always in our hearts and prayers. The Scarpati Family along with your friends in **Southern FL**



**With Much Love and Support, We wish Fr HoLung a blessed Birthday!...From All your New Jersey Friends and Associates**

Happy Birthday, Father. Thank you for you love, compassion & friendship that you have shared with us and that you have given us in serving the poor. May God always bless you abundantly...Your Friends in Chicago

## Worldwide Greetings...

**Fr Roach's MOP friends in Massachusetts send birthday prayers and greetings to**

**Fr HoLung.**

*On this your 72nd birthday, we the Associates & Friends of MOP in the Cayman Islands send you blessings & happy birthday greetings! May the good Lord continue to richly bless you with a long life so that you continue to love & serve Him!*

From the Friends of Fr HoLung in New York we wish Father every blessing. You have been such an inspiration to us. We love you and all the brothers. Thank you for the strong witness to Christ in our lives and pray we will continue to trod the path of the saints along with you. May the Lord make His face shine on you this day!



Missionaries of the Poor  
and  
Father Ho Lung and Friends  
present



**PRAISE HIM!**



**GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
14187 S.W. 72nd Street, Miami, Florida 33183  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
8005 Miramar Parkway, Miramar, Florida 33025  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

**ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH PARISH HALL**  
10900 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise, Florida  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

**CONTRIBUTION: Adults - \$25.00  
Children - \$15.00 (under 12)**

**FOR TICKETS, CALL:**

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**ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**  
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**NATIONAL ARENA**  
**OCTOBER 1-2 & 8-9**

(SPECIAL SCHOOL SHOWS SEPT. 29-30 & OCT. 6-7)

**MOP Hotlines: 948-0280/486-2140**

**PROCEEDS IN AID OF HOLY INNOCENTS WOMEN CRISIS CENTER  
AND MOP MINISTRIES**

Missionaries of the Poor

As My Gift to Father HoLung, I will give \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

May we pray for your special intentions?

\_\_\_\_\_

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