



THE CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS ND MARY (SS.CC)

CHRISTMAS 2009



FR. STAN KOLASA, SS.CC.  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Dear Friends of Sacred Hearts Missions,

This is the season when we turn more humbly and with greater childlikeness to remember the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a good time. It is a good thing to do. It is also a time when we remember those we love who have gone before us and when we remember times past with nostalgia.

It is a good time as well to remember those who have yet to hear of Christ, His birth, His sacrifice and His promise of forever. Our Sacred Hearts brothers and sisters not only remember this, but announce it like the angels shouting glad tidings of great joy. These tidings are often proclaimed in the midst of cries of pain and sadness, even anger and prejudice. But the news is such *Good News* that they carry on with hope and love. Recently, one of our young priests in India, doing the work of God, had his moped stolen. Now he must walk to proclaim the Word. Yet even his walking, although difficult, is a proclamation of the hope we have in Jesus. (Though I know he also hopes for and needs another moped.)



HE TOUCHED THEM AND THEY TOUCHED HIS HEART

This first Christmas since our beloved Fr. Damien was proclaimed a saint—**SAINT DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI**—is a time of great rejoicing but also of remembering the times in his declaration of the Word when he needed wood or a horse or food or medicine and he prayed that the hearts of others would be open so that they would be moved to do what they could do. No one ever did it all, neither did Damien. But with his hands and heart in action, supported by the hearts and assistance of others, dollar by dollar, he was able to touch the world through the wounds of those whose sickness had made them “untouchable”. **HE TOUCHED THEM AND THEY TOUCHED HIS HEART** and this man was made holy by those who were called lowly.

This is Christmas when we who are lowly ourselves are again touched by God and made whole and holy—where we are made holy by the Source of all holiness.

This is a great time, no matter how difficult things may seem, to offer our own simple gifts of loaves and fish, that in the hands of our missionaries, may be multiplied through the power of God for the needs of many.

A Merry, Blessed Christmas to all of us.



Fr. Stan

Fr. Stan Kolasa, ss.cc.  
Director of Development





A memory from Fr. Stan...

Dad was 45 when he died in August of 1959.  
Mom was 44; my bother was 19 and I was 16.  
Even the thought of Christmas time was not merry.

Yet, on Christmas day, stacked behind a door,  
were gifts my Mom had bought  
with only God know what finances,  
because we had so little money.

They weren't big or wrapped  
with fancy wrapping paper,  
just with love. We both told Mom  
she didn't have to do that.  
Her response was, "Yes I did".

I didn't understand her then – my heart does now.