

Holy Week Mass Wednesday, April 12, 2017



Canadian Food for Children

La Nourriture du Canada pour les Enfants

1258 Lakeshore Rd E. Mississauga, On. Canada L5E 1E9

Tel: 905.274.9239, 905.990.9019. Fax: 905.271.6490

Email: cffc.aasimone@yahoo.ca

LENTEN LETTER

Our Chaplain, Brian Finamore has arranged a Holy Week Mass at the Canadian Food for Children warehouse located at 1258 Lakeshore Rd E. (just west of Dixie Rd.) Everyone is invited to join Andrew and Joan Simone and all the volunteers on Wednesday, April 12 at 11 a.m. as we celebrate this very special morning together. If you wish, come a little early and help in the packing of the shipping container. Prayers, gifts and new volunteers are always welcome.

We wish you a Holy Lent and a very Blessed Easter and we sincerely thank you for all you have done and continue to do for Jesus and His little ones.

Helen McGuire

Executive Director

hcmcguire@rogers.com



Lisa Simone and the children

This very poor village has received CFFC support for years, they all help each other and everyone gets included

TRIP TO AFRICA

Dear Mom,

Dad used to write letters to his Mom in these newsletters, explaining things he learned and was grateful for. So I thought I would continue the theme, and share what I learned from my trip to Liberia, and what I am grateful for.

First of all, thank you for being right beside dad, as he goes through these current health challenges. It is great that he is in such good shape, so his body is strong for a speedy recovery. He is a good Christian and fortunate to have your graceful support.

This was my second trip to Liberia, this time with Lisa, and the need is great. The poor are everywhere, different from other continents where the poor are often pushed out of sight and ignored. They exist together selling everything needed in small quantities and making small profits. A street seller can afford perhaps 24 items to sell and make a profit in the amount of one, for several hours work. The whole family works, and most have only the clothes on their backs and a sleeping mat to show for it. The people are inventive and use everything. It's impressive to see such little waste.

The unconditional love, and value put on human life is simply remarkable. Men and women parent equally, work side by side as partners, and check on each other constantly. It is customary to greet each other in passing, and see that things are well enough. Otherwise people stop what they are doing to assist. There are no guns, or murder or suicide. Mental illness affects 1 in a hundred, compared with our 1 in 5. The connection to each other is the lifeblood amidst terrible poverty. They are vulnerable and dignified. Music is a constant background, singing mostly. The days are long and the night's quiet, without running water or electricity mostly.



Meeting again with "God's Power" and friends, sharing their beautiful dignity and pure joy to just be together. So simple, kind, and connected.



We visited the local prison twice and helped with the Sisters of Mother Theresa to feed a thousand prisoners Saturday night dinner. Normally they eat scraps, and receive only one square meal a week, your support delivers it.

We got to visit neighbourhoods and villages where the children played with sticks and mud or dragged around tin cans on a string for racing. Infectious laughter, and always ready to interact. It is hard to describe how they even manage day to day, except to know that that is just how they think. They won't worry about tomorrow much, and rarely reflect on the past because it's enough to keep things together today.

The international community doesn't want to help Liberia because it's hard to communicate at the Port, with little infrastructure in place to make aid easy. CFFC is making leaps and bounds to connect our containers with those that need it the most. There is hope within the government and people that Liberia can rebound after a civil war and the Ebola outbreak.

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Nowadays the Ebola is gone and there is hope for electricity and running water.

I know the answer to hunger is a lot of people doing their small part to look out for each other and those around the world. I know now that the equal opposite of human suffering in developing countries is the first world's disconnection to each other. It is possible for everyone to eat every day. That is the legacy that you and Dad have delivered to the CFFC community. It starts here at home with us connecting and loving each other enough to spur on the movement of one human family worldwide.

Lots of Love to all and God bless our humble work.

Christopher Simone

José and his family

Traveling to El Salvador with my father was amazing because it confirmed that the many actions (small and large) from CFFC donors and volunteers are together making significant impact in the lives of the poor.

José's Family was the first we visited and I was moved by their appreciation. José was given a ball and a pop that he happily shared with his cousin. His older sister beamingly slipped on a donated floral dress she looked beautiful. His younger sisters and cousin were full of smiles when they received a doll. I felt their tremendous gratitude. My favorite moment was when the children and adults came together, all wearing the gifted colourful rosary bracelets to say a Hail Mary. I felt blessed to be surrounded by their love and joy. I will forever remember José's sweet younger cousin's smile and hugs. CFFC is making a positive difference in the lives of so many by being compassionate and giving hope to those in need.



With Love

Christina Simone-Belvedere

Hemodialysis for Jesus

Last year, Father Flavian initiated the construction of a state of the art hemodialysis clinic in Agape, El Salvador - making this treatment more accessible to the people in the surrounding area. The Clinic at Agape, with ten hemodialysis machines, saves lives at a cost of \$70 per treatment. Please help the people of El Salvador receive this essential, life-saving treatment.

Eva Marie Simone-Moffat



Jesus, Mary and Joseph, our strength and our glory
Jésus, Marie et Joseph, notre force et notre gloire

From the Warehouse

It's always gratifying to see the generosity of our donors, whether from corporations or from churches, schools, groups and individuals. Many of our donors have been assisting us for years. Almost every month, our partner groups from Kitchener and from Chatham arrive with a large truck filled with goods. We also regularly receive a container filled with wonderful donations from our friends in B. C. Every week one of our friends brings us a trailer full of used, laundered uniforms. One donor brings us a truck full of work boots and shoes on a regular basis. We are so grateful to receive items that are new or in good condition. It's very helpful if winter/heavy clothing, hospital supplies and English books/materials are marked as such, so that we can send these items to the appropriate people in the developing world. We marvel at the large donations of pasta, cookies and granola bars, knowing that these will be happily received at the other end.

On December 21, CFFC chaplain Brian Finamore organized our annual Christmas Mass at the warehouse, celebrated by Fr. Noel, with approximately 150 people in attendance. This is always a happy occasion. God is good, and so we celebrate and share our blessings.

Sal Badali

Assistant Executive Director

Please contact:

Loretta Antonacci books appointments for students and other groups to come to the warehouse at **cffc_studentgroups@hotmail.com** Talks in Chatham, Windsor and London - call John and Sandra Van Raay @ **519.352.6659**/ talks in Ontario or across Canada - Call Mary Reid @ **519.307.9019**.

Canadian Food for Children Warehouse: 1258 Lakeshore Road East Mississauga, ON L5E 1E9 (West of Dixie Rd.) Tel: 905.274.9239. Hours of operation: Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. until 12 noon.