**Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS)
Annual Catholic Mission Appeal 2020**

The Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS), also known as Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters have about 3,000 Sisters world-wide, living and working in international, inter-cultural communities in 48 countries. The American Province Center is located in Northfield (Techny), IL). Their focus in ministry is women and children: working especially with the poor and marginalized through healthcare, education, catechesis, and socio-pastoral service. The Sisters aim to be an ‘image of God’ among those whose circumstances in life make it difficult to know and believe in God’s love for them… to be a source of hope in their often hopeless world.

Our Baptism and Scripture invite us to discipleship and MISSION. “Listen! That you may have life!” …. Life! Life in God… given to us through baptism! …to follow the Way of Christ! …to be in mission! Missionary is not about WHO we are (priest, Sister, Brother, lay person…) or WHERE we go! MISSION is about HOW we are! How we are in our daily lives…. How we share God’s love to others… a smile, a helping hand, a listening ear to one who is lonely, in pain, suffering…. Mission happens when we speak up for the voiceless, when we share of our abundance with those who lack the necessities of life, when we pray with the sorrowing and rejoice with the happy! In our moments of encounter with others, the presence of God is made visible through US! That is mission! Scripture also says to us, “Give them some food yourselves!” Generously share of your goodness and abundance!

Today, in the name of missionaries who have chosen to be available, to go beyond what is familiar and comfortable to witness God’s love and mercy to many of the ‘forgotten’ in our world, we ask for your PRAYERS and your GENEROUS support! I invite you to consider helping the missionary out-reach of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters in the Caribbean (Jamaica, St. Kitts, and Antigua) as well as Holy Spirit Life Learning Centers in the Chicago area.

In the Caribbean missions, the Sisters focus is primarily in education where the Sisters give children strong foundations in faith and in learning. Our Lady of the Assumption School, in Morant Bay, Jamaica, is the ONLY Catholic School in St. Thomas, Jamaica, the poorest area of the country. The mission school, started in 2012 with 7 children (ages 3-5), was housed in an old, one room church hall. During the past 8 years, enrollment has grown to over 140 students (PS - 6th Gr.). Through the generosity of others in the annual Mission Appeal and Food for the Poor, 6 additional classroom spaces have been constructed to accommodate for the growing enrollment.

How will YOUR contribution make a difference in the lives of the people in this area? Consider the children living in poverty, often roaming the streets, lacking good nourishment and education… contrasted with the blessings of Catholic education fashioning persons of faith, self-control, dignity, a healthy body, and a broadening intellect! Consider Sr. Barbara who visits and attends to the needs of elderly women… distributing food, offering a listening ear, providing Bible instruction for “street children”! Consider the work of the Sisters in our local Holy Spirit Life Learning Centers where immigrant women have an opportunity to learn English as well as a place for gathering and socializing; where children receive “homework help” and tutoring. In our “Summer Peace Camp”, the children participate in a variety of activities that promote peaceful interaction and problem-solving with others. .

These are but a few glimpses of our ministries here and in our mission countries throughout the world. The Sisters ask for your **prayerful** **support** for ALL missionaries, many of whom minister in difficult, lonely, and sometimes dangerous situations. Also, the Sisters ask for your **financial** **support.** Please, take a moment to think about your own comforts…, the many things you have or can get so easily at your disposal…. safe, secure homes; food; transportation; education…; every kind of electronic gadget available; opportunities to “eat out”, enjoy sports and entertainment; the ability to drive here and there…. Isthere something of your “comfort zone” that you can share with missionaries in their ministries? … The cost of a dinner out, a fill-up at the gas station; a ticket to the theater or a sport event; an item of clothing or shoes that ‘caught your eye’…? YOUR donation can help supplement tuition costs, provide textbooks and other learning materials and supplies for needy children…. YOUR donation can provide some nourishing food for children or the elderly, abandoned women…. YOUR donation can fill the gas tank for a missionary who travels to remote areas in service to others!

**Please, TAKE the ENVELOPE for the Mission Cooperative Appeal…. After reflecting on HOW you can help and WHAT you can OFFER; OPEN the envelope; BREATHE into it a PRAYER for missionaries and the people who will be helped through your generosity; PLACE YOUR GIFT / OFFERING in the envelope; and put it in the offering basket for the collection OR return it next Sunday and place it in the offering basket. Make all checks to your local parish.** Then, all donations from the parish will be forwarded to the Diocesan Mission Office for distribution

**THANK YOU!** In return, the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters promise YOU their prayers of gratitude, asking God to bless you and your loved ones!

[For more information about the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit visit:

[**www.ssps-usa.org**](http://www.ssps-usa.org) **/ Facebook @sspsusa /**

**YouTube: Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters USA**