



# COMMISSIONED BY CHRIST

SHORT TERM MISSIONS, LIFELONG FAITH



## A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This has been a very busy and rewarding year for Commissioned By Christ. Over 100 missionaries have participated in the mission life of the Catholic Church since January! We successfully completed 5 international mission trips to the Dominican Republic, Peru and Kenya, and 10 local, one-day mission trips. We have built homes, dorms and latrines; delivered food, clothing, and medicine; and accompanied our Diocesan priests to bring the Holy Eucharist to the homebound, bless homes and new babies, and anoint the sick. Every step of the way, CBC missionaries encountered Christ through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

In June, my husband and I were blessed to be a part of the CBC Peru mission team, along with our two teenagers. Serving together as a family was a profound experience for us. In the midst of extreme poverty, we encountered joyful hearts. My children witnessed our

beautiful Catholic faith being lived out far from the comforts of our own home, in houses lacking running water and electricity, with dirt floors and livestock running throughout. That week in Peru changed their understanding and view of the world, and it was very humbling.

I am excited to share the experiences of two CBC missionaries in this newsletter, as well as fill you in on all the latest happenings. Here's what you can look forward to:

- Learn how one missionary's experience building a dormitory for 400 at-risk girls at the Mother of Mercy Secondary School in Lare, Kenya, landed her in the classroom teaching St. John Paul II's the "Feminine Genius."
- Read about a father's desire to grow in faith and the unexpected inspiration that resulted.
- Review a letter from the Chairman of the Board.
- Meet our newest Commissioned By

Christ Board Member.

- Become a Catholic missionary in 2018!
- Learn about our "Volunteer of the Year," who was recognized at CBC's 3rd Annual Benefit Reception on Sept. 21, 2017.

The continued growth of CBC has been made possible through our generous donors and sponsors. Having been called to support the mission life of the Catholic Church, they understand we are forming missionaries as the hands and feet of Christ, and have even added requests with their financial support, saying, "This is for someone whose heart is called to serve." Whether you or your family have been missionaries, or you desire to make that opportunity possible for others, we are so blessed for your involvement and generosity. In the words of Fr. Keith O'Hare, this year's CBC Volunteer of the Year, "Some give by going, some go by giving."

God bless, Michelle Haworth





## THE FEMININE GENIUS: BY CAROLINE DUFFY CBC MISSIONARY TO KENYA, JULY 2017

The Feminine Genius in Kenya: "To serve is to reign"

"...society certainly owes much to the genius of women...The Church sees in Mary the highest expression of the 'feminine genius' and she finds in her a source of constant inspiration...Putting herself at God's service, she also put herself at the service of others: a service of love. Precisely through this service Mary was able to experience in her life a mysterious, but authentic 'reign.'... For her, 'to reign' is to serve! Her service is 'to reign!'" (St. John Paul II, Letter to Women)

This past summer, I was blessed to volunteer with Commissioned by Christ at Mother of Mercy School in Kenya. Eager to observe a religion class, I asked the principal for permission, and much to my surprise, I was informed that I would, in fact, be teaching the class of approximately 60 senior girls – in 10 minutes. Sweaty and dirty from the morning's work of laying stones and mortar for the new girls' dormitory, my mind raced as to what I should do. After a quick Memorare and some quiet reflection, it came to me: I would talk about one of my favorite saints, St. John Paul II, and one of his favorite themes, "the feminine genius." It seemed an appropriate topic at this all-girls high school named for the Blessed Mother; and as it turned out, these young women taught me just what JP II meant by "the feminine genius."

After a brief overview of JP II's life, I spoke of his devotion to the Virgin Mary and asked them what attributes she displayed throughout her life. I then asked the girls what their future plans and dreams were – what did they want to be and do when they left Mother of Mercy School? One by one, hands started to go up and all of the answers went something like this: "I want to study agriculture so I can teach families how to grow their own food so they don't have to go hungry." "I want to be a doctor so I can help save lives." "I want to be an accountant so I can teach families how to save money" and "I want to be an attorney so I can help women who've been mistreated by their husbands." After writing each response on the chalk board, I asked what each answer had in common: "compassion," "the courage to act," "selflessness," "concern for the needs of another." With tears in my eyes I concluded, "And that is the feminine genius." These "Mercy Girls" as they like to be called, live out that feminine genius each day – by waking up at 4 a.m. to do chores to prepare for the day, through their dedication to their rigorous course of study in which they take classes into the evening hours, through their warm welcome of CBC volunteers into their Mercy community, by their heroic perseverance through overwhelming personal difficulties, and certainly not the least through their beautiful faith lived through simple acts of generosity and devotion such as their daily evening rosary. Like Mary, the Mercy Girls are young women of deep faith, hope and charity with a zeal to serve God and to put their talents and gifts at the service of others – "a service of love." May their "reign" come!



## ENCOUNTERING JOY: BY JEFF LUNGREN CBC MISSIONARY TO PERU, JUNE 2017

As my four kids have gotten older, and two have become teenagers, my wife and I have been looking for ways to help our children grow in their faith through serving others. At the same time, I have been seeking an experience that would get me out of my comfort zone, and more importantly, help me grow in my Catholic faith. I remember the impact my mission trip to Mexico had on me when I was in high school and felt a need to renew myself again through a mission trip. Thus, I signed up for a CBC trip to Peru, hoping to be rejuvenated spiritually as well as do some reconnaissance for possibly bringing others on future trips.

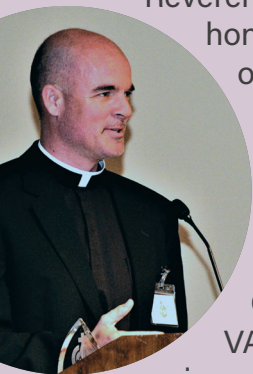
My trip did not disappoint. My faith has been strengthened; inspired by the humble people I met in Peru. Every day I try to remember how I saw God's image in the people there. How we visited the sick and dying – many of whom struggled to even speak – who nevertheless managed to pray with us for God's strength. How we met such beautiful children at the school and orphanage, who have little materialistic comforts, but were filled with a joy for life.

It struck me that while much of our mission efforts involved providing human physical necessities such as food and shelter, I found the people's gratitude, kindness, and joy was providing a spiritual food of sorts for me. I was assisting in merely providing them the bare minimums essential for human survival, yet they were grateful for what little they had and that we were spending our time helping them. Whether it was building homes, delivering food, or teaching basketball at the school, the warmth and joy from the people I encountered was inspiring. I look forward to living my faith through another CBC trip in the future – and, hopefully, sharing the experience with others in my family.



### CBC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: REVEREND KEITH O'HARE

Reverend Keith O'Hare was honored as Volunteer of the Year at the CBC 2017 annual benefit reception on September 15, 2017 at St. Luke Catholic Church in McLean, VA. Father O'Hare is pastor of St. Louis Catholic Church in Alexandria, VA. From 2008-2017, he served as pastor at the Arlington Diocesan Mission in the Dominican Republic. His love for and service to the poor has been an inspiration for many and CBC is blessed to be able to recognize his dedication to the mission life of the Church.



### LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

I am deeply grateful to God, our benefactors, staff, volunteers, and missionaries who have all joined in a passionate way the missionary activity of the Church in the world through the work of Commissioned by Christ (CBC). It is certainly an honor and a delight to serve such a wonderful organization and community dedicated to Christ, His Church, and the compassionate care of those in spiritual and corporal need.

As personally noted by many of our missionaries to the Dominican Republic, Peru, and Kenya, they have not only served the poor in these missionary places, but also experienced a tremendous growth in their own personal and spiritual lives. Their sentiments express one of the core goals of CBC, which is to provide adult Catholics and families the opportunity to deepen their faith through sacramental worship, fellowship, and serving the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

In addition, I have been humbled by the generous response of so many benefactors, who are inspired by the good work of CBC and wish to support our missionary activities. While some

of our benefactors are unable to attend a one-week international mission trip, they enthusiastically wish to support this great undertaking so that others may join the missionary activity of the Church. In turn, our missionaries carry our benefactors with them in heart and prayer as they serve the poor around the world.

Our work and mission is ongoing. In the upcoming year, we have planned several international mission trips and numerous one-day missions to serve those in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Many have signed up for our international trips already – don't miss out! Please continue to keep our missionaries, staff, and volunteers in your prayers as you and your intentions remain in ours.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Rev. Jamie R. Workman*

Rev. Jamie R. Workman  
Chairman of the Board



## CBC'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER - LISA MARIE CHENEY

Commissioned By Christ is honored to welcome new Board member, Lisa Marie Cheney. Lisa Marie has been actively serving and working with the U.S. government and private industry for over 25 years. Her areas of expertise include defense and national security, intelligence, energy, homeland security, cyber security, and foreign policy issues. She currently serves as the President of Innovative Business Group, a firm specializing in business development and federal government business strategy development.

Lisa Marie is a graduate of The George Washington University with a degree in Political Science and holds a Master of Arts in National Security Statecraft from The Institute for World Politics. She is also an active volunteer in Alexandria, spending her time working on many issues related to child welfare and education. She has served on the board of Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater, and is currently serving on the Board of Governors for Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, VA. She is a native of Alexandria, Virginia, where she resides with her husband and their three children and was part of the CBC Kenya mission team this past summer, along with her two older children.



## BECOME A CATHOLIC MISSIONARY IN 2018!



### **Bánica, Dominican Republic (February 3-10, 2018)**

CBC missionaries are involved with on-going projects, including repairing houses for needy families, building chapels, and working on construction to improve the basic sanitary needs of the community. Missionaries meet and work alongside the people of the parish, celebrating Mass with them and more!

### **Piura, Peru (June 23-30, 2018)**

Santisimo Sacramento provides food packages to families, donated clothing, building materials, access to medical care, private education, orphanages, in addition to caring for the spiritual needs of the Parish. Meet the people of the parish, celebrate Mass with them, and

work in a few of the social service projects the parish is carrying out to improve the standard of living for the poorest in the community.

### **Lare, Kenya (July 5-15, 2018)**

Commissioned By Christ missionaries will be involved with a number of projects, including repairing houses for needy families in the surrounding villages, working on construction initiatives to improve the basic sanitary needs, delivering food and/or clothing, and much more! This will be a 10-day mission trip, which includes travel days.

### **One-Day Local Missions**

We invite past and future missionaries to engage in corporal and spiritual works of mercy in our local communities by joining a one-day mission to organizations such as Missionaries of Charity, The Lamb Center, Sunrise Senior Center, DC Central Kitchen, and more. These short missions run several times throughout the year. Visit: [www.commissionedbychrist.org](http://www.commissionedbychrist.org) to find your opportunity to see and serve Christ in your community.



## HOW TO DONATE

Commissioned By Christ relies on the generosity, kindness and prayers of those called to support the mission life of the Church. Your financial contribution will help us to continue serving the poor through spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Commissioned By Christ has partnered with Faith Direct – the leading eGiving program for Catholic churches and organizations all across the country. Through Faith Direct you can make all of your contributions to Commissioned by Christ via automatic payment from your checking account or credit card – just as you may do now with your mortgage, household bills, and other monthly payments. This is a great way to simplify your giving – and it's the most cost-effective, environmentally-friendly way for us to receive your gifts. Go to [www.commissionedbychrist.org/donate](http://www.commissionedbychrist.org/donate) to make your gift today.

**Financials:** Commissioned By Christ FY2017 Financials can be found at [www.commissionedbychrist.org/financials/](http://www.commissionedbychrist.org/financials/)



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