



Thriving & renewing our call to mission

Official Newsletter of Commissioned by Christ

Our Story is a Testament

BY MICHELLE HAWORTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year our Annual Benefit & Silent Auction theme was “Thriving & Renewing Our Call to Mission”. Thanks to the grace of God, the love of Mary, and the persistence of our patron saint, St. Teresa of Calcutta, our story is a testament to that theme! It is a miracle and a blessing that Commissioned by Christ continues to thrive after pausing in-person mission trips for the last two years due to the pandemic.

In 2019, CBC had a staff of one part-time person, and the year ended with 135 missionaries having completed 6 international and one domestic mission trips. Looking forward to January 2020 with excited anticipation, we were in the process of organizing 3 new mission destinations when the world shut down. But our story did not end there. Because of the love and support of our missionaries, donors, and board members, we are renewing our call to mission.

In 2021, we successfully created and launched our new virtual mission trip program to Kenya, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Vietnam. We are making plans to resume in-person mission trips in May 2022 and are creating a program that allows virtual and in-person mission trips to run in tandem, giving us the flexibility to bring our virtual missionaries along with us every day of the in-person mission trip.

We have a new part-time program assistant, an events coordinator, and a logistics volunteer. CBC’s story feels very much like the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. It has confirmed in my heart what I already knew in my head – God wants CBC here and we are part of his plan to bring Christ out into the world. The beauty is that through prayer, perseverance, and your generosity, new life is being poured into CBC.

Thank you for helping us to bring Christ to others. Thank you for being part of our story!

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CBC Missionaries of the Year: Monica and Tom Pedagno

HE'S LEADING THE WAY; YOU JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW.



CBC was privileged to present the 2021 "Bishop Paul S. Loverde Missionary Award for Selfless Service" to Monica and Tom Pedagno at the Oct. 23, 2021 Annual Benefit & Silent Auction. Parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church (SEAS) in Lake Ridge, VA since 2002 and very active in service to the Diocese of Arlington, they are the first married couple to be honored with this award.

Monica and Tom's service within the Diocese of Arlington has been diverse and expansive. Monica volunteered for the high school youth ministry One Act Plays, Living Stations, and craft classes. She co-taught the SEAS Faith Foundation classes, was Director of the Human Concerns' Committee, and assisted with the BLA program. She is currently active with Catholic Charities' Mobile Response Center. Tom has chaperoned Catholic Heart Workcamp, volunteered on the SEAS Finance Committee, and is an active member of the Knights of Columbus. Together they participated in the SEAS Arbor Committee, coordinated the Fair Trade merchandise sale, and

were part of the New Evangelization leadership team at SEAS and in the diocese. In July 2018, they journeyed to Lare, Kenya with their two adult daughters, Amy and Mary Claire, as CBC missionaries. In the 3 years that followed their return from Kenya, Monica and Tom proceeded to coordinate and manage 7 farm gleaning service projects for hundreds of CBC volunteers yielding over 28,000 lbs. of corn and 6,000 pounds of broccoli. They continue to support Catholic Charities' St. Lucy Project and Warehouse in Manassas and the Christ House in Alexandria.

Monica and Tom thrive to live as intentional disciples of Jesus Christ, seeking to serve God throughout their married years. Because they moved around so much over the years (Tom was active-duty Coast Guard for 21+ years), they often used their local parish to help identify volunteer opportunities. Filled with God's love, they seek to share that love with family, friends, and all their brothers and sisters in Christ.

They particularly love the opportunity to volunteer together. Strengthened by witnessing each other's gifts and talents in action, they've learned how to better work as a married couple and to respect each other's individual contributions to whatever they are doing.

Their advice is to remain open to where God is calling you at any particular moment. Should He call you to serve in a location or field that stretches your comfort level, fear not! He's leading the way; you just have to follow.

Celebrating 30 Years THE BÁNICA MISSION



This year we are celebrating 30 years since the Diocese of Arlington first began its relationship with the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana in the town of Bánica, Dominican Republic. In 1991, Rev. Gerard Creedon was the first missionary sent by the Diocese of Arlington. Fr. Creedon reestablished the parish of San Francisco de Asis in Bánica, which had not had a priest for over 20 years. Sixty small villages and 3 towns encompass the parish, prompting the need to create a second parish, San Juan Bautista in Pedro Santana. Fr. Stephen McGraw and Fr. Jeb Donelan are currently serving those communities on behalf of the Diocese of Arlington.

Commissioned by Christ is blessed to be a part of the Bánica Mission. In the years prior to CBC's inception in 2008, its founders had already been serving in the community of Bánica, sowing seeds that would eventually grow into the fruit of Commissioned by Christ.

Pope Francis tells us to go to the peripheries and to take Christ to the people who are marginalized. During the pandemic, CBC created a new virtual mission trip program, allowing missionaries to connect with our partner sites through prayer, building community, and a shared journey. We are reminded that we are all children of God and of the same family.

*CBC is excited that the Catholic Diocese of Arlington Mission Office, which oversees the Arlington Diocesan Bánica Mission, is CBC's new office suite mate at 200 N. Glebe Rd. in Arlington. Come by and visit us!

Nothing Can Get in Our Way



"It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on

the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." Mark 4: 31-32

As baptized Catholics, we are all called to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. To sow the smallest of seeds that will grow and become the largest of plants that bring fulfillment, peace, and rest on this earth.

Commissioned by Christ is doing its part. We are helping people renew and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church through its short-term mission trips. Our missionaries spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed by practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Nothing can get in our way of accompanying Christ to the ends of the earth. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the world shut down, we were able to pivot our mission trips to virtual missionary experiences. This was made possible by your generous financial support. We purchased a powerful web portal, enriched our spiritual formation program, and served.

Through our new program, missionaries engaged in a six-week experience of prayer, service, and fraternity. We served dozens of individuals who deepened their personal relationship with Christ and planted the seeds of faith to all those they touched in Kenya, Peru, and the Dominican Republic.

Commissioned by Christ thrived in the face of darkness because of your prayer and support! I want to assure you that our virtual mission trips are by no means a lesser substitute for our traditional mission trips. They are now becoming a stable part of our programming to engage the faithful in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The formation program built for our



CBC INAUGURAL KENYA VIRTUAL MISSION TRIP

virtual mission trips will become part of our traditional international mission trips. And, they will be a continued option for missionaries who are unable to travel outside of the country.

We ask you to step up again to support us. To ensure that we continue to grow, develop, and share the faith to the ends of the earth.

Thank you,
M. René Islas,
CBC Chairman of the Board



A Missionary Blessing

BY BISHOP EMERITUS PAUL S. LOVERDE

Dear Heavenly Father,

Down through centuries to this very time, there echoes the commission of Jesus Christ your Son and our Savior - his commission to his disciples to go forth proclaiming the joy of the Gospel, to go forth announcing the salvation won by your son by his dying, rising and ascending to you at your right hand.

Pour out your blessings upon your missionaries as they evangelize, making tangible the corporal and spiritual works of mercy to those in need, whatever the need be - materially, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Bless as well, our generous donors who both by prayer and their sacrificial offerings sustain the missionaries' efforts and endeavors.

Heavenly Father, transform all our efforts as we seek to uphold our missionaries. Our prayer for the future is that the missionaries who go forth, under the sponsorship of Commissioned by Christ initiative, may continue to thrive, renewing daily their generous response to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Thanks & Gratitude

Sincerest thanks and gratitude to everyone that helped to make this year's Annual Benefit & Silent Auction so successful. In particular, thank you to our generous donors, auction bidders, and sponsors: Arlington Mission Office, American Solutions for Business, Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington, Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Innovative Business Group, Knights of Columbus VA State Council, Nativity Catholic Church, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Riveron Consulting, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church and Academy, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, St. Philip Catholic Church, St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church, The Basilica of St. Mary, and Wirewheel.



CBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MICHELLE HAWORTH, AND HUSBAND, PEDRO

God Says Go

We are commissioned to accompany the marginalized in their journey. Join us as we go.

Virtual Mission Trips | A six-week journey that is spiritual, catechetical, and practical, transporting you virtually to the international mission site communities that we would typically serve during our in-person mission trips. Accompanied by a team leader and priest chaplain, missionaries will encounter a discovery of faith, community, and works of mercy with each virtual mission trip experience. Register at www.cbc-missions.org.

Lare, Kenya | January 22, 2022

Piura, Peru | February 2022

Haiti | March 2022

Piura, Peru | May 12-21, 2020*

Lare, Kenya | July 6-16, 2020*

Banica, DR | July 23-30, 2022*

In-Person Mission Trips | CBC prepares its mission team practically, spiritually, and catechetically. This is accomplished in the months prior to arrival in-country with two 1/2-day retreats and a local group service project. After returning, the team meets for a post-mission debrief and meal.

Piura, Peru | May 12-21, 2022*

Lare, Kenya | July 6-16, 2022*

Banica, DR | July 23-30, 2022*

* Virtual and in-person mission trips to run in tandem, bringing virtual missionaries along everyday with the in-person mission team.

Sustaining Missionaries

Sustainable Monthly Gift | CaritasBuilders is a special enrollment program of dedicated people who support CBC as monthly donors. Caritas means charity, eternal love, unconditional love. When you enroll in CaritasBuilders, your monthly contribution supports works of mercy and the mission life of the Roman Catholic Church at home and abroad. Any amount will make an impact.

Make a One-Time Donation | Your generosity assists in the growth of new programs, covers supply costs for our service projects, assists in the formation of missionaries, provides financial aid to those who otherwise could not participate, supports the cost of chaplains on each trip, and stabilizes operational needs.

www.commissionedbychrist.org/donate



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Thank you for your continued prayers and generosity.

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