

## In Memoriam: Superior General Salvatore Izzo, M.SS.CC. 1944-2013

**W**ith great sadness and a grave sense of loss, we received the news of the death of our Superior General, Fr. Salvatore Izzo on Good Friday, March 29, 2013. His death came after a long and courageous battle with cancer. A battle he faced with serenity, dignity and the sure knowledge that God was with him always. Fr. Salvatore, a native of Rochetta e Croce, Italy was 68 years old.

At a very young age he knew that his heart was filled with the desire to serve Christ and live the religious life he was drawn to embrace. He entered the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts in 1957, completed his ecclesiastical studies and professed perpetual vows in 1966. Fr. Salvatore was ordained to the priesthood in 1968. He strived to inspire others to a greater faith while he remained ever mindful of the daily struggles they endured. Beginning in 1981 and continuing until 1996 he ministered many years in his beloved India and served as the First Delegate to India. Under his direction, formation houses and novitiates were established along with the first mission station dedicated to the poor.



Fr. Salvatore Izzo,  
M.SS.CC.

In the area of Secondigliano, a suburb of Naples, Italy, also the location of the Motherhouse of the Congregation, he was



Fr. Izzo and the students of Sacred Hearts School in Kucipudi, India.

actively involved in the community needs, working with them to improve the area and supply vital services. In 2004, Fr. Izzo was elected as Superior General and was re-elected for a second term in 2010. During his tenure as Superior General, he directed the establishment of Houses of Formation in Nigeria and Indonesia, finding joy in the growth of vocations to his beloved Missionary Institute. He avidly promoted education, establishing schools in India to serve those in rural areas and helping families meet the needs of their children. In recent years, he promoted a Lay Association of the faithful, encouraging them to follow the charism of the Founder of the Missionaries, St. Gaetano Errico, believing that all, religious and the laity are called to a life of service, charity and love of God . . . a life he lived with steadfast commitment and joy.



## Solar Water Well Project Completed

The tall tower was the topic of conversation for many months as it slowly rose foot by foot in the small village of Ullakwu,

Nigeria. The steel structure was then topped with solar panels and two large tanks. Because the village is not on the national electric grid, it would have to be solar powered. The huge tower was a sight to behold but still the final step was the most important. Fr. Peter Morkah, M.SS.CC. came on that important day in June to bless two taps on the wall and then joyously, the water, clean and pure, came forth to fill the containers and buckets. The new system finally ended the long trek to the nearest clean water . . . over three kilometers away and all of it on foot and then of course the trip back with the



The water system tower.

heavy of load of precious water. Now within a few yards of their homes, they can come and avail themselves of drinking water for their families.

The project had begun over a year ago. By the end of 2012, donations had provided less than half the needed amount and the work was stopped temporarily. But with God's grace, the Missionaries were able to secure a grant to complete the work through the generosity of a private foundation in the United States.

The village is one of many in the area of our Community House that is served through the ministry of the priests of the Nigerian Delegation of our Congregation in Owerri. The Fathers tell of the joy and gratitude of the villagers

for the gift of fresh water . . . to them a gift that will never end as long as the sun will shine.

### General Chapter Concludes with Election of New Superior General

Delegates from each of the Delegations around the world gathered in Naples for a General Chapter at the end of June. Utmost on the agenda was the process to select a new Superior General. Fr. Luigi Toscano, M.SS.CC. was elected as Superior General and a new General Council was also elected for a six year term. Fr. Toscano had previously served as Superior General and was the Postulator for the cause for sainthood of St. Gaetano Errico, Founder of the Congregation. With trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we pray for Fr. Toscano as he undertakes this new office.



Fr. Peter turns on the water tap for the first time.



## Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Buenos Aires, Argentina Declared a Diocesan Shrine



Our Missionaries who staff the parish of Our Lady of Sorrows in the Centennial Park area of Buenos Aires feel especially honored that as one of his last official declarations before becoming Pope Francis I, then Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio decreed the parish as a Diocesan Shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows on December 25, 2012.

The beautiful statue of Our Lady of Sorrows is depicted as she appeared to St. Gaetano Errico in a vision telling him that she would guide his efforts to begin a new congregation dedicated to the most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. The statue first came to the area in 1918 and was placed in the newly constructed church in October, 1942. She has always been known as the Patroness and Protector of this area of Buenos Aires.

Our Lady of Sorrows.

## School Computer Lab Established in Mission Station of Tamilnadu

In 2005, the Diocese of Trichy, India, entrusted St. Joseph's High School (6th to 10th Grade levels) to the care of the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts working in our Mission Station of Tamil Nadu. The 230 students attending come from some of the poorest villages in this area. The needs of the children including uniforms, books and school materials are provided by our Missionaries. Families struggle to provide the most basic needs but they are eager that their children learn in a spiritual, faith-filled atmosphere that the school offers. Recently a mandate was received from the government that computers must be available for the children. Through the generosity of our donors, we were able to provide the first computer lab for the children.



Computer classroom.



## Message from Fr. John . . .

A few days ago, two members of my Community and our Delegate returned from the General Chapter that was convened because of the death of Fr. Salvatore Izzo, our Superior General on Good Friday. Since his passing, we have been “on hold” until a new Superior and General Council could be elected. Now our new Superior General Fr. Luigi Toscano and his new Council will begin again to face the pressing needs of our

Congregation around the world. So many challenges face them . .

. . the lack of vocations in the Americas and Western European Communities and the support of the ever growing Communities in Nigeria, India and Indonesia. Of course, there are always the day to day struggles of working in those areas so overburdened with poverty. I ask for your prayers for our Congregation and our new leadership at this challenging time. Surely Our Lady of Sorrows, our patroness, is watching over us and, as she was for our Founder almost 170 years ago, she will always be “the sign under which you shall win.”



Father John Perdue,  
M.S.S.C.C.

### Our New Website Goes Live

Our new website has been up and running for about six months now and we are happy to see how many visitors are leaving prayer requests and asking for information on vocations and our devotional programs. The process of creating the new site took almost nine months to complete and we are pleased with the results. Please visit us at [missionofsacredhearts.org](http://missionofsacredhearts.org). We welcome your visit and we hope you find it interesting and easy to navigate.

*Fr. John, M.S.S.C.C.*  
Father John, M.S.S.C.C.



Member since 1987.



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