



Places of MS Ministry up to 2010

Mary cried at La Salette and brought the good news of conversion. She continued to invite and gave the mandate, "make this known to all my people." Following the message of Our Lady of La Salette, Myanmar MS community is now in the 5th year of re-establishing La Salette Mission. The missionaries are now residing in different places with different responsibilities and ministries. They are involving in pastoral ministry at 4 parishes and in formation at 3 Seminaries. They centered themselves at Chanthagone Shrine, in the Archdiocese of Mandalay. They are also reaching out as spiritual directors to the Pre-major Seminary at the diocese of Myitkyina.



Shrine

Parish of Our Lady of Holy Rosary: Since 2005, the missionaries settled here at the Marian shrine in Chanthagone. Fr. Bernie was the first one to step in, and then the others followed. Here the missionaries are taking two responsibilities: Parish Ministry and shrine ministry. Up to this time, it is the place of gathering for the missionaries as Central House for they are waiting for the nearby Central House to be finished. The shrine is so spacious that it can take big celebrations and retreats for large groups. The missionaries are now ready to give more constructed formation. For the meantime, this is where

La Salette volunteers and aspirants are going to have their initial formation. The volunteers stay here and help out at the shrine works. The MS formation starts from volunteer program, later to move on to aspirancy. By this, they get to know La Salette and the community.



La Salette Statue



Shrine View



Grotto

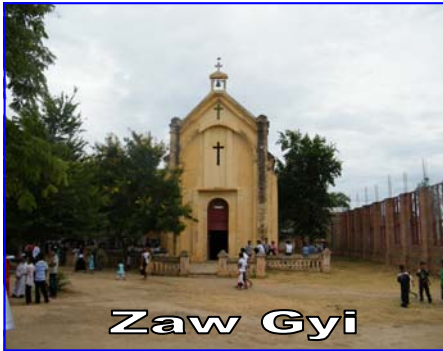


Church

Parish of Sts. Joachim and Ann: Not far from Chanthagone, Myauk Khine has been under the care of La Salette Missionaries since the time they arrived in 2005. At this village, the people are divided into two major groups by religion: Buddhists and Catholics. The Catholics have their pastor and church while the Buddhists their monks and monastery in the same village, not so far from one another. Despite their differences in faith, they are united in one way or another in many aspects like helping each other during celebrations and in social matters. The pastor is challenged to know how to live in amidst the differences. The parish is now having a kinder garden, numbering about 20 kids with two professional teachers. Fr. Patrick, MS is the pastor of this parish.



Myauk Khine



Zaw Gyi

Parish of St. Vicent De Paul: Zaw Gyi houses 140 families, not very far from the Chanthagone shrine, and about 95 percents are Catholics. The faithful of the parish are limitlessly free in terms of worship and practicing their faith. Officially it has been entrusted by the diocese to the responsibility of La Salette missionaries since last May 2009. It is located along the Zaw Gyi river and has very good soil. It has an orphanage under the care of St. Joseph sisters, entrusted by the diocese. By the name of St. Vicent de Paul, the orphanage has been giving great help and support to the needy and homeless children since the olden time of foreign missionaries. The number of the parishioners are growing larger, there is a new Church construction to be continued sooner or later. Despite that, the MS pastor is now to shepherd those and villagers nearby towns and villages. Fr. Thomas, MS is the pastor of the parish.

Parish of Holy Family: About 30 miles from Chanthagone is the parish of Holy Family in Sinbyu. It is a bit isolated from the other parishes. Being far from the main road, the most difficult part is the river, just right before the village, that makes hard to get to the village. Many times, the wooden bridge had been swept by the high flood. During this summer before the rain comes, the people and the parish priest were able to rebuild the broken bridge, at least for the people and motorcycle to pass, especially for the children to go to school. Since the road is not paved up to the main road, it is so slippery and muddy during rainy season that it could hardly be gone through. The soil in Sinbyu is rich. Different fruit trees can be grown easily. The pastor is not only to shepherd the faithful in terms of spiritual matters but also to guide them in different aspects of their life for it is a small village. Fr. Robert, MS is the parish priest.



Sin Byu



Mandalay

St. Thomas' Pre-major Seminary: Two years have been passed since La Salette fathers served there as a spiritual director at the St. Thomas Intermediate Seminary, at the Archdiocese of Mandalay. The first was Fr. Nicodemus, MS to be part of the formation team while being a spiritual director. It is where the seminarians have a chance to attend college and religious education more intensively. The MS spiritual director also teaches catechism and other conferences. Now Fr. David Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, MS is assigned there, as he prepared himself in Philippines for formation. At the same Archdiocese of Mandalay, Fr. Lucas Suan

Za Lian, MS is assigned as spiritual director to **St. Aloysius' Minor Seminary** in Pyin Oo Lwin.

St. Patrick's Intermediate Seminary: Just this year at the diocese of Myitkyina, the MS mission has been started. This is at the Kachin State, where the people speak different dialect and have unique culture. La Salette sisters (SNDS) are also present there, involving in the formation of the faithful and having SNDS formation. Fr. Philip, MS, the native of Kachin, is assigned to help at the seminary while looking into the further possibilities of mission and formation at the diocese. He will be serving there as spiritual director. And Fr. Nico, MS, as well, while waiting for US Visa, will be there at the seminary.

Sitapur
Myitkyina

Children's Camp

Fr. Bernard Taylor, MS, as head of the **Mandalay Archdiocesan Holy Childhood Association**, organized the Children's Camp Summer 2010, together with the Conference of Religious of Mandalay (CRMdy) from April 12-17, 2010. It was held during the famous water festival in Myanmar. It is the Burmese New Year celebration, called 'Thin Gyan.' From each parish of the Archdiocese of Mandalay, 20 children with 2 caretakers were invited to come to Chanthagone. There were 287 children who came all in all from 16 parishes.

With the grace of God, the children's camp has been successful. It is worthy to thank the generous benefactors who donated their foods and cash. And the sisters from different religious communities came to share their time and their talents during this most enjoyable holiday. The children were privileged to gather and know each other and see each others' talents during these five days.

The age limit of the Children was 8 to 14 years old. It was split into two larger groups in terms of giving them religious education and other sessions. But during mass and for the night activities, both groups were put together. It was remarkable to see how the children gave their bests during competitions and group activities.



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Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians

The feast day of Mary Help of Christians was celebrated at Chaung Yoe, on May 30-31, together in celebration of new extension of the church and new bell tower. Fr. John Aye Kyaw turned the parish over to Fr. Martin Kyaw Naing as he is assigned to Chaung Yoe to be the new pastor. This feast day is also the welcome and farewell mass for both of them. Chaung Yoe was the place of Portuguese Christians first arrived to Myanmar. It records a long history, way back to the Burmese kings and before the British colony. With this in their midst, the villagers are holding strong catholic faith. That is why the feast day celebrations are so solemn as always and grand expression of their faith to the other faiths. The 7 la salette fathers were able to participate and gave honor to the Blessed Mother in their celebration.



Someone tried to WHAT..?

One night, there was blackout at passed 11pm and when everything was so quiet, some heard of a loud sound. No one minded but slept. The next day, the famous statue of Lourdes was on the floor. People were so worried to see her down and wondered how. It was made of metals and so heavy that the attempt of stealing was unsuccessful perhaps.

