



FATHER JOHN MALLEY, O.CARM. DIRECTOR OF CARMELITE MISSIONS

Dear Friend of the Missions,

During the Christmas holidays, we were all deeply saddened when we heard the extent of the **tsunami** damage in southeast Asia. It was so difficult to understand the catastrophe and to accept the terrible loss of life that took place among so many people, especially among the children, during such a joyous time of the year.

The response from around the world to help the tsunami victims has truly been incredible. Our Carmelite Mission office has been directing our assistance to the victims through the Indonesian Carmelite Relief Committee. The coordinator of this committee is Father Yulius Sudarnoto, O.Carm., who knows the area well, and he is presently in charge of more than 50 theology students at our seminary in Malang, Indonesia.

During the past three months, I have been in frequent contact with Father Yulius whom I have known and respected for many years. He has established a twofold program to help the tsunami victims on the Indonesian island of Sumatra where well over 100,000 people lost their lives and so many others lost their homes and their possessions.

The first program is short term: providing personnel and supplies to the five Carmelite parishes and two communities of Sisters in and around Medan, the capital of Sumatra. So many of the refugees who had their homes and places of work destroyed have come south to Medan. There has been a constant need for food, water, clothing, medicine and shelter. The Carmelite parishes and the communities of Sisters have been providing these necessities, and they will continue to do so for months to come.

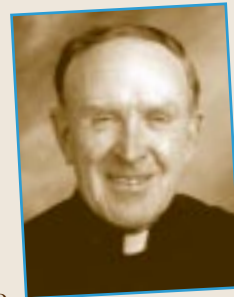
The second program of Father Yulius (see photo on next page) and our Carmelite seminarians is more long term: to help in the rebuilding of that devastated area of Sumatra. Many of these seminarians are from the island; they speak the local language, Batak. Their presence will not be threatening to the largely Moslem population. During the coming summer vacation, Father Yulius and the seminarians will be assisting in the rebuilding of homes and places of business. Brother Anthony is one of these seminarians. His widowed mother lost her home in the tsunami, but fortunately she and three members of the family did not lose their lives. Anthony and his classmates are eager to rebuild his own home and to help others as they try to begin life again.

I am most grateful for any help that you might give to Father Yulius, his students, and the Indonesian Carmelite Relief Committee. There is still so much that needs to be done. May God reward you for your wonderful generosity and for helping Carmelite Missions in our efforts of making funds available for the tsunami victims in Sumatra.

Love and peace,

Fr. John Malley, O.Carm.

Father John Malley, O.Carm.
Director of Carmelite Missions



REMEMBER THE CARMELITE MISSIONS WHEN YOU WRITE YOUR WILL

SAINT OF THE MONTH

CLEOPAS AND THE “OTHER DISCIPLE” ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS



Carmelite Novices in Batu, Indonesia

The climatic day in all of human history is that first Easter Sunday. People like ourselves are finally reconciled to our God and Father. Jesus is glorified. He is raised from the dead and returns to the Father — not to abandon us but to prepare for each one of us a place in His kingdom!

That is Easter! But, in spite of the importance of the moment, the Risen Lord simply goes for a walk. He meets two very ordinary men on the road between



Father Yulius (fourth from left, back row) and Seminarians from Sumatra

Jerusalem and Emmaus. One is Cleopas; the other man's name is not even recorded. Neither of the men recognize Jesus that Easter afternoon, but they invite Him to join them as they walk along.

A Sabbath Walk

Emmaus, the place to which they are going, is about seven miles outside of the city. In the Gospel, Luke calls it “a sabbath walk.” Actually, the exact site of Emmaus is disputed. There is a place called Amwas on the Jerusalem-Jaffa road, but that is some twenty miles away. The modern village of el-Qukeibeh, northwest of Jerusalem, well suits the biblical account.

Jesus' Relatives

But who is this Cleopas? Who is his companion? The Scriptures say nothing of their backgrounds. They are only described as “two of the disciples of Jesus” (Luke 4, 13). Some recent writers, however, suggest the disciples could have been related to Jesus. Cleopas may be the same as Clopas, the father of one of the women named Mary at the foot of the cross.

A more ancient tradition identifies Cleopas as Jesus' uncle, the brother of Joseph, his foster father, and himself the father of Symeon. It was this Symeon, as cousin of Jesus, who later succeeded James, one of

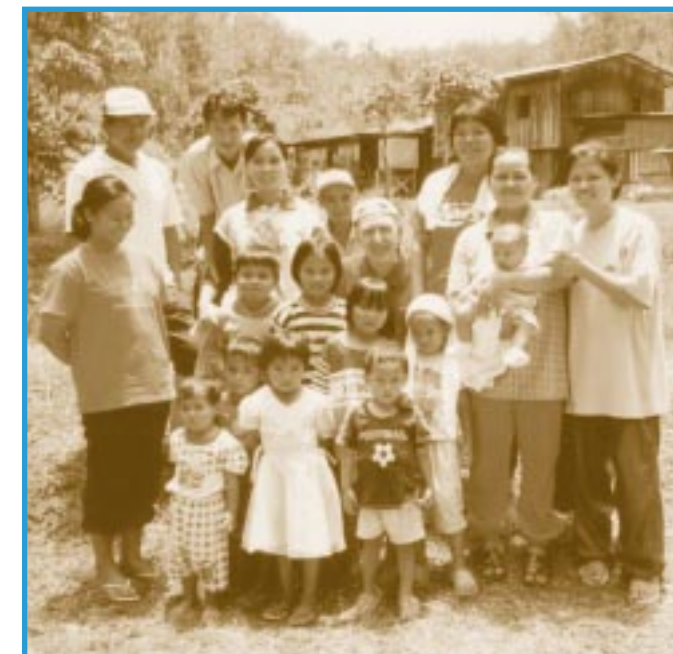
the Apostles, as bishop of Jerusalem and who, after AD 70, led the Christians back to Jerusalem.

An Unknown Stranger

One thing we know for sure: Jesus surprised the two disciples. Not at first that He was alive and with them! Again, initially they did not even recognize Him. What they found astounding was that this stranger would ask why they themselves were looking so downhearted. “Are you the only resident in Jerusalem,” they demanded, “who does not know the things that went on there these past few days?” (Luke, 24, 18)

Then they explained all that had happened; how they shared the growing hope that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah but that now He was dead — crucified at the hands of the chief priests and leaders of the people.

They kept speaking as they walked along. Perhaps Jesus had to suppress a wry smile as He reminded Cleopas and his friend that the Savior was “to undergo all this so as to enter into His glory” (Luke 24, 26). The Old Testament writings make this clear, especially the Suffering Servant passages of the Prophet Isaiah. The disciples understand. Later they said their “hearts were burning inside us as He talked to us on the road and explained the Scripture to us” (Luke 24, 32). Yet, they still do not realize who He really is.



Parishioners in Medan, Sumatra



Childrens' Choir in Flores, Indonesia

Recognized in the Breaking of the Bread

Cleopas and the other disciple on the road to Emmaus are good men. They already accept Jesus' teaching that our love for God is best expressed in our love for one another. Who knows? They may even have been there the day Jesus gave the sermon about the way that God will finally judge us — on the quality of our care for the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, prisoners, strangers (Matthew 25, 31-46). So they do what had become very natural for them. They invite this particular stranger to eat with them and even spend the night.

Jesus accepts their offer of hospitality. He sits at His new friends' table and shares their supper. But now something out of the ordinary happens. Once again the Gospel says: “He took bread, pronounced the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them” (Luke 24, 30).

At that instant Cleopas and his companion finally recognize Him. At that same instant Jesus disappears from their sight. In spite of the hour, they hurry back to Jerusalem. There they find the Apostles gathered, excited, aware that Jesus is alive! They immediately tell the eleven “what had happened on the road and how they had come to know Him in the breaking of bread” (Luke 24, 35).

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SAINT OF THE MONTH

CLEOPAS AND THE “OTHER DISCIPLE”

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Like Ourselves

A significant element of this well-loved Easter story is the fact that the two disciples are not in any way leaders of the community. They represent all the followers of Jesus — even ourselves! Like ourselves, they are often troubled that Jesus seems absent in their pain. They find it hard to recognize Him in ordinary events but once they sense His presence, they do not hesitate to believe.

History will record very few of our names, but Jesus still walks with us. That is another awareness that helps us relate to Cleopas and his friend. Jesus explains the Scriptures to us as well — in every Eucharist. That is why when we listen with trust at Mass to God’s spoken word, our hearts often “burn inside us.” Best of all He invites us to His table and lets us recognize Him “in the breaking of bread.”

An Easter People

Cleopas and the other disciple leave us a final Easter lesson. They fail to recognize the Risen Lord until they put His teachings into practice in a very gentle and ordinary way. “Stay with us,” they say to a stranger, “it is nearly evening — the day is practically over.”

We proclaim: “Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.” He comes in the poor, the sick, the lonely, the anxious, in those who suffer in any way. He comes in all people in our own lives. He lets



Final Profession of Carmelite Sisters, Sumatra (Indonesia)

us see Him there. He also feeds us at His table. That is how He keeps us an Easter people.

Monthly Prayer: God our Father, creator of all, today is the day of Easter joy. This is the morning on which the Lord appeared to a people who had begun to lose hope and opened their eyes to what the Scriptures foretold: that first He must die, then He would rise and ascend into His Father’s glorious presence. May the risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may know Him in the breaking of bread and follow Him in His risen life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. – Amen.



Five Newly Ordained Carmelites in Flores, Indonesia