

Communion of Saints Missionaries

My current project.

The project involves fighting the persecution of Catholics worldwide. This is so sensitive in nature that I require only serious and confidential benefactors.

I have the support and participation of a very prominent internationally recognized Bishop.

If you are interested in supporting the project contact me at: CSM@ICHRusa.com .

My zeal for missionary work started in 1987. My first project was printing a set of 8 (6"x9") full color parable cards. The images came from a Leo Haydock, Douay Rheims Bible from the early 1800's, one of those great olde 6" thick heavily tooled leather "good books" with the big clasps.

I printed 2000 sets of the eight parables with the appropriate scripture verse for bible study on the back. The idea was to recreate the poor mans bible (*Biblia Pauperum*) for evangelization in remote countries.

The cards where distributed in Papua New Guinea, India, Nigeria, and Uganda much to the appreciation of the local bishops.

Through the contacts made in this program I was privileged to present a new seminary in Uganda with a first-class relic of the Martyrs of Uganda.

In 1994 I met Fr. Luis Aldape, a missionary priest. His mission is to bring Christ to the Aztecs in the remote mountains of Mexico. I received a phone call from an individual that I was acquainted with. He had told Father Luis about my collection of relics. He asked me if he could bring Father over for a private veneration of the relics. The only problem would be that Father doesn't speak English and I don't speak Spanish, so we needed quite a bit of translating.

The visit was a beautiful one. Fr. Luis was so very excited. As he

picked up relic after relic, he would start telling a new story in Spanish before he finished the one he was in the middle of. It was fun, we were in a story-telling frenzy stuck somewhere in the universal language of Spanglish.

Weeks after our introduction, I received a letter from Mexico. Fr. Luis had written asking that if I ever had an extra relic of the True Cross would I consider giving it to him. At that time, I had an extra that I didn't tell anyone about. Well low and behold hold here come the two little visitors, one on each shoulder. The visitor on one shoulder said, "He's a good holy man, give your extra True Cross relic." The character on the other side said, "He's been a priest for 50 years, let him get his own relic." The battle was on, the good VS the bad. I think it was St. Ligouri that said (probably among others), go with your first instinct. My first instinct was that this holy priest deserved the relic of the True Cross. I boxed up the 12" oak standing reliquary cross with the relic enclosed in it for travel on a burrow for 12 hours in the remote mountains of Mexico.

The next time Father came to Los Angeles; I went to his Mass and had a Spanish speaking lady present the relic to him on my behalf. Father was overwhelmed. He returned to Mexico with his True Cross and sent numerous letters to me telling of the miraculous intercession of his holy relic. When Fr. Luis would get somewhere with a phone, he would call me with tales of his relic. The only problem was I never could understand the conversation. He would be all excited, telling me his stories, and then close with his traditional English phrase, "God Bless you, I love you." Sometimes he even left messages on the answering machine; at least those could be translated.

I had the pleasure of meeting Fr. Luis again on a return visit to Los Angeles. He told a story in Spanish of how he now has the first Chapel in the remote Mexican mountains evangelizing the Aztecs, "**la Capilla de la Santa Cruz**", the **Chapel of the Holy Cross**. During that visit I presented Fr. Luis with a reliquary containing a 1/2" x 1/2" piece of the Veil of Our Lady of Loretto.

CELEBRATION AND RECEPTION WASHINGTON, DC • July 28-31, 2004

Thomas Serafin was an invited guest at the reception of the International Monarchist League held at the Bacon-DACOR House in honor of HH Prince Buu Chanh of Vietnam.

Tom gave a brief talk on 7 of the 117 martyrs of Vietnam that were canonized by His Holiness John Paul II. After the main reception Tom was invested as an Officer in the Imperial Order of the Dragon of Annam and Liaison to His Imperial Highness, Prince NGUYEN PHUC Buu Chanh for the relics of Vietnamese Catholic Saints.

I first met His Majesty King Kigeli V of Rwanda at an event in Washington, DC where I spoke on the Martyrs of Vietnam on behalf His Imperial Highness, Prince Nguyen Phuc Buu Chanh. At seven-foot-two-inches tall, the King is an imposing figure.

It was only after I met his majesty that I did research on the horrible carnage in Rwanda. King Kigeli was driven out of leadership by the then MDR Parmehutu party under the leadership of Rwanda's first President, Gregoire Kayibanda, who also abolished the monarchy.

After reading about the brutal massacres in his home country I felt sad that I was not more aware of the problems in his country. If I knew more and was better prepared I could have at least apologized for certain circumstances and members of the Christian community who unfortunately participated. I made a vow to myself that the next time I go to such an event that I will research the backgrounds of all the guests and study the current events of all involved. I wrote an article for King Kigeli's website as a post apology for the horrible atrocities that have been committed upon the faithful subjects of the King, and the brutal killings of the faithful that continue today.