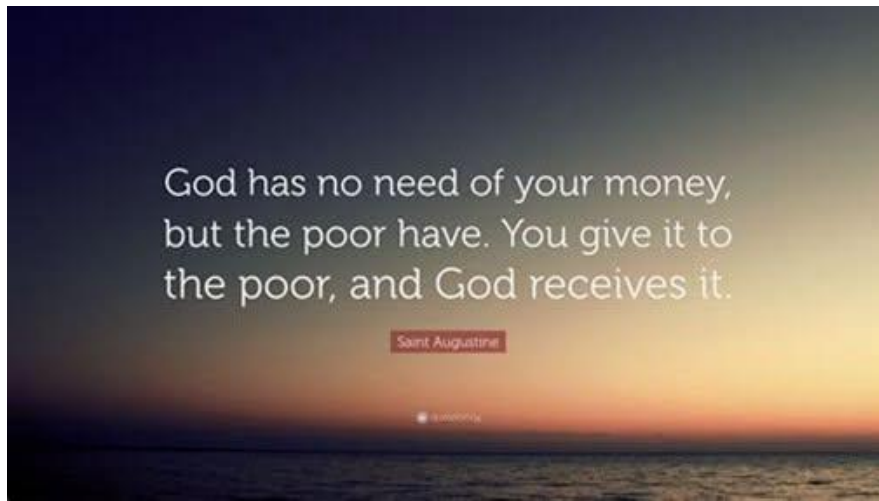




Chipata Appeal:

Bishop Spies (and Bishops Imesch, Sartain, Conlon and Hicks before him) has asked every parish in our diocese to conduct an Annual Mission Appeal for a Diocese, Church Institute, or Religious Institution that is in mission territory somewhere in the world. He has asked that we do this at least one time per year in order to actively reach out to, and help, the needy and the poor throughout the world. For the third year in a row, our parish is going to conduct a mission appeal for the impoverished Diocese of Chipata, Zambia on the weekend of July 25 & 26.

Zambia is one of the five poorest countries in the world and the region surrounding the city of Chipata is the poorest area in Zambia. Sixty percent (60%) of the population lives below the poverty line, with 42% living in extreme poverty. Food insecurity and chronic under-nutrition remain critical issues, with almost half of the children under 5 years of age stunted in growth.

Fr. Dennis Phiri, a priest of the Diocese Chipata, is unable to travel to the United States this year. He has visited the last few summers, and we would like to continue to support the Chipata Mission.

I sent him an email a few weeks ago to touch base with him. In the email, I asked him how he was doing. He said that he was doing okay but that ***"The recent devastating droughts in Zambia have caused massive crop failures. Families are experiencing severe food insecurity because their main source of food and income has dried up."*** The droughts have also affected power generation throughout the country because most of their power is generated through hydroelectric power generation. Power is being rationed and they have power for less than 12 hours per day.

We will have a Mission Appeal for the people of Chipata on July 25th and 26th. This will include a second collection which will afford everyone in our parish the opportunity to help the people of Chipata. Thank you for your generous support.

God Bless, Fr. John