

September 1, 2025

**Dear Confreres,**

During their visit to the US Province, the mother superiors of the sisters from the Philippines shared how deeply touched they were by the warmth and generosity of Americans. They spoke about being warmly welcomed not only by our members but also by people they met along the way. Perhaps their religious habits made them stand out—people even stopped them for photos. One passerby said that it was the first time they had ever seen a nun in person. Some even pressed money into their hands. I told the sisters, “If this keeps happening, we’re going to put you in charge of fundraising!”

Their stories remind me of how generosity is woven into the heart of our mission in the U.S. And it’s not just about financial support; it’s also about the countless hours, talents, and energy that people freely give.

At **Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology**, lay volunteers help our international SCJs, religious, and priests polish their English (and yes, sometimes gently correcting their “unique” pronunciations). At **Sacred Heart Southern Missions**, volunteers roll up their sleeves to distribute food, participate in home repair projects, and engage in community outreach. At **St. Joseph’s Indian School**, volunteers mentor students and assist with cultural activities and community events. And at the **parish level**, countless parishioners step forward to teach catechism and serve in various ministries that keep our parishes alive and thriving. Let’s be honest, if the catechists and choir directors ever went on strike, we’d all be in big trouble.



*Volunteers – Sacred Heart Southern Missions*

Why do people volunteer? Some volunteer to make a difference. Others to build friendship. Or some just don't know how to say "no" when asked. Whatever the reason, the result is the same: their generosity changes lives.

On this Labor Day, we also thank our workers in mission. Their dedication, faith, and daily efforts bring life to the charism we share. Every task they do—big or small, seen or unseen—is an act of love and service. Their work isn't just a duty but a testimony with the power to change lives.

So, on this Labor Day, let's honor our coworkers and volunteers. Please take a moment to thank them. Their service is a gift to all of us. And let us pray for them too—that God may continue to bless and strengthen them—as we together carry forward the mission entrusted to us.

**Fraternally,**



*St. Joseph's Indian School*