



Dear Friends & Benefactors,

There are so many days in which we remember and honor Mary – devotions to Her during the month of May, The Feast of the Assumption in August, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in December and the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary in October. Each one of these brings special thoughts of Our Blessed Mother – special thoughts of someone whose unquestioning love of the Father and faith and trust in His plan for Her never faltered - someone to whom we can always turn in prayer.

The bond between a Mother and her child begins at the moment of conception. Before birth they are one. So it was in the Immaculate Conception – so it was between Mary and her son, Jesus. In life, Mary along with Joseph, loved and raised their son...God's Son. From the beginning, with the announcement from an angel, the relationship was to see so many obstacles and difficulties. But to the angel, the messenger from God, she had said yes. And that yes that was never taken back. It must have pierced her heart so many times, yet she stood the ground both of love and decision. And her decision and yes and love were tested over and over again.



"...to the angel, the messenger, she said YES and that yes was never taken back..."

And when all was finished and it was Mary's time to return to the Father, Her yes, and the yes of Her Son were also just one yes and He took Her home. The Assumption of Mary can so easily be simply celebrated as a Holy Day of obligation, but it is truly a holy day of love for us all.

"Mother, let me take you home."



In this world where so many mothers (and fathers) struggle to make their *yes* a reality with their own beloved, many need help. We, the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, try to help mothers and fathers in India and in Mexico and in the border towns in Texas. Even in the spiritual ministry in our Retreat/Spirituality Center in Wareham, Massachusetts and in our parishes, we strive to help those *yes* decisions to be carried out by people who try so hard in a world that is daily becoming increasingly more difficult and challenging.

There is much we need to do, but there is only so much we can do. But with your help, we can do more. Together we can do more than any of us can do alone. Join us in any way you can so that the differences we help to make will in turn help others to make the differences our world so desperately needs.



With all God's blessings and love,

Fr. Stan

FR. STAN KOLASA, SS.CC.
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



A Missionary Memory...

One of our missionaries in the Bahamas, his name was Fr. Chris Grannell, worked in one of the poorest parishes. So often, even in the middle of the night, people would come to the door and ask for help. And, no matter what time it was, day or night, safe or not so safe, he would go to the door and try to offer help with whatever he had—and it would always be offered with kindness and love for his people.

Fr. Chris died suddenly after morning prayer and before Mass. He was 54. At his memorial and funeral celebration, in his own Bahamian parish, many filed past the open casket and cried. One little boy I remember so well. He was 6, or 7 or 8 or so - bare feet, dirty shorts and a tee shirt with more holes than cloth. He saw me there, dressed as a priest, and wondered if I was going to take the place of the priest they had just lost.

The words that he spoke ring in me still:

“He was kind to us. Will you be kind to us?”

His decision was love and kindness...
He never took that back.

