



Shawnee State University's Catholic Student Association goes on Mission Trip to Jenkins, KY

[Catholic Times](#)

December 6, 2009 Second Week of Advent Volume 59:09

The Shawnee State University's Catholic Student Association took a Mission Trip on Nov. 20 & 21st to Jenkins, KY to work side by side with the Sisters of Charity, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta's Order.

The students, chaplain and advisors left Shawnee State University on Nov. 20 at 3:00 p.m. arriving in Jenkins around 8:00 p.m. They ended the day with evening prayer of Liturgy of the Hours in the chapel of the dormitory where Blessed Mother Teresa stayed when she visited Jenkins in Jan. 2004. The women of the group stayed the night in the dormitory and the men slept in the Activity Center of St. George Church.

The next day Nov. 21st started at 7:00 a.m. with Mass celebrated by Fr. Joseph Klee in the Chapel with the Sisters. At 7:45 a.m. the group prepared and ate a hearty breakfast that would have to last them for a full day of activities in prayer and service.

From 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. the group made an Holy Hour, concluding with Benediction in St. George Church of which Fr. Santosh Madanu is pastor. The church is located across the highway from the Convent and dormitory.

At 10:00 a.m. work begin with the primary job being to prepare and distribute Thanksgiving Dinners for the local needy people. Before the people lined up to receive their groceries for Thanksgiving Dinner they were all invited into the chapel for half an hour of Eucharistic adoration. The chapel filled three different times, with the majority of the people being of Protestant faith but they all joined in prayers of The Lord's Prayer and Hail Mary. They ended with their gift of singing "Amazing Grace" to Fr. Joe Klee and the students.

Mother Superior ,Sister Romero, MC also had the students write out Christmas Cards for the community while Sisters Christophine and Denise directed students not only in their work but answered questions that the non-Catholic students had about the Catholic Church while catechizing all of us as we worked and prayed together. Fr. Santosh had the men help with cleaning gutters, placing concrete nativity statues outside the church as well as bringing other Christmas items out of the attic. St. George is primarily a church of elderly people and they are unable to help with such tasks. The women cleaned up the Activity Center and the body of the Church.

The group spent as much time in prayer as they did in service. It was a transforming experience.

JENKINS, KENTUCKY

Friend and advisor to Mother Teresa

As Mother Teresa worked in Calcutta among the world's poorest of the poor, Fr. Edward Randall traveled for nearly 20 years throughout the southern United States working in poor missions. In 1980, he was appointed to a rural Appalachian parish in Jenkins, Kentucky.

Two years later, Mother Teresa expressed a desire to establish her first rural ministry in America. She decided on Jenkins and sent four nuns to work with Fr. Randall. They opened a shelter for abused women. Thus began a fifteen year friendship between Mother Teresa and Fr. Randall. He became a

close friend and advisor. Whenever she visited the United States she contacted the quiet parish priest in Jenkins and invited him to accompany her on numerous trips in the United States.

Invited by the famous missionary to lead a three week retreat for Mother and her Sisters in Calcutta, India; Fr. Randall remarks: "I was really nervous at first. I felt like she should have been the one in front talking and I should have been sitting there being inspired by her."

Today, at age 80, Fr. Randall still maintains an active schedule in Jenkins. The priest, who was at times seen with Mother Teresa in the media by millions of people around the world, has always been content working in the solitude of the Kentucky Mountains. He continues to minister with the Missionaries of Charity providing the poor with clothing, food and shelter, and celebrates a Mass for the Sisters every evening.

Fr. Randall has been invited to take part in the beatification ceremony of Mother Teresa in October. He has not decided yet if he will attend the event. "The needs of the people of Jenkins must come first," he explains. (From Oblates - Oblate Communications)

In 2011 the Sisters of Charity celebrated the Birth centenary OF BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA and her Initiatives around the World. The Little Sisters of Jenkins, KY held special masses in honor of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

Kentucky: 26th August, 4th September - Jenkins
26th August - Jenkins, Kentucky

HOLY MASS in honor of the Centenary of Mother Teresa's Birth
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: St. George's Church

4th September - Jenkins, Kentucky
HOLY MASS for the feast of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta
Time: 10:00 AM
Place: St. George's Church