

* Fill in the form below if you would like to support our work by sending us **one day's salary** each year at the time of your birthday.

* Make your check payable to **SMA International Development Office** and send it to me (Fr Pat Kelly SMA) at the address below. The SMA is a registered charity (tax purposes).

* In return I will send you a birthday card every year to greet you, to remind you of your pledge and to update you on our work.

* You will be remembered in our community prayers and especially at Mass on your birthday.

**SMA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS
23 BLISS AVENUE, TENAFLY, NJ 07670, USA**

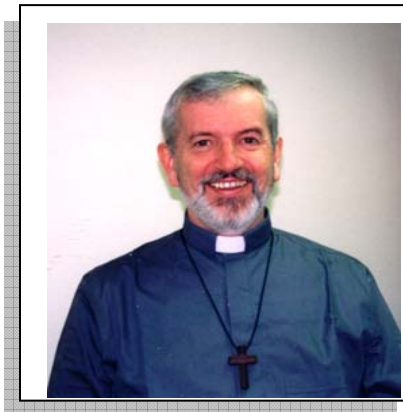


E-mail: interdev@smafathers.org
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Finally, let me introduce myself ...

My name is Fr Pat Kelly (from Ireland!) and I am a priest with the Society of African Missions for over 30 years. After ordination I worked as a missionary in Liberia in West Africa. I then spent 5 years in the Philippines followed by 12 years in India – helping to establish in both places new branches of the SMA to prepare and send Filipino and Indian missionary priests to Africa. I am now heading our International Development Office to seek funding for the training of our new missionary priests from all the new branches of our Missionary Society.



Supporting the Work

Your generosity can help us prepare a new generation of SMA missionaries to spread the Gospel in Africa. We believe we are doing God's work and that He will surely bless our efforts by providing what is needed to do it. And so.....

...we pray that you will be moved by the Lord to support us in this work.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday!

I know a woman who, every time she celebrates her birthday, gives her **mother** a gift! What a beautiful way of thanking the person who brought her into this world.

Our own birthday each year is a good occasion to thank God for the gift of life and faith – to thank Him for the years that are past and to ask Him to bless the years to come.



Here's an idea for your next birthday!

In thanksgiving for the gifts of life and faith that you have received from God **would YOU like to give a return gift to GOD on your next birthday** as one small sign of your love for Him? This little brochure suggests a way you can do it.

I wish to give one day's salary on my birthday to support the training of SMA priests to spread the Gospel in Africa.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-mail: _____

BIRTHDAY: Month _____ Day _____

The **Society of African Missions (SMA)**, dedicated to spreading the Gospel and establishing the Church throughout Africa, invites you to share in its mission by making a **birthday contribution** as your gift to God. Let me explain a little more...

The example of our Indian Sponsors

While working in India I met many people (Muslims and Hindus as well as Christians) who supported our work of training young Indian men to become SMA missionary priests for Africa by contributing 100 rupees (\$2.20) each year.

This doesn't sound very much— but it is actually about **one day's salary** for many people (e.g. teachers, office workers etc.). Most of our Indian supporters do not have bank accounts, credit cards etc., and must live on whatever they earn every week, so one day's salary is actually a very generous gift! We show our appreciation by offering special prayers for them - especially on their birthdays. And we send them a birthday card! I am impressed by their generosity and I like the idea. I am now extending the invitation to you.

Would you be prepared to donate one day's salary every year on your birthday to help us in our work of evangelizing Africa?

You too would then be **literally** working to spread the Gospel in Africa!

[To give you an idea of how much this is: someone who earns \$25,000 per year (working 5 days per week) would earn almost \$100 per day.]

The SMA and the Church in Africa.

For 150 years the SMA has been sending missionaries all over Africa to preach the Gospel and to establish the Church (we are presently working in 17 countries) and are happy to witness the fruits of this work - the Church is growing faster in Africa today than in any other part of the world!



Fr William Joseph (center left) from India on mission in Tanzania

This is a great blessing but it is also a great challenge find enough priests to serve the increasing numbers. SMA priests in the past have always come from Europe and North America. Today however, as the need for priests in Africa grows, the number of missionaries from these traditional sending countries declines. In order to continue our commitment to help the young African Churches we have established new branches of the SMA in other parts of the world (**Argentina, India, Philippines, Poland** and even in a number of **African countries** where the Church is strong) to prepare a new generation of SMA missionaries.

Priestly vocations are still plentiful

in these new areas. However, finding the necessary funds, to train these new priests, to send them on mission – and then to care for them (and the communities they serve) once they get there – is not so easy. Most of our new priests come from so-called “less-industrialized” nations where faith is strong but resources are scarce. It can take up to 10 years to train an SMA missionary priest and this presents a huge financial burden. Efforts to raise funds locally in each of these new areas are already successful, but it will be a long time yet before they will be able to cover all the expenses involved.

It costs, on average, \$4,000 per year to train each student. With about 250 students we must find \$1 million every year for this work! My job in the SMA International Development Office is to find ways of helping to raise this amount until the new branches of the SMA are self-sufficient.



Africa has the fastest growing Church in the world.