

Making a World of Difference: A Healing Mission in Zambia

According to the website of the Catholic Church in Zambia, the Church's provision of health care services to the poor happened from the very start of its mission in the country in the 1890s. Initially, basic health care came from clinics in small Christian communities. This developed over the years into larger, more structured health care institutions, as well as community Home Based Care Programs. Currently 60 percent of health care services in rural areas of Zambia are church related.

On a recent visit to Zambia, National Director Father Andrew Small, OMI spent time at Cardinal Adam Memorial Hospital in Lusaka. Named for the former missionary archbishop of Lusaka, the facility was part of the overall plan of the Bishops of Zambia to offer a fully integrated approach in caring for the sick in their homeland. Being developed in stages, the first phase, which is almost completed, includes administrative offices, as well as a pharmacy, laboratories, dental room, eye clinic, radiology and ultrasound departments, a small operating theater, and consultation / treatment rooms. The second and third phases – which will begin with the availability of funds – will include pediatric and maternity wards, a convent for the Sisters on staff, and small homes for lay volunteers.

In Zambia and throughout the Missions, the Pontifical Mission Societies offers support not only for the all-important and central evangelizing mission of the Church, but also for her healing mission. That includes the efforts of this hospital in Lusaka, as well as some 9,000 clinics caring for the sick and dying in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Europe and Latin America.

This Lent, pray for our mission family – in Zambia and throughout the world – and for the missionaries who serve them. And give generously to the Pontifical Mission Societies to continue to support the life-giving, hope-filled work and witness among the poor and most vulnerable half a world away.

Father Andrew Small, OMI with children from the Home of Joy in Lusaka, Zambia.

