

May 2015 NEWSLETTER

SAINT OF THE MONTH:

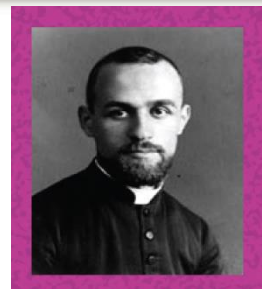
BLESSED MARIO VERGARA

Fr Mario Vergara was born in Italy in 1910. In 1929, after studying at the Jesuit minor seminary and then went onto join a missionary seminary. In 1934 he was ordained priest and joined the mission in Burma (officially Myanmar – a country in Southeast Asia near China and India). At that time, the country was a British colony. Upon his arrival, Fr Vergara was entrusted with the care of the mountainous district, home to many tribes and one of the poorest and most primitive areas in Burma which at that time were actually suffering a famine. Here Fr Vergara fine-tuned his missionary method. He brought the catechesis to all the villages, celebrated the sacraments and established various training and aid activities, including an orphanage for 82 Burmese children and a health clinic. In 1941, after the outbreak of the Second World War, he was interned in concentration camps in India along with other Italian missionaries, deemed "fascists". After four years there during which he experienced health problems, he was released and travelled by train across India and finally got back to Burma. He was sent to another mountainous area where he rebuilt the mission that the war had swept away. He taught catechesis in the villages and built medical posts and clinics. After Burma's independence in 1948, the villages where Fr Mario worked had fighting break out between local groups trying to assert their various traditions, religious beliefs and ideologies. Still, he did not slow down. Instead, he travelled on foot to distant communities and brought care to mountain people, without distinction of religion, and this despite the fact that some rebel forces had started to persecute Catholics. He came to the defense of the oppressed. His peacemaking efforts won him the hatred of the rebels. In May 1950, Fr Vergara

**"TRUE CHARITY REQUIRES COURAGE: LET US
OVERCOME THE FEAR OF GETTING OUR HANDS
DIRTY SO AS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED!"**

- Pope Francis

together with the catechist Isidore went to convince the district chief of a tribe to release another Catholic catechist who had been arrested. Instead, the rebel leader was waiting and captured both of them. After subjecting the men to a harsh interrogation and being dragged through the forest at night, the missionary priest and Isidore were killed at dawn on May 25, 1950. Pope Francis declared him and Isidore martyrs and they were beatified in 2014.



DEAR CHALLENGE CLUB LEADERS,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying this beautiful month of May dedicated to our Lady. Pope Francis once said "Our Lady is always close to us, especially when we feel the weight of life with all its problems." I hope that in this month of May, you can do something with the girls in your club to honor Mary. Maybe a rosary with songs, or a pilgrimage to a local shrine of Mary, or simply going to Mass together on a Saturday in May. Check out the "Whats New Flyer" and new Challenge site www.challengeyouthministry.com. Thanks for all you do and I hope you and your teams are out there making a difference in the world for Christ!

Nadine McMillan
Challenge National Director

YOUCAT # OF THE MONTH:

#309: WHAT IS CHARITY?

Charity is the power by which we, who have been loved first by God, can give ourselves to God so as to be united with him and can accept our neighbor for God's sake as unconditionally and sincerely as we accept ourselves.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH:

Charity

Charity is Christian love, seeing people as God does and treating them with the love and respect they need. Another way of explaining charity would be "loving as God loves".

CHALLENGE SUMMER CAMP INSPIRE




**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE
18 Challenge Camps
THIS SUMMER ACROSS THE
US & CANADA!**

Visit our Camp Headquarters on
www.challengeyouthministry.com/camps

The 2015 Challenge Summer Camp theme is **INSPIRE**. Every day we will try to help the campers find their inspiration and be an inspiration! At camp they will have the opportunity to participate in activities to strengthen their bonds of friendship! They will enjoy prayer and spiritual growth through participation in Mass and Confession. Sports, games, workshops, team dynamics, exciting night activities, swimming and fun in the sun, are typical Challenge camp activities. To find out what activities are offered at specific camps, visit the local camp websites or download the local camp flyer.

CLUB LEADER *Monthly Poll*

Each month we will ask one question to all the club leaders. It is anonymous and only one question!

APRIL POLL RESULTS:

WHICH SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS OR MEANS OF COMMUNICATION DO YOU USE TO SHARE NEWS ABOUT YOUR CHALLENGE GROUP?

100% SAID EMAIL

MAY POLL QUESTION:

HOW DO YOU GET PARENTS INVOLVED IN CHALLENGE?

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZG35HB9>

EARLY BIRD SALE SEASON

Check out the What's New Flyer for Challenge & Conquest for information about how to save \$100 in this Early Bird Registration season.

NEW CHALLENGE WEBSITE

WWW.CHALLENGEYOUTHMINISTRY.COM

NEW CHALLENGE STORE

STORE.MISSIONNETWORK.COM

NEW CHALLENGE CATALOG

COMING SOON IN JUNE!

CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

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