Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is a wonderful story of Walt Disney, a man with a vision, a man who could see the future.

One of the great events in the United States happened in 1955 with the opening of Disneyland in Anaheim, California. It was labeled “the happiest place on earth”. This was the brain-child of Walt Disney and we know of its huge success as a place for family fun and entertainment through the years. Plans were almost immediately drawn up for Disney World on the other side of the continent. Walt Disney died in 1965, but the plans continued. Disney World opened in Orlando, Florida in 1972. A reporter at the Grand Opening remarked to Walt’s widow, “It’s too bad your husband isn’t here to see this” Her reply: “You don’t understand; he did see this, that’s why it’s here”.

In a way, we can say this about our Founders who “saw” missionaries, devoted to the Sacred Hearts, dressed in white, spreading the message of God’s eternal love to the ends of the earth!

Likewise, we are in the initial stages of our preparation for the Provincial Chapter 2020. As we have experienced in the past, the lion’s share of the work will engage all of our brothers in the Area Communities to reflect, pray, and involve themselves in the process. The “work” of the Chapter will take place in our Area Communities. God willing, this process will culminate with the endorsement of the product of our work in the months leading up to the Chapter. As you know, the Provincial Chapter is the highest authority of the Province. At this juncture we ask ourselves:

Where are we now?  
Where are we going? 
How are we going to get there?

So as not to lose the significance and importance of the preparation with all of the Christmas mail, the brothers will receive a letter in early January with information regarding the process we will follow. Later in the year, in accordance with our statutes, delegates will be elected. The sincere hope, of course, is that every brother will have a say in the process. We thank God for this great opportunity to renew ourselves and our zeal for the mission individually, and to work together for the unity and renewal of every part of our Province.

Our SSCC Sisters have reserved St. Anthony Retreat Center for us. The dates to remember are November 9-14, 2020. If you are not already doing so, now is a good time to start praying for each member of the Province. Take out your directory and hold up each and every Brother to the Lord!
On December 8, 2019, the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, at the hands of the Provincial, joyfully accepted the temporary vows of the two Novices of the United States Province, Brother Lomano Fifita, ss.cc. and Brother Soane Siua, ss.cc.

After an intense year of discernment with Novice Master, Fr. Pat Fanning and Socius, Fr. Jerry Holland, also assisted by Fr. Martin O'Loghlen and Fr. Patrick Crowley, in Hemet, California, the two young men were ready and willing to commit their lives to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. The ceremony took place at the regularly scheduled Sunday Mass at Holy Name of Mary Parish in San Dimas, California.

Lomano Fifita, 51, is from the Island nation of Tonga. He came from a family of 12. His father and two older brothers are deceased; his mother is alive and well. He was drawn to the Congregation having known our men in Tonga. It was there that he also learned the charism and spirituality of the SSCC. He is impressed that members of the Congregation live a very simple lifestyle; he is also inspired by the life of Fr. Damien of Molokai.

Soane Siua, 22, is from American Samoa and is of Tongan descent. His parents and 4 siblings live in the South Pacific. He first leaned of the Congregation in Tonga when the community established a mission there. After he moved to Hawaii, he became better acquainted with SSCC and, like Lomano, was moved and inspired by the life of Fr. Damien.

At the conclusion of the profession ceremony, the Provincial asked all the SSCC men of the California Region to stand in a circle behind the newly professed so that each member could welcome these two brothers. The Congregation of the church responded with a huge applause. These was no mistake that the gesture of affirmation was not only for the newly professed, but it was meant for the SSCC men in California who have been a reflection of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary for so many people for so many years!
In Fiji...A Job Well Done

We send our warmest congratulations to Brother Saia Faingaa, ss.cc. who graduated at the top of his class for the Diploma in Theology for 2019 at Pacific Regional Seminary in Fiji. As members of his family and his brothers from Fiji looked on, Saia received this honor of highest distinction “without fuss and with humility”. Congratulations Saia!!

In Remembrance...

Richard J. Lynch, 86, of Westport, MA. passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 17, 2019. His Funeral Mass was con-celebrated on Tuesday Dec. 3, 2019 at 10:00AM at Holy Name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, with a number of SS.CC. brothers present.

Steve Cordeiro, 88, of Fall River, MA. passed away, after a long illness on November 19, 2019. His funeral Mass was con-celebrated on November 26, 2019 at 10:00 AM at St. Mary’s Church in Fairhaven, MA. A number of SS.CC. brothers attended.

An Advent Reflection

taken from Fr. John Roche, ss.cc.

Hope is the turbine of Christian living. Hope is the oxygen of the soul. The future meets the present in the Hopeful Christian and animates the Christian into preparing for the coming reign of God. As Peter Berger puts it in his book, Signals of Transcendence: Christianity give a sense of optimism to our basic human nature which leads to a commitment to the future.

It is the Christian hope that to live in the presence of God is but the entrance into a larger life.

It is the Christian that when we live in the larger fellowship of God’s children there is no final separation from those we love.

It is the Christian hope that Christ is the Resurrection and the life and that neither life nor death can separate us from the Love of God!

Savor this Advent and Enjoy every bit of the Christmas season,

United with you in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,