



September 2021

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Please join me on Thursday, October 7, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at [www.chimbotefoundation.org](http://www.chimbotefoundation.org) to celebrate the miracles that our Catholic medical missionaries at the Chimbote Mission in Peru have witnessed during the COVID pandemic.

Your support has saved lives and kept the Chimbote Mission open as Peru endured the highest COVID death rate per capita of any nation in Latin America. Yes, there has been tremendous suffering. Among those taken by COVID were Teresa Ruth Salinas, medical director of the mission's Center for Social Works, and eighty-four relatives of mission staff members.

Yet, while some programs remain suspended, the medical clinic, *Maternidad de Maria* maternity center and the laboratory have stayed open throughout the pandemic. The mission does not treat COVID—all those patients are isolated in a single hospital. But poor people have been coming to the Chimbote clinic from more than thirty miles around to receive urgent non-COVID care.

God has continually worked through your generosity to provide help when it was most needed, to people who, in the best of times, sleep on dirt floors. Without emergency support from your Chimbote Foundation, the clinic could not have kept going. Last month your gifts also provided \$220,000 to replace the generator and upgrade the electrical system, so that lights and life support equipment won't go out unexpectedly.

Many prayers were answered when new sisters arrived—all of them nurses. They have come alongside Sister Margaret Mary Birchmeier and Sister Lillian Bockheim, the Dominicans who co-founded the Chimbote Mission with the late Father Jules Roos. The new sisters are nurses from the Sisters of Saint Vincent de Paul, the Carmelites and the Hospital Sisters of Saint Clare. In their habits, veils and face-masks, they have tended the sick, monitored high risk pregnancies, done open air blood-pressure screenings and played ball with the orphans.

Yes, God is at work in the Chimbote Mission. It is His mission. And it is you who send His love most tangibly to the poorest of the poor in Chimbote. Please join me at the virtual gathering to hear stories from our dear friend and master of ceremonies, WTAE anchor Mike Clark, and watch the video so lovingly produced by Dennis Woytek.

This evening will lift your spirits. Invite a friend who needs to know that God never stops caring for us and never stops working through us.

Grateful for our continued efforts together in being *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, and for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God," I am

Your brother in Christ,

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Most Reverend David A. Zubik  
Bishop of Pittsburgh

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