

Information on CICM

The Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary or CICM is an exclusively Missionary Institute of religious priests and brothers founded in Belgium in 1862. In the United States, they are called Missionhurst-CICM named after the Missionhurst Bulletin which is published quarterly. Its members are called to go *beyond geographical and religious boundaries to share Jesus Christ* with everyone. To be ready to leave their country

is a basic requirement in the life of each member of the Congregation. It is an option that constitutes an essential trait of the CICM identity and that profoundly marks its history. Its members come from different nationalities, races, and cultures, yet they are called to live and work together as brothers.



We love and respect the people to whom we are sent. We adopt a listening attitude and try to gain a knowledge and understanding of their socio-economic, political, cultural and religious realities. We foster attitudes which reflect these values and cooperate with initiatives which promote them. Through dialogue, we mutually purify and strengthen our values and their expression. Wherever we work and whatever our specific tasks, we try to respond to situations of misery, injustice, and oppression and to understand their causes. In our work for a new world, we are always inspired by the Lord Jesus and his Gospel.

Today, almost 730 priests and religious brothers from *Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America*, continue serving and caring for God's poorest and most neglected people around the world. There are approximately 40 priests and brothers that serve in the United States, with its Province being housed in Arlington, VA



Information about our new Pastor, Fr. Ramel Portula, CICM

Fr. Ramel Portula is a Filipino Missionary of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary or C.I.C.M. He was born on January 5, 1972 and was ordained a priest on March 25, 2000. His past assignments were the following: Parochial Vicar at St Joseph the Worker, McAllen, Texas, Diocese of Brownsville (2000-2002); Parochial Vicar at St Eugene, Wendell, North Carolina, Diocese of Raleigh (2002-2006). Seminary Formator at the CICM Philosophy Seminary in Baguio City, Philippines (2007-2011); Vice Provincial Superior (2011-2012) and Provincial Superior (2011-2012) of the CICM Philippines Province; and Pastor at St Ann Catholic Church, Arlington, Virginia, Diocese of Arlington (2013-2023). Father Mel as he wants to be called speaks English, Spanish, Tagalog and Bisaya (Philippine dialect) fluently.

Fr, Mel will join us on July 1, 2024



Information about our new Associate Pastor. Fr. Sonny Aryanto, CICM

Fr. Sonny Aryanto is an Indonesian Missionary of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary or C.I.C.M. He was born on September 13, 1983 in Indonesia and was ordained on May 21, 2016. His past assignments were the following: Parochial Vicar (2016-2020) of St Louis, Castroville, Texas (Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas); Parish Administrator (2020-2024) of St James Catholic Church, San Antonio, Texas (Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas). Fr. Sonny speaks English, Spanish, Bahasa Indonesia fluently.

Fr. Sonny will join us on August 1, 2024