



**Editorial : Pictures of Compassion**

by Father Thierry de Roucy

When I travel all around the world, from one Heart's Home to another, I like to take a lot of pictures. When I come back and show them around, I am always struck by the power of these images. They tell about our mission much better than any speeches. They reveal the amazing beauty of the people we serve and, at the same time, awaken us to their tremendous sufferings.

This year, for our annual gala, we chose to organize a photographic prize, exhibition, and auction on the theme of "Compassion". We believe this will be a great opportunity to share with other photographers, and with you, our passion for our mission of compassion to the most deprived people in the world.

If you are interested in participating in our photographic prize and exhibition, please check our website [www.heartshomeusa.org/photo.htm](http://www.heartshomeusa.org/photo.htm). We will keep you posted about this event in our upcoming newsletters.

*As Jesus was sent by the Father; so he is sent.*

*"You are going to live among the poor to witness the Good News. May the Lord make you the messenger of the Gospel and the witness of His love in the world."*

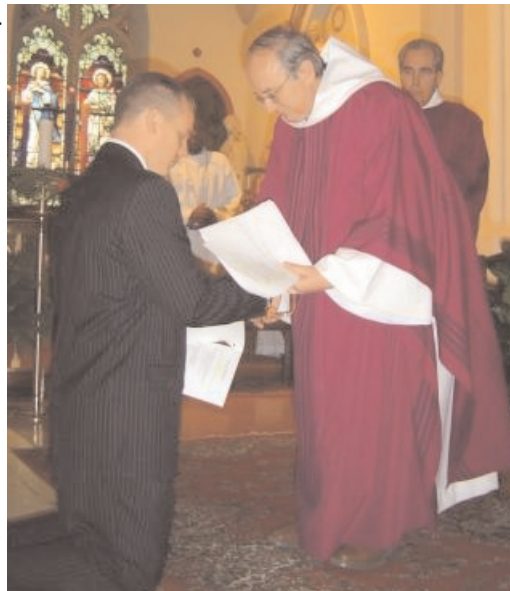
Liturgy of the sending forth mass.

On December 18, Edward Adams from Houston, TX, was officially sent into mission by Fr. Thierry de Roucy during a sending forth mass held at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral of Camden, NJ.

Edward is one of the first Americans to answer God's call to go and serve the poor with Heart's Home. He joins the Heart's Home team of Tegucigalpa, Honduras for 14 month of mission, serving the poorest and the most deprived.

We thank all his sponsors for their kind financial and/or spiritual support, and we are looking forward to receiving Edward's letters, sharing his experience with us.

If you want to take part in Edward's mission and sponsor him spiritually and/or financially, please contact Aude - [aude@heartshomeusa.org](mailto:aude@heartshomeusa.org).



**Introducing the "School of Community"**

At Heart's Home, aware of the desire to be educated in the faith, we invite our members and anyone else who wishes to participate, to a monthly event called "School of Community".

The "School of Community" aims at being a true school which, through the reading and discussion of texts chosen by the Heart's Home staff, helps its participants acquire a clearer understanding of the Christian faith and brings light to their lives. The assigned texts usually come from the formal teachings of the Church, theologians or Fr. Thierry's writings. The "School of Community" is the time we set aside to remind ourselves that we may discover Christ's presence in our daily life and to come together as a community, which helps us to live our vocation.

If you want to join us and take part in our Schools of Community in NYC:

-In English please contact Sr. Regine – [srregine@heartshomeusa.org](mailto:srregine@heartshomeusa.org).

-In French please contact Sr. Blandine – [srblandine@heartshomeusa.org](mailto:srblandine@heartshomeusa.org).

**Become a Heart's Home missionary**

Heart's Home provides an opportunity for young people (21 to 35) to answer God's call by dedicating at least 14 months to the service of the poor in one of its 35 houses scattered in 20 countries all over the world.

For those beyond the age limit of 35 or wishing to volunteer for less than 14 months, Heart's Home also offers volunteering opportunities in our center in Brazil, the "Fazenda do Natal" (see article on the second page).

**What's new on [www.heartshomeusa.org](http://www.heartshomeusa.org) ?**

- Check our new features:
- If you are interested by volunteering with Heart's Home download the application packet as well as the "volunteering with Heart's Home" brochure
- If you want to sponsor one of our 175 missionaries all over the world, download our sponsorship form.
- You can also see the new pictures gallery of Heart's Home throughout the world, access our publications, watch our video, donate on line...

**Our first DVD movie**

We just finished working on a 15' DVD movie about Heart's Home's mission throughout the world. You can order it by contacting Mayeul - [info@heartshomeusa.org](mailto:info@heartshomeusa.org). The DVD is available in English, Spanish and English with Spanish subtitles.



## Focus on the Fazenda do Natal in Brazil



"Fazenda is a village with a population around forty; the youngest one is about to celebrate his first month of life. The "farm" is composed of a dozen houses, in the middle of the forest. The organization

of this little world is impressive. Everyone fills a role to aid the life of the village: woodcutter, cook, repairman, cultivator, artist, and baker. Here, everyone is loved and befriended in a healthy and simple environment, which helps to heal their body and above all their hearts.(...) I share with joy the house with Ruti (28) and Marcelo (13). Ruti had Marcelo when she was 15, she left him with her family. After having Marcelo, Ruti lived on the streets, falling into alcohol and drug abuse, and financing her life through prostitution. Around three years after that, Hearts Home missionaries befriended her while she lived on the streets and little by little, she decided to leave that life. She arrived at Fazenda in a pitiful state, very thin, and weak. Everyone thought that she was going to die, but with time and lots of love, she reestablished her strength and shared a desire to find her son Marcelo. Marcelo thus arrived at Fazenda, and right away loved the life here. He has gotten to know his mother, but he still calls her Ruti and not mama. Ruti is still learning, not without difficulty, to be a mother. I appreciate her a lot; her faith and desire to be reborn makes an impression on me, and her smile is contagious.

Amelie

### Facts

Founded in 1992 in the countryside near Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, the Fazenda do Natal ("Nativity Farm") has mission to welcome for a length of time (the time needed for each individual to rebuild their life) people in great distress.

The Fazenda works in collaboration with the two Heart's Homes based in the neighbouring cities. The Heart's Homes refer deprived or handicapped people to the Fazenda where they can prepare for rehabilitation through agricultural and craft training.



## From Heart's Home in the Bronx: "Miguel, a new friend in Heaven"

Miguel is a friend, one of those who seem to be entrusted to us. We visited him each week for a year and a half in a center for AIDS patients. At the beginning, he always greeted us quickly, even timidly, thinking that we were really coming to spend time with another young resident; until the day when we said to him: "You know, we also come for you". That day, something changed, allowing the friendship to blossom. He understood that our commitment to him was real when we continued to visit him after he was

hospitalized: "I knew that you'd come", he would say. The friendship with Miguel was beautiful because it took time to grow and was revealed little by little to us, as our presence - which mysteriously carried the presence of Another - was teaching Miguel who he was. Visit after visit, we saw him open up: always a small gesture, a smile, a nice word, a bit of advice; toward the end he even found our visits too short. "I love you", he whispered to us a few times, as if surprised at himself for caring about others. This is what struck me so deeply: his capacity to be concerned for us, worried: "Whenever you go to Queens by subway, pay attention, be careful, take care of yourself..." He was able to forget about himself and take care of others. He was already watching over us.

In November, a week and then two weeks passed without news. It wasn't until three weeks had passed that we finally learned that he had been just 10 minutes away, hospitalized and in intensive care since the beginning of the month. We thus were grateful on Thanksgiving Day for having found him.

He was barely conscious, but he was there. We were able to visit him each day, until the following Monday, when the hospital chaplain called us there to announce Miguel's death.

We are thankful for this "until the end-ist" friendship, as Fr. Thierry would call it, which allowed us to be present, and of which Miguel was aware, until the end.

I give thanks for the mercy of Christ. The one he sought so much and whom he did not doubt, already welcomed our friend, the friend who had confided in us one day at the beginning of a mass: "I am fighting with the devil" and in the end, looked at us and added: "but now, I know where the light is". Amen!

Severine



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