



**NET MINISTRIES**<sup>®</sup>  
ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



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Rev. Kyle Schnippel

# LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Usually an annual report looks back at the past year as a type of report to our benefactors and friends. And though you will find much of that in our 2019-2020 Annual Report, I want to use this opportunity to look ahead.

Everyone will remember what they were doing in 2020. It has been quite the year, and it is not over yet. 2020 has brought us murder hornets, civil unrest, polarized politics, economic contraction, and of course, COVID-19. Five years from now, ten years from now, twenty years from now, someone will ask you what you were doing in 2020. What will you say?

- I worked from home.
- I wore a face mask in public.
- I kept my family safe from COVID.
- I tested positive.
- I cancelled all my vacations.
- I watched Mass online.

We will all have something to say. We will remember this year!

I know what 145 young men and women will say – “I served as a missionary. I went out into a crazy world with a message of hope. I reached out in real relationship to young people who were isolated, depressed, disconnected from the Church. I sacrificed, slept on floors, worked long hours for a meager stipend, trusted in God to provide and gave Christ my all.” They are NET missionaries!

Some people think it's crazy to gather 145 missionaries from all across the country to serve with NET in the middle of a pandemic. It certainly isn't the safest thing to do! But is it always the best thing to do the safest thing? Prior to COVID and "stay at home" orders and closed churches, the median age for when people left the Catholic Church was 13 years old. What will it be now when many of our young people are safely at home?

Christ's call to the Church has always been, "Go and proclaim the Good News!" Go means go, action, off the couch and into the real world where people live. In the words of Pope Francis, "The times we live in do not call for young 'couch potatoes,' but for young people with shoes, or better, boots laced. The times we live in require only active players on the field, and there is no room for those who sit on the bench."

Now we are not going to be reckless. We are taking reasonable precautions to safeguard the health and welfare of our missionaries and those they will serve. But we can't guarantee no risk. Serving the Lord always involves some risk. That is why I am asking for your prayers. Please pray that our Lord will use the work of the NET missionaries to awaken faith in the people they meet. Please pray that God will protect their health and give wisdom to their leaders. Please pray for the young people of our nation that faith and hope will take root in their hearts.



**WITH MY THANKS,**

*Mark Berchem*

**MARK BERCHEM, M.S.W., M.T.S.**  
Founder and President  
NET Ministries

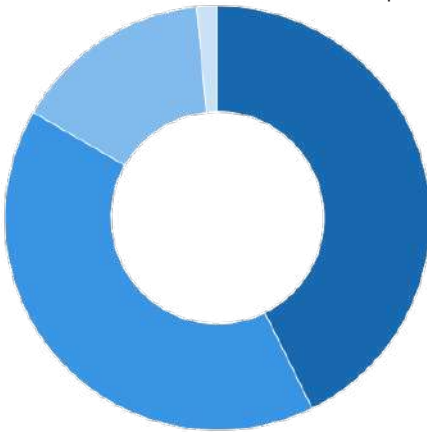


# FINANCIALS

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

## TOTAL REVENUE:

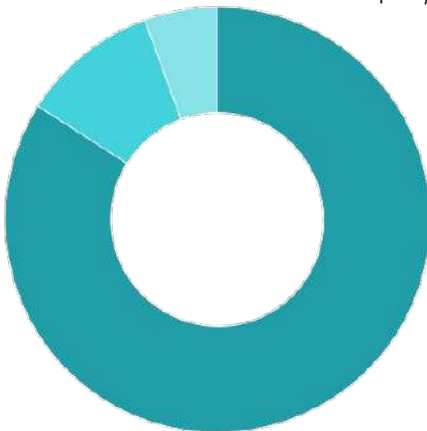
\$8,199,194



CONTRIBUTIONS	43%
CONTRIBUTED GOODS/SERVICES	40%
PROGRAM FEES	15%
OTHER INCOME	2%

## TOTAL EXPENSES:

\$8,279,744



PROGRAM	84%
FUNDRAISING	11%
ADMINISTRATION	5%

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**101,476**

**YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED**

**1,784**

**ONE-ON-ONES BY  
DISCIPLESHIP TEAMS**

**1,019**

**TOTAL RETREATS CONDUCTED**

STATISTICS REFLECT MINISTRY CONDUCTED THROUGH MARCH 16, 2020  
(PRIOR TO THE SUSPENSION OF MINISTRY DUE TO COVID-19).

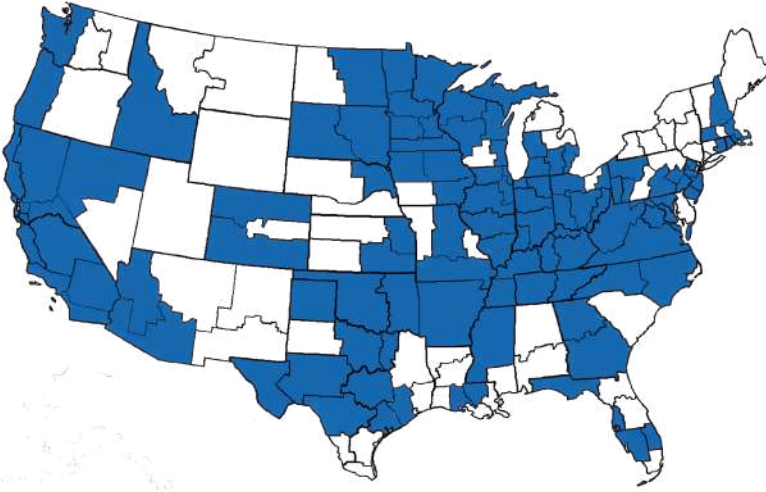


**16**  
U.S. TEAMS

**172**  
MISSIONARIES

**39**  
STATES

**114**  
DIOCESES



### **DIOCESES SERVED**

Little Rock, AR | Phoenix, AZ | Tucson, AZ | Fresno, CA | Los Angeles, CA | Monterey, CA | Oakland, CA  
Orange, CA | Sacramento, CA | San Bernardino, CA | San Diego, CA | San Francisco, CA | San Jose, CA  
Santa Rosa, CA | Stockton, CA | Denver, CO | Pueblo, CO | Norwich, CT | Washington, D.C. | Palm Beach, FL  
Pensacola-Tallahassee, FL | St. Petersburg, FL | Venice, FL | Atlanta, GA | Savannah, GA | Boise, ID | Belleville,  
IL | Chicago, IL | Joliet, IL | Peoria, IL | Rockford, IL | Springfield, IL | Evansville, IN | Fort Wayne-South Bend,  
IN | Gary, IN | Indianapolis, IN | Lafayette, IN | Davenport, IA | Dubuque, IA | Sioux City, IA | Kansas City, KS  
Wichita, KS | Covington, KY | Lexington, KY | Louisville, KY | Owensboro, KY | Baton Rouge, LA | Lafayette, LA  
Baltimore, MD | Boston, MA | Fall River, MA | Springfield, MA | Detroit, MI | Grand Rapids, MI | Kalamazoo,  
MI | Lansing, MI | Marquette, MI | Crookston, MN | Duluth, MN | New Ulm, MN | St. Cloud, MN | St. Paul and  
Minneapolis, MN | Winona-Rochester, MN | Jackson, MS | Jefferson City, MO | Springfield-Cape Girardeau,  
MO | Omaha, NE | Reno, NV | Manchester, NH | Camden, NJ | Metuchen, NJ | Paterson, NJ | Trenton, NJ  
Charlotte, NC | Raleigh, NC | Fargo, ND | Cincinnati, OH | Columbus, OH | Steubenville, OH | Toledo, OH  
Youngstown, OH | Oklahoma City, OK | Tulsa, OK | Portland, OR | Allentown, PA | Erie, PA | Greensburg,  
PA | Harrisburg, PA | Philadelphia, PA | Pittsburgh, PA | Providence, RI | Rapid City, SD | Sioux Falls, SD  
Knoxville, TN | Memphis, TN | Nashville, TN | Amarillo, TX | Austin, TX | Dallas, TX | El Paso, TX | Fort Worth,  
TX | Galveston-Houston, TX | San Angelo, TX | San Antonio, TX | Victoria, TX | Arlington, VA | Richmond, VA  
Seattle, WA | Wheeling-Charleston, WV | Green Bay, WI | La Crosse, WI | Milwaukee, WI | Superior, WI  
Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA



# FRUIT OF THE MINISTRY

# SOWING SEEDS OF FAITH

**BY ANA REDINGTON  
TEAM 5, 2019-2020**

When I was seven years old, I met a woman who would change my life forever. Her name was Mary, and she was a former NET missionary who came to help put on a retreat I was attending. After hearing her story and having small groups with her, we had a beautiful conversation. She told me she believed I would be a great saint someday. She said I had a beautiful heart.

That's when I knew I wanted to do NET, all those years ago. And, eventually, I did! I wanted to give other young people what she gave to me: Faith.

But first, my brother beat me to it, and I watched him mature over the course of his year with NET. He came home more humble, patient, and kind than I'd ever seen him before. We started hosting NET teams at our house, and I got to know several other missionaries as I went through high school. They constantly inspired me, and with every visit came a reminder of the kind of person I wanted to be, the kind of person God was calling me to be.

My year on the road was everything I dreamed it would be and so much more. I grew exponentially in my faith, but there was no shortage of challenges. From a broken trailer to praying with strangers, every day was an adventure. More than anything, I will always cherish the memories of the people I encountered.

One of the women on my team told me that she viewed all the girls in her small groups as her spiritual daughters, and that idea has stuck with me. It's amazing to think that I have so many spiritual children all over California. I get to carry Christ's love for them in my heart for the rest of my life, just as I'll carry with me what Mary told me all those years ago.

# PAYING IT FORWARD

**BY MITCHELL LONGSDORF  
TEAM 12, 2019-2020**

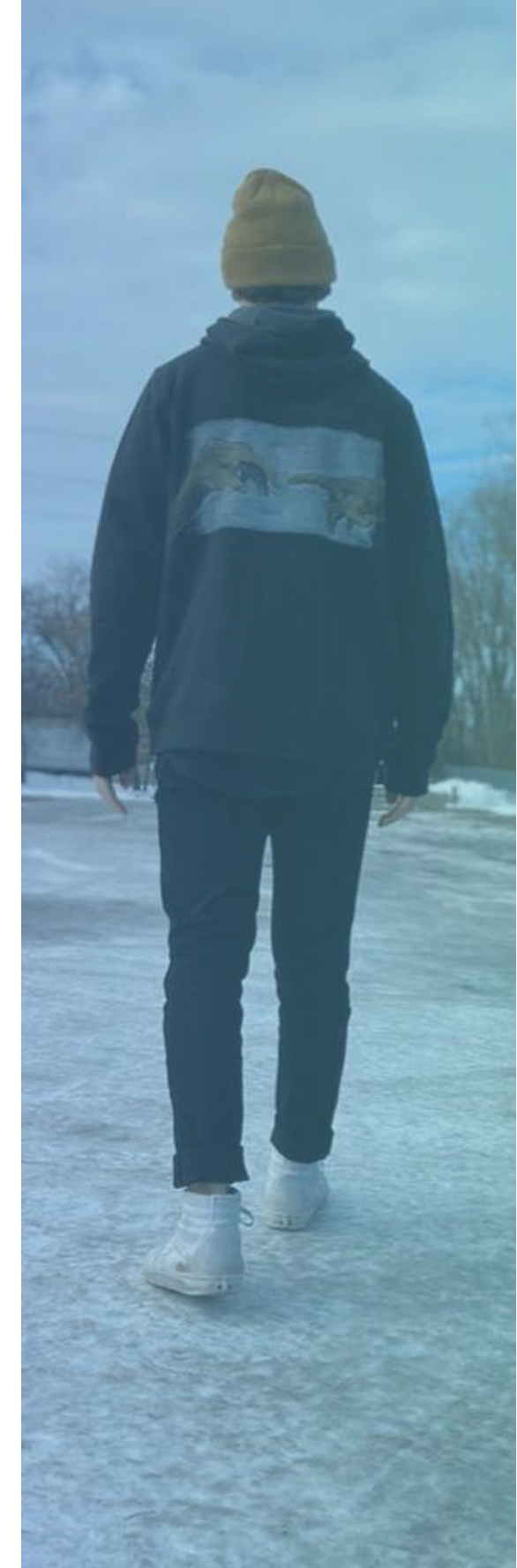
Middle school is a pivotal time in a young person's life. They begin to search for who they are and where their place is in the world. This was precisely where I found myself as I entered middle school. As an athlete, it seemed natural that my place would be based on the sports I played; they became my identity, so to speak. At the end of each sports season, however, I found myself faced with the question: Who am I now?

I was luckier than most people who enter into the wild unknowns of middle school, because there was a NET team at my local parish. The presence of these young adults in my life did so much more than I understood at the time.

Initially, they introduced me to the idea that you could be “normal” and enjoy the things that I enjoyed while still following Jesus. As I spent more time with them, they showed me something deeper. Through their words, but also through their witness, they showed me I was more than just an athlete; they taught me I am a beloved son of God. This didn't turn me into a saint by any stretch of the imagination, but it ingrained in me the fact that the Lord is with me and loves me no matter what.

Now what was I to do with this? The answer that God gave me was to pay it forward. Years later, I served with NET on a discipleship team at a parish in Texas.

Being on the other side of the NET experience was eye-opening. The Lord showed me what great and beautiful things He can do through someone as little and weak as me. I saw the word of God in 2 Corinthians, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness,”** truly come to life in front of me. I had always looked up to the NET missionaries who walked with me. Being a missionary myself showed me that it was not the missionaries who changed me, but it was God *through* them. I met so many people in my year with NET, but more than that, I hope those people met the Lord through me.



**“[THE NET RETREAT] WAS A WAKE UP CALL FOR ME. IT’S SO EASY TO GET DISTRACTED IN THE WORLD, BUT IT HELPED ME FOCUS MORE ON GOD AND WHO GOD WANTS ME TO BE.”**

**MARISA, 16**

**“COMING INTO THE RETREAT, I DIDN’T EXPECT MUCH. I DIDN’T GO INTO THE ROOM EXPECTING TO LEARN ANYTHING NEW. BUT THROUGH THE POWERFUL SPEECHES AND THE AMAZING NET LEADERS, I DIVED DEEPER INTO MY FAITH THAN EVER BEFORE AND I KNOW I’LL NEVER FORGET THE EXPERIENCE.”**

**JAEI, 16**

**“I FEEL AS IF MY LIFE IS ME WALKING A PATH WITHOUT DIRECTION AND THE NET RETREAT IS MY COMPASS, GUIDING ME TO GOD.”**

**MICHAELA, 13**

**“THIS RETREAT HELPED ME FIND MYSELF.”**

**FELIX, 14**

# MISSION ENGAGEMENT

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR **7,000** MISSION PARTNERS, WE RECEIVED **\$3,498,657** TO FUEL OUR MINISTRY IN THE 2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR.

## **MONTHLY DONORS**

96 Donors | \$42,657

## **DIRECT MAIL**

930 Donors | \$198,030

## **REJOICE IN HOPE\***

264 Donors | \$385,827

## **MISSIONARY SPONSORS**

5,227 Donors | \$1,409,095

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

206 Donors | \$196,596

## **BANQUETS**

111 Donors | \$217,000

## **MAJOR GIFTS**

170 Donors | \$1,049,452



\*VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER HELD TO SUPPLEMENT THE INCOME FROM THE CANCELLED IN-PERSON SPRING BANQUETS IN MINNESOTA AND OHIO FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER FR. MIKE SCHMITZ



# REGIONAL OFFICES



## CINCINNATI:

The sixth year for our Eastern Regional Office saw growth in the region with more retreats provided throughout the Eastern Region up to early March, when the effects of COVID hit. Yet even before COVID, one of our teams provided 100 retreats, reaching over 5,000 young people, with our other team ministering to another 4,500 young people in the region. Between these two teams, we reached more young people before March than we previously have in our region in any of these past 6 years.

This past year, the eastern region expanded the number of retreats in most of the dioceses we already serve, fortifying our relationships in the Eastern Region.

Since March, our office has worked to enhance our local outreach efforts and relationships by continuing to partner with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for middle school family events and through YDisciple. We can expect to see YDisciple breaking more ground in the Eastern Region in this coming year.

## CALIFORNIA:

In the fourth year for our Western Regional Office, two new dioceses welcomed NET retreats, expanding into Monterey, CA and Boise, ID. In addition to retreats, three parishes in the region hosted recurring NET Catalyst events. On April 23, 2020, the Western Regional Office welcomed the California Advisory Board for their first meeting. The board consists of four men and two women from the greater Los Angeles and Orange County areas.

# INTRODUCING THE CALIFORNIA ADVISORY BOARD

## **MRS. DIANA GONZALEZ, JD** CHAIR



Diana is currently the Co-Founder and Head of the Non-Profit Group for DEODATE Strategies where she oversees development, operational and brand support for national non-profit organizations in education, youth empowerment, religious and social services. Formerly, Diana was the Executive Director for the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders (CALL). Diana earned a Jurist Doctorate in international law from Loyola Marymount University. Diana resides in Pasadena.

## **MR. JUAN CARLOS TERROBA DODERO**



Juan Carlos currently lives in Los Angeles, and is a parishioner of St. Martin of Tours, in whose parish council he has served. He was born and raised in Mexico City, and has lived in Mexico. His professional life has been devoted to his entrepreneurial activities. Currently he dedicates most of his professional time to the development of a web based service platform for human capital management. He has hosted NET missionaries in his home and has hosted a gathering for youth ministry leaders to learn more about NET.

## **MR. KENNY LUND**



A graduate of Loyola Marymount with a degree in Business Administration, Kenny came to the Allen Lund Company in 1989 after three years of teaching and coaching at St. Francis High School in La Canada, California. He is currently the Executive Vice President. In 2011, Kenny became a CTB (Certified Transportation Broker). He is involved in several organizations that provide support to the YMCA summer camp program, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Assumption Grade School and Children's Hospital in Los Angeles. Kenny lives in Pasadena, California with his wife Mary and family.





### **MRS. MARY LUND**

Mary has focused all of her volunteering in Catholic schools and organizations that support the Catholic faith and are pro-life. She has been a member of the Auxiliary of the Pregnancy Help Center for over 30 years and has been on their board for the last 15 years. She has held many leadership positions at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy. Her family has enjoyed hosting many NET teams over the years.



### **MSGR. SAL PILATO**

Msgr. Sal is a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He has spent over 20 years working in Catholic high school education including a stint as the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese, where he was tasked with strengthening their Catholic identity. He has hosted NET retreats in various schools and has been a strong advocate for NET with a couple of LA based foundations. He is currently the pastor of St. Anthony of Padua in Gardena, CA. Msgr. Sal has been to the NET Center for January training and is close friends with Fr. John Montejano.



### **MR. PATRICK REIDY**

Pat is a NET alumnus having served both as a team leader and staff member. He is currently the Vice President of Mission and Faith at JSerra High School in San Juan Capistrano, CA. He has devoted most of his professional life to the marriage of academic formation with ministerial outreach. Pat is fluent in Spanish and has spoken at Chastity Conferences in both the US and South America. He is currently pursuing an advanced degree in educational leadership from Notre Dame.



# ALUMNI VOCATIONS

OUR ALUMNI RELIGIOUS INCLUDE **2** BISHOPS, **75** PRIESTS, **2** TRANSITIONAL DEACONS, **5** PERMANENT DEACONS, **9** RELIGIOUS BROTHERS, AND **41** RELIGIOUS SISTERS.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ORDAINED ALUMNI:

### PRIESTS

FR. MICHAEL FAIX; Pittsburgh, PA; 2010-11, Staff 2011-13  
FR. NATHAN HASTINGS; St. Paul-Minneapolis, MN; 2011-12, Staff 2009-11  
FR. SETH KELLER; Columbus, OH; 2011-12  
FR. CHRIS SMITH (Above); Austin, TX; 2010-11, Staff 2011-13

### TRANSITIONAL DEACONS

DCN. BRIAN FISCHER; St. Paul-Minneapolis, MN; 1994-95  
DCN. JOSH SALONEK; St. Paul-Minneapolis, MN; 2012-13

### PERMANENT DEACONS

DCN. ALEC CAMPBELL; Baton Rouge, LA; 2002-03  
DCN. JOSEPH UTECHT; St. Paul-Minneapolis, MN; 1985-86

# LOOKING AHEAD

## YDISCIPLE:

Just over a year after the relaunch of YDisciple under NET Ministries, we have already seen incredible growth. August 2019 saw the launch of *The Invitation*, YDisciple's introductory series on discipleship and May 2020 saw the release of *Never Alone: Life in the Holy Spirit*, with **1,872,051** minutes of YDisciple streamed in the last year across all platforms.

The beauty of YDisciple is its flexibility and adaptability to both virtual and in-person discipleship. With COVID-19 restrictions differing state to state and country to country, YDisciple offers a toolbox of resources that make walking with young people that much easier, whether face-to-face or via videoconferencing.

Keep watching for more exciting developments from YDisciple, especially our new series that will adapt NET Ministries' missionary prayer labs into content for teens, coming Spring 2021 to **YDISCIPLE.COM**.

## VIRTUAL RETREATS:

The need for God's love doesn't stop during a pandemic. While some parishes and schools are ready and prepared to host socially distant in-person NET retreats, others are not able to do so. With live NET missionaries videoconferencing in, relational ministry can still occur digitally with virtual retreats.

Streaming on an online platform, students can log on to the 'retreat site' which will include breakout rooms to provide live small group discussions. Large and small groups take place, plus young people will be able to experience guided prayer time, music, games, and brand new, high-quality digital content during their retreat.

**NET Ministries Headquarters**

110 Crusader Avenue West  
West St. Paul, MN 55118-4427

**Eastern Regional Office**

100 East 8th Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-2193

**Western Regional Office**

507 North Granada Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91801-2799

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West St. Paul, MN 55118-4427

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