



DIVINE FACE ORGANIZATION

(Concern for the needy)

The Reverend Father Akannamdi Gerard Mary Anyanwu, a native of Nigeria, assigned to Ahiara Diocese, Nigeria, was ordained a priest on April 21, 1974. After a four-year period of parish work, he went to Rome for further studies. Since his return to his country in 1984, he has worked in several parishes. For a while he taught in the Catholic Institute for West Africa (CIWA) a post-graduate institute for priests. Presently, he is the pastor of St. Michael's parish, Lagwa in his home diocese. St. Michael's, like others in the diocese, is a very rural parish. It has a Catholic population of about 900 families, majority of whom have little or no income.

In his entire pastoral ministry, he has worked among those who live in the countryside. His apostolate has brought him into close touch with the poverty and misery of the most deprived people of his region. These "little ones" constantly remind him that Christ who called him to be his servant is hidden in those wretched faces, so disfigured that you would be frightened to see them smile! Father Gerard Mary has, therefore, embarked upon seeking to unveil the splendor of the DIVINE FACE OF JESUS hidden behind those "clouds", by fighting the darkening misery.

For this purpose, in 1992, while he was pastor of St. Gregory's parish, Ihitteafoukwu in his home diocese, Fr. Gerard Mary founded the DIVINE FACE ORGANIZATION (concern for the needy), an outreach service to the poor, the hungry, abandoned senior citizens, the lonely, those in need of habitat and to those who need proper education in order to break the chain of poverty. The organization has established a center for the provision of the basic necessities to the needy families, and a 'head start' school for the benefit of the poor. The school has now developed into a high school and is very much appreciated by all because of the quality of training and education it offers. The outreach services have now spread to many parts of the region so much in need.

The Divine Face projects are largely supported by Fr. Gerard Mary's yearly mission appeal in the United States. St. Gregory's parish, home of the Divine Face Center and school, holds perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, and so does St. Michael's Lagwa. As a friend and supporter of the DIVINE FACE ORGANIZATION, you and your family will always be prayed for before the Blessed Sacrament, that the Lord God may abundantly reward you.

Thank you for your generosity and for being a co-caregiver to those in need.

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Rt Rev. Dr. V. A. Chikwe
Bishop of Ahiara Diocese
Ahiazu Mbaise
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Note. Fr. Anyanwu is doing a very good apostolate for the poor and needy. He needs help.

