

FR. EJAZ – PAKISTAN ORPHANS AND POOR CHILDREN'S FUND

REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

It is time for us to give another quarterly report. Alas we must mention that during this last quarter we have said "Good bye" to Fr. Gordon Ryan. Therefore, we take this opportunity to acknowledge and sincerely thank Fr. Gordon for his constant and unfailing support for Fr. Ejaz, for the building of the Orphanage and for the maintenance and education of the children. We know that right from the day he met Fr. Ejaz at Newcastle Railway Station, Fr Gordon has always considered this project to be extremely worthwhile and beneficial, not only for Christians in Pakistan but also for ourselves who are fortunate enough to be able to help.

We would also take this opportunity to welcome Fr. John Clohosey, and to express our thanks and appreciation for his immediate acknowledgement of this venture and his positive response to our request for continuing support.

During the last 3 months the Fund's transactions have been as follows:-

	£
Balance per Statement 30 June 2017	691.90
Income - Standing Orders and Cash Receipts from our FIVE PARISHES	1490.20
Donations:- Blessed John Duckett School	250.00
Mary's Shop	15.00
Child – Saved Pocket Money	10.00
Parishioners	135.00
Sundries	11.71
Easy Fund Raising	17.54
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	1929.45
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	2621.35
Less Transfers to Pakistan 30 August 2017	(1800.00)
Balance per Statement 30 September 2017	<u>821.35</u>

With reference to ongoing life in the Orphanage it has been the time of school holidays and some of the children have been able to visit relatives. It has also been the time for Exam Results and Fr Ejaz proudly tells us (on the telephone) that one older student has achieved her degree (BSC), two girls and one boy have been accepted into Nursing College and the following students are going forward to Higher Education:-

Youal George and Kavan Ayruts	(Students at La Salle School)
Dimpai Joseph and Magdas Shazed	(Students at St Catherine School)
Haroon Iqbal	(Student at Sarabia Sarragh School)

Also, each year some students leave normal education to find jobs, but at the very least, they have received a basic education and can hope to get a reasonable start in life. All of these make room for the younger children coming in.

With reference to Fr. Ejaz and his extremely busy life in the Diocese of Karachi where he spends most of his time "working in the parish". Although, he says Holy Mass repeatedly on Sundays at St. Thomas' Church, he also says "Sunday" Masses on weekdays at the various churches and Mass Centres within his huge parish. During the summer he spoke of holding 1st Holy Communion Services for 55 children in one area and 80 children in another.

On 23 September the Arch Bishop came to St Thomas' to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to over 150 children from Fr. Ejaz's Parish. Again, in September, Fr. Ejaz led a three day devotion to Our Blessed Lady for "Her Birthday". A retired Bishop (who was an eminent theologian and biblical scholar) came to assist at the final ceremony. Fr. Ejaz preached the homily, of 55 minutes duration, to a congregation of 1200 to 1300 people. After this service the visiting Bishop asked Father for a copy of his homily. He has since had this printed and distributed as a Devotion to "Dear Mother Mary".

In addition, to all the above activities, Father attends to all of his other priestly duties and still finds time to continue writing his third book. The first book (To Our Blessed Lady) is almost sold out, the second (To Marriage and Family Life) is being printed by the Catechetical Society, under the authority of the Arch Bishop and the third book is "in progress."

However, we must add that although Father has asked for relief in order to come to England, all we can say at this time is that the Arch Bishop "has this in mind".

Once again, "thank you" to all the good and generous people in our five parishes who steadfastly continue to support Fr. Ejaz and this whole cause. We thank you for the special donations; the faithful standing orders; and for the cash envelopes which we reliably receive each month.

Finally, please try to support and attend our Fund-Raising Event which is to be held on Sunday afternoon, 22nd October 2017 in the hall. (Details in the Church Bulletin). There will be lots of bargains, even early Christmas presents to be had from our Dutch Auction.

CMH 30 September 2017