

Father Ray Foundation Newsletter



JUNE 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF FATHER RAY FOUNDATION

Twenty years ago, on the morning of Saturday, August 16, 2003, heartbreaking news arrived about Father Ray Brennan's passing. It was a shock to all of us, even though we knew he couldn't return home



from the hospital in Bangkok. His coffin was placed in Pattaya for three nights, and people gathered to pay their respects. It was heartwarming to see Father Ray's teenagers sleeping on the floor around his coffin, showing their unwavering devotion. Saying **"We don't want Phor Ray to be alone!"** Father Ray's children faced an uncertain future without their father, the only paternal figure they had ever known. They couldn't fathom a life without him. His funeral became an unprecedented event in Pattaya, with his family traveling from the United States and friends coming from all corners of the

world to bid their final farewells to the man who had profoundly impacted thousands of lives. His funeral was the biggest funeral ever in Pattaya City.

He found his eternal resting place in the nearby St. Nikolaus Church, his former parish in Pattaya. A moment of great honor accompanied his burial, as soil sent by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej covered his grave. As his coffin descended into the ground, his children serenaded him with heartfelt melodies. "The Unsung Hero" and other songs were written for him for that day. Many doubted whether the work of Father Ray initiated would continue without him.



The mere thought of it seemed inconceivable. Yet, it had to persist. Hundreds of children and students with disabilities still needed a home and an education. Continuing his legacy was the natural course of action; it was what Father Ray would have wanted.

Today, most of the children and students who benefit from the foundation's support never had the chance to meet Father Ray. Many weren't even born when he passed away. Nevertheless, they carry his spirit within them. They are fully aware of the impact he had on their lives, and as they pass by his statue, they pause briefly to pay their respects.



We never turn a needy child away

In loving memory of Father Steven Wilson

On May 17, another saddening announcement arrived: the passing of Fr. Steven Wilson, C.Ss.R., at the age of 69. For over five years, Father Steve, a Redemptorist from the USA, dedicated himself to fundraising for the Fr. Ray Foundation and various organizations in Thailand, Laos, and Africa through the Redemptorist Apostolic Work Foundation. Serving as a bridge between two worlds, his efforts aimed to create a more compassionate and purposeful living environment for all.



The 5th Anniversary of Brother Denis's passing



Father Wiboon has recently been assigned to Pattaya to carry on his work in the manner he would have desired. Father Wiboon, entrusted with the responsibility of continuing Father Ray's mission, follows in the footsteps of those Fathers who came before him, including Brother Denis Gervais, a dear friend, teacher, and mentor. Additionally, this year marks the fifth anniversary of Brother Denis's passing, commemorating his profound love for the children.

A message from Father Wiboon Limpanawooth, C.Ss.R. a new President.

“After my ordination, I initially spent several years working with Hilltribes in northern Thailand, followed by a period among villagers in Laos. Later, I engaged in serving prisoners in urban areas. Before my current assignment, I served as a pastor and worked in finance and IT for the Congregation. Combining my educational background in social work and work experience, I hope the mixing of those skill sets will serve my children and people with other abilities well.”

“The core message Father Ray carried while he was alive continues to guide the foundation's leaders. I have been entrusted with a single task: to LOVE the children and people with disabilities—nothing more, nothing less.



Live the Life they Desire

It is my duty to ensure we provide a secure home for children in need and to encourage their education from primary school to college and university. I am committed to upholding Father Ray's vision and ensuring that blind kids and special needs children receive the education they deserve. Furthermore, I strive to inspire individuals with disabilities, assuring them they can attain a college degree and live an independent life—a life they desire.



The Remembrance of Father Ray's 20th Anniversary of his passing

One of my initial responsibilities will be to ensure that on August 16, Father Ray is remembered. Since it falls on a weekday, our children and students must attend school. However, the day will commence at six o'clock in the morning, as nine Buddhist monks arrive, and our children and students will offer food as a way that most of our children and staff who are Buddhist, make merit for Father Ray. Twelve hours later, after the children return from school, we will gather at St. Nikolaus Church for a memorial mass and to place flowers on Father Ray's grave.



The following Saturday, we will hold the Father Ray Fun Day. Beginning with laying a garland of flowers on Father Ray's statue, it will be a joyous celebration where everyone comes together. Laughter, fun, and delicious food will fill the day. Live music, dancing, and a grand bouncy castle will be among the highlights. I am confident that Father Ray would have delighted in witnessing his children enjoying themselves.



But once all the fun is over, then it is time to get down to work, making sure that we live up to our motto, that 'we never turn a needy child away.'

We never turn a needy child away

Thank you for all your support.

Currently, the RAW (Redemptorist Apostolic Work Foundation) is now closed and unable to accept donations from donors in the USA. Therefore, sending a donation to the Father Ray Foundation through this channel is no longer possible.



We are actively addressing this issue, but for now, it is recommended to either send the donation directly to the Pattaya account or using the QR code at the last page of this Newsletter that like to donation page in our website as an appropriate alternative.



Support our work



Follow the cuteness of children on Facebook



2023-06

Donation Form



Please complete the form of donation and send it along with your donation today

Name/Last name Taxpayer Identification No.

Address

Mobile phone E-mail

I wish to donate by; For **“Father Ray Foundation”**

Please charge my credit card; Amount Baht Visa card Master card

Bank Expiry date Card holder name

- - - Signature

Bank transfer Amount Baht Date

Bangkok Bank Ltd. Banglamung Chonburi Branch Current Account: 342-3-04125-4
Account name: Fr. Ray Foundation Swift code: BKKBTHBK

Donation by check payable to “Fr. Ray Foundation” or donate by credit card via www.fr-ray.org

I want to sponsor a child

440 Moo 9, Sukhumvit Road km 145, Nongprue, Banglamung, Chonburi, Thailand 20260

Tel: +66-38-428717, +66-91-717-9089, +66-96-692-4151 Fax. +66-38-420-340 E-mail: info@fr-ray.org