

A few days ago the first rays of sunlight returned to the Arctic Circle, the first since November, and the new home of Fr. Barry Bercier who became pastor of a Inuit parish in Igloolik, Nunanvut (Canada) last summer (see http://www.assumption.us/news/1578-from-north-of-the-border-way-north ). Recently he wrote describing some of his activities in the far north.

"….every day, sometime twice a day, kids come over here wanting to eat, and so I fetch them soup or chili or eggs, pancakes, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, etc., and give them hot chocolate, tea or coffee. (Kids up here typically drink coffee). The tea and coffee they load with sugar, enormous, breathtaking amounts of sugar. I try to persuade them to ease up on it, but everybody up here is hooked. I was talking to one of the young hunters (he should be in school but he prefers to be out on the land—and it seems to me it's just the place he should be)... He said about 'pop'— what they call Coca Cola—'When I'm out hunting, it keeps me warm.' Makes some sense, but still, they take in way to much sugar. And there's no dentist in town, so the effects are evident whenever they smile. There *is* a project for feeding people, They call it 'Feeding Nunavut.' They used the parish hall once for one of their feasts."



