



# MISSIONS TODAY

VOL 75, NO. 4

Autumn 2018

**With Youth,  
we proclaim the Gospel to all**

**World Mission Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup> 2018**

*The Society for the Propagation of the Faith*



# National Director's Message

Mission Today Message Autumn 2018



For many of us, September is seen as a new beginning, given both our human frailty and the hope that must characterize a Christian. We are familiar with starting anew. Autumn comes around with new life, new hope, and a new beginning. It is a time for us to reflect on our call to mission, to invite people to attach themselves to Jesus, to follow Him, to aspire to a life modelled on His.

Mission is like our lives, full of new beginnings .Faith and Mission go hand in hand; the stronger the former is , the greater we feel the need to communicate it, share it, and bear witness to it. If, to the contrary, it wanes, then missionary impulse declines and the capacity to testify loses vigour. Mission then can be said to be the surest “antidote” against a crisis of faith.

Evangelization in this time of major social changes requires a missionary church capable of discernment in facing the different cultures and visions of humanity. A mission renewed and transformed by contemplation and personal encounter with Christ. The power of the Holy Spirit is necessary for a world that needs Change. The Spirit of Christ is the source of this renewal, which makes us find new ways, new creative methods, and new language for the evangelization of our world today.

This year Pope Francis calls us for a pastoral action with reference to young people: it is important to make it a true pastoral conversion, to hear, welcome, accompany and integrate the young people in the life and mission of the church. This can be possible if young people are not seen as recipients of our pastoral action, but recognize them and promote them as actors in it. According to St. John Paul II, “Young people are to those who will trace the ways of this new stage of humanity.” (Youth in Cuba-October 16, 1991) The cover page brings out the joy radiating from the young people and their readiness to bear witness to Christ. It says it all!

This year the Holy Childhood Association celebrates the 175th anniversary of its foundation. It is important to celebrate this anniversary, not only to commemorate a past rich in grace and blessings spread all over the world by children helping children, but also to recognize, even more today, the relevance and validity of the participation of children in the universal mission of the church. The support provided to Propagation of the Faith throughout the year and especially on World Mission Sunday is as critical to the missionary work of the church as the weekly collection is to your parish. On page 10 in this issue, we note the many projects and programs you shared in 6 mission countries and your support for ongoing formation of priest and nuns from some developing mission countries. This year’s World Mission Sunday provides us one more opportunity to celebrate our faith, to pray that others may know the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and to support in a tangible way as our means allow the work of mission. Let us embrace this opportunity! God bless you.

**Rev. Fr. Alexander Osei, C.S.Sp**  
National Director.

## The Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intentions:

### SEPTEMBER 2018: Young People in Africa

That young people in Africa may have access to free education and work for the development of the Continent.

### OCTOBER 2018: Consecrated Religious Men and Women

That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice.

### NOVEMBER 2018: Love and dialogue over Conflict

That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

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Photo by: Pixabay.com



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# MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2018

*Together with young people, let us bring the Gospel to all*



Photo: Pontificia Universidad de Chile, Wikimedia.org [cc-sa-by-2.0]

Dear young people, I would like to reflect with you on the mission that we have received from Christ. In speaking to you, I also address all Christians who live out in the Church the adventure of their life as children of God. What leads me to speak to everyone through this conversation with you is the certainty that the Christian faith remains ever young when it is open to the mission that Christ entrusts to us. “Mission revitalizes faith” (Redemptoris Missio, 2), in the words of Saint John Paul II, a Pope who showed such great love and concern for young people.

## ***Life is a mission***

Every man and woman is a mission; that is the reason for our life on this earth. To be attracted and to be sent are two movements that our hearts, especially when we are young, feel as interior forces of love; they hold out promise for our future and they give direction to our lives. More than anyone else, young people feel the power of life breaking in upon us and attracting us. To live out joyfully our responsibility for the world is a great challenge. I am well aware of lights and shadows of youth; when I think back to my youth and my family, I remember the strength of my hope for a better future. That we are not in this world by our own choice makes us sense that there is an initiative that precedes us and makes us exist. Each one of us is



Photo: PMS

called to reflect on this fact: “I am a mission on this Earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world” (Evangelii Gaudium, 273).

## ***We proclaim Jesus Christ***

The Church, by proclaiming what she freely received (cf. Mt 10:8; Acts 3:6), can share with you young people the way and truth which give meaning to our life on this earth. Jesus Christ, who died and rose for us, appeals to our freedom and challenges us to seek, discover and proclaim this message of truth and fulfilment. Dear young people do not be afraid of Christ and his Church! For there we find the treasure that fills life with joy. I can tell you this from

my own experience: thanks to faith, I found the sure foundation of my dreams and the strength to realize them. I have seen great suffering and poverty mar the faces of so many of our brothers and sisters. And yet, for those who stand by Jesus, evil is an incentive to ever greater love. Many men and women, and many young people, have generously sacrificed themselves, even at times to martyrdom, out of love for the Gospel and service to their brothers and sisters. To be set afire by the love of Christ is to be consumed by that fire, to grow in understanding by its light and to be warmed by its love (cf. 2 Cor 5:14). At the school of the saints, who open us to the vast horizons of God, I invite you never to stop wondering: “What would Christ do if he were in my place?”



Photo: PMS



Photo: PMS

## ***Transmitting the faith to the ends of the earth***

You too, young friends, by your baptism have become living members of the Church; together we have received the mission to bring the Gospel to everyone. You are at the threshold of life. To grow in the grace of the faith bestowed on us by the Church’s sacraments plunges us into that great stream of witnesses who, generation after generation, enable the wisdom and experience of older persons to become testimony and encouragement for those looking to the future. And the freshness and enthusiasm of the young makes them a source of support and hope for those nearing the end of their journey. In this blend of different stages in life, the mission of the Church bridges the generations; our faith in God and our love of neighbor are a source of profound unity.

The spread of the faith “by attraction” calls for hearts that are open and expanded by love. It is not possible to place limits on love, for love is strong as death (cf. Song 8:6). And that expansion generates encounter, witness, proclamation; it generates sharing in charity with all those far from the faith, indifferent to it and perhaps even hostile and opposed to it. Human, cultural and religious settings still foreign to the Gospel of Jesus represent the extreme peripheries, the “ends of the earth”, to which, ever since the first Easter, Jesus’ missionary disciples have been sent. This is what we call the *missio ad gentes*. The most desolate periphery of all is where mankind, in need of Christ, remains indifferent to the faith or shows hatred for the fullness of life in God. All material and spiritual poverty, every form of discrimination against our brothers and sisters, is always a consequence of the rejection of God and his love.

The ends of the earth, dear young people, nowadays are quite relative and always easily “navigable”. The digital world – the social networks that are so pervasive and readily available – dissolves borders, eliminates distances and reduces differences. Everything appears within reach, so close and immediate. And yet lacking the sincere gift of our lives, we could well have countless contacts but never share in a true communion of life. I dare say that, for a young man or woman who wants to follow Christ, what is most essential is to seek, to discover and to persevere in his or her vocation.

## ***Bearing witness to love***

I am grateful to all those ecclesial groups that make it possible for you to have a personal encounter with Christ living in his Church: parishes, associations, movements, religious communities, and the varied expressions of missionary service. How many young people find in missionary volunteer work a way of serving the “least” of our brothers and sisters (cf. Mt 25:40), promoting human dignity and witnessing to the joy of love and of being Christians! These ecclesial experiences educate and train young people not only for professional success, but also for developing and fostering their God-given gifts in order better to serve others. These praiseworthy forms of temporary missionary service are a fruitful beginning and, through vocational discernment, they can help you to decide to make a complete gift of yourselves as missionaries.

The Pontifical Mission Societies were born of young hearts as a means of supporting the preaching of the Gospel to every nation and thus contributing to the human and cultural growth of all those who thirst for knowledge of the truth. The prayers and the material aid generously given and distributed through the Pontifical Mission Societies enable the Holy See to ensure that those who are helped in their personal needs can in turn bear witness to the Gospel in the circumstances of their daily lives. No one is so poor as to be unable to give what they have, but first and foremost what they are. Let me repeat the words of encouragement that I addressed to the young people of Chile: “Never think that you have nothing to offer, or that nobody needs you. Many people need you. Think about it! Each of you, think in your heart: many people need me” (Meeting with Young People, Maipu Shrine, 17 January 2018).

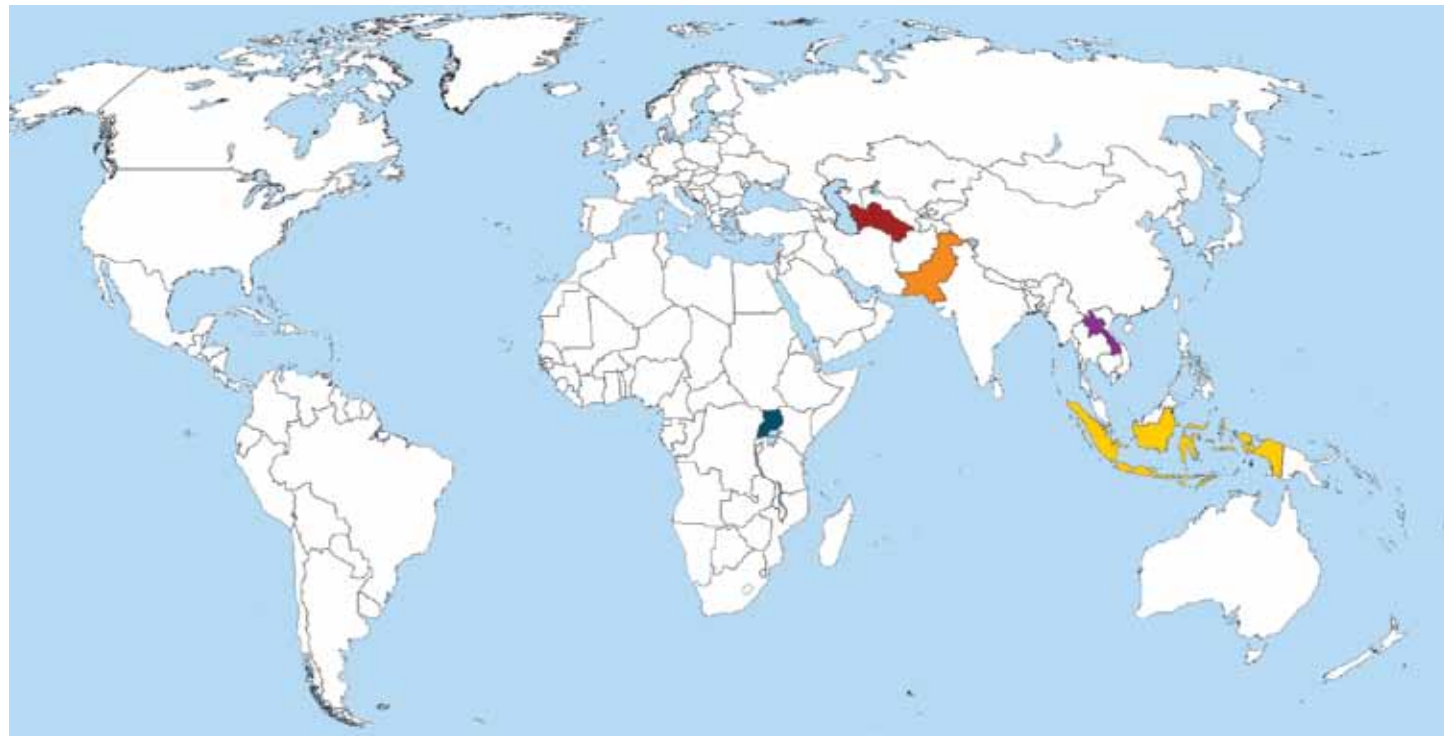
Dear young people, this coming October, the month of the missions, we will hold the Synod devoted to you. It will prove to be one more occasion to help us become missionary disciples, ever more passionately devoted to Jesus and his mission, to the ends of the earth. I ask Mary, Queen of the Apostles, Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and Blessed Paolo Manna to intercede for all of us and to accompany us always.

*From the Vatican, 20 May 2018, Solemnity of Pentecost*

*Francis*



# Across the Globe



## ■ UGANDA: Catholic Church has had a 'transformative' effect

Catholic priests in Uganda have been praised by a local politician for their transformative efforts in fostering education, development and social justice in the country.

"On top of their evangelistic work, [the priests] also champion sustainable projects in the arenas of education, development and relief, which have transformed the lives of many Ugandans," said Betty Muzamira, the MP for Rukungiri district in Kigezi, a subregion of southwest Uganda.

They "have always been reputable for their holistic development programs," she was quoted as saying by newvision.co.ug at an event held in the nation's capital on June 24.

One senior parish priest who attended the annual reunion urged members not to conflate religion and politics or persecute religious leaders for their views.

"As religious leaders, we must be seen to be the voice of the voiceless," said Father Christopher Niwahereza from the Diocese of Kabale in the ecclesiastical province of Mbarara.

"Unfortunately, when we come out and speak against the social ills in the country, we are attacked and asked to shut up and concentrate on baptizing Christians," he added.

"[But] we cannot afford to be silent amidst injustices. If we do so, we shall become irrelevant."

*An edited version, taken from "La Croix International" 06/28/2018.*

## ■ INDONESIA - Youth and Mission: a Festival in Jakarta

Jakarta - The young Catholics of Jakarta have begun to prepare for "Joyfest 2018", a Youth Festival which hopes to reinvigorate faith and increase the missionary dimension of their Christian life. The event will take place on 11 September, 2018 in Serpong, in the province of Banten, in Jakarta. More than 10,000 young Catholics from the 67 parishes of the Archdiocese of Jakarta and 2000 from the countries of Southeast Asia will take part.

The event responds to the appeal launched by Pope Francis for World Mission Day, centered on the theme of youth and mission in the Church. Young Indonesian Catholics feel the responsibility of living and witnessing faith in this historical moment, in which the nation is crossed by unrest due to Islamic extremism. Young people, together with all the other baptized, intend to contribute to harmony, peace and coexistence in society.

The first part of the Festival will focus on the "joy of faith", "on unity in diversity" and "on understanding the current problems" that affect the country. Experiences of spirituality, catechesis, testimonies of faith, prayer, seminaries will take place. The second part of the Festival includes talk shows and concerts. About 10% of the 261 million Indonesians are Christians. The country has the largest Muslim population in the world, about 227 million people. *This is an edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides, 05/30/2018.*

## ■ TURKMENISTAN - "Ecumenism is our daily life"

Ashgabat -, Fr. Andrzej Madej, is a Polish priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and Superior of the Missio sui iuris of Turkmenistan. To him, ecumenism is an important element in the development of the faith in this Asian country. "The ecumenical dimension of our Catholic presence is a constant that accompanies us every day. For example, throughout the year we live the experience of interfaith hospitality: in our chapel in Ashgabat, the Protestant evangelical community called the Word of Life gathers almost every Sunday".

Furthermore, the Oblate explains how this spirit of communion is also at the basis of evangelization: "Sometimes I go together with the Protestant Pastor in the various regions of Turkmenistan: we pray and preach together in the homes of the families that welcome us".

"Good relations also exist between Catholics and the Orthodox Church: I occasionally participate in their moments of prayer and almost always at Easter or Christmas, with the awareness that we are all part of God's people".

"We pray so that sooner or later we will be able to celebrate together the Eucharist, as Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras wished in the 1960s. Their dream is our dream", concludes the priest.

"In Turkmenistan, the Catholic Church was reborn in 1997, with the Missio sui iuris\* established by John Paul II. At first we met in private houses. In 2010 the Turkmen government officially recognized the Catholic presence. The Turkmen Catholic community, consisting of about two hundred faithful, gathers in the chapel of the Transfiguration of the Lord, in the capital Ashgabat, and is led by two Oblate priests of Mary Immaculate. Turkmenistan has over 5 million inhabitants, 90% are Muslims.

\* A missio sui iuris is a special mission established by the Pope for a remote region with few Catholics *An edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides, 01/26/2018.*

## ■ LAOS - Four new priests: the Church rejoices

Vientiane - On April 29th the small Catholic community in Laos celebrated in the Cathedral of St. Louis, in Takhek, in central Laos, with the ordination of four new priests. The day after the ordination, on April 30, the new priests celebrated the first Holy Mass in the chapel of Jean-Marie Vianney Seminary, in Takhek.

Mgr. Jean-Marie Inthirath, Apostolic Vicar of Paksé presided over the ordination rite, together with Mgr. Tito Banchong, Apostolic Administrator of Luang Prabang, while almost all the priests of Laos, many religious women, and many lay faithful were present.

The new priestly ordinations constitute an important step forward for the local Church which, as Cardinal Louis-Marie Ling Mankhanekhoun, Apostolic Vicar of Vientiane told Fides, "needs new priests: for this reason the work of formation and deepening of the faith is very important for us today".

The Church in Laos experienced two historical events in recent years: the first was the celebration held in the Vientiane capital on 11 December 2016, when Filipino Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, special envoy of Pope Francis, proclaimed the beatification of 17 new martyrs, including missionaries and Laotian laity, killed between 1954 and 1970 by the Pathet Lao communist guerrillas.

The Catholic Church in Laos is made up of about 60 thousand baptized (1% of the population out of 6 million mainly Buddhists). The last priestly ordinations date back to 2016. Today, in addition to the three apostolic Vicars, the number of Laotian diocesan priests present in the country now rises to 24. *An edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides, 05/02/2018.*

## ■ PAKISTAN - Young people promote interreligious peace and harmony

Karachi -. Over 400 young Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Baha'is and Muslims attended and actively participated in various activities, speeches, sessions and workshops at the "Minority Youth Summit 2018", held in Karachi, and organized by the Khadmeen Sindh Foundation and the Pakistan Hindu Youth Council

Vishal Anand, one of the organizers of the summit, says that the young people of Pakistan, "... are aware of their role and their contribution to strengthening communion, peace and harmony among young people of different religions in the nation". Kashif Anthony, coordinator of the Catholic Commission for "Justice and Peace" in Karachi, stated that, "It is a marvelous effort to unite young people and encourage them to play their vital role in building peace and interreligious harmony in the country. Interreligious peace and harmony are the urgency of the time we live in. If young people believe and commit themselves to these values, the future is bright, and we will gradually be able to eradicate discrimination and intolerance from our society".

Simon Naveed Gill, a young Christian and well-known human rights activist, was recognized for his active role in promoting human rights in the city of Karachi.

Speaking to Fides, he said: "Young people are called to commit themselves to human rights and justice and must pray for those who allow themselves to be carried away by radicalism and terrorism: who knows what happened in their lives that led them to join fundamentalist groups and terrorists".

Kailash Kumar Sarhadi, representative of the Sikh community and director of the NGO "Masterpeace Pakistan", and one of the speakers on the theme of interreligious harmony, said: "It is urgent to motivate young people of different religions, ethnic groups and cultures. Young people represent 67% of the population. We can make a huge change if we guide them on the right path".

*This is an edited version of the original report from Agenzia Fides, 02/28/2018.*



# Uruguay: Youth in Action:

## Feeding the Homeless in the Country's Capital.

Montevideo, Uruguay - For many people, a warm meal is a way to come together, celebrate, and spend time with friends and family. For homeless people living on the streets of Montevideo, Uruguay, it's an experience that's rare. However, about 500 young people in the city are working to change that.

Every night, especially in wintertime, around 16 groups coming from universities, parishes, and movements in the archdiocese go out to distribute more than 1900 meals to the city's homeless residents.

The volunteers get together in late afternoon to cook, using donations from parishioners, businesses and the young people themselves. When night comes with its low temperatures, they set out to meet the neediest.



Map of Uruguay – Source: CIA World Factbook, wikimedia.org



Members of the Luceros Movement gather for an outdoor liturgy. Source: movimientoluceros.org

One of these groups is the Luceros Movement, made up of more than 100 volunteers who gather Mondays and Wednesdays at the Virgin of Carmen and Saint Therese Parish to prepare more than 100 meals. This group came about after a pilgrimage to the Virgin of Salta, eight years ago.

After returning from the pilgrimage, the young participants formed a growing prayer group, and started to “make chocolate milk and some sandwiches to hand out to the people on the street” Juan José Malvárez told the Catholic Church's TV channel (ICM) in Montevideo.

“It's common, if you live in Montevideo, that when you leave your house, on your block or the next, there's somebody sleeping or living on the street. It's shocking,” explained Felipe Silva.

“The food is really just a means, it's a vehicle,” Silva said. “It's im-

portant to fill the belly, but a lot more important to fill the hearts of these people.”

The name “Luceros”, which means “bright stars”, came out of the experience in Salta.

“It's to be a light in the night, to not hold back the lamp so it can be raised high, to shine down light. It's to be little lights that illuminate the darkness,” Silva said. The Virgin of Salta speaks about this a little: “you will soon see how you will be transformed into little lights that will illuminate,” he noted.

The shared spirituality maintained over the years, leads the volunteers to pray a Rosary under the title of the Immaculate Mother of the Divine Eucharistic Heart of Jesus before heading out.

Another group, “Mother Teresa of Calcutta's Kettles”, hails from Mary Queen of Peace Parish. It came about after some of their members decided to continue the works of service they had been performing in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Their group goes out on Wednesdays and Saturdays, despite the cold and rain, to carry out this apostolate. Agustin Yurdan told ICM that everyone works together to prepare the food. Some peel and chop the vegetables, while others stir the stew in the kettles.

“We try to be there as much as the people want us to be. Sometimes they need to talk for an hour, and we stay there for an hour. Other times, they grab the warm plate and take off,” he explained.

Gabriel Muscarelli from the Sembradores (Sowers) group told ICM that their apostolate began 16 years ago as a family initiative. They began with 30 meals and now they distribute around 200, in addition to clothing, personal hygiene products, lightweight material for shelters, and sacramental preparation aids.

“We go out with physical food which is necessary. But it's much more necessary to bring that hope which is Christ risen in our lives,” Muscarelli said. “And that is what motivates you to face the entire reality of human existence.”

For more information on the Luceros movement in Montevideo, visit their website at: [http://movimientoluceros.org/?page\\_id=37](http://movimientoluceros.org/?page_id=37)

This is an edited version of the original article that appeared in CAN/ EWTN News, 07/13/17.



Interaction with the homeless. Source: movimientoluceros.org

# Society of Saint Peter the Apostle

## BE A PART OF CHRIST'S MISSION ON EARTH



Rev. Fr. Matthias Y.K. Amuzu

liberty them that are bruised; and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

The Savior who cried “It is finished!” from the cross has purchased our salvation and accomplished the Father's will. His atoning work on our behalf is complete, but His mission to gather people from every tribe, tongue, and nation is on-going.

That's where we come in. Our service to God's kingdom is an extension of Jesus' works. It's something we do with Him, not just something we do for Him. Or better said, it's what He does through us. He commanded us to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matt 28:19; Mk 16:15; Mk 3:10; Matt 24:14).

Would you like to be part of this mission? To, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit”? Please come and join us at the Society of St. Peter the Apostle. Our mission is to support our future priests and religious brothers and sisters who have dedicated their lives to be trained and formed to continue the mission of Christ. We have all been incorporated into the body of Christ by virtue of our baptism. Therefore we are commissioned to go and preach the gospel in order to bear fruit that will last. St. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians (12:1-12), stated that there are varieties of gifts bestowed on us, all originating from the Holy Spirit. We are called upon to use our different gifts to build the mystical body of Christ through His church. Since our gifts differ, it is not all of us who are called to become a ministerial priest, religious brother or sister; but it is very important that we support one another in making

The mission of Jesus Christ Son of God is summarized in Luke chapter 4: 18-19 which reads:

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at**

full use of the gifts the Lord has given us through His Spirit.

The Society of Saint Peter the Apostle is the Catholic Church's official fund-raising body in supporting formation programs along with the day to day needs of future priests and religious brothers and sisters in mission countries throughout the world. Pope Francis says:

” The church of Jesus Christ must be a community of faith made up of persons who trust in God as a loving parent and believe in Jesus as the revealer and revelation of God. It must be a community of holiness that reflects the holiness of God as the Holy One and of Jesus. It must incarnate in its members a perfect unity with God and with one another.”

Jesus worked while He was here and now the church carries on His work. He is as much at work through you in your city now as He was then in the streets of Jerusalem.

As believers, we possess the same Holy Spirit that Jesus had while on earth. We have access to that same power; we are in communion with the same person. The early Christians did things in common and they supported the work of Christ through his apostles and disciples. Today, it is our turn to do the same by supporting our future priests and religious brothers and sisters who are preparing to continue Christ's mission here on earth. Pope Francis again says: “We must become a community of mission. As the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to humankind, so Jesus sends his followers into the world to share what they believe and to make possible a new way of relating to God and to one another.”

Today, we are the disciples and we must be a community of love made up of persons who genuinely care about others. We must willingly

put aside our selfish desires and support the mission of Christ, which in turn rewards us with eternal life.

Please feel free to visit our website to see what our society does; please contribute towards spreading the gospel of Good News.

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Rev. Fr. Matthias Y.K. Amuzu

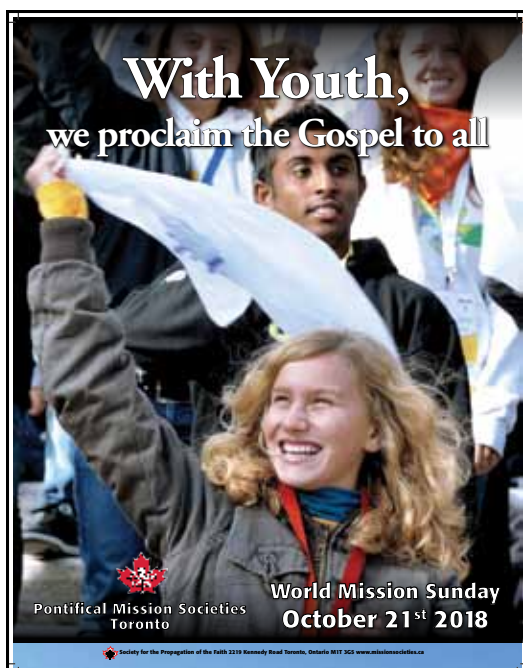
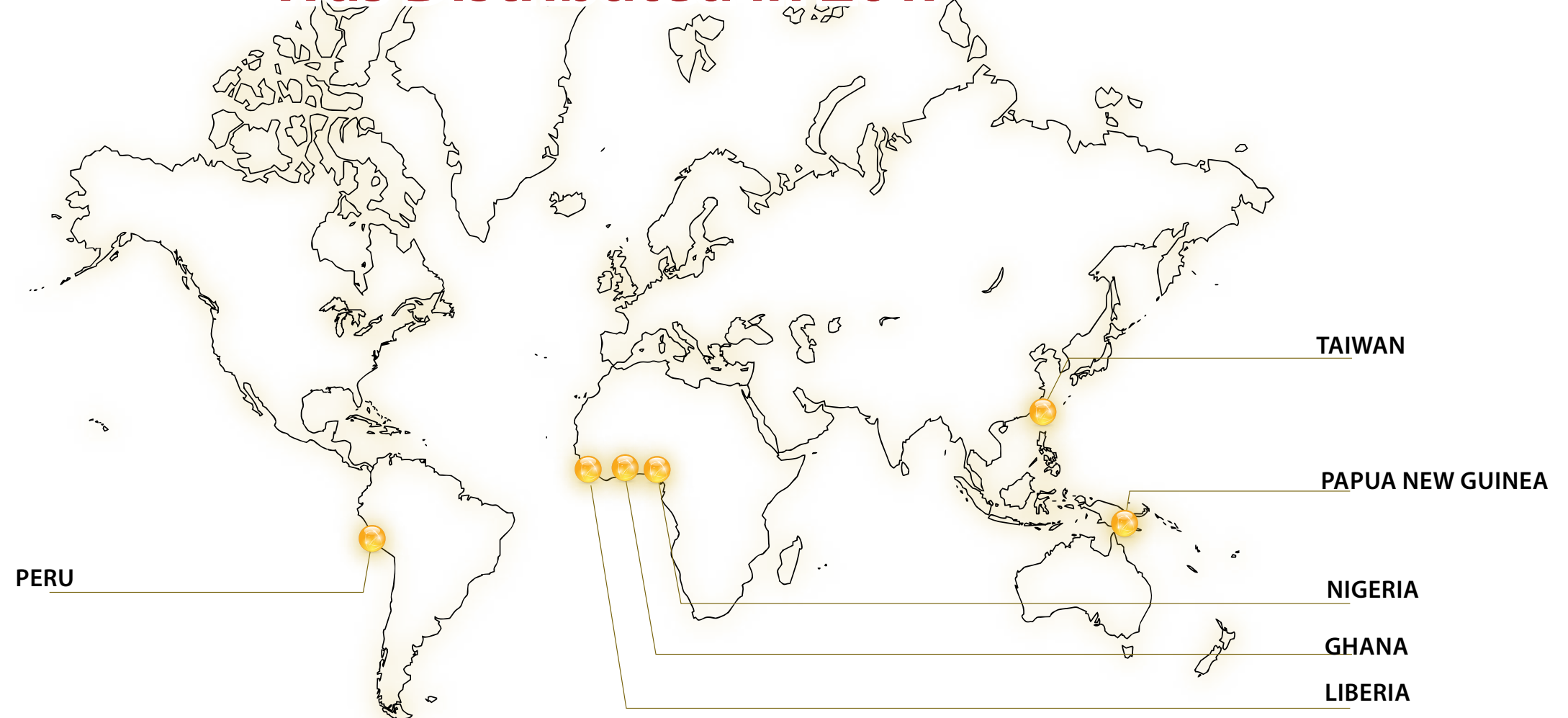
National Secretary for the Society of Saint Peter the Apostle





# How Your World Mission Sunday Collection in English Canada Was Distributed in 2017

 <b>LIBERIA</b>	
Contribution:	381,762
 <b>NIGERIA</b>	
Contribution:	660,960
 <b>PERU</b>	
Contribution:	123,841
 <b>GHANA</b>	
Contribution:	625,918
 <b>TAIWAN</b>	
Contribution:	241,814
 <b>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</b>	
Contribution:	376,182
<b>FONDAZIONE DOMUS MISSIONALIS</b>	
Contribution:	269,737
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2,680,214</b>
<b>MISSIONARY DIOCESES OF THE GREAT CANADIAN NORTH VIA CCCB</b>	<b>209,909</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,890,123</b>



## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2018

This Year World Mission Sunday will take place on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Parishes worldwide will celebrate this unique Sunday, every Catholic across the world will have the opportunity to join in as brothers and sisters, with prayer and financial support for the poor and emerging church.

World Mission Sunday is a global sign of the Universal Church and your donation will help provide emergency aid when disaster strikes, care for refugees in war torn countries, rural and health clinics and transportation for priests, catechists and religious and lay pastoral workers.

Please join the Universal Church's efforts to share with justice and fraternity amongst all the Dioceses in the world.

### GIVE GENEROUSLY ON OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup> - WORLD MISSION SUNDAY.

You can contribute at Mass on October 21<sup>st</sup> in your parish, you can donate by filling the form below and posting it to us (envelope inside this magazine), by phone or online.

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# Thank you, Canada! From Propagation of the Faith

## Donations for the Year 2017 – English Canada

ARCHDIOCESE	2017	2016
Antigonish	17,321.00	13,026.00
Calgary	140,315.00	143,141.00
Charlottetown	15,302.00	22,822.00
Churchill-Hudson Bay	1,266.00	1,563.00
Corner Brook	3,502.00	5,654.00
Edmonton	87,153.00	94,505.00
Grand Falls	7,711.00	7,202.00
Grouard-McLennan	15,431.00	20,003.00
Halifax	5,460.00	5,120.00
Hamilton	90,000.00	90,000.00
Kamloops	19,145.00	18,581.00
Keewatin-Le Pas	2,976.00	3,167.00
Kingston	39,074.00	42,382.00
London	117,487.00	108,277.00
Mackenzie-Fort Smith	1,731.00	3,525.00
Military ordinariate	3,009.00	2,940.00
Moosonee	—	179.00
Nelson	29,509.00	22,323.00
Ottawa	52,327.00	46,331.00
Pembroke	11,791.00	14,225.00
Peterborough	21,442.00	35,700.00
Prince Albert	10,732.00	15,632.00
Prince George	21,582.00	13,434.00
Regina	38,805.00	43,648.00
Saint John (NB)	24,823.00	26,370.00
Saskatoon	22,165.00	42,931.00
Sault Ste. Marie (English sector)	22,019.00	22,141.00
St. Catharines	31,422.00	32,594.00
St. John's (NL)	14,661.00	13,099.00
Thunder Bay	10,000.00	11,000.00
Toronto	496,599.00	615,321.00
Vancouver	157,537.00	154,731.00
Victoria	16,985.00	13,907.00
Whitehorse	1,369.00	1,335.00
Winnipeg	51,849.00	38,339.00
Ukrainian Eparchy-Edmonton	2,000.00	2,000.00
Ukrainian Eparchy-Saskatoon	—	—
Ukrainian Eparchy-Winnipeg	140.00	—
Ukrainian Eparchy-New Westminste	—	—
Maronite Eparchy-St. Peter	—	—
Chaldean Eparchy-St. Assai Toronto	—	—
Others (individuals)	2,650.00	2,094.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,607,290</b>	<b>1,749,242</b>

World Mission Sunday collections are sent to the National Office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Toronto, ON.

Every year in May National Directors from around the world meet in Rome to approve projects submitted for financial assistance. Specific projects submitted for financial assistance. Specific projects are allocated to specific countries for financial support. The money is sent directly from the National Office to the country of the approved project. The money is not sent to Rome.



ALL of our World Mission Sunday materials are available on our website. This will make it easier for those who wish to copy directly on to bulletins, etc. The documents can be downloaded in Word format.

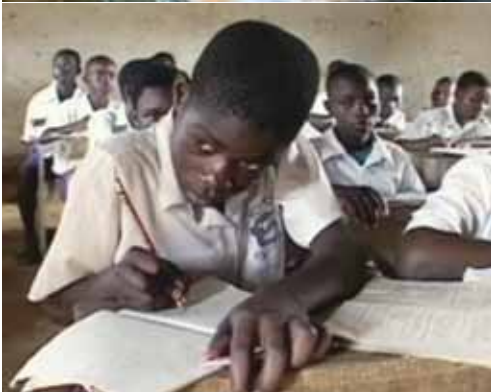
Our website is at [www.missionsocieties.ca](http://www.missionsocieties.ca) Items of missionary interest are available there, including World Mission TV and links to related sites.

# Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood:

The Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood is celebrating its 175th Anniversary this Year. Here is a look back at just the past ten years at the work that has been done by HCA Canada

Since 2007 HCA Canada has provided Financial Support for 27 Countries:

- Antilles
- Bangladesh
- Bolivia
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Ghana
- Haiti
- India
- Indonesia
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Papua New Guinea
- Peru
- Philippines
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe





# Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood:

The Total Amount Raised Over the Past 10 Years by Holy Childhood Association Members and Supporters across Canada Exceeds Five Million Dollars

Or, to put it another way, that’s 20 Million Quarters

Or 50 Million Dimes

Or 100 Million Nickels

Imagine how many pennies it would take to reach five million dollars?

2007	488,535.00
2008	1,023,198.00
2009	621,857.25
2010	403,863.00
2011	415,467.00
2012	376,759.00
2013	347,649.00
2014	349,470.00
2015	403,710.00
2016	360,890.00
2017	367,316.00
Total: 5,158,714.25	



# Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood: Canadian Stories of Service

A few issues ago, we reported on the efforts made by Ms Portia Lamasan and her class of elementary students on behalf of HCA. Ms Lamasan is now at a new school but she has continued spreading the HCA message and sent this report to Sister Mary Ellen Burns just before the end of the school year last June. Here is her report, in her own words describing her new school and her students’ efforts for HCA:

*I am very happy, blessed, and content to come into this school. (Queen of All Saints, in Coquitlam, BC) I know that this school and position were given to me by our good Father. Not only is my principal and the staff warm and welcoming but I do believe that I am also privileged to share the knowledge He bestowed upon me to the children He has entrusted under my care.*

*This year, to add to the lessons we learned from integrating our subjects in Math, So-cials, Science and Religion (now called Christian Education), my students designed their pots using recyclable materials such as old mugs, paper/plastic cups, yogurt con-tainers, bowls, buckets, mason jars, planters- made from wood, etc. to house their herbs, then decorating them with materials available at home. This is under our ASDT subject (Applied Skills and Design Technology subject under BC’s redesigned curriculum. It was necessary for them NOT TO PURCHASE any materials but use what was only available at home. (The only thing they purchased were the herb plants) I was proud of all their hard work and efforts. We made \$822.00 that day! (June 1, 2018)*



Photo courtesy of Queen of All Saints Catholic Elementary School

## DONATE SHARES

Propagation of the Faith is a registered charity. For shares do-nated to registered charities, the most recent federal budget has eliminated all taxation on the shares’ capital gains.

For more information contact:

National Director

416-699-7077 or 1-800-897-8845

or write

**The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**

2219 Kennedy Road, Toronto  
Ontario M1T 3G5

## Remembering the Missions in your Will

Help the missionaries of the future through

- a specific bequest **amount**
- **securities** bequest
- all or part of the **residue** of your estate
- **real property** (e.g. a building) bequest

**In your Will use our legal name:**

**The Society for the Propagation of the  
Faith for Canada, English Sector**

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# Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood:

## Project Report: NAMIBIA

The Pontifical Mission Societies in Canada has been blessed with the generous support of our Canadian donors, both spiritually and financially. Because of this support, we have been able to “pass it forward” in a variety of ways to our needy parishes and dioceses throughout the world. It is always especially rewarding when we can help our youngest and neediest. In 2017, we provided assistance for a small mission in the country of Namibia. Your support allowed the mission to completely rebuild its kindergarten centre, bringing it up to proper standards in a variety of ways. Father M.V. Devasia O.F.M. of St. Francis Mission, Bukalo, Zambezi Region, Namibia, provided Father Alex Osei C.S.Sp. with this report of the completed work:



Dear Reverend Father Alex Osei, C.S.Sp,

Respectful greetings to you from St. Francis Mission. I write to you in order to provide a detailed summary of the work that has been completed on the kindergarten located at Ikumwe, Bukalo.

1. The playfield for the children has been completed, including playground equipment.
2. Proper fencing and poles have been installed
3. Inside the building, toilets, wash basins and sewage pipes are now either fixed or replaced, including piping to provide water.
4. The water tank tower is now in place. The 1000 litre capacity water tank has been purchased. The local leaders are contacting the civil authority to arrange for the water pipes to be connected to the tower and wash-rooms via the water line that passes through the church property.
5. 30 small children's chairs and a few mattresses have been purchased along with 4 children's cycles. The kindergarten opened in February with 25 children and two teachers. The church council is responsible for the management of the kindergarten as well as payment for the staff.

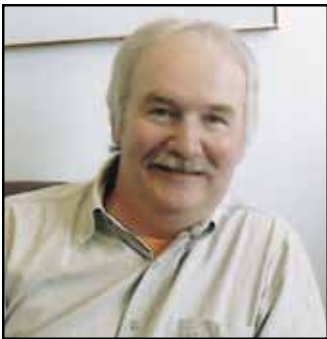
Once again I sincerely express my gratitude to all of you for your generous assistance in building this kindergarten for the children of Ikumwe.

Yours in trust,

Fr. M.V.Devasis O.F.M.Cap.



# The Editor's Point of View



*“The fact that we are not in this world by our own choice makes us sense that there is an initiative that precedes us and makes us exist. Each one of us is called to reflect on this fact: ‘I am a mission on this Earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world’.* – Pope Francis’s

*message for World Mission Day 2018*

The older one gets, the more one has to look back on. I acknowledge that there is nothing particularly revelatory about this statement; in fact, most of you would say I am pointing out the boldly obvious. But let’s look beyond the obvious and dig a little deeper.

One memory that I now can look back on with a certain level of fondness has to do with my relationship with my mother. Having given birth to six children over a span of 20 years is enough to qualify her for sainthood, but the real qualifying factor would be the rebellious times she endured from each of her children as they went through their various stages of “growing up”. During my phase(s) which were highlighted by much angst and self-pity, my favourite comment directed at my mother was usually something to the effect of: “I didn’t ask to be born”. This was usually followed by my mother crossing herself and saying, “Jesus, Mary and Joseph”. I never was able to come up with a response to this brief benediction on the part of my mother. It is only at this latter stage of my life that I believe I understand her.

Pope Francis’s comment on the ‘initiative that precedes us and makes us exist brought back those encounters with my mother. It strikes to the very basis of existence.



The existentialists have been arguing this point for decades. They formulated questions that probed the very meaning of existence that often led to the conclusion that there is no meaning to be found. Pope Francis takes a different tack; He sees “the initiative” behind life as being found in God and thereby our existence is God-based and God-driven. Because of this, I (we) are driven to mission in the form of service to our fellow human beings and the natural world and all other forms of life around us.

Jean Paul Sartre, one of the leaders of the existentialist movement, was a noted atheist in keeping with his belief in the basic meaninglessness of life. However, he spent his entire adult life in the search for meaning, both questioning his beliefs while attempting to reinforce them. Case in point: at one point he said:, “I do not believe in God; his existence has been disproved by Science”, but later on he also said, “I tell you in truth: all men are Prophets or else God does not exist”. This is the point Pope Francis is making. We are driven to mission, in both the prophetic and the practical sense. Meaning and purpose comes to us through action, not inaction, thus we achieve meaning through our engagement with the world and the people around us. It is in living the message of Christ that we find Christ in others, further cementing our relationship with Him.

This Mission Sunday, let’s all of us take a moment to reflect, as Pope Francis suggests, on this very important reason why we are in the world. So then, the next time your grandchild, or perhaps your son or daughter tells you that they didn’t ask to be born, you can respond by saying, “No. That’s true. But always remember you needed to be born.”

Paul Coady  
Editor

**Missions Today** is always interested in hearing from you. If you have any comments on the articles we have used; the new structure of the magazine; or anything you would like to see us explore in future issues, please get in touch with us!  
Contact the Editor via email at: [editor@missionsocieties.ca](mailto:editor@missionsocieties.ca)  
Or write us at: Editor - Missions Today Magazine  
2219 Kennedy Road Toronto,  
Ontario M1T 3G5

**Don’t forget to visit our web-site.**  
[www.missionsocieties.ca](http://www.missionsocieties.ca) offers: access to feature stories from our magazine, Missions Today, child activities and news from Holy Childhood, and direct links to World Mission TV (RomanCatholicTelevision) where you can find stories of mission work from across the globe in documentary formats complete with teacher/student guides and activities. Our site also makes it easy to donate in a safe and secure way. Visit us today!

# In Remembrance

## Our Deceased Donors

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased members of the Pontifical Mission Societies:

- Fabiola Bohemier .....Winnipeg, MB
- Robert Holscher ..... Calgary, AB
- Frank Vandelight ..... Lethbridge, AB
- Janet Zorena ..... Balcarres – SK

*“I tell you most solemnly, whoever listens to my words and believes in the one who sent me, has eternal life; without being brought to judgement he has passed into eternal life”*

John 5:24



# Costa Rica

## Young People: Transforming reality in the light of the Gospel

San Jose - “Young people are a treasure for our people, a wealth that generates joy, hope, the ability to dream, to show sensitivity and solidarity for those who suffer. In these difficult times, God calls each one by name, so that he may be the protagonist in the transformation of these realities, a transformation in the light of the Gospel and of the magisterium of the Church”. This statement was issued by the leaders of the Latin American Youth Pastoral at the conclusion of the XIII Youth Pastoral Regional Meeting for Mexico-Central America in the city of San Jose, in Costa Rica.

Delegations from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama participated in the meeting with the aim of reflecting, in communion with the universal Church, on youth Pastoral in the region.

“We are thrilled - the note continues - because the Church has set its sights on young people and promotes spaces for participation so that young people, with their dynamism, will know how to renew structures and pastoral action”.

In launching an appeal to Bishops, priests, laity, educators, and in particular to the families themselves, the delegates were asked to “revitalize the accompaniment of vocational discernment and of the young”. At the same time they invited “to prepare themselves for the next World Youth Day, a moment of grace that the Church gives to our region”.

In view of this event, on March 15, the registration period was inaugurated for World Youth Day, which will be held in Panama from 22 to 27 January 2019. The Youth Festival will seek to unite young people from around the world by sharing their artistic and religious talents and experiences of faith and life. This is an edited version of the original report found in Agenzia Fides, 03/17/2018.





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75	5.90%	5.62%
80	6.71%	6.42%
85	7.78%	7.54%
90	9.26%	9.06%
93+	10.00%	10.00%

Rates posted as of September 4, 2018

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**Society for the Propagation  
of the Faith**

(A Pontifical Mission Society)  
2219 Kennedy Road Toronto,  
Ontario M1T 3G5

[www.missionsocieties.ca](http://www.missionsocieties.ca)

**"Never think that you have nothing to offer, or that nobody needs you, many people need you. Think about it! Each of you, think in your heart: many people need me".**

*Pope Francis*

