



# MISSIONS TODAY

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Autumn 2019

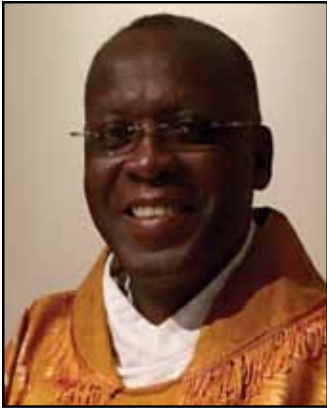
**EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH**  
**October 2019**

*The Society for the Propagation of the Faith*



# National Director's Message

Mission Today Message Autumn 2019



### The Urgency and Necessity of Mission

The urgency of mission cannot be overemphasised. It is captured in an African proverb used frequently by African elders: “Sneezing cannot be postponed.” Yet its necessity requires that it is properly organized and executed, so that it is not skin deep. Commenting on the proverb above, Dr. Mkhwalala captures the situation: “Missionary approaches should not be cosmetic, but should touch the innermost core of people and change their life and worldview. It is an on-going reality, takes time, changes its approaches and needs the patience of a moving snail. Missionary evangelization should not be delayed” (Called to Evangelize Africa, 103).

The missionary vocation entrusted to us through Baptism is not a burden but a privilege. It is an invitation to share something fundamental to the Church to which we belong. Evangelizing mission is at the centre and at the heart of the Church’s existence, activity and future. This activity is the only constant of history and can only be understood in the light of the eschatological expectation. This expectation inspires the Church and directs all her activity towards the final fulfilment of history. The church speaks of this in terms of HOPE: “All the Disciples of Christ ... should everywhere on earth bear witness to Christ and give an answer to everyone who asks a reason for the hope of an eternal life which is theirs” (1 Peter 3: 15).

From the onset of his papacy, Pope Francis repeatedly draws our attention to the necessity of creating a missionary awakening.

He advocates that this can be achieved through highlighting the evangelical dimension of the Church’s mission in the world (Address of Pope Francis to the National Directors of Pontifical Mission Societies- June 1, 2018). This call is in keeping with Pope Benedict XV’s insight in the apostolic letter *Maximum Illud*, and on the revitalization of the *Missio ad gentes*. A renewed missionary engagement of all Christians is indeed necessary at a time when mission needs to regain its life force, and evangelical drive.

Evangelizing mission should of necessity become the new ecclesial paradigm. It goes without saying that it is a force capable of transforming the interiors of the church even before imparting the life of peoples and cultures. To be true to our vocation, we must allow this paradigm to shape our communion with Christ, who is eternally present in his Church. It is the only way to authenticity, as it has the potential of facilitating the conversion of our pastoral activities, ecclesial structures and Christian communities in their entirety (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 25, 27). In the light of this reflection, mission, like the impending sneeze, is urgent and necessary and cannot be ignored.

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

## The Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intentions:

### SEPTEMBER: For Our Oceans and Seas

We pray that politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world’s seas and oceans.

### OCTOBER: For Evangelization

We pray that the breath of the Holy Spirit engenders a new missionary spring in the Church.

### NOVEMBER: For the Near East

We pray that a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerges in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives.

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Photo by: Pixabay.com



## PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

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# MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION MONTH 2019

## *Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World*

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

For the month of October 2019, I have asked that the whole Church revive her missionary awareness and commitment as we commemorate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919). Its farsighted and prophetic vision of the apostolate has made me realize once again the importance of renewing the Church's missionary commitment and giving fresh evangelical impulse to her work of preaching and bringing to the world the salvation of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again.

The title of the present Message is the same as that of October's Missionary Month: *Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World*. Celebrating this month will help us first to rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ, a faith graciously bestowed on us in baptism. Our filial relationship with God is not something simply private, but always in relation to the Church. Through our communion with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we, together with so many of our other brothers and sisters, are born to new life. This divine life is not a product for sale – we do not practise proselytism – but a treasure to be given, communicated and proclaimed: that is the meaning of mission. We received this gift freely and we share it freely (cf. *Mt 10:8*), without excluding anyone. God

The Church is on mission in the world. Faith in Jesus Christ enables us to see all things in their proper perspective, as we view the world with God's own eyes and heart. Hope opens us up to the eternal horizons of the divine life that we share. Charity, of which we have a foretaste in the sacraments and in fraternal love, impels us to go forth to the ends of the earth (cf. *Mic 5:4; Mt 2*



Photo: PMS Canada

**“I am a mission,  
always; you are a  
mission, always;  
every baptized man  
and woman is a  
mission.”**

8:19; *Acts 1:8; Romans 10:18*). A Church that presses forward to the farthest frontiers requires a constant and ongoing missionary conversion. How many saints, how many men and women of faith, witness to the fact that this unlimited openness, this going forth in mercy, is indeed possible and realistic, for it is driven by love and its deepest meaning as gift, sacrifice and gratuitousness (cf. *2 Cor 5:14-21*)! The man

who preaches God must be a man of God (cf. *Maximum Illud*).

This missionary mandate touches us personally: I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptized man and woman is a mission. People in love never stand still: they are drawn out of themselves; they are attracted and attract others in turn; they give themselves to others and build relationships that are life-giving. As far as God's love is concerned, no one is useless or insignificant. Each of us is a mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God's love. Even if parents can betray their love by lies, hatred and infidelity, God never takes back his gift of life. From eternity he has destined each of his children to share in his divine and eternal life (cf. *Eph 1:3-6*).

This life is bestowed on us in baptism, which grants us the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, the conqueror of sin and death. Baptism gives us rebirth in God's own image and likeness, and makes us members of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. In this sense, baptism is truly necessary for salvation for it ensures that we are always and everywhere sons and daughters in the house of the Father, and never orphans, strangers or slaves. What in the Christian is a sacramental reality – whose fulfillment is found in the Eucharist – remains the vocation and destiny of every man and

woman in search of conversion and salvation. Baptism fulfils the promise of the gift of God that makes everyone a son or daughter in the Son. We are children of our natural parents, but in baptism we receive the origin of all fatherhood and true motherhood: no one can have God for a Father who does not have the Church for a mother (cf. *Saint Cyprian, De Cath. Eccl.*, 6).

Our mission, then, is rooted in the fatherhood of God and the motherhood of the Church. The mandate given by the Risen Jesus at Easter is inherent in Baptism: as the Father has sent me, so I send you, filled with the Holy Spirit, for the reconciliation of the world (cf. *Jn 20:19-23; Mt 28:16-20*). This mission is part of our identity as Christians; it makes us responsible for enabling all men and women to realize their vocation to be adoptive children of the Father, to recognize their personal dignity and to appreciate the intrinsic worth of every human life, from conception until natural death. Today's rampant secularism, when it becomes an aggressive cultural rejection of God's active fatherhood in our history, is an obstacle to authentic human fraternity, which finds expression in reciprocal respect for the life of each person. Without the God of Jesus Christ, every difference is reduced to a baneful threat, making impossible any real fraternal acceptance and fruitful unity within the human race.

The universality of the salvation offered by God in Jesus Christ led Benedict XV to call for an end to all forms of nationalism and ethnocentrism, or the merging of the preaching of the Gospel

**“The Church's universal  
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aside exclusivist ideas of  
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country and ethnic group”.**

to the nations, to a world not yet transformed by the sacraments of Jesus Christ and his holy Church. By proclaiming God's word, bearing witness to the Gospel and celebrating the life of the Spirit, they summon to conversion, baptize and offer Christian salvation, with respect for the freedom of each person and in dialogue with the cultures and religions of the peoples to whom they are sent.

The *missio ad gentes*, which is always necessary for the Church, thus contributes in a fundamental way to the process of ongoing conversion in all Christians. Faith in the Easter event of Jesus; the ecclesial mission received in baptism; the geographic and cultural detachment from oneself and one's own home; the need for salvation from sin and liberation from personal and social evil: all these demand the mission that reaches to the very ends of the earth.

We entrust the Church's mission to Mary our Mother. In union with her Son, from the moment of the Incarnation the Blessed Virgin set out on her pilgrim way. She was fully involved in the mission of Jesus, a mission that became her own at the foot of the Cross:

the mission of cooperating, as Mother of the Church, in bringing new sons and daughters of God to birth in the Spirit and in faith.

I would like to conclude with a brief word about the Pontifical Mission Societies, already proposed in *Maximum Illud* as a missionary resource. The Pontifical Mission Societies serve the Church's universality as a global network of support for the Pope in his missionary commitment by prayer, the soul of mission, and charitable offerings from Christians throughout the world. Their donations assist the Pope in the evangelization efforts of particular Churches (the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith), in the formation of local clergy (the Pontifical Society of Saint Peter the Apostle), in raising missionary awareness in children (Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood) and in encouraging the missionary dimension of Christian faith (Pontifical Missionary Union). In renewing my support for these Societies, I trust that the extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 will contribute to the renewal of their missionary service to my ministry.

To men and women missionaries, and to all those who, by virtue of their baptism, share in any way in the mission of the Church, I send my heartfelt blessing.

*From the Vatican, 9 June 2019, Solemnity of Pentecost*

*Francis*

This is an edited version of His Holiness's message. To read the complete version, please visit:

<http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/messages/missions.index.html>



Teaching Catechism in Taiwan:

Photo courtesy Bishop Martin Su Yao Wen

wills that all people be saved by coming to know the truth and experiencing his mercy through the ministry of the Church, the universal sacrament of salvation (cf. *1 Tim 2:4; Lumen Gentium*, 48).



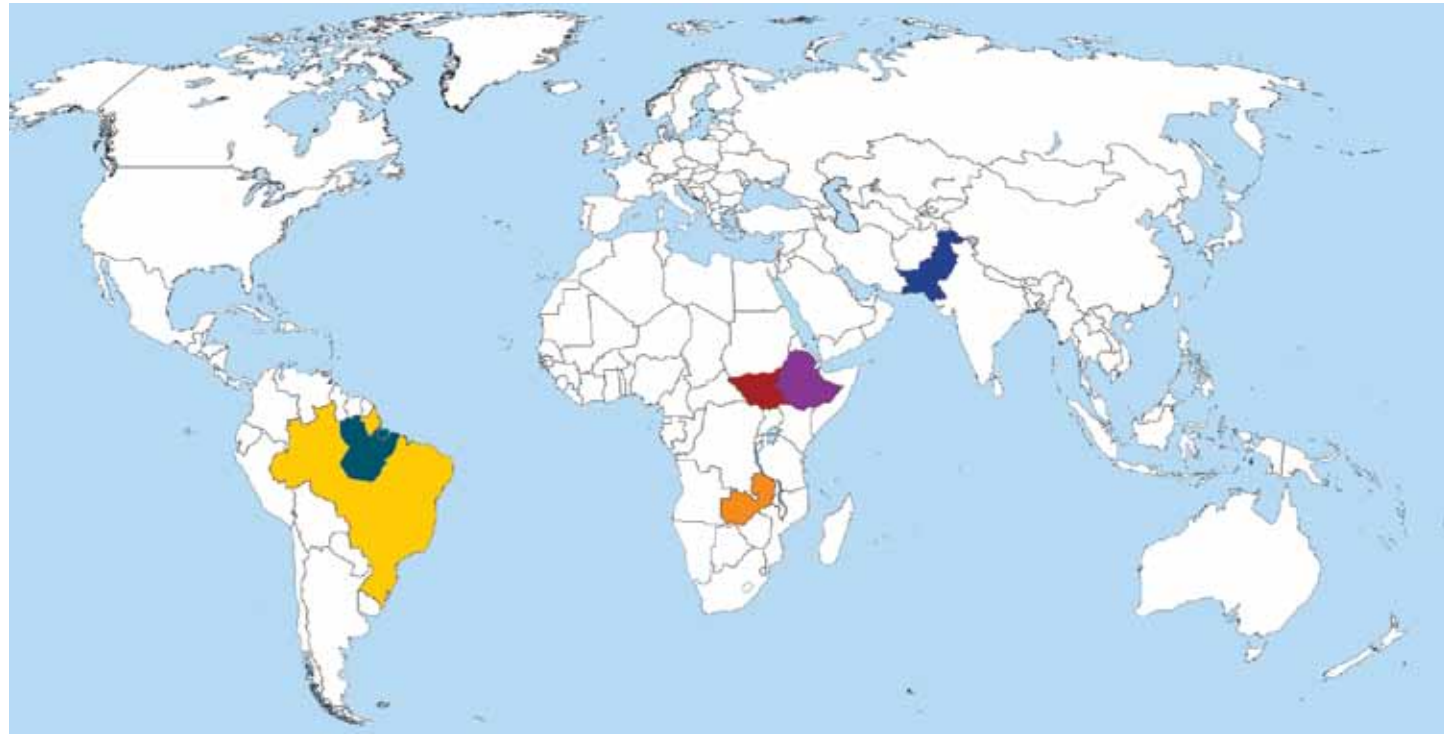
Celebration of Marriage in Cambodia

Photo courtesy of Fr. Juan

with the economic and military interests of the colonial powers. In his Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, the Pope noted that the Church's universal mission requires setting aside exclusivist ideas of membership in one's own country and ethnic group. Today too, the Church needs men and women who, by virtue of their baptism, respond generously to the call to leave behind home, family, country, language and local Church, and to be sent forth



# Across the Globe



## **ZAMBIA - "It is time Zambia became a fully-fledged missionary Church"**

Lusaka - It is time Zambia became a fully-fledged missionary Church, in realization of Pope Paul VI's vision of an African missionary Church. The exhortation came from Mgr. George Zumaile Lungu, Bishop of Chipata, in the Cathedral of the Infant Jesus in Lusaka, during the launch of the activities towards the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019, which took place on 13 July.

"Saint Paul VI, visiting Africa after the canonization of the martyrs of Uganda (in Rome), challenged the Church in Africa to 'Be missionaries to yourselves'. That challenge is still valid today" said the Bishop. Recalling the statement of St. Paul VI during his visit to Uganda in 1969. Mgr. Lungu said his dream is of a Zambian Church that gave openhandedly of its priests, religious sisters and even of the laity for the mission of the Church, both within the country and elsewhere.

The Apostolic Nuncio in Zambia and Malawi, Archbishop Gianfranco Gallone, urged the clergy to be authentic in order to make the Gospel more genuine in people's lives. "We are all disciples of Jesus; we are urged not to consider ourselves the owners, dominators of the faith of others. We are servants for the sake of Jesus", he said. *An edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides 7/18/2019*

## **ETHIOPIA: Catholic Monastery founded**

The Holy Trinity Abune Biruk Monastery was officially opened on the 28th of May, 2019 with the laying of the foundation stone for the construction of the very first Catholic Church in Holeta, 45 km from the capital of Ethiopia Addis Ababa on.

The Congregation of Holy Trinity Abune Biruk was founded in Ethiopia four years ago through the tremendous commitment and effort of Emahoy Haregeweine who is also celebrating her Silver Jubilee of her vocation as a nun.

In the homily during Eucharistic Celebration H.E Cardinal Berhaneyesus Souraphiel, CM mentioned and appreciated the commitment of all who were engaged in the progress of founding the Monastery. He pointed out that the Monastery is not only a sign of expansion of the Catholic Church but also the development of the country.

The founder of the congregation in Ethiopia, Emahoy Haregeweine, gave her deepest gratitude to H.E Cardinal Berhaneyesus Souraphiel, CM, Priests, Sisters and all Faithful for being part of the joyful opening ceremony. She was also thankful to all who contributed in introducing the Holy Trinity Abune Biruk Congregation in Ethiopia. The monastery is expected to be a Meditation Centre for all faithful. The coordinator invites all for their prayerful support and requested everyone all to be engaged in supporting the congregation. *An edited version, taken from a report by Bezawit Assefa of the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat and which first appeared in AMCEA on-line 6/7/2019.*

## **BRAZIL - Hospital ship named in honor of "Pope Francis" will bring the Gospel and social assistance to remote areas along the rivers Amazonas**

Juruti - The Franciscan Friars of Assisi in the Providence of God and the association of lay people who accompany it are completing the preparations to launch, in July, the "Pope Francis" hospital ship which will bring the Gospel and health assistance to over 700 thousand inhabitants of Amazonian areas reachable only by river, in the Brazilian state of Pará.

The 32-meter ship houses the country's most complete floating hospital, with facilities for diagnosis, treatment, hospitalization and prevention in medicine, ophthalmology, odontology, surgery, and laboratory analysis, infirmary, vaccination room and machinery for radiography, ultrasound, and mammography. The ship will depart from the port of Óbidos with a crew of 10 people (including a religious) and 20 medical and paramedical volunteers (including university professors and students) and will visit about 1,000 coastal areas in 10-day expeditions, using two motorboat-ambulances for initial surveys of the health situation of each area and for emergencies. The expedition will collaborate with the local hospitals of Juruti and Óbidos.

In times of floods, it will also serve as a rescue boat. The initiative originated from the visit of Pope Francis to a hospital in Rio de Janeiro, on the occasion of World Youth Day 2013, when the pontiff asked the founding priest, friar Francisco Belotti, if they were present in the Amazon. The reply was a no and the Pope simply replied "Then you have to go". As a result, the association and the fraternity took charge of the two hospitals mentioned, which were closed at the time. "... The population that lives on the banks of the river had considerable difficulties in reaching the hospitals", observed friar Francisco, "and then we understood that the only way was to make the hospital go to them".

The mission will be coordinated by a priest of the fraternity, in charge of bringing the Word of God to the population visited, as well as ensuring that all medical assistance be humane and dignified. *An edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides, 6/1/2019.*

## **BRAZIL - "The mission in today's world is a call for all Christians"**

Brasília - "Evangelization in this great country requires enormous human resources for any ecclesial and social project", says Fr. Mario Geremia, Superior of the Scalabrinian missionary community in the Archdiocese of São Sebastião in Rio de Janeiro. Illustrating the "Fraternity Campaign", the annual Lenten initiative of the Brazilian Church, the missionary states: "Together with local Churches and social movements, our action intends to build spaces for reflection and to stimulate missionary action". We organize seminars, Bible studies, laboratories, round tables, street demonstrations, processions and "direct dialogues with local public authorities to concretize the evangelizing action", he adds.

A crucial challenge that the Church is facing concerns the reception

of migrants from Venezuela. "To date, there are about 3.4 million people forced to leave that country", says Father Geremia. "In Brazil, in December 2018, the number of Venezuelans was 1,102,000. To respond to this humanitarian crisis, the Scalabrinian missionaries decided to set up two Integrated Centers of attention towards migrants in the state of Roraima, on the border with Venezuela. "The structures offer accommodation services, food distribution, job training, primary health care, legal assistance, support for minors and psychological and spiritual support".

This year, in October, both the Extraordinary Missionary Month and the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon will be celebrated. Thinking of the Church's missionary path, Father Gerardo notes that "the mission in the world today is a call and a commitment for all Christians, for all the baptized: it is necessary to have a great sensitivity towards the need of others". *An edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides, 04/13/2019.*

## **SOUTH SUDAN: First Group of Seminarians of St. John Paul II Ordained**

Eight candidates in formation at St. John Paul II Seminary in Tambura-Yambio Diocese have been ordained. The eight include one priest and seven deacons.

Rt. Rev. Edwardo Hiiboro Kussala, Bishop of Tambura-Yambio, stated that the diocese is extremely grateful to God as this is a sign of growth for the Church in the diocese and in South Sudan.

"Grace certainly abounds in the lives and vocations of these eight men from the diocese of Tambura-Yambio who have said yes to Catholic faith, yes to the call to ordained priesthood or diaconate. Their witness is an invitation to all of us to put our faith into action in service to God and our sisters and brothers everywhere," Bishop Hiiboro explained, adding that the formation process that leads up to priestly ordination is a long one, lasting 10 to 12 years and including intensive stages of study, ministry, accompaniment and prayer.

"We thank all our benefactors without whom we would not have these young men prepared, may God bless them abundantly," he said.

Tambura-Yambio Diocese which covers two counties, Yambio and Tambura has 27 parishes. Located in the Western Equatorial State near the border of South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo, the diocese has felt the effects of the war currently going in South Sudan. According to the April 2019 USAID report on South Sudan Displacement Crisis, Yambio county experienced significant armed clashes and widespread displacement of people in 2016.

The diocese currently hosts a large population of internally displaced persons who need pastoral care. The ordination of the priest and seven deacons is therefore seen as a great blessing to the people of God in the Diocese. *This is an edited version of a report filed by Pamela Adinda for AMECEA On-line News 6/7/2019*



# Propagation of the Faith Project Report: PERU

## Evangelizing and Developing Pastoral Plans for the Communities and Villages in the Vicariate of San José del Amazonas (St. Joseph of the Amazon)



The Vicariate of San José del Amazonas is a vast, sparsely populated area where Catholicism is the dominant religion. The Catholic population of the region (140,000) represents 73% of the total population. They are served by only 14 priests, leading to a ratio of 10,000 Catholics for each available priest. Needless to say, the

ening of the 652 Christian communities spread throughout the Vicariate San Jose del Amazonas. The approach taken was to organize a series of missionary visits and formative meetings for Catechists and Catechists in training who represent the Catholic presence in these communities. A great deal of planning went into this exercise prior to its implementation.



This involved a greater emphasis on training and education for all missionaries and catechists from the existing pastoral areas so that communication between and within the zones be made more effective.

Great emphasis was given to the needs of the indigenous peoples living in the region. One key element of the pastoral plan was proclaiming the value of their culture and worldview as well as providing practical support of their claims to autonomy. This meant that catechists needed to be thoroughly prepared with a deep understanding of the peoples they would be serving. All of this is part of a three-year pastoral plan that is now in year two.

role of catechists and religious instruction animators is crucial to the life of the Church in this region. It is in support of their efforts that the Pontifical Mission Societies of Canada, and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, was asked by Rome to provide financial support for the work they are doing to spread the faith in this remote part of Peru.







The major objective of the project was the formation and strength-

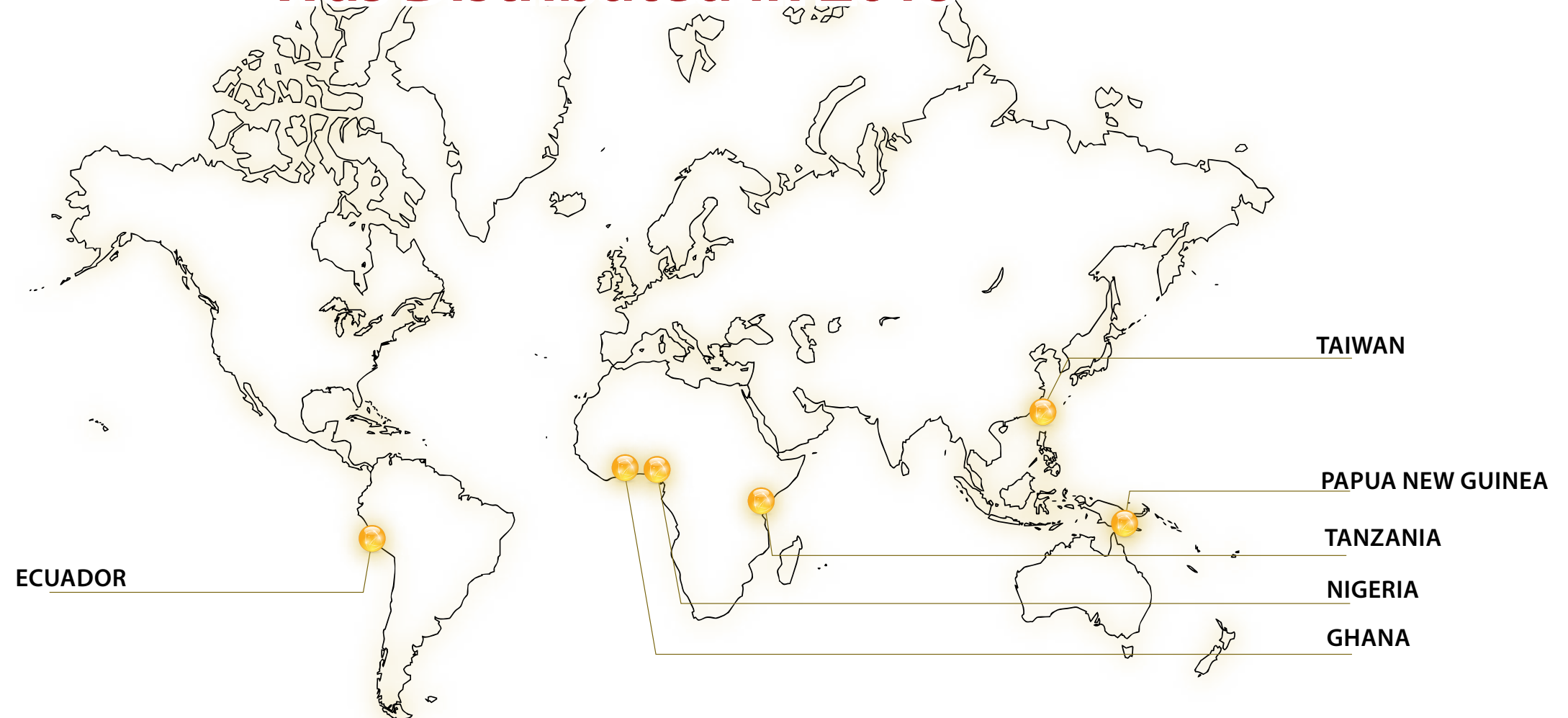
Living the Word of God through prophetic social ministry and advocacy for indigenous rights remains the overriding theme of this project. In the photo collage below, you will see the fruits of your support for the missionary work being done on behalf of the people of Amazonia. Evangelization takes root in many forms.



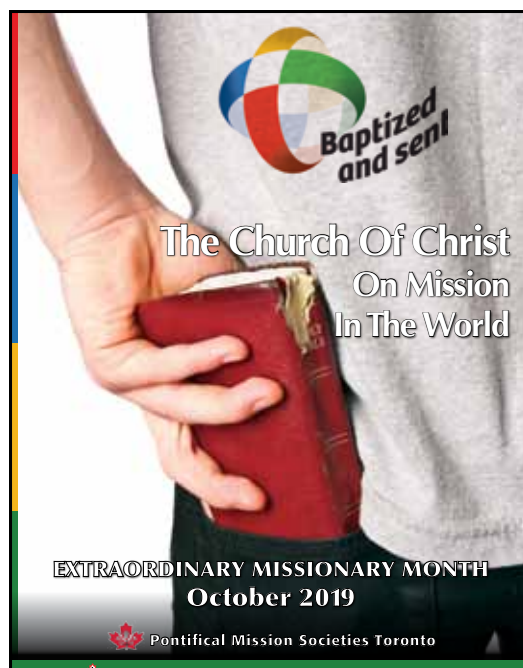


# How Your World Mission Sunday Collection in English Canada Was Distributed in 2018

 <b>TAIWAN</b>	
Contribution:	245,600
 <b>ECUADOR</b>	
Contribution:	131,934
 <b>GHANA</b>	
Contribution:	350,826
 <b>NIGERIA</b>	
Contribution:	431,878
 <b>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</b>	
Contribution:	412,939
 <b>TANZANIA</b>	
Contribution:	311,618
<b>FONDAZIONE DOMUS MISSIONALIS</b>	
Contribution:	220,630
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,884,798</b>
<b>MISSIONARY DIOCESES OF THE GREAT CANADIAN NORTH VIA CCCB</b>	<b>89,754</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,974,552</b>



All Funds Listed Are In Canadian Dollars



## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2019

This Year World Mission Sunday will take place on October 20<sup>th</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 20<sup>th</sup> - WORLD MISSION SUNDAY.

You can contribute at Mass on October 20<sup>th</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.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ By preauthorised debit; I am enclosing a voided cheque or use my credit card information.

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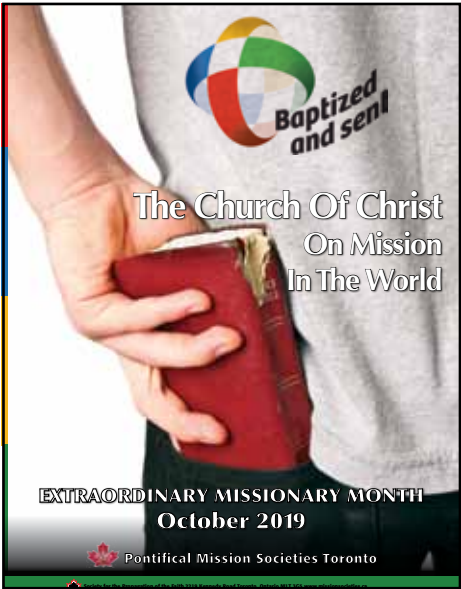
# Thank you, Canada! From Propagation of the Faith

## Donations for the Year 2018 – English Canada

ARCHDIOCESE	2018	2017
Diocese Of Antigonish	13,045.00	13,025.99
Diocese Of Calgary	140,514.00	143,141.52
Diocese Of Charlottetown	11,711.67	22,821.83
Archdiocese Of Edmonton	89,523.67	94,505.00
Diocese Of Grand Falls	5,293.55	7,201.65
Diocese Of Halifax	5,070.00	5,120.00
Diocese Of Hamilton	90,000.00	90,000.00
Diocese Of Kamloops	18,842.95	18,581.11
Diocese Of Grouard-Mclennan	12,966.05	20,002.86
Diocese Of Keewatin - Le Pas	2,745.06	3,166.70
Archdiocese Of Kingston	36,041.15	42,381.69
Diocese Of Prince Albert	9,521.05	15,632.00
Diocese Of London	102,731.11	108,277.27
Diocese Of Mackenzie-Fort Smith	4,056.00	3,524.50
Rc Military Ordinariate Of Canada	3,035.70	2,940.45
Diocese Of Churchill-Hudson Bay	1,200.00	1,563.00
Diocese Of Nelson	30,785.52	22,322.95
Diocese Of Ottawa	46,911.80	46,330.84
Diocese Of Pembroke	10,790.00	14,225.30
Diocese Of Peterborough	26,854.74	35,700.34
Diocese Of Prince George/Rupert	15,381.66	13,433.60
Archdiocese Of Regina	22,529.50	43,647.96
Diocese Of St. Catharines	32,094.20	32,593.80
Diocese Of Corner Brook And Labrador	7,850.15	5,653.80
Diocese Of Saint John Nlb	19,864.55	26,370.23
Diocese Of St John Nfl	12,507.50	13,099.44
Diocese Of Saskatoon	36,150.05	42,930.75
Diocese Of Sault Ste-Marie , Eng Sec(Excess 2016)	18,227.45	22,141.25
Diocese Of Thunder Bay	9,500.00	11,000.00
Diocese Of Toronto	451,265.89	615,320.72
Diocese Of Vancouver	166,580.12	154,731.48
Diocese Of Victoria	13,000.70	13,907.39
Diocese Of Whitehorse-Bishop's Office	1,122.65	1,334.65
Archdiocese Of Winnipeg	28,193.20	38,339.23
Diocese Of Moosonee (Christ The King)	-	178.50
Ukrainian Eparchy-Edmonton	-	2,000.00
<b>Diocesan Total As Per GI</b>	<b>1,495,906.64</b>	<b>1,747,147.80</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.

# Society of Saint Peter the Apostle

## IN WHAT OTHER WAYS CAN I PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OTHERS?



month is ***“Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World”***.

From the above theme it is immediately clear that by virtue of our baptism, we are sent to preach the gospel; this is so because by virtue of our baptism we are incorporated into the three offices of Christ Jesus, namely, the Priestly Office, the Kingly Office and the Prophetic Office. Thus, the mission of Christ is the mission of the church, seen as we, the baptized people.

The question that comes into my mind is, besides the pulpit, what other ways can I share and preach the gospel? The first practical way of disseminating the Good News is in our way of life or our life style both at home and in the workplace. How we interact with people and relate to others are means of preaching. Our reaction in situations when we are provoked another means of telling the world who we are and who we emulate or follow. We are called to be Christians at all time, in season and out of season. We ought and must be Christians wherever we find ourselves. Pope Francis says, “I am a mission, always. You are a mission”. We have constantly to be that missionary presence to which we are called in baptism. As Christ Jesus said: “By their fruits they shall be known”. Let us be known by our good fruits of being Christians. As scripture says: “You’re the light of the world, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden” Let our light shine before all that they may give God the glory (Matthew 5:16). Through our life style many will come to Christ, therefore let us shine as followers

Recently, Pope Francis declared October 2019 as the Month of “Extraordinary Missionary Month” to foster greater awareness of Missio ad Gentes and to animate the missionary transformation of the Catholic Church’s life and pastoral activity.

The THEME for the celebration of this extraordinary



of Christ. Another way of preaching the gospel is assisting in facilitating the spread of the gospel message via His appointed servants through prayer and financial support. Not all of us can become evangelizers in the field. However, we can support those who are doing it on our behalf with our resources. That is the role of the Society of St. Peter the Apostle. It invites all Catholics and Christians to support our men and women in formation who have dedicated their lives to become missionaries of evangelization. By supporting our seminarians; and those in formation, you are laying up your treasures in heaven. For scripture says: “And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.” (Matthew 10:42). So let us support our seminarians, as well as men and women in formation to continue the missionary work of Christ especially among the deprived communities in the world.

In addition to the above ways, one can spread the gospel by ministering to the poor, the aged, and the needy. I am a hospital chaplain and I minister every day to patients in the downtown hospitals in Toronto. I sometimes meet lay people who come to visit patients they don’t know and pray with some of them. They also go to seniors home to help the less privileged. It is my intention to encourage every one of us to do the little we can by bringing Jesus to some of our brothers and sisters in need. For Christ said: “Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren, so you do unto me. (Matthew 25:33-46).

May the Lord touch your heart and give you the courage to preach the gospel in any of the above ways apart from the pulpit. Remain potent in the vineyard of God. Stay blessed.

Rev.Fr. Matthias Kotoka Amuzu

National Secretary



# Society of Saint Peter the Apostle

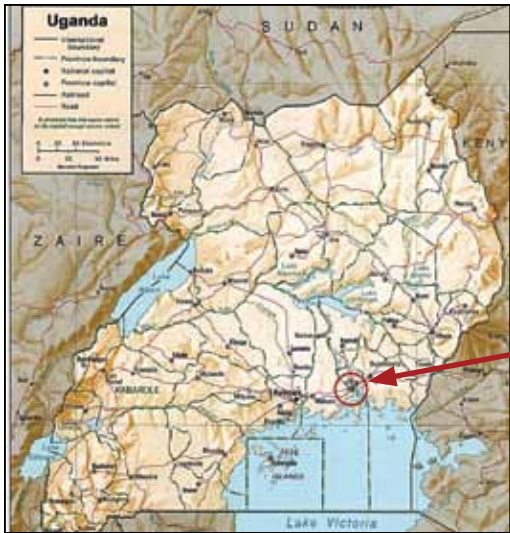
## Project Report: Uganda – St. Joseph’s Seminary, Nyenga – Diocese of Lugazi

In 2017 and 2018, Pontifical Missions Canada, through its Propagation of the Faith Society, provided financial support to St. Joseph’s Seminary in Kenya. The seminary was founded in 1924, one of the first of its kind in eastern Africa. Today, it has a teaching staff of 28, made up of 10 full time teaching priests and 16 lay teachers (four of them are full time 12 are part time). There are also two major seminarians assisting with the teaching. All teachers are actively involved in the various co-curricular activities of the seminary, including sports and liturgy. Father Safari Eugene, the seminary’s Rector, points out in his report that the staff, “... are aware that their role goes beyond classroom teaching to offering holistic formation to the seminarians in class and outside”.

“In the first place, this seminary’s mission is to prepare candidates to priesthood. Besides that our objective is to offer holistic formation to our students, namely social, spiritual, intellectual, and moral and physical education. Our students turn out to be exemplary among their fellow youth. They belong to different movements such as the Legion of Mary, the Apostleship of Prayer etc, in which they play a leading role whenever they interact with other schools. Through such movements and interactions they carry out their role of evangelization in the company of their respective spiritual directors”.

He points out that each year the seminary selects a central theme around which to build their programs. The most recent theme was, *“Let us build holy families, the foundation of a vibrant church”*

He describes the formation program as one that emphasizes fairness and justice in families by showing and giving each other



St. Joseph’s Seminary is located in the city of Jinja

mutual respect and support, thus enabling each member to fulfil their roles for the common good; raising up children in the Christian faith with respect for human rights so as to live a life of integrity. “The holistic formation we give our students blends well with this theme and prepares them well, whether they become priests or not. The challenge we have as a community is to try our best to walk the talk by living these ideals in our seminary community as well”.

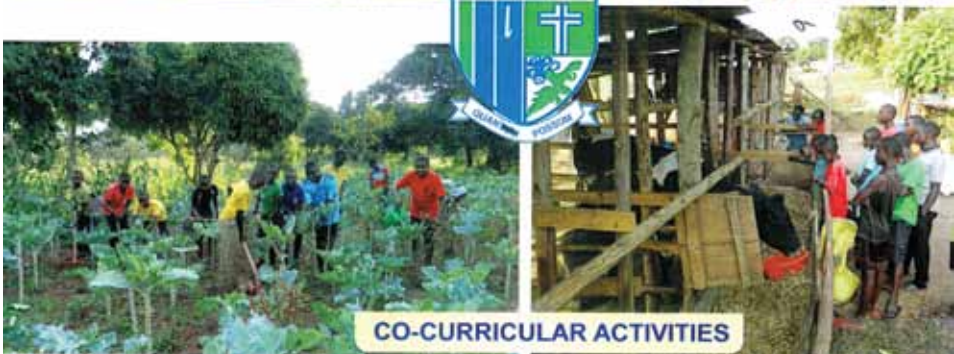
The students, who represent seven dioceses, come from across Uganda to attend this seminary. The school population last year numbered over 300 active students. Running and maintaining such a facility requires much financial aid. Pontifical Missions of Canada provided funding for a variety of needs.

## Financial Support Provided by PMS Canada for St. Joseph’s Seminary:

- Student tuition and School supplies
- Staff salaries
- Medical supplies
- Teacher transport
- Agriculture and Animal Farms
- Food
- Electricity
- Firewood
- Well drilling
- Sports and Recreational Equipment



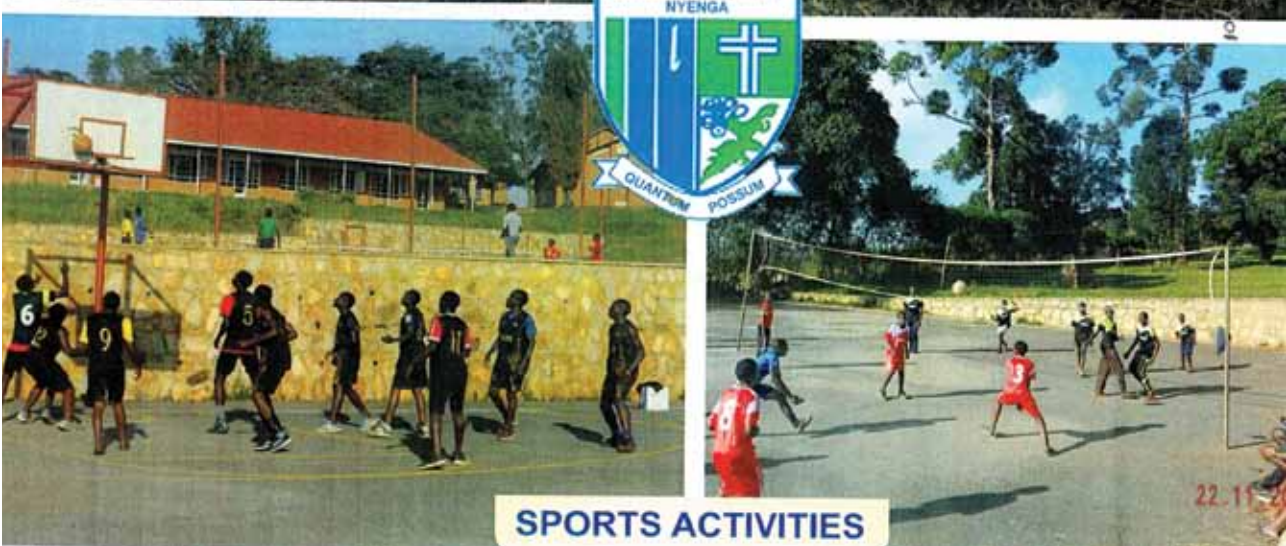
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# Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood: Project Report: THAILAND

Diocese of Chiang Mai - Provision of Community Services to Children Living With HIV and AIDS



The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul are a missionary order actively engaged in Thailand, paying particular attention to the needs of children and families. In this project report, Sister Violeta Cecilio DC, outlines the work that she and her peers continue to do in the Diocese of Chiang Mai, located in the northern part of Thailand.

Holy Childhood Association Canada provided financial support

for a project that is particularly dear to Sister Violeta: the care and support of young children who are living with HIV and AIDS. Thanks to this funding, Sister Violeta and her fellow sisters have been able to provide the following assistance:

In Phayao Province (see map) the Daughters of Charity run a Child and Youth Development Program (CYDP). Their facility is a beacon of hope and stability for children and families with nowhere else to go for treatment and support. At times, the local government run hospital refers children to this program for

urgent, immediate assistance. In her report, Sister Violeta states that her CYDP, took in 13 infants ranging in age from 1 to 6 months for urgently needed nutrition. Our funding provided the food supplements those infants needed.

The CYDP has 130 children under its care in its primary wing. These children range in age from 4 to 13. Older children also under their care bring the total number up to 255.

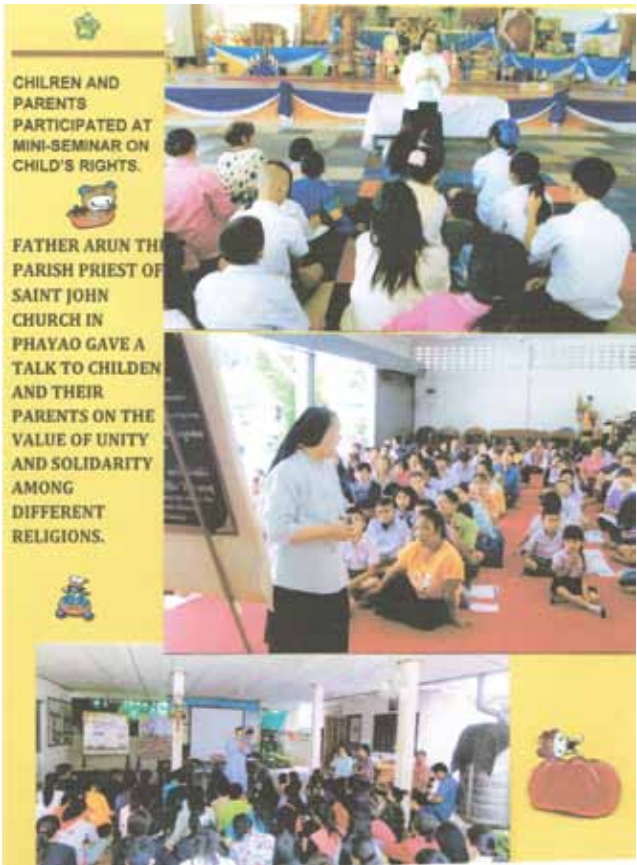
Thanks to HCA Canada's support, The Daughters of Charity were able to provide educational assistance for the primary children. This assistance uniforms, shoes, socks and school bags, transportation to and from the centre, a lunch program and basic school supplies.

As part of their education, the children were encouraged to learn about children **with greater needs** (italics are the editor's) than they had. The report describes this learning process as follows:

### Some Missionary Experience of the Children

*At the beginning of the school year, before the disbursements of Education Assistance, the Sister Pastoral Agent, explained to the children and their parents/caregiver the value of sharing as an expression of solidarity with numerous children around the world who are not lucky enough to enjoy their human rights and are in dire need of assistance. As a way of building up the value of sharing, the Sister explained to children and their parents and caregiver that the education assistance that they received is coming from people with generous heart and are concerned for their development to a better quality of life now and in the future. Hence it is also their responsibility to contribute to the Mission of the Holy Childhood.*

Incredibly, given all they endure, the children heartily agreed. They happily participate in the full Holy Childhood program, just as do children across Canada. Over the year, the children at the centre raised \$79.00 Canadian dollars for the needs of children outside of Thailand. This money was forwarded to the Holy Childhood office of the Diocese of Chiang Mai. While this may strike some as being a very difficult sacrifice for the children and families at the CYDP, it also speaks volumes about their generosity of spirit and deep understanding of the place the Holy Childhood Association plays in their lives.



# Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood: Project Report: JAMAICA

Diocese of Montego Bay – St. Mary's Catholic Basic School

In 2016 the Holy Childhood Association of Canada sponsored a nutrition program for primary school children in Westmoreland, Jamaica. The funding helped the school to do upgrades to their kitchen, and purchase food for the children's meal program. School Principal Elaine Parkinson sent us, as part of her summary report, this letter of appreciation:



8 November, 2016

*This year we received USD 1000.00 from Missionary Holy Childhood which was used to supplement our nutrition programme. With 50 children in the school aged 3 to 6 years, we find that there are many who come to school hungry. Each day we provide a cooked meal for the children and try to give extra snacks when possible.*

*In the way of opening the minds of our children to the needs of others, we encourage the children to share and to pray for the children who contribute to Missionary Holy Childhood. We also take time to learn about the peoples of the countries of the children's heritage, mainly Africa and Asia.*

*The subsidy, distributed from the solidarity fund of Missionary Holy Childhood is greatly appreciated.*

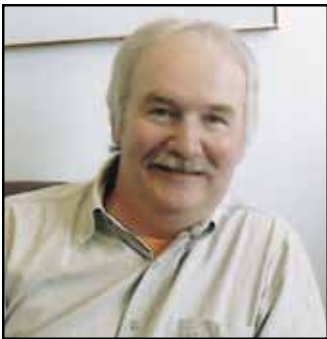
*Thank you for the contribution.*

Elaine Parkinson

Principal



# The Editor's Point of View



Father Matthias, National Secretary for the Society of Saint Peter, opens his article in this issue with a question: In what other ways can I preach the Gospel to others? He presents various ways that we, who are not overseas in the vineyards of evangelization, can nevertheless help proclaim the Good News

to others. I would like to follow up on his suggestions with one very simple one of my own. How about we try to show a little JOY to others in the world around us?

It has always amazed me that we take so little time to express our faith in a way that is so easy to do. For goodness sake, aren't we supposed to be Easter people? I remember when I was much, much younger playing this prank out on the sidewalks of Toronto. I would pick a busy spot on the street, stop, and then proceed to slowly raise my gaze up into the sky, as if I was witnessing a miracle. People walking by would stop, noticing the rapturous look on my face, and find themselves

joining me in looking up. No one ever asked me what I was looking at, and eventually they would continue on their walk.

The point of the exercise was to see how many people would be taken in by a behaviour that was somewhat out of the norm. Now that I am much older, and perhaps a tad wiser, I think we should apply the same prank to the manner we project our faith to others. Let's start with a smile.

Here's your prescription: Begin by rising in the morning grateful that God has granted you another day of existence. No matter how dire you may feel your situation is, others are suffering, sometimes silently, around you. They need a Christian response. After a well considered breakfast, (consult the Canada Food Guide, updated to 2019) enter the public world with a smile for others. People look at you quite differently if you wear one as you work, play, and share. This cannot be a forced or contrived expression. Be sincere, and others will soon get your message.

Remember the premise of the book/movie, "Pay It Forward"? Receiving a good deed often inspired the recipients to pay the good deed forward to the next person they encountered. We must do the same in the absolute realization that we are truly Easter people and are called to bring the good news to others. I would suggest we start thinking of the good news as instead, the JOYOUS news that forms the basis for our existence.

So, take a chance starting tomorrow. Others will notice.

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

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**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:

**Kenelm Burridge**..... North Vancouver, BC  
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**Arcadio Fernandez** .....Mississauga, ON  
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**Elizabeth Graham**.....Markham, ON  
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**Geneva King**..... Alton, PE

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- inform Catholics about the churches worldwide missionary work,
- boost our theme of children helping children to advance a "WE" attitude, that we are all connected, as the Holy Father states *Laudato Si* '42.



Unfortunately, with rising publication costs, we are facing escalating pressures to provide superior communications in a more efficient manner. Moreover, technology changes are forcing us to re-examine how we do our work in order to create products that will meet the demands of a digital world! These changes are expensive. That is why I am writ-



ing to you today to seek your help to continue our work in evangelizing and communicating the message of Jesus in 2019!

Your financial support could take the form of a suggested donation of \$50.00 to be directed to defraying the cost of publishing. You may also choose to direct your donation to assisting us in moving to a digital publishing and evangelizing format. I leave the gift amount to you.

You may also use the envelope attached to this issue. Simply write on the back of the envelope that you wish your donation to be directed to support: PMS Publications/Missions Today Magazine.

Please consider making an offering to help us continue to bring Catholic news of our missionary projects and endeavors to Catholics across Canada. Rest assured that you are in our prayers and please continue to keep us in mind with yours.

Rev. Father Alex Osei, C.S.Sp.  
National Director





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**"Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains. You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon"**

*(James 5: 7-8)*