



MISSIONS TODAY

VOL 79, NO. 2

SPRING 2021

Inside this issue

Pope Francis's Message
on the World Day of Peace

Mission Rosary

and more...

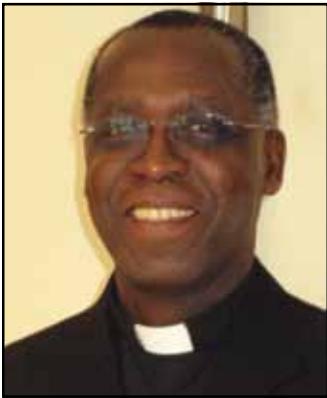
When the World Mission
Rosary is completed, one has
embraced all continents, all
people in prayer

- Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

National Director's Message

Mission Today magazine 2021



Happy New Year! Greetings and blessing as we begin this New Year! We hope and pray 2021 will be a time of renewal and healing.

The year 2020 has been quite a difficult one for most of us, for our missionaries and the church. The coronavirus pandemic did not only wreck our health but left quite a lasting impact on most of our lives. Certainly, last year was a year of many challenges, which caused all of us to reconsider our priorities and recommit ourselves to proclaiming the Good News bringing light in the midst of darkness. Pope Francis reminds us “these are moments in life that can be ripe for change and conversion. This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities – what we value, what we want, what we seek – and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of.” (Let us Dream. Pope Francis, 2020)

We will continue to hold on to hope and persevere for a brighter and better tomorrow. It is my prayer that the birth of Jesus finds a place in our hearts to dispel the frustration, suffering, grief and loneliness of those who have lost loved ones due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. One good thing the pandemic has taught us is that we are all in this together, and the best answer to its disastrous effect is our unity and solidarity. According to Pope Francis “Crisis can be overcome by the antibodies of solidarity.” This

was the central message in his encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, - the call to global harmony and social friendship, that all people live together as a family.

In his 2021 World Day of Peace message, Pope Francis promotes a culture of care as a path to peace, urging us against the prevailing culture of indifference to the sufferings of others, of waste, of hatred and confrontation, to practice the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church.

Pope Francis on the Feast of Epiphany said, “There is no mission without wonder.” (Agenzia Fides). He went on to share with us “the witnesses of Christ’s Salvation were not owners, custodians or managers of the gift they were called to announce;” rather, they were the first to be called only to follow the light of Christ, to enjoy his gift. The condition that makes them witnesses according to Pope Francis, consists in welcoming this light within, in welcoming it ever more. Hence, we cannot be only managers. Like the Magi, we too are called to allow ourselves to be fascinated, attracted, guided, illuminated and converted by Christ. Christ is the journey of our Faith as missionary Disciples. Let us bring the Light out to our divided world and homes.

Wishing you God’s blessing and good health in 2021. Stay Safe, wear your Mask and observe protocols.

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

The Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intentions:

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to respond to the Holy Father’s request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for the following intentions in the given month.

JANUARY:

Intention for evangelization - Human fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

FEBRUARY:

Universal intention - Violence against women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

MARCH:

Intention for evangelization - Sacrament of reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

APRIL

Universal intention - Fundamental rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

In This Issue...

Vol.79, No. 2 Spring 2021

National Director’s Message	2	The Society of St. Peter Report: Jerome Antony	13
Across the Globe	4	Holy Childhood Association Project Report: India	14
Pope Francis’s Message on the World Day of Peace.....	6	Holy Childhood Association Project Report: Vietnam	16
Gratitude and the Missionary Disciple.....	8	In Remembrance.....	17
Mission Rosary	10	The Editor’s Point of View	18
View from the Pew: Lori Lisi	12		



Praying together on a retreat for children in the Diocese of Palghat sponsored by the Holy Childhood Association. Full story on page 14.



PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

Missions Today is published four times a year by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 2219 Kennedy Road Toronto, Ontario M1T 3G5

International Standard Serial Number
ISSN 0843-1515

Design: Marcucci Studios
Printed: Timeline Printing Inc.
Toronto, ON

Cover Photo: Deacon Dominic Pullano
Mission rosaries can be purchased at most Catholic bookstores.

Back Cover Photo: Deacon Dominic Pullano

Propagation of the Faith & St. Peter the Apostle: Income Tax Number:
BN 12888 2883 RR0001

Holy Childhood Association: Income Tax
Number: BN 11909 5818 RR0001
Canadian Publications Mail Sales
Product Agreement No. 0040008362

Editor: Deacon Dominic Pullano
Comments on this issue or other topics
are always welcome. Contact us at:
editor@missionsocieties.ca or at

Missions Today – The Editor -
2219 Kennedy Road
Toronto, Ontario M1T 3G5

Telephone: (416) 699 7077
Toll Free: 1 800 897 8865
Fax: (416) 699 9019 Office
E-mail: missions@missionsocieties.ca

Visit our web site at:
<http://www.missionsocieties.ca>

Across the Globe

*The Pontifical Mission Societies host their own web news service called **agenzia fides**. The news service is updated daily and allows us to keep current about events around the world and within Catholic missions. Below are three articles from the website and other news can be found at fides.org.*



■ AMERICA/PERU - Social tension and health crisis: "We need to promote fraternity and solidarity"

Lima (Agenzia Fides) - "Today, in our context of social tension, we must strengthen and give priority and attention to the health emergency and the economic and social crisis affecting our country. It is time to build evangelical paths of solidarity, fraternity and integral development", said Father Victor Livori, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) in Peru, speaking of the complex and delicate situation that the Latin American country

is going through. Political tensions have grown in Peru: a total of three presidents have died in less than four years, and the coronavirus epidemic has recorded 979,000 cases with over 36,000 deaths. "During this time of the pandemic - says Father Victor - we have organized activities of missionary animation and training in the context of virtual meetings. In collaboration with a local television station, Pax TV, we have set up a 'missionary marathon' with the aim of making our work better known and at the same time to raise awareness of the responsibility of every baptized person who is committed to fraternal cooperation of solidarity and support the proclamation of the Gospel to all peoples".

"We are far from overcoming this crisis", underlines Fr. Livori, "because national production has drastically decreased and millions of jobs have been lost, including the most vulnerable". A few months before the presidential elections scheduled for April 2021, "Peruvians - reports the National Director of the PMS - expect governors to work in the interest of the common good, to overcome the controversies and uphold the rule of law and to seek consensus when it comes to the transformation of Peru", the National Director continued. "Today, as in the past - he concludes - the Peruvian Church continues to support its people by offering concrete help and preaching the Gospel, in order to promote dialogue for peace, development and spiritual formation". (ES) (Agenzia Fides, 12/12/2020)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69216>



■ SIA/KYRGYZSTAN - Pastoral Letter for the new year: "Christ is faithful to his Church and offers great opportunities for grace, in the challenge of the pandemic"

Bishkek (Agenzia Fides) - "2020 brought with it unprecedented challenges: many people fell ill, others continue to face serious economic difficulties. Our country went through political and social upheavals. For many, the worst part of this period was having to coexist with great uncertainty about the future. Some may have started to waver in hope or to be challenged in their faith, wondering where God is and why He is allowing this to happen. The Church continues to seek light in times of darkness. Christ is always faithful and He alone has the last word in our life and in our world. We do not know what 2021 will bring us, but we believe that God will continue to be faithful to His Church and will help us take advantage of the difficulties of our daily life to allow us to draw closer to Him and to each other. God is Light". This is what the Jesuit Fr. Anthony Corcoran, Apostolic Administrator of Kyrgyzstan affirmed, in the pastoral letter issued on the occasion of the New Year 2021, sent to Agenzia Fides. In his message, the Jesuit underlined the presence of the Church alongside the faithful during the most difficult moments of the pandemic: "We have all witnessed extraordinary acts of charity and kindness. The Church has managed to provide assistance to many people in need, not just Christians but also of other faiths. There have been opportunities for knowledge and collaboration born in the midst of the pandemic. Our communities were able to guarantee certain hospitals the supply of necessary instruments. The Children's Rehabilitation Center in Issyk-Kul has been made available to doctors, nurses and volunteers who generously served the sick during this period of the epidemic. As a Catholic community, we have managed to 'come together' virtually every day. Christ offers His Church great opportunities of grace during critical periods and last year witnessed His fidelity to us, His little Church in Kyrgyzstan".

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69395>



■ AFRICA/SOUTH SUDAN - A missionary: "Only love and generosity build the Church"

Naandi (Agenzia Fides) - "The mission of the Church is continuous, the completion of one work being the beginning of the next". This is what Father Christopher Hartley Sartorius, a missionary in South Sudan, wrote to Fides. The priest, originally from the Diocese of Toledo, and currently working in the diocese of Tombura Yambio, says that, once the construction of the two schools is completed - the primary school of Saint Teresa and the secondary school of Saints Peter and Paul - from Naandi Parish, on the border between South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, a project was immediately launched within the community of Djabio to build a school with eight classes, a parish church and a small presbytery.

"Currently in Djabio there is a parish school attended by about 350 boys and girls divided in eight courses", writes Fr. Christopher. "Each class is gathered in a straw hut with trunks placed on the ground which serve as chairs and tables for the children. There is also a small church that we would like to turn into a true parish church, where the whole community can come together to celebrate the faith and grow in holiness".

The missionary also points out that very often we think we know what the poor need. "We believe we have to decide what they need but we do not. They are the protagonists of their own history of salvation. God lives in them, among them, they are people of faith, who trust in God. In every community we visited they all asked us the same thing: a church, in addition to a school to help the wonderful children who populate these jungles".

"The project of these first two schools in Naandi - he explains - was carried out thanks to donations, large and small, but all full of love. The church is not built with cement or bricks, it is built from the proclamation of the Gospel, from the celebration of the Sacraments, from works of charity and love. It is we who, united to one another, not by cement but by love, are building the Church of Jesus Christ, of which this building is a metaphor and a place of encounter and of praise". (CHS/AP) (Agenzia Fides, 25/1/2021)

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE
FRANCIS
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE
54th WORLD DAY OF PEACE
1 JANUARY 2021
A CULTURE OF CARE AS A PATH TO PEACE

1. ...The year 2020 was marked by the massive Covid-19 health crisis, which became a global phenomenon cutting across boundaries, aggravating deeply interrelated crises like those of the climate, food, the economy and migration, and causing great suffering and hardship. I think especially of all those who lost family members or loved ones, and all who lost their jobs. I think too of physicians and nurses, pharmacists, researchers, volunteers, chaplains and the personnel of hospitals and health-care centres. They have made, and are continuing to make, great sacrifices to be present to the sick, to alleviate their sufferings and to save their lives; indeed, many of them have died in the process. In paying tribute to them, I renew my appeal to political leaders and the private sector to spare no effort to ensure access to Covid-19 vaccines and to the essential technologies needed to care for the sick, the poor and those who are most vulnerable.

...These and other events that marked humanity's path this past year have taught us how important it is to care for one another and for creation in our efforts to build a more fraternal society. That is why I have chosen as the title of this year's Message, A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace. A culture of care as a way to combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation so prevalent in our time.

2. *God the Creator, the source of our human vocation to care*

...The birth of Cain and Abel begins a history of brothers and sisters, whose relationship is understood – even by Cain, however mistakenly – in terms of protection or “keeping”. After killing his brother Abel, Cain answers God's question by saying: “Am I my brother's keeper?” (Gen 4:9). Cain, like all of us, was called to be “his brother's keeper”. “These ancient stories, full of symbolism, bear witness to a conviction which we today share, that everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationship with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others”.



3. *God the Creator, a model of care*

...Care for creation was at the heart of the institution of the Sabbath, which, in addition to ordering divine worship, aimed at the restoration of the social order and concern for the poor (cf. Gen 1:1-3; Lev 25:4). The celebration of the Jubilee every seventh sabbatical year provided a respite for the land, for slaves and for those in debt. In that year of grace, those in greatest need were cared for and given a new chance in life, so that there would be no poor among the people (cf. Deut 15:4).

In the prophetic tradition, the biblical understanding of justice found its highest expression in the way a community treats its weakest members. Amos (cf. 2:6-8; 8) and Isaiah (cf. 58), in particular, insistently demand justice for the poor, who, in their vulnerability and powerlessness, cry out and are heard by God, who watches over them (cf. Ps 34:7; 113:7-8).

4. *Care in the ministry of Jesus*

Jesus' life and ministry represent the supreme revelation of the Father's love for humanity (cf. Jn 3:16). In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus showed himself to be the one consecrated by the Lord and “sent to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed” (Lk 4:18). These messianic actions, associated with the Jubilee year, bear eloquent witness to the mission he received from the Father. In his compassion, Christ drew near to the sick in body and spirit, and brought them healing; he pardoned sinners and gave them new life. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep (cf. Jn 10:11-18; Ezek 34:1-31). He is the Good Samaritan who stoops to help the injured man, binds his wounds and cares for him (cf. Lk 10:30-37)....

5. *A culture of care in the life of Jesus' followers*

The spiritual and corporal works of mercy were at the heart of charity as practised by the early Church. The first generation of Christians shared what they had, so that no one among them would be in need (cf. Acts 4:34-35). They strove to make their

community a welcoming home, concerned for every human need and ready to care for those most in need. It became customary to make voluntary offerings in order to feed the poor, bury the dead and care for orphans, the elderly and victims of disasters like shipwrecks. ...

6. *The principles of the Church's social doctrine as the basis for a culture of care*

The diakonia of the Church's origins, enriched by the reflection of the Fathers and enlivened over the centuries by the active charity of many luminous witnesses to the faith, became the beating heart of the Church's social doctrine. This doctrine is offered to all people of good will as a precious patrimony of principles, criteria and proposals that can serve as a “grammar” of care: commitment to promoting the dignity of each human person, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, the pursuit of the common good and concern for protection of creation.

Care as promotion of the dignity and rights of each person

...Each human person is an end in himself or herself, and never simply a means to be valued only for his or her usefulness. Persons are created to live together in families, communities and societies, where all are equal in dignity. Human rights derive from this dignity, as do human duties, like the responsibility to welcome and assist the poor, the sick, the excluded, every one of our “neighbours, near or far in space and time”.

Care for the common good

Every aspect of social, political and economic life achieves its fullest end when placed at the service of the common good, in other words, “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily”. Consequently, our plans and projects should always take into account their effects on the entire human family, and consider their consequences for the present and for coming generations. ...

Care through solidarity

...Solidarity helps us to regard others – whether as individuals or, more broadly, as peoples or nations – as more than mere statistics, or as a means to be used and then discarded once no longer useful, but as our neighbours, companions on our journey, called like ourselves to partake of the banquet of life to which all are equally invited by God.

Care and protection of creation

The Encyclical *Laudato Si'* is fully aware that all creation is interconnected. It also highlights our need to listen to the cry of the poor and, at the same time, to the cry of creation. Constant and attentive listening leads in turn to effective care for the earth, our common home, and for our brothers and sisters in need. ...

7. *A compass pointing to a common path*

...take up these principles as a “compass” capable of pointing out a common direction and ensuring “a more humane future” in the process of globalization. This will enable us to esteem the value and dignity of every person, to act together in solidarity for the common good, and to bring relief to those suffering from poverty, disease, slavery, armed conflicts, and discrimination. I ask everyone to take this compass in hand and to become a prophetic witness of the culture of care, working to overcome the many existing social inequalities.

The compass of these social principles, so essential for the growth of a culture of care, also points to the need for relationships between nations to be inspired by fraternity, mutual respect, solidarity and the observance of international law. ...

How many resources are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ensuring the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care. ...

8. *Educating for a culture of care*

...- Together with the family, schools and universities – and, in some respects, the communications media – are also responsible for education. They are called to pass on a system of values based on the recognition of the dignity of each person, each linguistic, ethnic and religious community and each people, as well as the fundamental rights arising from that recognition. Education is one of the pillars of a more just and fraternal society.

- Religions in general, and religious leaders in particular, can play an indispensable role in handing on to their followers, and to society at large, the values of solidarity, respect for differences, and concern for our brothers and sisters in need. ...

9. *There can be no peace without a culture of care*

The culture of care thus calls for a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance. As such, it represents a privileged path to peace. “In many parts of the world, there is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter”. ...

From the Vatican, 8 December 2020 Francisus

(This is an abbreviated version of Pope Francis's New Year's Day message. For the full text, see

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20201208_messaggio-54giornata-mondiale-pace2021.html

Pontifical Missionary Union: GRATITUDE AND BEING A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE

The PMU, PONTIFICAL MISSIONARY UNION, was created on 31 October, 1916, an inspiration of Blessed Paolo Manna, PIME missionary, with the aim of animating and forming the faithful baptized in their missionary responsibility through the pastoral service of the bishops and priests according to the motto "All the Church for all the world". In this issue, let us reflect on the role of gratitude in the life of the missionary disciple.



As Catholics, we are all called to be missionary disciples. But as Catholics, we are also called to be a Eucharistic people. The word Eucharist is derived from a Greek word that means to give thanks. We attend regular Eucharistic liturgies primarily to give thanks to God for sending us His Son to die for us on the cross so that we might be saved. But as a Eucharistic people, we are to give thanks to God more than just one hour a week. Since God blesses us daily with his love and providence, we should always have a heart full of gratitude for God's blessings in our lives. For Catholics, you might say that we need to develop an attitude of gratitude. Gratitude should be a defining feature of our journey of faith. As well, the gratitude that is in our hearts should spill over into our lives and guide our actions in this world. Gratitude, then, should also be a central characteristic of our call to be missionary disciples. It is only with an attitude of gratitude that we can understand our call to be missionary disciples and be open to meeting the needs of our sisters and brothers in the missions. In this reflection I will discuss this critical connection between gratitude and missions.

An attitude of gratitude begins with a deep trust in God. God loves

us and wants to play a large role in our life. In his providential love, God cares for us daily and supports us in our journey through life. Having an attitude of gratitude allows us to believe that whatever may be happening in our life at this moment in time, this is the best place for us because this is where God has brought us. Since God is the author of our life, where we are right now is where we can best fulfill our potential and realize our baptismal call.

It is in our current circumstances that we can make the most of the gifts that God has given to us. God can even transform times of suffering and pain into graced moments. The pascal mystery promises us that God can take even the most difficult periods of our lives and turn them into something positive, into new life. Having faith that we are in a special graced moment, then regardless of where we are, we can always be confident that we have something to offer others. By trusting God, we do not need to worry about giving of ourselves completely to others. For God will always ensure that we are more than compensated. When we see our lives as a blessing, then we can be missionary disciples by passing on our blessedness to those in the missions.

An attitude of gratitude also involves being surprised by small blessings. Any of us would be grateful if we had won a large lottery prize or are on a once in a life-time vacation. But an attitude of gratitude allows us to see God's blessings in the daily activities of our life. An attitude of gratitude allows us to be thankful for the person who opens the door for us when our hands are full or brings us a cup of coffee when we are too busy to make it for ourselves. God visits us in many small ways in our everyday lives and an attitude of gratitude helps us to be aware of these blessings. Usually, we lead such frantic lives, full of activity and commitments, that we do not always recognize these unassuming ways that God visits our lives. When we know our lives to be blessed, however, we learn to identify the positive interactions in our lives as more than coincidences. We see these incidents for what they are, the hand of God working in our lives. When we can be surprised by small blessings, we can then appreciate that even the smallest of blessings that we may pass on can make such a significant difference in the lives of others. When we recognize the value of small blessings, as missionary disciples, we can be certain that even sharing our smallest blessings will be multiplied by God and will surprise our sisters and brothers in the missions.

An attitude of gratitude consists of being happy with what we have. It is only natural to compare ourselves with others and want what others have. It is natural to see people who have more money than we do, or who possess better homes with splashier cars than we do or have better jobs than we do, and desire more than we possess. But these comparisons that we make with other people is not healthy. Seeing that others have more than we do may, not only whet our appetites for what is unobtainable for us, but also make us envious of what others have as well. Comparisons will only bring us to despair when we cannot attain to the level of others. These comparisons may also make us feel that we do not measure up. Having an attitude of gratitude, however, signifies that we do not make these kinds of comparisons. An attitude of gratitude means focusing on the blessings that we have been given without worrying about others who have more. We need to have a grateful heart for all that we have and not take the many blessings that God has given to us for granted. An attitude of gratitude consists of wanting what you have.

While making comparisons with people who have more than we do may have a negative impact in our lives, keeping an eye on those who have less than us may yield a more positive result. An attitude of gratitude should infuse us with compassion for those who struggle in the world. We have been abundantly graced with the necessities of life, including shelter, food, and health care. We have been blessed with beautiful churches within which to celebrate and pray, along with modern Catholic schools within which to learn the faith. Not only have we been blessed with material resources. We have also been given many skills and abilities that we can use to assist our brothers and sisters in need. It is when we recognize how blessed we are that we can grow as missionary disciples. When we appreciate how blessed we have been by God, then that gratitude should also develop into compassion for others who have been marginalized in our world. An attitude of gratitude will open our hearts to share our blessings with those who have less than we do. We have been given so much and with an attitude of gratitude, we can bless the lives of others as God has blessed us. It is when we have grateful hearts that we can become the missionary disciples that God calls us to be.

There are a few practices that we can adopt to assist us in developing an attitude of gratitude. One practice involves prayerfully going over our day each evening to discover the many ways God has touched our lives that day. As was mentioned, we often fail to recognize God's blessing in our lives because we are so busy and don't always appreciate how God visits us amid the whirlwind of activity. By going over our day in the evening, we can identify the ways God blessed us that day and appreciate the continuous presence of God in our lives. After awhile of this prayerful, evening reflection,

we may even learn to recognize our blessings, not only at the end of our day, but even as they are happening.

Another helpful practice to develop an attitude of gratitude is to keep a thanksgiving journal. Whether we prefer an actual paper journal or are more comfortable with a Word document, we can compose a list of our blessings. In our journal, we can remember the many ways God has blessed us; family and friends, food and shelter, an education and work. As we discover new blessings in our lives, we can keep adding to the list in our journal. The purpose of a thanksgiving journal is for those times that we may be feeling gloomy or frustrated. In times that we may be feeling down, we can examine our list to see that things are not as bad as we may think. Our journals will help us to realize that our blessings always outweigh our discouragements. A thanksgiving journal will help us put our disappointments in their proper perspective.

When we pray, we usually come to prayer with our list of things we want. Our prayer is often no more than a series of petitions. But what might happen if we always began our private prayer time with prayers of gratitude? Another practice that might assist us to develop an attitude of gratitude is to begin our prayer sessions with prayers of gratitude. Our prayer should always begin by thanking God for the many ways that God has blessed our lives. When we begin our prayer with acts of gratitude, we may even find that our list of things we want may dwindle to only a few special intentions. For we will begin to understand how deeply blessed we are.

As Catholics, we are called both to be missionary disciples and a Eucharistic people. When we have an attitude of gratitude, we not only appreciate our many blessings, but we also hear the call to share our blessings with those in the missions. An attitude of gratitude will inspire us to be missionary disciples in God's vineyard. Let us pray to God that we too can develop this attitude of gratitude. For it is the source for miracles in our own life.



The Mission Rosary

The Mission Rosary was created in 1951 by the Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen who was the National Director of Missio (Pontifical Mission Societies) in the United States. He saw the need to pray for the whole world, especially for those living in poverty. Each colour-coded decade of the Rosary represents a continent where the Church continues her mission.

Archbishop Sheen said, ‘When the Rosary is completed, one has embraced all continents, all people in prayer.’ The Prayer unites us with our brothers and sisters whom we have never met, and who are praying for us too, in an exchange of love and friendship.

Africa is represented by the green decade for its forests and grasslands.

The Americas are red to show the fire of faith.

Europe is white because it is the home of the Holy Father who dresses in white and lives in Rome.

Oceania is shown in blue for the oceans surrounding the islands there.

Asia is portrayed in yellow as a symbol of the sun rising in the East.

Hail Holy Queen...

St Joseph, Patron and protector of the Universal Church

St Thérèse, Patroness of worldwide mission

St Francis Xavier, Patron of missionaries

Pray for us

EUROPE

Peter declares Jesus as the Christ

(Matthew 16:16-18)

‘Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.”’

We pray for the people of Europe: that all those who are discouraged, anxious, sick or grieving, find acceptance and comfort in the warm embrace of the Church. May the Pope, our bishops, priests and religious, be joyful witnesses to the hope and peace they find in a life lived in Christ.

ASIA

Jesus appears to the Eleven Disciples

(Mark 16:15)

‘Jesus appeared to the eleven. He said to them, “Go throughout the whole world and preach the Gospel to all people.”’

We pray for the people of Asia: that they may respect one another’s beliefs, find God in every person and live together in peace. May the Church act so that all people are treated fairly and the poor and marginalised feel cherished and valued.

THE AMERICAS

Jesus in the Synagogue at Nazareth

(Luke 4:16-20)

‘Jesus read from the book of Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor, to set prisoners free, give sight to the blind, release the oppressed and proclaim the year of God’s mercy.”’

We pray for the people of the Americas: that God’s reign of justice, love and peace overcomes oppression, hatred and violence. May the Church, driven by the zeal of the Holy Spirit, be a steadfast and fearless advocate for the dignity of all God’s children.

AFRICA

The flight into Egypt

(Matthew 2:13-15)

‘An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt...” They went to Egypt by night and remained there until the death of Herod.’

We pray for the people of Africa: that those who are oppressed, persecuted and live in fear may be safe and feel the comfort of God’s presence. May the Church heal wounds, build bridges and bring the hope, love and peace of Christ to all those who suffer.

OCEANIA

Mary is our Mother

(John 19:26-27)

‘When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.’

We pray for the people of Oceania: that they find comfort in knowing that they are remembered and loved. May the Church demonstrate the loving compassion of Mary, our Mother, and bring consolation to all those who live in remote areas, who feel isolated or lonely.

The Mission Rosary is prayed like the usual Rosary, with the same opening and final prayers. Introduce each mystery with the reflections under each continent

A View from the Pew...

Creating a Culture of Care



Before retiring, Lori Lisi was the Coordinator of Programs for Secondary Schools at the York Catholic District School Board. Lori is a member of St. David's Church in Maple, ON.

"Happy New Year everyone!" I can't tell you how many times I've said this in my lifetime, and never has it meant so much as it does this year. This new year brings new appreciation for what used to be, gratitude for what is and hope and reverence for what is to come.

Saying goodbye to 2020 has certainly taken away some of the heaviness that we've all felt in our heart, since first hearing the word pandemic! Bidding

farewell to a year filled with anxiety about the unknown, sadness for our losses and trepidation for what will be, has forced us all to promise to reflect, recharge and renew in anticipation of a new year filled with hope for a better tomorrow. This year, our New Year's resolutions have less to do with us as 'individuals' and more to do with us as a 'community of people' united and working toward the common good. We give our greatest thanks to all the frontline workers who put the needs of the world above their own, in an effort to make a difference. They are the epitome of true Christian disciples, making personal sacrifices for the betterment of humanity as a whole. As God "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,...(John 3:16) for the salvation of humanity, we, too are called by Pope Francis to embrace a culture of care and give rise to 'a new horizon of love and peace of fraternity and solidarity, of mutual support and acceptance.'" (Pope Francis, 1 January 2021)

How will you respond?

As much as 2020 has distanced us 'physically' from each other, it has had no power to distance our love for one another. In fact, it has liberated us from being victims of time and money and has focused our love on doing good for our brothers and sisters. It freed us to be true to who we really are and has propelled us to be caring and compassionate members of a community of people who have been awoken from the numbness of a society that had fallen asleep to the needs of family and friends. Being jarred to an unfamiliar reality of masked individuals, repeatedly looking over their shoulders for the invisible enemy that had shattered their existence, has awoken in us a conscious awareness of the need to find ways to come together to win the battle against indifference, detachment and apathy.

What will you do?

As we ring in 2021, we hear His Holiness Pope Francis' New Year's message, which he aptly titled 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace', and contemplate on how we can respond to his request for us "to take the compass [of care] in hand and to become a prophetic witness of the culture of care, working to overcome the many existing social inequalities."

The challenge for us remains to find ways to be 'frontline' workers in our own regard, from wherever we are, in whatever capacity we can. As parents, perhaps we need to practice more patience, more listening and less talking when it comes to relating to our children's current reality, so they don't feel **misunderstood**; as children, we may need to make concessions to meet our parents where they're at in their understanding of a world that is so different from the one they grew up in, so they feel **validated**; as friends, we may need to reach out virtually on a regular basis to those friends who may have withdrawn from a world they can't adjust to, so they feel **connected**; as neighbours, we may need to make care packages (cooked meals, baked goods, flowers, reading materials, etc...) as reminders to them that they are **not alone**; and as strangers, we may need to take the time to look up from our downward-masked-gaze and make eye contact and a gestured acknowledgement, so that that strangers in front of us know they are **not invisible**.

May 2021 bring hope, happiness and health to you and your loved ones and may God's Grace continue to turn us inside out so that we may be reminded of our call to be disciples of Christ and a sign of hope for one another.

Let's make our Missions a Priority!

An easy way to help our missions is to set-up pre-authorize monthly donations from your bank account or credit card.

To join this plan, please sign and send the forms available from our website
<http://www.missionsocieties.ca/ways-to-give/pre-authorized-giving/>
or by giving us a call.

Should your situation change, you can cancel or change the donation amount at any time by sending us a note.

Pontifical Mission Societies
416-699-7077 | 800-897-8865 | missions@missionsocieties.ca

Society of Saint Peter the Apostle

The Vocation Story of Jerome Antony

I would be ungrateful if I tell the story of how I have become who I am today, and of who I will be, without acknowledging the influence of the Christian formation my grandmother instilled in me. That devout woman was determined and persistent in making sure I took my faith seriously. Her impact on me was beyond just making sure I learned and practiced my faith. I observed how she persevered in prayer and endured the crosses of life with faith. How she fostered peace and harmony with other people, and how she shared generously her time, energy and resources with the community, especially those in need. Through her witness and education, I integrated into my human development good values and habits. I cannot picture how my life could have been without her being in the picture. However, rather than dwelling on what could have been, I choose to see her influence in my life as part of larger narrative God has written for me, and with which He wants me to collaborate in freedom. In collaborating I discover the other parts that make who I am. I discover the true purpose of my life.

This gradual discovery of myself and openness to collaborate with the grace of God meant that I did not begin the journey of my vocation to the priesthood with a dramatic calling like that of St. Paul. I received my calling when I was working in Mwanza, Tanzania for an organization from UK that works to create the structures that are needed to protect children and young people on the streets. There I heard concretely the cry of the blood of our brothers and sisters who still walk this earth suffering miserable and humiliating conditions of poverty and crime, who are denied justice, rights and dignity. That experience broke my heart, and my prayer became that of lamentation: "how could you let this happen?" In my lamentation I heard the Lord asking me to commit to him totally, to walk beside him, like Simon of Cyrene to lend him my legs, shoulders and hands in bearing the beatings, torture and the lengthy trip to Calvary. I took this calling to heart, but I did not know how to carry it. I thought he would place me in a place best suited to my background, gifts, skills, or interests. What he wanted instead was for me to empty my "jar" and fill it with his living water and follow him unreservedly.

Fast forward to seven years later, I am a missionary in Canada with the Missionaries of Precious Blood. As I am preparing to



carry and dispense the treasures of heaven for the salvation of souls in my fragile hands (God willing in 2021), one thing has been consistent from the beginning: the Lord invites me to drink from that same cup, blessed and consecrated, in order to see and hear the cries of his wounded image among our brothers and sisters, an invitation I share uniquely even now in my capacity as the Director of Development Office. When it seemed that seven years ago the Lord had shattered my dreams of giving my time, energy, resources and gifts in advancing human causes, today he has me working for him in advancing the Spirituality of the Precious Blood, a spirituality represented, most eloquently, among our brothers and

sisters who suffer poverty, violence, injustice, war and crime. He has also placed under my stewardship the C.P.P.S. Mission Projects, a unique ministry to work toward empowering people and communities we serve in Tanzania fight the roots and negative conditions of poverty, ignorance and diseases.

Yet, the story of my vocation is also a story of great sufferings and burdens, failures and disappointments. At times I have doubted if this is where God wants me to be. At times I had to fight hard the temptation of my ego to obstruct Christ from increasing. And yes, I have experienced episodes of the Dark Night of Soul, where I have felt a loss of contact with God who, in such moments, has seemed very far and so silent. But through prayer I have found strength to persevere everything. Prayer has also given me clarity, hope, consolation, and above all, it has brought me closer to God. Let us, therefore, become more and more people of prayer, the fountain of all good things.

Sincerely, Jerome Antony.
(Jerome will be ordained to the diaconate in the near future.)

The Society of St. Peter the Apostle promotes, in Christian communities, the awareness of the need to develop local clergy and consecrated life in recently founded missionary Churches. It animates and coordinates missionary collaboration in all the local Churches, through the offering of prayer, sacrifices and alms, to support the formation of future priests and men and women religious of young Churches, and the necessary preparation of their formators.

Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood:

Project Report: DIOCESE OF PALGHAT, INDIA.

Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood: The Association exists to meet the spiritual and material needs of all children so that they can live worthily as real children of God and to raise children’s awareness of their neighbor’s needs and teach them the value and power of solidarity and reciprocal support.

In the southwestern area of India, in the state of Kerala, there lies the city of Palghat (a.k.a. Palakkad). Known as the gateway to Kerala, Palghat is renowned for an 18th century fort located in the city and for an annual chariot race. The city has a very high literacy rate, much higher than the national average. About 4% of the population is Catholic and, in June of 1974, the Diocese of Palghat was created by Pope Paul VI. Currently, the diocese has 56,668 faithful, 121 priests incardinated to it and 82 parishes and 43 stations (missions). The Bishop of the Diocese is Bishop Jacob Mananthodath and he is assisted by Auxiliary Bishop Mar Peter Kochupurackal. The Holy Childhood Association also has an extensive presence in the diocese. Most parishes have vibrant HCA groups and there is a department at the pastoral centre, run by Fr. Thekkanath Christo, who animates and organizes parishes activities.

In 2019, the Canadian Pontifical Mission Societies donated funds to support Holy Childhood Association activities in the Diocese of Palghat. With the funds that they received, the Diocesan department of HCA developed a year-long program that they called

“Spiritual Animation Programme for Children -2019.” In their own words, the aims of the program were as follows:

The primary goal of this programme was to help the children to know Jesus and to love Him as their friend. The programme also helped children to know more about the Holy Childhood organization, to develop their leadership qualities, to build in them a strong sense of missionary spirit and to impart Christian values to them. Utmost care was given to children to have the experience like Holy Mary, “My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.” (Lk 1:35)

Most of the main activities implemented through this program were for the children of the diocese, as the quote above suggests. But the adult leaders of the HCA groups in the parishes also benefited from this program.

One of the outreach programs for the children was to take them to local orphanages. The goal of these visits was to have the children experience how their fellow children live in an orphanage. They also brought donations of clothes and books that they distributed to the orphans during their visit. Another activity that was supported by this program were prayer sessions for HCA groups. After their catechism classes, children in the HCA group would gather for prayer with prayer books that were created with the funds that we had donated. True to the vision of Pauline Jaricot for the Propagation of the Faith Society, the children also brought with them a small donation for needy children. Another initiative of this program was to create a colouring book of the stations of



Colouring Book created for children of the Diocese of Palghat
All photos courtesy of Fr. Jomis Kodakasseril.

the cross during Lent. These colouring books were distributed to all the children of the diocese through their parishes.

Three regional retreats were organized for the children as well. The purpose of these retreats was to help children realize that they too are missionary disciples of Jesus. No matter how young that they might be, they too can pray for children who have much less than they do and help other children with small contributions. The HCA department, along with a team of sixteen organizers, also ran various “Biblical competitions” throughout the diocese. These competitions aimed “at the all-round growth of the children as well as the deepening of their Biblical knowledge.” A fun way to grow in their faith, the children received certificates, awards, and prizes.

Included in the Spiritual Animation Programme for Children were leadership programs to support those who worked with the children. A leadership conference was organized for all parish volunteers. One leadership camp was run in particular for teens, who even after outgrowing their parish’s HCA group, still continued to volunteer in the program. The theme of the camp was “Praying like Mary.” A conference was also organized for parents to teach them to support the faith development of their children.

As these brief descriptions of the various activities of the Spiritual Animation Programme for Children

demonstrates the Holy Childhood Association is alive and well in the diocese of Palghat and the funds that they received from Canada were well spent. Naturally, all who benefited from this program and from our donations were greatly appreciative. Let us hear in the words of then Director of Holy Childhood, Fr. Jomis Kodakasseril, his expression of thanks:

We express our deep gratitude to... the benefactors for rendering help to awaken the catholic missionary spirit of the children of the diocese of Palghat. Our Bishop appreciates your kindness in a special way. Your donation helped us a lot to nurture the catholic values in our children. The catholic community especially the members of holy childhood in the diocese of Palghat express our sincere thanks to you. Your financial assistance helped us a lot to improve our Holy Childhood activities. This will surely reflect upon the behaviour of our children. We offer our prayers for all your missionary activities especially those you render for the little ones. Once again, we thank you and promise our prayers for you.

May we in Canada, then, also follow the good example of our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Palghat, and continue to pray for them, especially their children.



Excursion of students to Orphanage
All photos courtesy of Fr. Jomis Kodakasseril.



Animators’ Conference
All photos courtesy of Fr. Jomis Kodakasseril.

Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood:

Project Report: VIETNAM

In the Dong Nai province of Vietnam, there is a small village named Bon-go. Like many developing, countryside villages in Vietnam, the inhabitants of Bon-go are extremely poor. But the people there are also from a different ethnic group, which contributes to their poverty. The inhabitants of Bon-go are from the Chau Ma ethnic minority. In the village, there are 108 families with 123 children, whose ages range from 3 to 14. Given that they stem from a different ethnic group from the majority of the population, they are often discriminated against and are afforded very few opportunities to advance economically. The average wage of each family is about six US dollars a day. With this minimal wage, families can barely afford to feed themselves, much less allow the children to attend school. The poor nutrition has also led to poor health among the villagers as well.

Sr. Ane Nguyen, a member of Our Lady of the Missions, reached out to the Holy Childhood Association for funding so that the 123 children from this village can go to school. The funds that the sisters received provided for the tuition, school supplies, and school uniforms for the students. Not only were the children now able to have a normal educational experience, but it also eased the minds of the parents who were previously unable to support their children with their education. Their education has also broadened the horizons of the students who had little knowledge of the world outside their own village.

The education of the children was affected by their poor health. The sisters, therefore, also provided the students with two nutritious meals a week, along with a daily allowance of milk. The children were very sick from the many years of eating poorly and so the sisters also provided them with medication. It took some



time and much effort but all the children from the village were much healthier eventually. The students became more active and were able to focus much better in class. With better health, they made good progress in their studies.

As in all parts of the world, education was anything but typical this past year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Sr. Ane informs us that the school was shut down for three months. As well, they were not able for safety reasons to take the students on any excursions.

Some of the money that the sisters received was earmarked for these excursions. The sisters decided then to use the money to support the families of the students. The pandemic, as most reports demonstrate, has hit the poor harder than others. The villagers from Bon-go were no exception. Most of them lost their jobs due to the pandemic and the sisters provided the families with some essential food stuffs. Each family received rice, milk, cooking oil, noodles, and sugar. Clearly, this was justified use of the funds.

Sister Ane concluded her report with a plea that wrenched my heart. She said, “We would be very grateful if you could continue to support these poor children so they can have a better education and brighter future. We believe that with your support they can have what they deserve.” Indeed, let us open our hearts and support these poor children of Vietnam.



(As this issue of Mission Today has focused on children and the Holy Childhood Association, let us take a moment to pray for the children in the missions, especially those impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.)

Prayer for Our Children

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of life. Thank You especially for the gift of the many children around the world whom You love and protect. Truly, they are a treasure for the world. They have the potential to transform their communities and make the world a better place.

As children in the church grow and mature, may the Catholic Church continue to be a good example for them always. Help the church love and protect them as You have loved all your people. Enable the church to provide them with proper discipline and instruction. Make the church the instrument, Lord, by which they will come to know You. The mission of the church to its children is not an easy task, but with You, Lord, everything is possible.

Bless our children, God. Teach them how to live a holy life. Bless their minds with sound decision-making skills. Let their hands be channels of Your blessing to their friends, classmates, and relatives. Let not their tongues be used to destroy others through harsh words. Rather, enable them to speak words of life, encouragement, and grace.

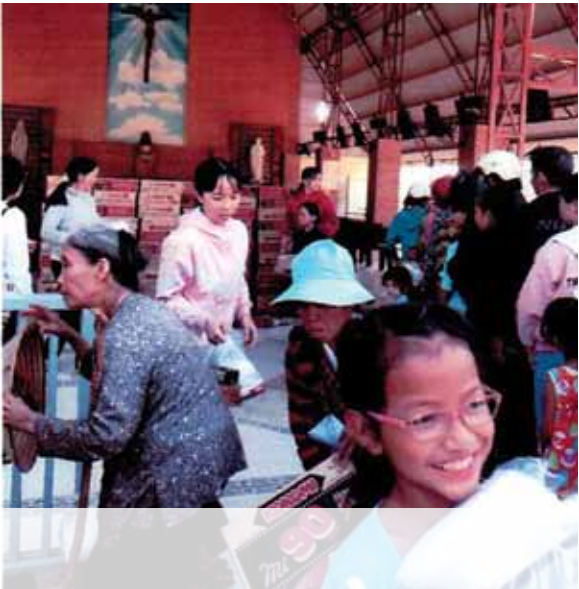
Protect our children, Father God, each and every day. As they go to school, and as they come back home, be their shield and their fortress. Keep them away from the evils of this world. Let no bad influence corrupt their precious minds. Let no accidents fall on them. Keep them away from illness. Last but not least, Lord, bless their studies. Allow them to gain more knowledge both about You and the universe You created. May they develop minds that seek the Truth and find ways to contribute to justice and peace.

Lord God, we pray especially for all children who have been impacted by the pandemic, either physically or economically. Many children around the world are hurting, and their parents cannot bear to see the pain in her eyes. For followers of Christ, there is nothing that should hurt us more than seeing any child suffering. It is during these times that we should wish to do something more for them. For that reason, Lord, we come to you in prayer and ask to help our children. Thank You ahead of time, Lord, for your healing touch that you will grant our children.

Thank You so much, Lord Jesus, that we are able to draw strength and healing from You. Even during the times when we are weak, You are always strong. Thank You, Lord, that You also share that strength with our precious children when they need it the most.

Lord, this is the new year that You have made, and help us to rejoice and be glad in it. Thank You, Lord, for another year to serve You and to live life in fullness. Thank You for restoring our strength for this year. Thank You for the bright hope that we have for the year ahead. Truly, Lord, life is more worth living with You to guide us always.

We make this prayer through the name of Jesus our brother and saviour. Amen.



*Covid-19 relief efforts for village of Bon-go.
All photos courtesy of Sister Ane Nguyen, Our Lady of the Missions.*

The Editor's Point of View



My immediate family has developed a tradition that we go on vacation soon after the Christmas festivities are over. What now seems like a lifetime ago, we were on a cruise ship in the Caribbean just over a year ago. Aaaah!!! But I digress. This tradition has generally entailed that we are away for New Year's Day and, with New Year's Day being a holy day of obligation, we find a local church to attend mass. One year we were in Chicago and we went to Mass at the Cathedral in Chicago. During the homily, the priest began by asking the congregation if anyone remembered his homily from the previous year. My first thought was "yeah, right. Who is going to remember your homily from a year ago?" I was not yet a deacon at the time or my reaction might have been, "I hope people don't remember homilies from a year ago. I need to recycle my material." In any case, much to my surprise, a number of hands did go up. The priest chose one woman who promptly replied, "Your homily from last year was 'pray more in 04 (o, four)'". The priest confirmed that that was indeed last year's homily. Then he continued by saying, "My homily for this year is 'Keep faith alive in 05 (o, five)'." He then shocked me once more by turning around and going back to the presider's chair, the homily completed. Obviously, the priest just wanted us to have a thought to carry with us through the new year. Given the parties that many in the congregation were at until the early morning, it was all that most people could process anyway.

My family and I have been deeply inspired by this homily. Not only do we still remember the homily, but we also remember a homily from a Mass that we did not even attend. Since becoming a deacon, I have vowed to replicate this novel homily style. I believe that I have had only one opportunity in my ten years as a deacon to deliver a New Year's Day (Feast of Mary, Mother of God) homily. After all, we are normally away on vacation at that time (remember last year's cruise ship?). On that one occasion, however, I was not as kind as the priest from Chicago, because I did not return to my seat after sharing my slogan. I went on to ex-

plain the reasons that I chose that particular slogan. (Yes, I know. I am a party-pooper.) Another tradition that my family and I now observe is that on New Year's Day, we try to come up with a slogan for ourselves to inspire us during the year. In this editorial piece, at the start of a new year, I would like to share with you our slogan for this year. Naturally, after giving you the slogan, I am not going to end my editorial, if for no other reason that I have two pages to fill in the magazine. Our slogan for this year is HOPE IN THE SON IN 2021 (twenty, twenty-one).

Before even listing all the issues facing us this year for which we need hope, I want to remind you that hope is a theological virtue. Yes, I know that most people don't know what a theological virtue is. Don't worry. I will explain it. The theological virtues derive from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians in chapter 13. If you don't recognize this passage immediately, it is the passage that all bride's and grooms use at their wedding Mass, "love is kind, love is patient, etc." (See you did know it!) In that passage, St. Paul explains that the three greatest spiritual gifts that all the baptized faithful receive is faith, hope, and love, with love being the greatest of all gifts. This passage, along with the theological virtues, remind us that one of the most critical marks of a follower of Christ is hope. One of the most important virtues that Christians need to cultivate, whether in good times or bad times, is hope. You can't be a Christian without being hopeful and that includes being hopeful even in the time of a pandemic. Hope is part of our DNA, you might say. But on what is this hope based that Christians are to possess? Is it wishful thinking? Mere optimism? The power of positive thinking? No!

Christians must always remain hopeful, as my slogan for 2021 suggests, because of the Son. Christians are hope-filled because we know that Christ has died for us and our ultimate destinies are assured. Christ saved all of us and our hope resides in the power of the Cross to bring new life. But not only can we count on the Son to save us in the afterlife. The Son's love and kindness surrounds us even in this life. Even though we are often in a hurry and we do not always notice the Son's presence in our lives (hurry is not a good thing by the way. We all need to learn to slow down, but there I go digressing again), the Son is always present in our lives

In Remembrance

Our Deceased Donors

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

- Ann Sampson Halifax, NS
- Avis Sargent Hamilton, ON
- Cyprien Castonguay.....Mississauga, ON
- Theresa Wolak..... Toronto, ON
- Italo AzzanoNiagara Falls, ON
- Fr. John Walsh..... Toronto, ON

with his providential care. In particular, as the "Footprints" poem reminds us, the Son not only walks with us through life but also carries us in the most difficult times of our lives. The Son, who is also the Word of God, made us many promises in the scriptures. These Biblical promises are another reason for our hope. We trust that the Son, who is faithful, will keep his promises to his people. The Son, for example, taught us not to worry or fear (see Matthew 6:25-34), for God will provide for our needs. As Christians, these promises fill us with hope.

Our hope is not only in the Son but also in the people that God created through the Son. Yes, I know that we human beings have done a fine job of messing up God's creation. But ultimately, Christians believe in the original goodness of God's creation. Ultimately God's plan for creation will prevail and God's Kingdom will be realized on earth. Human beings do tend to make a mess of things, but we are created in God's image. As Christians we hope that God's image can prevail even over a corrupt and broken human nature. At the end of the day, our hope is that there are more people who are good Samaritans than religious figures who walk by the hurt traveller (see Luke 10:25-37). We certainly have seen the heroic nature of human beings during the pandemic with

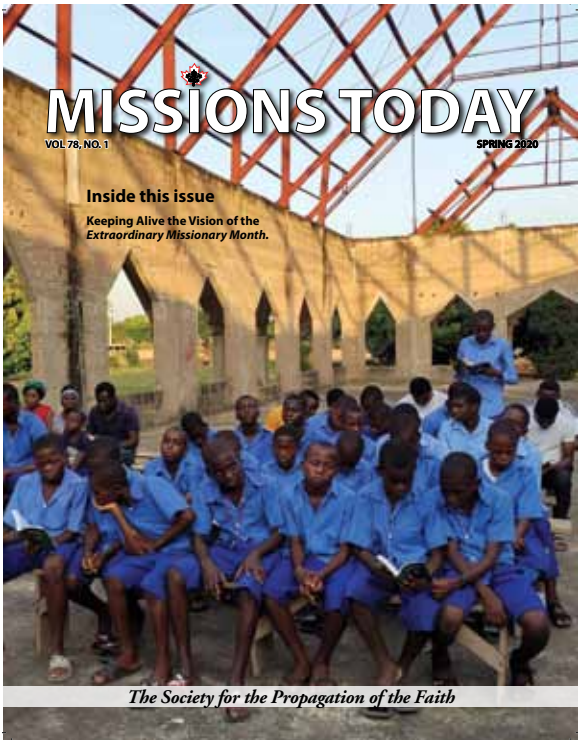
the many frontline workers who have gone well over the call of duty and have risked their own lives to save the lives of those who are sick from this virus. Finally, we should also have hope in ourselves. Yeah, we are also part of this wonderful creation of God, and don't you forget it. We are all wonderful people with a caring heart and with the help of the Son we can reach our full potential in this world. We are not perfect, and we do make mistakes. But the good that we do far outweighs our small indiscretions. Always have hope that you too can make a difference in this world because you are a beloved child of God.

In conclusion, we all know that the current pandemic has created considerable problems of which we are all aware and of which there is no need to discuss here. We definitely have a difficult year ahead of us. But as Christians, we move forward in these difficult times with hope. This hope is not based on some modern psychological power of positive thinking. Our hope is founded on the Son, and His power of love that pervades all of creation, to guide us through this current turmoil. For we Christians, 2021 should be filled with hope, even as we tackle whatever difficulties may come our way, for the Son goes with us. So again,

HOPE IN THE SON IN 2021.

(On the cover of the Spring 2020 issue, there was a picture of the students of Holy Ghost College in the chapel that was still under construction. Here are pictures of the chapel at the end of 2020. The construction is coming along, including a roof.)

Photos courtesy of Fr. Kuha Indyer, CSSp, Principal of the School.



Charitable Gift Annuities

**A Gift to the Missions
that also benefits You!**

- Peace of mind
- Guaranteed income for life
- Immediate and long-term tax benefits
- Premium rates

ANNUITY RATES CURRENTLY OFFERED

Age	Male	Female
65	4.22%	3.88%
70	4.86%	4.45%
75	5.77%	5.33%
80	6.68%	6.30%
85	7.74%	7.50%
90	9.22%	9.03%
93+	10.00%	10.00%

Rates posted as of January 25, 2021

**For a personal consultation,
brochure or further
information please call:**

416 699 7077

-or-

1 800 897 8865



**Society for the Propagation
of the Faith**

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

www.missionsocieties.ca

