



MISSIONS TODAY

Vol. 75, No. 2

Spring 2017

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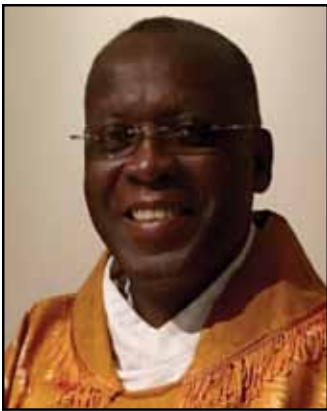
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National Director's Message

Mission Today Message Spring 2016



By the time you receive the spring edition of Mission Today the Universal Church will be in the season of Lent, a time set apart to give serious thought to things that the world around us refuses to consider. Lent is a favourable time to deepen our spiritual life through fasting, prayer and almsgiving, each a route to holiness offered us by the Church. At the centre of everything is the word of God and during this season of Lent, Mother Church invites us to hear and ponder more deeply.

Pope Francis, in his Lenten message, invites us to find inspiration and meaning in the story of Lazarus and the rich man, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. Lent is a time to consider the critical crossroads of our lives - those times when our faith and life intersects.

This issue of Mission Today invites us to journey across the globe. It profiles Sr. Mary Ellen Burns CSJ, who recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of profession and received recognition from

Pope Francis for her dedication to the Holy Childhood Association and Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. There are mission stories about the projects being supported by you, our donors. These stories are hope filled accounts about the faith commitment of missionaries like the Sisters of Loreto whose first sisters arrived in India 175 years ago from Ireland. In this issue, the work of the Pontifical Society of St Peter the Apostle and those helped by it are highlighted. This society supports the training and education of future leaders of the mission church. Through the work of the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, seminarians and religious are provided with resources, books, food and housing. Without this support many of our brothers and sisters in mission countries would not be able to continue this important mission endeavour. Pope Francis concluded his Lenten message this year by calling us to express our spiritual renewal by sharing in the Lenten campaigns promoted by church organizations. Could you lend some financial support to them as part of your Lenten Journey?

I wish you a happy Lent and a joyful Easter. Know that we keep you in our prayers and appreciate your ongoing support.

Peace and Joy,

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

Missionary Prayer Intentions

MARCH – Support for Persecuted Christians: That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

APRIL – Young People : That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

MAY – Christians in Africa: That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

Remembering the Missions in your Will

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Dear Friends of Missions Today Magazine,

For many years now, Missions Today Magazine has been an important conduit for Canadians in spreading the Good News of the work being done by missionaries throughout the world. Through its content, we are fulfilling our mission to hope to encourage missionary animation in our readers. We hope you find our magazine to be informative and stimulating, helping to inspire in you a more reflective reaction to the stories and people you meet in each issue. Because the primary purpose of the magazine is mission animation, **we have decided to do away with paid subscriptions to access the magazine.** If you make a donation to one of our societies, we will send you the magazine for free. If you do not wish to receive the magazine, simply contact our office at the address below, by phone, or email. Thank you to all who have been supporters of our magazine in the past and continue to do so today. Help to spread the Good News with your friends and fellow parishioners by passing along Missions Today to them when the opportunity arises.

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**Thank you, God, for letting me be born,
for giving me eyes to see the daffodils
lean in the wind**

Joan Baez

Photo Credit: Martin Hirtreiter, Wikimedia.org, cc-sa-by-3.0



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 – wikimedia.org
Back Cover Photo: Father Alex Osei C.S.Sp

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

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Across the Globe



THE VATICAN - New app on Social Teaching prepared for Young People

The Vatican - At last summer's World Youth Day celebrations in Poland, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, the Archbishop of Manila, presented a new app on the Catholic Church's Social Teaching created especially for young people.

"The Church wishes to spread the Good News using the modern means of communication ... to reshape our world in flames of offering it the power of the Word of Jesus Christ" said the Cardinal, who is also a member of the YouCat International Advisory Board.

The application, named "DOCAT App" is a project of the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, like YOUCAT, which aims to help young Catholics understand the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Tagle explained that DOCAT is a sequel of YOUCAT, a Youth Catechism first published in 2010, because "faith is completed with deeds". DOCAT shows young people how to understand and live out the Catholic faith and how to work towards building a "civilisation of love". It tackles tough questions on issues like politics and economics, human rights, poverty, the family and the environment.

It is available in many different languages such as English, Croatian, Czech, German, French, Italian, Filipino, Irish and 15 Indian languages. *An edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides 08/03/2016.*



LAOS - Three new priests ordained: a historic step for the Church

Luang Prabang - Mgr. Tito Banchong Thopanhong, Apostolic Administrator of Luang Prabang expressed great joy at the ordination of three priests by saying, "First of all let us thank the Lord for his great gift: we are very happy for the three new priests who will work full time in the small Catholic Church in Laos... for me it will be a great help". They were ordained in a solemn celebration held on September 16, 2016 in Savannakhet, where the Major Inter-diocesan Seminary that provides the formation of Laotian seminarians is situated.

At the ordination Mass, presided by His Exc. Mgr. Prida Inthirath, Apostolic Vicar of Savannakhet, 54 priests from Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, numerous religious women and over a thousand Catholic faithful came from all over the country to participate in the ceremony.

Christians make up 1% of the six million people living in Laos, of whom there are about 45 thousand Catholics. The number of diocesan priests in the country with the three newly ordained priests goes up to 20, while another 11 are religious priests. *This is an edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides 09/27/2016.*

INDIA - The Sisters of Loreto: 175 years on mission in South Asia

Calcutta - The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), better known as the "Sisters of Loreto", this year celebrates 175 years of missionary presence in South Asia. "With immense gratitude to God we celebrate the arrival in India of the first sisters, who 175 years ago brought the love of God", says Sister Anita M. Braganza, head of the religious Province of South Asia.

Eleven Sisters of Loreto came to Calcutta on 30 December 1841 from Ireland, becoming the first religious sisters to land in North India. The first house of the religious sisters was opened in January 1842. Shortly after, an orphanage in Calcutta was launched. The congregation was to found several monasteries and schools in many parts of India, Nepal, Bangladesh in the years that followed.

"That experience was the result of a missionary zeal: a life dedicated to mission, saying goodbye to their loved ones, with no plans to return home. Catholic nuns were the first to set foot on Indian soil, in particular by contributing to the training of women and children from all social classes", says Sister Braganza.

Indian Sister Priyanka Toppo, bears witness: "The community became my second home, where I received training, was educated and given every opportunity to grow at a human and spiritual level. Cultural programs and other extracurricular activities gave me creativity, responsibility, and maturity. This testimony was the seed of my vocation to become a sister of Loreto, in order to take care of others just like others took care of me".

The Loreto Sisters were founded by Mary Ward to help children and young people to develop through education and other works that address the needs of the times. *This is an edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides 01/04/2017.*

INDIA - Increasing Demand for Christian Literature

New Delhi – There is demand for Christian literature in India and the market is expanding: says Fr. Saju Chackalackal, Carmelite of Mary Immaculate (CMI) and director for the evangelization and pastoral care of his congregation.

"Many, both educated people, and the people of villages and cities, express their desire to obtain and own a copy of the Bible and in particular the New Testament. ...a widespread desire to have access to Christian literature that helps the faithful to have a clear and thorough idea about the contents of faith of Christianity and the Catholic Church in particular", notes Fr. Chackalackal.

The priest reported that Carmelite missionaries and other congregations are asking for additional Bibles and Christian literature to give to people, Christian and non-Christian, who sincerely seek to know more about Jesus Christ, he said.

"Bibles in English or in local languages are needed and this, according to our missionaries, opens a very significant opportunity for the Christian community: one must satisfy a thirst for knowledge about Jesus Christ", the priest told Fides.

The CMI is a male religious institution, born in the Syro-Malabar Church. It is the first Catholic religious congregation founded in India. Today, its missionaries work in Asia, Brazil, North America, South Africa, Kenya, and Europe. *An edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides 02/13/2017.*

PAKISTAN - Bishop given Human Rights Award

Faisalabad, Pakistan - Bishop Joseph Arshad of Faisalabad, who chairs the Catholic Bishop's National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP), received the National Human Rights Award 2016 from Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain on Dec.10.

"We appreciate the government for recognizing the commission who have been involved in human rights advocacy, especially for religious minorities, since 1985," said Father Barkat, director for interfaith and ecumenism in Faisalabad Diocese, who received the award on behalf of the bishop.

Bishop Arshad dedicated his award to the "local church" and "those who work in service of humanity in challenging circumstances"...I thank the state for this recognition but a lot needs to be done for society; especially in the fields of education and health", he added.

Bishop Arshad, 52, was the first Pakistani priest to join the diplomatic service of the Holy See and served for 14 years as Apostolic Nunciature to several nations. He has also worked with prisoners in the jails of Gujranwala and Karachi. Last month, NCJP and Human Rights Commission of Pakistan also received the Pax Christi International Peace Award 2016 in Geneva. The awards come as thousands of Pakistan Christian and Ahmadi families seek asylum in Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia to escape discrimination and persecution. *An edited version, taken from ucanews 12/15/2016*

Congratulations to Sister Mary Ellen Burns CSJ

By P. Coady



Sister Mary Ellen is shown proudly displaying her award. Standing next to her is Sister Therese, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Photo by Doreen Dominguez

The year 2016 is considered by many to have been a very bad year on a number of fronts, but for Sister Mary Ellen Burns, it was a very good one.

Not only did Sister Mary Ellen celebrate her 60th anniversary of profession in the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph (Toronto) on March 16, but she also received one of the Pope's highest honours in November.

Sister Mary Ellen was among a group of five who received the **Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (for Church and Pope)**, the most significant award a lay person can receive from the Pope. This award, established by Pope Leo XIII in 1888, is recognition of distinguished service to the Church over a period of years.

Archbishop J. Michael Miller C.S.B spoke of the award recipients as people who, "truly exemplify the spiritual and corporal works of mercy that Pope Francis has invited us to reflect on and practise with renewed vigour during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. It is truly a privilege to shepherd the Archdiocese of Vancouver, where so many faithful generously give of themselves".



Archbishop Miller presents Sister Mary Ellen with the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Photo by Doreen Dominguez

Sister Mary Ellen "truly exemplifies the spiritual and corporal works of mercy". Throughout her 60 (and now into her 61st) years as a Sister of Saint Joseph, she has lived a life of outreach, most especially in her care and love of children. She taught school in both Ontario and British Columbia prior to serving in the Archdiocese's Office of Religious Education. Sister Mary Ellen spent 14 happy and productive years in the ORE training catechists, providing children with religious instruction and assisting teachers in developing meaningful religious education programs for their children.

I present to you a brief look at some of the accomplishments of this remarkable person in her own words:

After obtaining my teaching certificate, I entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in Toronto. Over the years I taught in St. Catharine's, Islington, Oshawa, Toronto and Barrie in Ontario and then later in Kitimat, British Columbia.

In This Archdiocese (Vancouver)

- In 1962 - 1964 I taught at Holy Trinity in North Vancouver
- From 1967-1972 I taught at St. Patrick's, Vancouver
- And then St Paul's in Richmond from 1974 -1976
- From 1981 - 1994 I served as Coordinator of Religious Education Programs in the Archdiocese.
- From 1995 - 2002 I was director of the English Program for Japanese students from Nanzan University in Nagoya while also doing Holy Childhood.
- From 1995 - until the present I have worked with the Holy Childhood "Children Helping Children" Program in our schools and PREP programs.

So, in total, I have spent 44 years in this Archdiocese, and 46 in B.C.

Because of her knowledge and experience, she is often called upon to provide talks and presentations at religious institutes and workshops. I would suggest that her positive manner and overall enthusiasm and happiness for what she does are major factors in what attracts people to her. In 1995, she became the director of the Holy Childhood Association for the Archdiocese of Vancouver, a role that she has tackled with great zeal and industry. Nothing makes Sister Mary Ellen happier than visiting schools and spreading the Good News message of the Holy Childhood Association.

So congratulations Sister Mary Ellen. You are a true exemplar of what it means to be a Christian in contemporary society. If only I had your energy!

Ethiopia's Eparchy of Bahirdar-Dessie Receives 300 New Members

By Makeda Yohannes, Ethiopia Catholic Secretariat December 1, 2016



Young catechumans await their baptism. Photo: secam.org

The Ethiopian Catholic Eparchy of Bahir dar-Dessie baptised 300 Catechumens among the people of Gumuz, in Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State, this week, on the Feast of the Miraculous Medal. Many of the newly baptized converted from local traditional religions to Catholicism. Most of the Catechumens are from a place known as Banush, a very remote area located 600 km from the capital, Addis Ababa.

At the people's request, Bishop Lesanu-Christos, the Eparch of Bahirdar-Dessie, blessed and erected a cross and a bell on the future site of a Church. Another cross was placed at the community's cemetery as a sign of a new Christian community. The Bishop, with the help of six priests then baptised the 300 new Christians of all ages, including infants

In his homily, Bishop Lesanu-Christos said that the day was a joyous one for the Church.

"God is great, and God is a Father to all of us; we say the Our

Father Prayer here and throughout the world and this proves that we are all children of one God who created everyone equally and with the same human dignity. Today when you receive this great Sacrament of Baptism you become sons and daughters of God, people of God and members of the Church, this brings great joy in heaven and great joy on earth for the entire Church".

The Bishop of Bahirdar-Dessie also noted that the community was evangelised by a local, a young man named Takel. It was Takel who first brought the request of the village to the Church's attention asking the Church authorities to bring the light of Christ to his community in the remote area of Banush.

"The testimony of one young believer and the diligent efforts of the pastoral agents of the Catholic Church have brought 300 more children of God home. However, there are still more of our brothers and sisters who have not yet received the Good News of the Lord, and with God's Grace we shall continue to shine the light of Our Lord and spread the Good News," the Bishop said.

The newly baptised Christians celebrated by wearing and lighting candles as a sign of the light of Christ shining in them. They sang in the local language: "We know what we trust in." The ceremony was attended by families of the baptised, the clergy, religious men and women, Catechists and the faithful from different parishes of Diocese.

The Eparch of Bahirdar-Dessie is the youngest Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Ethiopian Catholic Church. Currently, there are more than 500 Catechumens in neighbouring villages who

are eagerly waiting to be baptised. The Catholic Church first went to the Gumuz people 15 years ago, led by three Comboni sisters, Jamilety, Tilda, and Bertila who planted the first seeds of faith.



Bishop Lesanu-Christos blesses the site of the future church in Banush. Photocourtesy of en.radiovaticana.va



Chapel in the Gumuz area. Photo: bahirdardessiecatholic.org

Project Report: GHANA

I: Feeding the Kindergarten Children of Mary, Mother of God Parish in Donkorkrom, Afram

By P. Coady

“If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.” – Matt. 10:42

The future of our faith lies in its youth. The Pontifical Mission Societies, and in particular, the Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood puts great emphasis on building the faith in the hearts and minds of children around the world. However, building faith is not an ephemeral activity and often the road to faith instruction must go through the belly. The child’s temporal needs, whether they be clothing, housing, good health, proper diet, or a safe environment must be in place before any thought of spiritual formation or temporal education can happen.

Consequently, many of the projects that we sponsor need such assistance in order to carry out their mission work. Indeed, without one, you cannot have the other.

One such project is taking place in the parish of Mary, Mother of God, in the small town of Donkorkrom, eastern Ghana. The purpose of the project was to provide food supplements to the poorest children in the parish in order to encourage them to attend school. Knowing their children would receive a nutritious meal at least once a day, motivated the parents to bring them to school each day.



No Backpack? No problem.

Photo by Rev. Fr. Eduard Simatupag SVD

Reverend Father Eduard Simatupag, SVD, stated in his report to PMS Canada that the overall objectives of the project had been realized. “...giving a decent meal once a day to the children so that they can learn in the school to improve upon their academic performance and to motivate them to be regular in (their attendance) has been 80% met. Many of the children have stopped complaining of frequent sicknesses. They look healthier.”

As news of the food program spread in the community, attendance at school jumped from 150 to 260 students attending regularly and benefiting from the program.

Because one of the pastoral plans of the Apostolic Vicariate is intensive primary evangelization and nurturing the Catholic Church to maturity, this project allowed the teachers and catechists greater access to the parish’s children. Adult volunteers also became involved with the school and church, coming daily to assist with the food supplement program.

However, Father Simatupag did point to a few caveats related to this work. First of all, it is proving difficult for the Apostolic Vicariate to maintain the food program giving its increasing popularity. Second, he worries about the danger of the school and parents becoming overly dependent on external funding to keep the project alive. More needs to be done by local gov-

ernment organizations.

Nonetheless, Father Simatupag feels the program has been a success and he continues in his efforts to attract more support for the religious and temporal education of the children in the parish.

He and his team, not to mention the children of the school, are immensely grateful for PMS Canada’s involvement in Mary, Mother of God Parish, Donkorkrom, Ghana.



Lunchtime at the school.

Photo by Rev. Fr. Eduard Simatupag SVD



The Kindergarten class at Mary, Mother of God Parish

Photo by Rev. Fr. Eduard Simatupag SVD

Reporting from Africa:

One very important aspect of mission work in Africa and Asia is the need to develop sustainability and self-sufficiency. The mission project might get a head start thanks to funding from donor countries like Canada, but the best projects are ones that realize that the money will not always be there to support their mission activities. Consequently, the development of industries connected to the mission offer hope in a very practical way. The money generated at the local level is often the difference between the success and failure of the mission's efforts to evangelize. The report below, written by our National Director for English Sector Canada, Fr. Alex Osei C.S.Sp. demonstrates how important these grass root industries are.
-The Editor

An Extended Visit to Our Sponsored Mission Projects

By Father Alex Osei C.S.Sp. – National Director for PMS Canada

In October of 2016, I set out to visit the missions that we support in Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria. At these places and many others, I get to see firsthand the missions, the seminaries, the priests and religious, along with the many missionaries and Bishops that Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) Canada, English sector support. It is in these visits that I discover how well the funds that we have provided have been used and what the needs are for the future. I am happy to report that I am impressed by the responsibility and frugality of the various project leaders' use of funds.



Staff and Students of St. John the Evangelist Minor Seminary listen to an address given by Father Alex (not pictured)

It is good to meet and stay in seminaries with the students and the staff, to listen to their concerns and to assure them of the unstinting concern of so many generous donors to their cause... I let them know that someone is always concerned about how they are doing and praying for the progress of their work for the Lord and His people.

Uganda:

It was a good opportunity to meet with the Bishop of the local Church to hear his accounts of the various challenges and triumphs among his people. Arriving in Uganda at Entebbe air-



The Dedication Stone outside the new dining hall at St. John the Evangelist Minor Seminary in Uganda.

port, I was welcomed by the Fr. Philip Balikuddembe, National Director of Uganda. We visited St. Mary's minor seminary and had meeting with 180 students and staff members. The institution is into local fundraising activities to complete five classrooms and a student's dining hall.



Bullet holes still scar the walls of the seminary. Stark reminders of the attack on August 16, 1997.

Our next stop was St John the Evangelist Minor Seminary where we were welcomed at the entrance of the school by a brass band. We had a tour around the school and the farm after which speeches were delivered.


On August 16th 1997, the institution was attacked by the Rebels of Allied Democratic Forces. Nineteen students and two semi-

nary workers were abducted. Out of the 21 abducted, 12 came back and rest were killed in the bush. Trees were planted in memory of them during the visit. Some buildings were damaged; properties lost included 3 seminary vehicles. Unfortunately, the abductees who returned have never been adequately rehabilitated and continue to suffer from the trauma of that day.

Proper security fencing and washrooms have been a great challenge at St. John the Evangelist Minor seminary due to lack of funds. According to Fr. Francis Kojo Kule, the attack has negatively affected the school and therefore the school continues to solicit for funds to properly fence the compound since they are in a high risk area.



Father Alex pours water as part of the preparation for the memorial tree planting. With him are Father Francis Kojo Kule (Rector) on his right, and Father Philip Balikuddembe (National Director PMS Uganda)



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For more information please contact our National Director at 416-699-7077 or visit our website at www.missionsocieties.ca

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Kenya:

St Matthias Mulumba Senior Seminary, Tindinyo, Eldoret Project

The lack of potable water has been a great challenge at St Matthias Mulumba Senior Seminary. Mr. Simon Nga’nga, an accountant at the center, admits that since our funding arrived, they have been able to tackle this challenge by drilling a deep borehole for a well.

The formation of future priests not only requires the spiritual nourishment but the integral formation of the students. This formation requires resources which are hardly available especially in the light of dwindling international and local funding.

With the funding from the PMS office, the seminary has been able to provide clean and safe water for the future priests and the staff members. Through the biogas project, also supported by our financial support, the institution no longer buys cooking gas, and has cut down the use of electricity by almost half, Fr. Douglas Mwija Rector of the institution happily noted during an interview at the center.

The institution currently has 112 students and 14 formators and other staff members. It boasts agri-business projects including dairy farming, pig farming, and the growing of maize. From the pig project, the institution now has 157 piglets. Fr. Douglas noted that, “With this kind of output, we will be able to support the seminary as well as sustain the budget which is affected by inadequate funding from both international and local donors.” From the dairy project, the institution plans to sell milk surplus to the community, generating income to develop the formation center further.

In future, the institution would like to replace the beddings of the students which have become old and worn out over the years. Installation of solar panels has also been identified as a great way to further reduce the cost of electricity. Being a cold area, Fr. Douglas pointed out that a lot of fuel is used in heating bathing water. With solar power, it is hoped that this will lower the amount of money spent on fuel.

The future of the seminary looks bright, at least in the eyes of the rector. With such progress already being experienced, there is hope that the institution will be able to sustain its own budget and attract income, which according to the rector will be “invested for the seminary.”

Christ the King Seminary, Nyeri Project

At Christ the King Seminary in Nyeri, the rector, Fr. Peter Maingi Mutune, has a number of projects going on. Chief among them is a major effort to improve the seminary’s infrastructure, which has become dilapidated over the years. Currently, the institution is constructing an additional dormitory, to allow it to accommodate more students.

The center also has a beef project which provides meat for the institution. At this time it needs restocking. With only 26 heads remaining, the institution is currently buying bulls from the local market. However, plans are underway to increase the herd to cater for such needs in the future.

Like many other institutions, water is also a challenge at Christ the King, and Fr. Maingi noted that this is one area that needs an urgent solution. “Being a population of about 300 people, lacking water is sometimes an issue. ... One of the projects that need urgent funding is a deeper borehole.

With more water the seminary plans to utilize all the arable land, about 200 acres, and by so doing, it will be able to supplement the efforts of donors.

St Augustine Senior Seminary, Mabanga Project

Through our funding, the senior seminary has seen an increase in dairy farming and been able to install two greenhouses.

Fr. Efire Boniface, who is also a student of MBA-Agribusiness (a project funded by PMS) is the project coordinator at the institu-



Father Alex inspects the newly built greenhouse at St. Augustine Senior Seminary



The new multipurpose hall in St. Ann’s Parish

tion and is enthusiastic about the projects which he hopes will help the seminary become self-sustaining.

The institution, thanks to our funding, has brought in a qualified farm manager, who will implement new strategies to ensure that the cows produce quality milk for the institution and the local market. Two skilled workers have also been brought in to run and manage the greenhouses, where they have more than 2000 sweet paper and tomato plants.

Other than that, they have been able to renovate the rectory to accommodate priests, visitors and resident members of staff.

While water is a challenge at the moment, Fr. Efire said that they are in the process of repairing a broken pump and installing water tanks.

According to the project coordinator, the Agri-MBA course has helped him to acquire management skills. Additionally, he is now conversant with the effects of climatic change in their area and strategies to combat its worse effects. The course, he said, will enable him to make sound and profitable decisions for the center.

In addition to running a grocery in town to sell vegetables and milk, the institution is also planning to set up “a feed mixer, where we can produce our feeds and also for the local community.”

St Ann’s Parish Kariene, Meru Project

When Fr. Peter Mutwiri, coordinator St Ann’s Mission Boarding and Day Primary School wanted to construct a multi-purpose hall, to serve as a dining hall and a meeting ground, his challenge was funding. Fr. Mutwiri, who doubles as a Parish priest at St Ann’s Parish Kariene, made an appeal to PMS. Through PMS funding together with some savings and other grants, a social hall was constructed.

Although this issue has been handled, there is a need to expand to the second phase of the project which will see the construction of dormitories, an administration block, and add another stream of classes to decongest and accommodate more pupils.



Father Alex standing outside the new dining/meeting hall at St. Ann’s Boarding and Day School. With him are on the far left is the Reverend Sister Rose Mary, Principal of the school, to her right is Father Bundi, National Director PMS Kenya, and to the far right Fr. Mutwiri, parish priest of St. Ann’s Church in Kariene.

“Times are changing, donations are going down. I recommend dioceses, Schools and other projects to look for certain areas that can help them to be self-sufficient.” Fr. Alex Osei, C.S.Sp., National Director, Canada, English Sector.



Father Alex meets the children of St. Anne’s Mission School in Kariene

The Society of Saint Peter

Mongolia's first native priest: Father Joseph Enkh Baatar

By Antonio Anup Gonsalves

“Missions Today” has featured Mongolia in its stories over the past few years. This is a mission country in its very early stages but one that shows great promise for our faith. The following is an edited version of a story, which appeared in CNA News on-line on 08/30/2016.



Fr. Joseph Enkh Baatar celebrates his first Mass, Aug. 28, 2016.
Photo courtesy of Mbumba Prosper, CICM.

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia – On August 28, Mongolia witnessed the ordination of its first indigenous priest, 29-year-old Fr. Joseph Enkh Baatar, who represents the first fruits of 24 years of missionary work in the east Asian country.

Bishop Wenceslao Padilla, the prefect of Ulaanbaatar, ordained Joseph Enkh Baatar a priest at Mass at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in the Mongolian capital.

“Fr. Joseph’s ordination is a blessing of God and a moment of immense joy and inspiration for our young Mongolian Church”, Chamingerel Ruffina, a member of the organizing committee for communications at the National Catechetical Center of Mongolia, told CNA Aug. 30.

The first modern mission to Mongolia was established in 1922 and was entrusted to the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. However, under a communist government influenced by the Soviet Union, religious expression was soon thereafter suppressed.

Bishop Padilla, a member of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, was one of the first three missionaries allowed into Mongolia in 1992, after the fall of communism. He

became superior of the mission in Mongolia, and was instrumental in helping to discern Fr. Baatar’s vocation.

The bishop praised God for the historic moment of the apostolic prefecture’s first native vocation, and prayed that many more such vocations would arise to help the local Church.

The Mass was concelebrated by Archbishop Osvaldo Padilla, apostolic nuncio to Mongolia and Korea; Bishop Lazarus You Heung-sik of Daejeon, in South Korea; and more than 100 priests from South Korea and Hong Kong.

More than 1,500 persons attended the Mass, including dignitaries of foreign embassies, local Orthodox churches, and Buddhist monks. The Mass was followed

by joyous festival.

Ruffina explained the significance of the ordination in this way. “This meaningful liturgical celebration of the sacrament of priestly ordination conducted in their own indigenous language gave an opportunity to the faithful to actually witness in proximity, to celebrate, and to understand the various steps in preparation for the priesthood and the ordination rite.”

The faithful of Mongolia had prepared for the event by reciting a novena to St. Paul to strengthen their missionary spirit during the Year of Mercy.

Fr. Baatar was born June 24, 1987. He lost his father at a young age, and his sister introduced him to the Catholic faith. His dream of joining the priesthood was initially postponed, due to his family’s strong desire that he complete his university studies.

After graduating with a degree in biotechnology and with the support of his family, he then applied to become a seminarian for the Prefecture Apostolic of Ulaanbaatar.

Fr. Baatar entered the Daejeon seminary in South Korea, and was ordained a deacon in December 2014.

Concluding the Mass, the newly ordained priest profoundly thanked his family and his mentors at the seminary, especially Bishop You. He also praised the important role played by Bishop Padilla through his support of his vocation. “I thank the Lord who has called me to serve Him through the priesthood. I am also grateful to all the people who have helped me respond to this calling”, stated Fr. Baatar.

Fr. Baatar urged the faithful to pray for his priestly ministry so that he could faithfully fulfill his ordination motto, chosen from the gospel of Luke: “Deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow me”.



A group photo taken on the day of Father Enkh Joseph’s ordination at Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Father Enkh (center left) wears a blue scarf.
(Photo by The Catholic Times of Korea)

For years, the Pontifical Mission Societies in Canada have provided newly ordained priests in mission countries with a chalice as they start their new lives in proclaiming the Good News. For many of them, purchasing a chalice for the daily celebration of the Eucharist is beyond their meagre means. They are so very grateful to receive this thoughtful gift from our supporters. From time to time, we are given an opportunity to hear from them. Here is one such letter, sent by newly ordained Father Kizito Yandu of Arua Diocese in Uganda. His ordination took place at St. John Paul II Church in Oriajini Parish on July 9, 2016.

The Priestly Souvenir
Kindly Pray For / Emi Ezi

REV. FR. KIZITO YANDU
ST. JOHN PAUL II, ORIAJINI PARISH – ARUA DIOCESE
Diaconate: 28th June 2014, at Christ The King Arua Town Parish
Priesthood: 9th July 2016, at St. John Paul II, Oriajini Parish
By Rt. Rev. Sabino Ocean Odoki Bishop of the Diocese of Arua
Be merciful , just as your Father is merciful (LK 6:36)

“God’s blessings to you and sincere greetings to you. I am Father Kizito Yandu of Arua Diocese in Uganda, and I was ordained on 9th July, 2016.

I am so grateful for the chalice I received from you and I promise to offer you my prayers as I celebrate Mass for the youth of my parish as the Assistant Youth Chaplain of Arua Diocese. May God bless you.

Yours faithfully,

Fr. Kizito Yandu

Holy Childhood Association:

Keep the Faith! The Next Generation of Catholic Leadership is Emerging

By P. Coady

Ask anyone who knows me closely and they will tell you that I am an optimistic cynic about most things in life. The cynicism in me emerges every time I hear people promise this, that and the other but invariably fail to follow through. I include myself in this category. The optimist in me comes through when I realize that God is alive and well and working in mysterious ways in our world. I use the term, “mysterious” as I believe we do a terrible job of opening our eyes and seeing His work in the communities and people around us. Most of the time. Again, I speak for myself.

But one of the great joys in being the editor of this magazine is found in the chance encounters I receive with people young and old who are getting on with the business of being Christian. They provide joy because they exude it in their quiet day to day actions that make small differences in their immediate worlds. One such person who I have been blessed with knowing is Elizabeth Schulz. Elizabeth has been a spiritual leader in her small community of Fraser Lake, British Columbia for most of her young life. She is most active in leading her troop of Holy Childhood Association members who come from three small communities in this northern British Columbia area. For the past several years, and without fanfare, Elizabeth sends along a report about the activities of her group: their meetings, their outreach, their fundraising and most importantly, their sense of joy in being together.

The vast majority of us who live in much larger communities and most likely much larger parishes miss out on sharing the faith in an intimate setting. How often do we grudgingly turn around

to acknowledge others during the offering of peace following the Our Father? How little do we know our fellow parishioners when we see them once a week, at best? The Fraser Lake community, with their tiny church as their centre, by necessity must reach out to one another for support and comfort. There is much to be learned by us from the experience of Elizabeth and her community.

Elizabeth is now finishing high school and preparing to move on to university. She is passing the leadership of the Holy Childhood group to a younger member, Kathleen Steiner, who already has been a “poster child” for our annual national campaign.

We at the Holy Childhood Association wish Elizabeth every success in her university endeavours. We are confident that the University of Northern British Columbia will be blessed by her presence. On a personal note, thanks to Elizabeth, my optimistic side is winning out over my cynicism.

In an earlier email exchange, I had asked Elizabeth to provide me and our readers with a little background into her town and her parish. Here is what she wrote back:

Hi Paul,

I have been gathering some information over the last couple of days and have attached a couple of photos. So to answer some of your questions.....



The HCA Fraser Lake Group inside St. Andrew’s Church. Elizabeth is standing at the left.

Fraser Lake is a small community of about 1500 people located in northern British Columbia. Our community is situated on the south side of Fraser Lake. Nadleh is an Aboriginal community located on the east side and Stellaquo is another Aboriginal community located on the west side of the lake. Lejac is about 7 km from the town site of Fraser Lake. Lejac was the location of a Residential School that was built around 1922. Since its closure, the school has been demolished but every year in July we gather at the site for the Rose Prince Pilgrimage. Rose Prince was a student at Lejac School who after her graduation chose to stay at the school and work. She died of tuberculosis in 1949 and was buried at the Lejac Cemetery. When the gravesite was being relocated, the exhumed coffin of Rose Prince broke open and it was discovered that her body was incorrupt. As is stated in our Parish Directory, “Sometimes God in his mercy reveals to us a glimpse of the greatness that has been in our



Elizabeth with Father Vince inside their church

and families that have supported Holy Childhood through the years come from St. Andrew’s, St. Patrick’s (Stellaquo) and St. Peter’s (Nadleh). I really must recognize the support of our parish priest, Father Vince who baptized me and has been guiding, inspiring and encouraging me and all the youth of our parishes. He also encourages all parishioners to support the youth and what we do. I have been so blessed to grow up in our wonderful parish community.

Our beautiful log church was constructed in 1979. Prior to this, the people of Fraser Lake went to St. Joseph’s which was a small church in town that had about 4-5 pews on each side and a little wood stove by the altar. When the church community outgrew it, Father MacLennan OMI spearheaded the construction of our current church building. Father MacLennan prepared every log himself at a local sawmill and then parishioners came together to build the structure. We have a small hall in the basement of the church that has been the gathering place for many parish potlucks, CWL bazaars, youth group functions and many, many other events.

Regarding myself, I will be graduating from High School in June. I have been accepted into the Bachelor of Science Program at the Uni-

versity of Northern British Columbia. Following the completion of my undergraduate degree, I am planning to continue my studies in either education or a health field. UNBC is located in Prince George, the largest city in northern BC which is 160 km from Fraser Lake.

I am very happy to say that Kathleen Steiner has offered to take on the

midst unrecognized. Such is the humble life of Rose Prince of the Carrier Nation.”

I am very happy to say that Kathleen Steiner has offered to take on the



Father Vince, Elizabeth and Kathleen (holding the national campaign poster featuring her image)

Holy Childhood planning in our parish next year. What is interesting is that she was the little girl who was featured on the national HCA poster when the youth group decided to sell plants as a fundraiser. Kathleen and her family have been amazing and enthusiastic supporters for many years! I know she will do a great job. I am so thankful I had the opportunity to be part of the Holy Childhood Association and as I continue on in my next phase of life, I plan to continue praying for, learning about and sharing with children around the world.

Wishing you many blessings!

Elizabeth

Greetings from the children of the Holy Childhood at St. Anthony’s Parish in Thunder Bay, Ontario, seen here at their very own children’s mass celebrated by Father Luigi with open arms!



Mission Conversations with the Editor



Saint Thérèse, patron saint of missions, ironically never travelled very far in her short lifetime. She died at the age of 24, after a painful period of tuberculosis that left her barely able to breathe. She spent 10 years as a Carmelite Sister in

their cloistered convent in Lisieux doing the everyday tasks of the sisters around her. It was her deep spirituality that caused her to stand out from her peers. At the root of this spiritual outlook was her belief that the sacred can be found in the ordinary. Few of us are called to do great things in our lifetimes. We don't get to be Prime Minister, Secretary-General or Pope despite us knowing we could do a far better job than those presently in power. No, our calling is to be present to those around us, somewhat like Thérèse of Lisieux.

Sister Mary Ellen Burns hasn't risen to lead her order of nuns. Her calling for the past 60 years has been in service to others. At the other end of the experience spectrum is Elizabeth Schulz. She is a quiet leader in a small, rural community far from the glare of the big city. Her place and her calling are exactly as they should be for this point in her life. Her impact, however, is great, as is the impact of Sister Mary Ellen. Take a moment and think of the Mary Ellen and the Elizabeth in your experience. Perhaps, if you are where you are meant to be, you are like them.

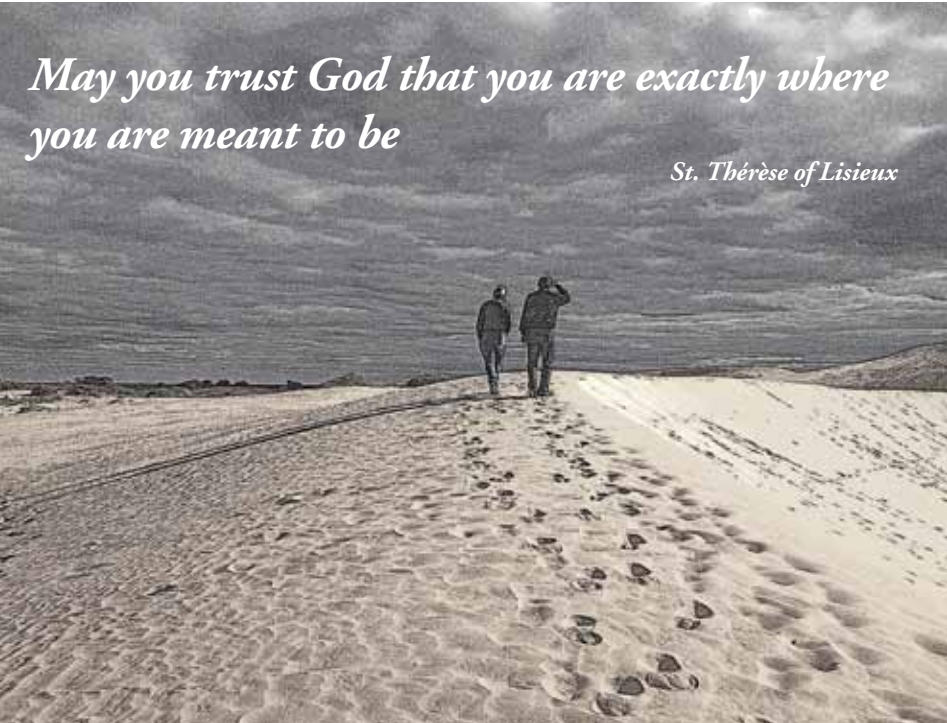
But how do we know if we are where we are meant to be? There are certain factors that might help answer this question. The first is **contentedness**. How content are you? Unfortunately, contentedness today suggests complacency to many in the fast-paced "what do you do?" world in which we live. To some, if you are happy in your life, then there must be something wrong. I would suggest the opposite. Content-edness allows one to see others without bias or filter, in particular, the bias view presented by one's ego. It encourages the willingness to reach out and relate to those around us.

The second factor in knowing if we are where we are meant to be is **purpose**. The busyness of today's life is not necessarily

one of purpose. Too often it is a life filled with noise and distraction. A recent article on our society's obsession with technology pointed to the emptiness felt by many despite the number of Facebook "friends" they might have. The need to be connected speaks to our basic human nature, but not in the manipulated manner offered by chats or twitters or likes. It is only when our interactions with others are centred on their needs that purpose is found.

One final factor is **the other**. In his seminal work, "I And Thou", Jewish philosopher Martin Buber states that, "all real living is meeting". It is in our encounters with one another that we find our place in the world. Although living a cloistered existence, St. Thérèse let her soul travel to the greater world beyond. Elizabeth Schulz hasn't been to a mission country but she strives to live the mission experience with those in her community. Sister Mary Ellen has spent 60 years in the background doing the daily work of raising others and bringing hope and happiness to those she encounters. Always, always place the other in the forefront of your thoughts and your actions will follow accordingly.

So, take another look around you. Are you where you are meant to be? I believe that for the great majority of you, you are. Perhaps you just haven't recognized it yet.



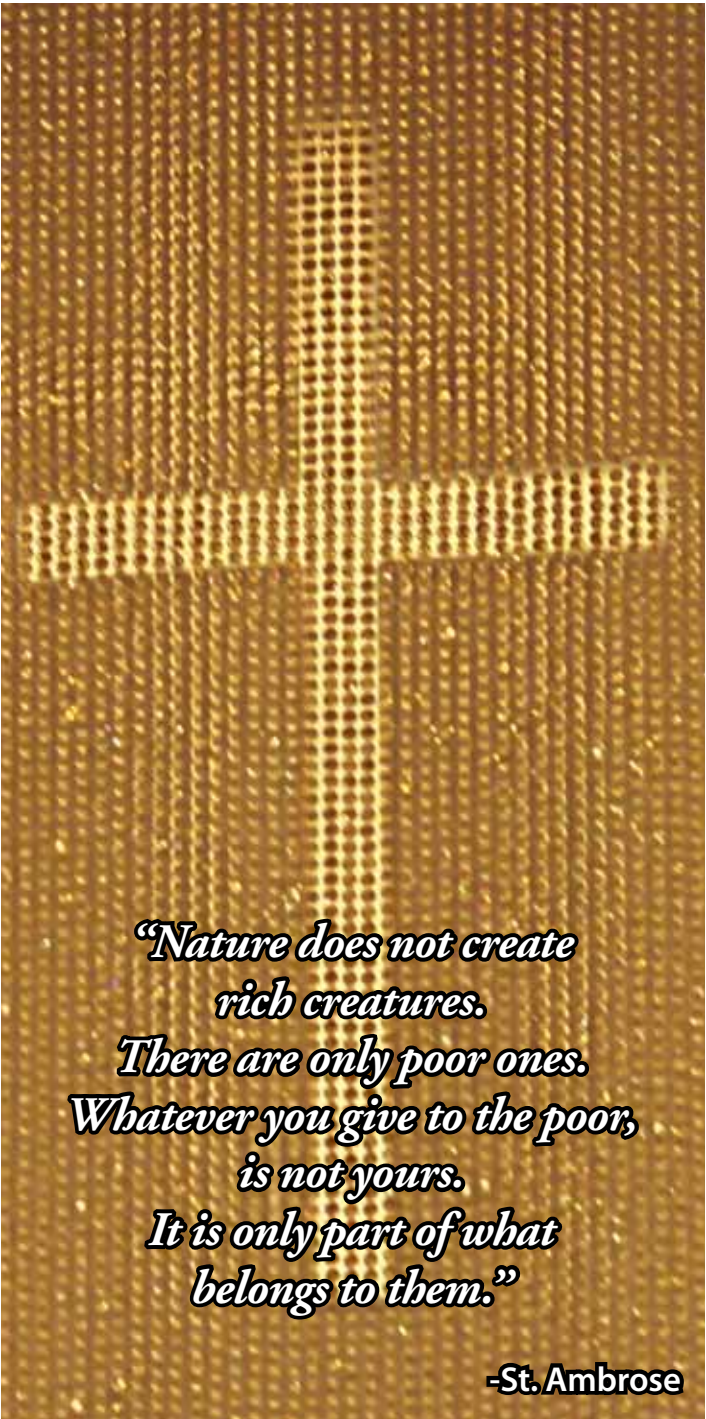
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from the dead and gave Him glory for that very reason –
so that you would have faith and hope in God.**

1 Peter 21