



MISSIONS TODAY

VOL 74, NO. 4

Fall 2016

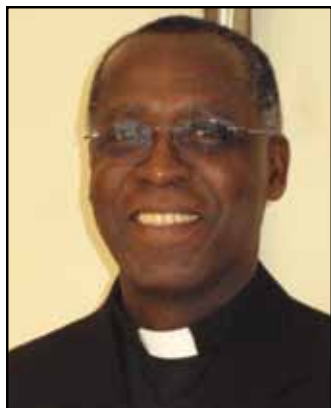


World Mission Sunday October 23rd 2016

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

National Director's Message

Mission Today Message Fall 2016



On World Mission Sunday 2016 in the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the church invites us to consider the great work of Mercy and to go out as missionary disciples generously

offering our talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in order to bring the message of God's compassion to the entire human race. Mission is not something that the Church does. It is what the Church is, for the church is missionary by her very nature (Ad Gentes). Pope Benedict (Emeritus), in his audience July 2005, pointed out that love alone enables us to live. In the words of St. John Paul II, each of us is called to be bread broken for the life of the world. Jesus, the living bread come down from heaven (Jn 6:51), calls each of us to share that gift of love with others. Many have been the saints who have shared their faith and good works to make tangible the love God has for us.

On Mission Sunday, the Church reflects its deepest identity as the church in mission. She sees herself as an extension of God's mercy. For us who believe in Jesus Christ, our mission is to be the signs of God's presence and closeness with all people in today's world. Life-changing help is provided to mission churches in territories covering more than half the globe. Offerings collected are placed in a central fund of solidarity, to be shared among missions around the world. Every year the needs of the Catholic Church in the missions grow. New dioceses are created, new

seminaries are opened, areas devastated by war or natural disaster are rebuilt, and areas long – suppressed are opened to hear the message of Christ and His Church. That is why the involvement and commitment of Catholics from around the world is urgently needed.

On pages 10-13 in this issue, we note the many projects and programs you assisted in Caribbean, Asian and African dioceses this year. Think of the pastoral work going on in your diocese or archdiocese. The mission dioceses have these needs too, but fewer resources. They may minister in some situations virtually unknown to us here: for example, lack of health care centres, School buildings and uniforms for children, large groups of women, children and men displaced by war. Through our prayers and offerings, we share in their proclamation of the Gospel and the help and hope it brings.

Love and Mercy are gifts. Give then with LOVE and a Generous Heart!

God bless you for your missionary Spirit.

Father Alex Osei, C.S.Sp
National Director

Missionary Prayer Intentions

SEPTEMBER – Mission of Evangelization

That by participating in the Sacraments and meditation on the Scriptures, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelize.

OCTOBER – World Mission Day

That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.

NOVEMBER – Collaboration of Priests and Laity

That within parishes, priests and lay people may collaborate in service to the community without giving in to the temptation of discouragement.

Remembering the Missions in your Will

Help the missionaries of the future through

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

In your Will use our legal name:

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

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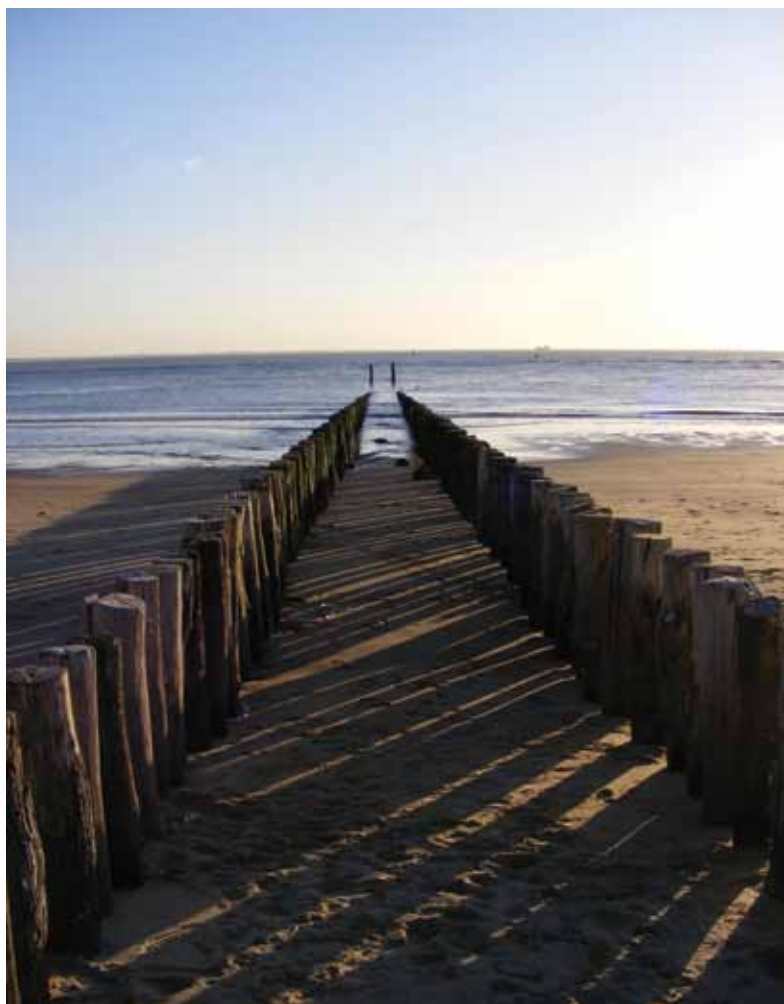


Photo: morguefile.com

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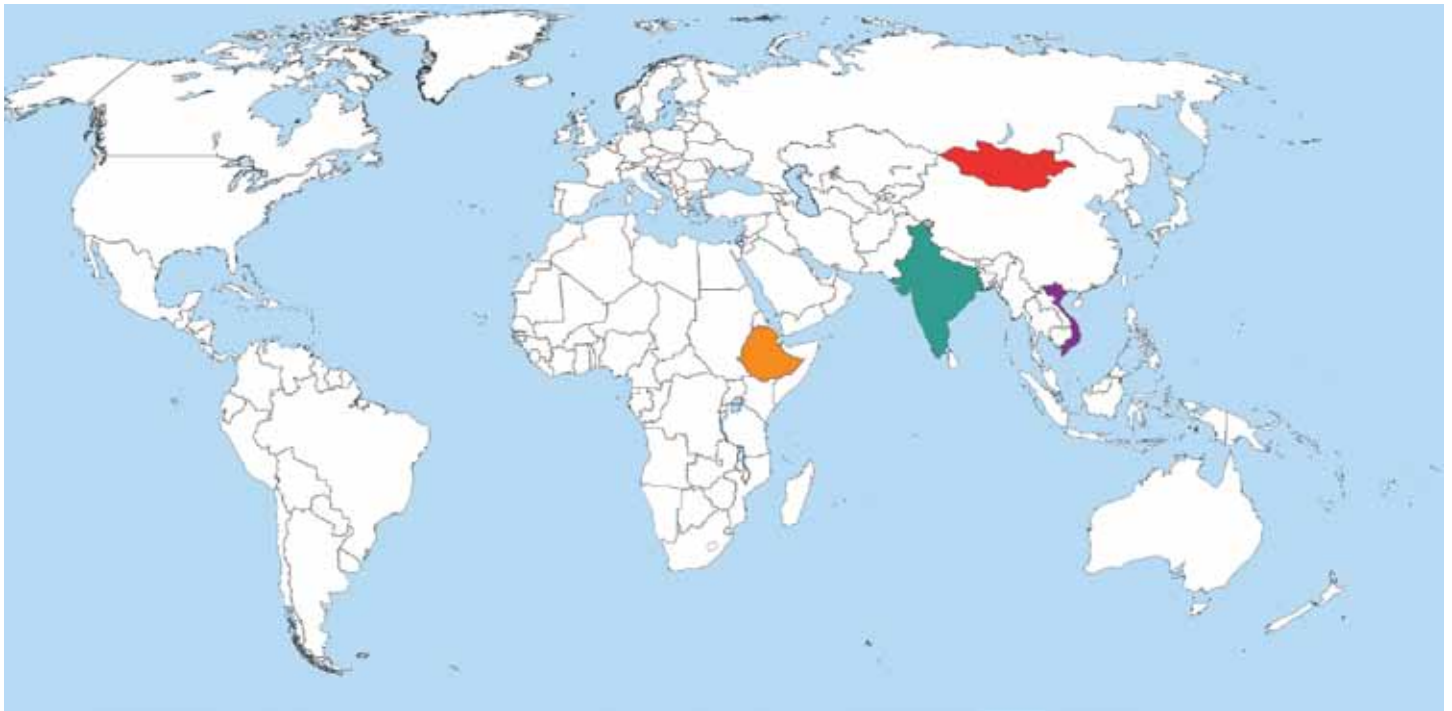
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<http://www.missionsocieties.ca>

Across the Globe



■ VIETNAM - Oblates get their first parish in Vietnam

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) have been assigned their first parish in Vietnam, marking a watershed in their development and integration in the communist state.

Bishop Vincent Nguyen Van Ban of Ban Me Thuot officially appointed Oblate Father Dominic Nguyen Van Loc as the priest in charge of Phuoc Tin parish in southern Binh Phuoc province.

The parish has an estimated 1,300 Catholics.

“This is the first time we have officially been assigned to a parish since our congregation arrived in the country 15 years ago,” stated Father Loc at his installation as parish priest May 27.

“This event shows our pastoral work and commitment are appreciated by the local Church,” he said.

Father Loc joined the congregation in 2011 after some Vietnamese-French priests secretly came to promote vocations. They have recruited 72 members working with ethnic minority groups and migrant workers in remote areas.

The OMI is one of tens of foreign orders that have tried to establish communities in Vietnam since the communist country started opening up to the outside world 30 years ago. The government has only approved a few, including the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. *An edited version, taken from ucanews.com 05/30/2016.*

■ INDIA - Christian population is growing in three Indian states

Chennai - The Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), a study center based in Chennai, has released a research document that has deepened the information data from the census of 2011. Of note, the Christian population in the Indian states of Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand has increased at a faster rate compared to the total population growth rate during the 2001-11 decade. Overall, according to the census, Christians in India number 27,800,000, of whom 2.5 million live in Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. These are, therefore, three of the regions with the greatest Christian presence in India, accounting for about 9.3% of the total state population.

The Christian presence is traditionally strong in the area of Ranchi, Jharkhand, in the neighboring district of Sundargarh (Orissa) and that of Jashpur (Chhattisgarh). Other areas with a strong Christian presence are the districts of Gajapati and Kandhamal, in Orissa, and that of Santhal Pagana, in Jharkhand.

According to the note of the CPS sent to Fides, in some sub-districts, such as in the area of Ranchi, the Christian population reaches up to 80% of the total population. As for the well-known district of Kandhamal, in Orissa, theater of anti-Christian pogroms in 2008, the study points out that Christianity here has spread since 1981, from 9.4% of the population to 20.3% in 2011. *An edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides 06/14/2016.*

HOLY LAND - A new beginning for Maison d'Abraham, a "house of the poor" in the Holy City

Jerusalem - In the infinite variety of homes and Christian foundations scattered in the neighborhoods in Jerusalem, Maison d'Abraham occupies a special place: it accommodates pilgrims and visitors most in need, of all faiths, with special attention for the poorest.

Maison d'Abraham was founded in 1964, at the request of Pope Paul VI, by Father Jean Rodhain, the well-known French priest chairman of Sacours Cathlique, the organization founded after the Second World War. The new institution is situated in a former Benedictine monastery in the neighborhood of Ras al Amud, in the Arab part of Jerusalem.

In the last year the institution was re-launched through a radical renewal of the team to which the management is entrusted. This renewal includes a new director, new chaplain and new religious sisters of the community of the Dominican sisters of Tours, who animate the house together with local employees and volunteers. The new chaplain is Jean-Claude Sauzet, a fidei donum priest of the French diocese of Saint Denis.

"La Maison d'Abraham" is a place of peace amid the tough neighborhood of Ras al-Amud...

"The House" explains Father Suizet, "lives with Ras Al-Amud: we suffer the same water shortage, the same power outages, residents know it – so it is a welcoming place rooted in the neighborhood". They are part of the Maison activities, the so-called Travel of Hope of Secours Cathlique, open to all, which encourages visits to the places of the Holy Land, and sharing time with residents of the community.

But for Cecile Roy, the new director of the Maison, the primary mission, in full fidelity to the origins of the house, is to offer to the poorest "a chance to come to Jerusalem. Since the Maison d'Abraham is a treasure entrusted especially to the poorest". *An edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides 02/20/2016.*

ETHIOPIA - Birth of a new Catholic community in Kokossa: catechumens - the poorest of the poor

Kokossa– On Sunday, June 19, on the Solemnity of Pentecost according to the liturgical calendar of the Ethiopian Church, a new Catholic Christian community was born in Kokossa, in Ethiopia. Emeritus Bishop of Padua, Mgr. Antonio Mattiazzo, missionary in Ethiopia describes the event: "After trying to get to know the condition of each person who attended prayer meetings and catechesis, we admitted those who meet the necessary requirements for the catechumenate and others for the pre-catechumenate. Catechumens and pre-catechumens were from the poorest of the poor from an economic point of view. Some did not even have the money to buy a pair of sandals and went barefoot to meetings, even with the cold and the rain. We thus initiated a form of micro-credit and... we gave shoes to those who walked barefoot. The announcement of the Gospel always goes together with charity and human promotion".

"We had a little inhabitable house - continues the Bishop - We thought of making it habitable, and in the meantime, while work is being done, we have placed a large tent, in the free space available, partly because the larger room of the cottage was insufficient to welcome catechumens and pre-catechumens".

"The solemnity of Pentecost and the celebration of the sacraments are prepared with a kind of Triduum, on Fridays and Saturdays in particular, with prayer and catechesis...The Friday and Saturday meetings were attended by many members of the pastoral council of Kofele, and Christian communities of Gode, Denda, Cacia, belonging to the parish in Kofele, who stayed in Kokossa. They themselves were able to see how a Christian community is born, making a commitment to continue to support the newly-established community and to carry out a task of evangelization. For some of them, in fact, I have given a 'missionary mandate'. If from Countries of ancient Christianity missionaries no longer come, we propose to form lay people to be missionary disciples, as hoped for and asked by Pope Francis". "The Catholic Christian community is now made up of 36 people; a small seed that needs to be strengthened with the (call) to grow, bear fruit, and expand". *An edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides 06/24/2016.*

MONGOLIA - The Church prepares for the ordination of the first native priest

Ulaan - "We will soon have the first native priest of Mongolia", says Fr. Prosper Mbumba, a Congolese missionary in Mongolia, and a member of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM). Joseph Enkh will be ordained a priest in Ulaan Baatar on 28 August 2016 by His Exc. Mgr. Wenceslao Padilla, Apostolic Prefect of Ulaan Baatar.

"This event is particularly important for our young Church, re-founded in 1992 and today has just over a thousand baptized. The ordination of a native priest will stimulate the enthusiasm and sense of belonging among the Mongols, towards a church that has long been seen as foreign", Fr. Mbumba went on to say.

Joseph Enkh was ordained a deacon on 11 December 2014 in Daejeong (in South Korea), where he received his initial formation, and returned to Mongolia in January, 2015. Since then he has been carrying out his pastoral experience, serving in various parishes of Mongolia, where currently there are, on the whole, about 20 missionaries and 50 nuns from 12 congregations, engaged in six parishes.

Fr. Prosper noted proudly that "Christians pray a lot for their future priests and parishes are promoting catechetical meetings, to offer people a better understanding of the priestly ministry. In all the churches of Mongolia a novena of prayer in view of the ordination will be held. Many faithful continue to express their expectations to the future priest in writing: they write letters to let him know that they are proud of his vocation and have trust in his presence and his work". "We thank God for this gift and for this enthusiasm". *An edited version, taken from Agenzia Fides 06/01/2016.*

Report from Philippines:

Cardinal Tagle inspires hope among capital city's slum dwellers

Written by George Moya, ucanews reporter



Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle

Photo: J. Ronn, [CC-Sa-BY-3.0],
wikimedia.org.jpg

Here is a simple yet inspiring story of a Cardinal who has taken Pope Francis's message of hope and mercy to heart. Although it dates back to the beginning of 2016, the Cardinal's efforts to reach out to his people remain significant. Despite his self-deprecation at the story's conclusion, I would suggest you keep an eye on this pastoral leader. He is clearly moving along the same path as Pope Francis.

-The Editor

How does one inspire hope among Manila's poor whose future seems to be bleak despite the economic gains being trumpeted by financial experts?

"Where else can we find God's light today?" asked Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, of Manila. The comment arose during his first Sunday Mass of the year celebrated with Manila's urban poor in the slums of Tondo district.

"As you can see, amidst their poverty, they know how to celebrate life. Here, hope is very much alive," the prelate told ucanews.com after celebrating Mass with residents of Helping Land, an urban poor hamlet.

Cardinal Tagle described the aspirations of the poor as the "proverbial light in the dark, of dreams that don't die."

"That is epiphany in action," he said.

The hamlet of Helping Land, along with Happy Land and Aroma, was once a relocation site for Manila's poor until it became a dump.

The stench of the garbage permeates the air in the densely populated neighborhood. The muddy earth smells of filth.

The nongovernmental organization Project Pearls has been trying to help uplift the liv-

ing condition of people in the area through a daily feeding program and after-school programs for children during weekends.

Monica Aclan, Project Pearls' executive administrator, said they invited Cardinal Tagle to celebrate Mass because "people here are not able to go to church that much."

"So we brought the church here," Aclan said.

The cardinal walked through the alleys of Helping Land in his black rain boots early Jan. 3. The people welcomed him with cheers as the prelate made his way to the courtyard to celebrate Mass.

"We have our own pope," shouted a mother who was clutching her baby. She approached Cardinal Tagle, who held his hand to her forehead, a Filipino way of showing respect.

Cardinal Tagle laughed and returned the gesture of respect by bringing people's hands to his forehead.

The people call the cardinal "Father" in a community where fathers seemed not interested in attending the Eucharist. The prelate's popularity seems to be not enough to attract the interest of the men of Helping Land with only three fathers attending the Mass.

"That's why when I get the chance, I encourage the fathers to attend Mass," said Cardinal Tagle.

"When they become responsible, not only in religious activities, but in the whole scheme of raising their children, it has a very positive effect on their sons and daughters," he said.

'Light of hope'



Cardinal Tagle's surprise appearance at the million people march in Manila, 2013.

Photo: Ryomaa.jpg



Photo: Photo by Eric James Sarmiento, [Cc-Sa-BY-2.0], wikimedia.org.jpg

In his homily for the Feast of the Three Kings, Cardinal Tagle likened parents to the Star of Bethlehem, “the shining light of children.” As guiding stars, parents should make sure their children tread the right path, to help them fulfill their dreams, and raise them as good Christians, the prelate said.

Cardinal Tagle pointed to a “parol,” a Filipino traditional Christmas lantern, and asked the congregation what it is.

“Star,” the children replied.

One boy shouted in Tagalog, “A star without luster” — the title of a popular Filipino song that was adapted into a movie. Everybody laughed, including Cardinal Tagle who quipped “A shining star.” He explained to the child that the “parol” symbolizes the star that guided the three kings to the birthplace of Jesus.

“It’s also the star that symbolizes hope,” he said.

Many Filipinos believe stardom is a way out of poverty, with many celebrities coming from humble beginnings. In a celebrity-crazy country, the many narratives of rags-to-riches stories have spawned millions of hopes of making it big in the entertainment industry.

When the Mass ended, Cardinal Tagle again walked through the same muddy path, but with a bunch of children in tow.

Perhaps awed by the popularity of the prelate, one of the children asked, “Are you a star?”

“I’m not a star. I’m just a priest,” Cardinal Tagle replied.

This is an edited version of the original story which appeared in ucanews.com on 01/05/2016.



Cardinal Tagle poses with children in a Manila slum on Jan. 3.

Photo: George Moya

Holy Childhood Association

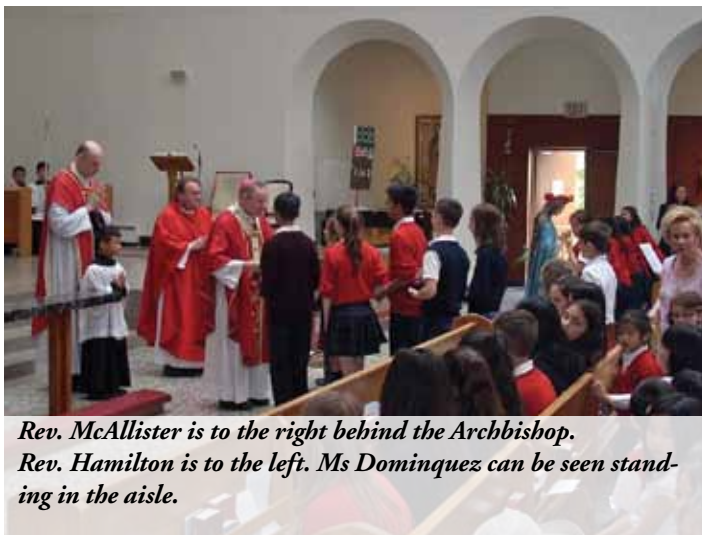
Vancouver Holy Childhood Association Schools celebrate HCA Day – May 3, 2016

This report was supposed to be in our last issue, but the magazine had already gone to press. The HCA is very well supported in the Vancouver area and we extend our heartiest thanks to the teachers and students who continue to work for mission children. Our most grateful thanks also go out to Ms Do-reen Dominquez and Sister Mary Ellen CSJ for their continued efforts in animating the schools of Vancouver. –the Editor

On May 3, 2016, 670 children representing 22 schools gathered at Corpus Christi Church in Vancouver to celebrate Holy Childhood Association Day. The mass was celebrated by Archbishop Most Rev. Michael J. Miller, CSB. The co-celebrants were Rev. Bruce McAllister, Chancellor and Mission Director of the Diocese and Rev. Bruce-John Hamilton, pastor of Corpus Christi Church. The Archbishop, a keen supporter of the HCA, enjoyed seeing so many children participating in the liturgy. The photographs are provided by Sister Mary Ellen and Ms Dominquez.



Archbishop Miller receiving the offertory gifts from the students.



Rev. McAllister is to the right behind the Archbishop. Rev. Hamilton is to the left. Ms Dominquez can be seen standing in the aisle.



"Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord"

Holy Childhood Association

The Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood in Canada

Children helping children in a most 'savory' way

Mrs. Portia Lamasan, Grade 2 teacher at St. Anthony's Elementary School in West Vancouver has gone cross-curricular in a big way, bringing compassion and mercy to her Social Studies program. As part of the unit on 'Communities' she and her very keen students studied third world countries that need help from developed countries like Canada. Mrs. Lamasan then asked the children "to come up with a project where they could make a difference in other people's lives. I encouraged them to think of something unique where their "clientele" will benefit from this sale, since Father's day was also being celebrated that weekend". After presenting a variety of options, the children voted to have an herb sale. "Each child brought 3 pots of either the same or different herb plants... We discussed how they would need to come up with a selling price point... And the rest is history! Congratulations to Mrs. Lamasan and her students! By the way, is there any sage left?



Plants you say? Have we got plants? Step right up!



Make me an offer! (As long as it's over the selling price!)



Open for business!



How Your World Collection in E Was Distribu

CCCB Pastoral Fund:

15% of World Mission Sunday donations were given to the CCCB for use by the Missionary Dioceses of the Canadian North.

Contribution: \$218,571.00 (Can)



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Contribution: \$329,520.00 (USD) – Please note that all funds are submitted to Pontifical Missions in Rome and then distributed to projects in US Dollars

Diocese of Boma:

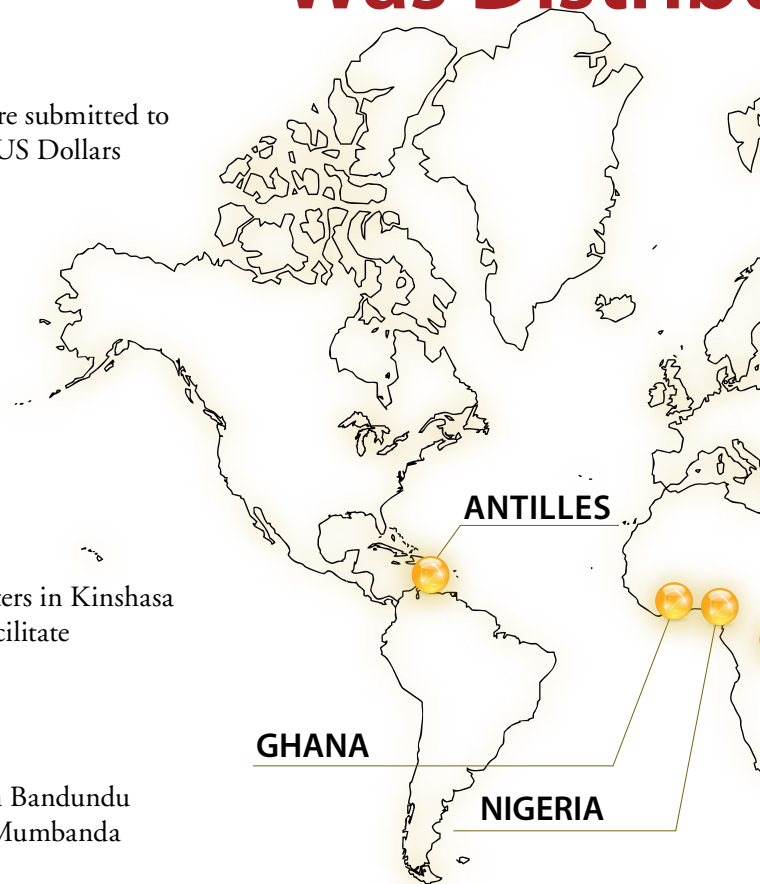
- Regular subsidy
- Subsidy for catechist training and material support
- Construction of a pastoral centre for youth in Kangu
- Completion of chapels in Shinka Camp and Kai-Vemba
- Renovation of St. Christopher Parish Church in Banana
- Construction of a house for the St. Joseph Brothers in the Parish of Good Pastor

Diocese of Inongo:

- Regular subsidy
- Purchase of equipment for the Immaculate Conception Sisters in Kinshasa
- Purchase of office equipment for the Diocesan Office to facilitate conventions for Catholic schools

Diocese of Kenge:

- Regular subsidy
- Construction of a novitiate for the Sisters of Marie Reine in Bandundu
- Completion of a chapel and home for the pastoral staff in Mumbanda



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2016



This Year World Mission Sunday will take place on October 23rd. Parishes worldwide will celebrate this unique Sunday, every Catholic across the world will have the opportunity to join in as brothers and sisters, with prayer and financial support for the poor and emerging church.

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

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

Mission Sunday English Canada outed in 2015



NIGERIA

Contribution: 4138,750 (USD)

Diocese of Makurdi:

- Regular Subsidy

Diocese of Minna:

- Regular Subsidy
- Construction of 2 presbyteries at Kudu and Dutsen Kura
- Construction of a convent for the Missionary Sisters of St. Faustina at Zuma Gauraka

Diocese of Msukka:

- Regular Subsidy
- Subsidies in support of diocesan seminar, formation of priests and establishing a diocesan printing press

Domus Missionalis Foundation (Rome) – part of the World Mission Sunday collection is given to the Vatican to subsidize the school fees of priests and nuns studying catechesis in Rome.

Contribution: \$253,014.00 (USD)

MADAGASCAR

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO

GIVE GENEROUSLY ON OCTOBER 23RD - WORLD MISSION SUNDAY.

You can contribute at Mass on October 23rd in your parish, you can donate by filling the form below and posting it to us (envelope inside this magazine), by phone or online.

Name : _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

☐ By cheque; payable to:

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

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

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www.missionsocieties.ca or call 1 800 897 88 65

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Signature

Date (mm/dd/yy)

GHANA

Contribution: \$398,940.00 (USD)

Donkkorkrom Vicariate AP:

- Regular Subsidy
- Construction of the Vicariate offices
- Formation of Pastoral Agents in the Vicariate
- Printing of formation and vocational materials for the Vicariate

Diocese of Goaso:

- Regular Subsidy
- Subsidy for catechists
- Construction of St. Peter's Church, Goaso
- Completion of a presbytery at Bechem
- Construction of a chapel at Mabang
- Roof repairs for Holy Child of Jesus convent in Mim

Diocese of Koforidua:

- Regular Subsidy
- Subsidy for catechists
- Construction of 4 churches (St. Michael's/Ayekotse-Suhhum; St. Joseph's/Asoutwene; St. Christopher/Asougyamn; St. Anthony/Asuoyaa)

Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi:

- Regular Subsidy
- Subsidy for catechists
- Construction of 2 churches (St. Peter's at Shama Junction; St. Paul's at New Nzulezo)
- Construction of a presbytery and office for Sts. Peter and Paul Rectorate in New Atuabo
- Renovation of 2 churches (St. Mary's/Kengen and St. Patrick's/Half Assini)

MADAGASCAR

Contribution: \$412,940.00 (USD)

Archdiocese of Antananarivo:

- Purchase of car and home for use of the Carmelite Fathers
- Construction of a presbytery for St. Louis Parish/Gonzague Namontana
- Expansion of St. Raphael Church/Ambohiniriana Anjeba
- First phase construction of a convent for the Sisters of St. John the Baptist at Ambohibary
- Expansion of formation house for the Sisters of Ancelle di St. Teresa at Andaingo
- Construction of St. Francis Xavier Church at Mantasoa

Archdiocese of Fianarantsoa:

- Regular Subsidy
- Subsidy for catechists
- Construction of St. Michael's Church
- Construction of 2 chapels at Alakamisy and Avomaloza
- Ground improvements for convent of the Servant Sisters of the Poor
- Construction of a presbytery at Tsarafidy
- Construction of a convent for the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary Sisters at Andrainjato

Diocese of Manajary:

- Regular Subsidy
- Subsidy for catechists
- Construction of parish church at Fasintsara
- Expansion of church and construction of a chapel at Androrangavola

ANTILLES

Contribution: \$404,053.00 (USD)

Archdiocese of Castries:

- Regular Subsidy
- Subsidy for catechists
- Refurbishing of the presbytery at Holy Cross Parish
- Renovation/Repairs to a chapel, parish centre, church and cathedral in the archdiocese

Diocese of Cayenne:

- Regular Subsidy
- Subsidy for catechists
- Renovation of the Bishop's house
- Renovation of a presbytery at Cayenne

Diocese of Mandeville:

- Regular Subsidy
- Subsidy for catechists
- Establishment of a Passionist Community at Clarendon
- Subsidies for vocation awareness, biblical animation, formation and training of young adults

Diocese of Paramaribo:

- Regular Subsidy
- Subsidy for catechists
- Construction of a church in Little Powakka
- Renovation of the vocational training centre at Asewa Otono

Diocese of St. George's (Grenada):

- Regular Subsidy
- Subsidy for catechists
- Renovation of St. Matthew's presbytery in Birch Grove

Thank you, Canada!

From Propagation of the Faith

Donations for the Year 2015 – English Canada

ARCHDIOCESE	2015	2014
Antigonish	14 126*	19 123
Calgary	119 044*	144 709
Charlottetown	20 915	13 805
Churchill-Hudson Bay	(9 586)*	10 600*
Corner Brook	8 465	6 399
Edmonton	97 300	100 000
Grand Falls	7 085	7 378
Grouard-McLennan	1 483	7 909
Halifax	5 000	20 000
Hamilton	90 000	90 000
Kamloops	19 730	17 998
Keewatin-Le Pas	2 556	3 587
Kingston	42 610	40 245
London	97 469	58 195
Mackenzie-Fort Smith	165	1 927
Military Ordinariate	3 361	2 858
Moosonee	0	340
Nelson	35 377	27 083
Ottawa	47 157	52 354
Pembroke	11 692	14 371
Peterborough	19 476	19 554
Prince Albert	8 446	18 788
Prince George	3 051	16 042*
Regina	36 139	111 761
Saint John (NB)	27 179	29 673
Saskatoon	26 777	52 490
Sault Ste Marie (English Sector)	14 173	18 334*
St Catharines	29 461	28 357
Saint John's (NL)	15 274	19 269
Thunder Bay	10 000	10 000
Toronto	415 635	461 484
Vancouver	158 260	170 359
Victoria	17 366*	17 167
Whitehorse	2 627*	2 458
Winnipeg	30 198	27 049
Ukrainian Eparchy-Edmonton	1,000	1 000
Ukrainian Eparchy-Saskatoon	0	70
Ukrainian Archeparchy-Winnipeg	1 714	245
Ukrainian Eparchy-New Westminster	605	215
Maronite Eparchy-St Peter	210	
Chaldean Eparchy -St Assai Toronto	0	2 805
Total	1, 433,540	1, 655, 843
Others (individuals)	1 780	2 810

August 31, 2016 Note: Includes an estimate to be collected ** AD for last year's estimate

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

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



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

Our website is at www.missionsocieties.ca Items of missionary interest are available there, including World Mission TV and links to related sites.

Society of Saint Peter the Apostle

We live in a secular society where faith is shunted to the side, replaced by the rush to acquire more and better things while competing for advantage and status. We scorn our institutions and look with distrust at those who profess their faith. The Society of Saint Peter is even more relevant today than it was 50 years ago. Then, it was natural to support our Church's efforts to bring the Word of God to the world in a time when we were not reluctant to wear our faith openly and proudly. Today, it requires much greater effort to gather support for the priesthood from an increasingly cynical public. This is why stories from the missions are so important. They bring us messages of hope and faith; messages of reassurance that our prayers are not in vain and that good work continues to be done in the fields and towns abroad. One such message of hope and faith is the story of one man's lifelong journey to the priesthood. With World Mission Sunday as your context, please read Reverend Father Matthias Amuzu's account and keep the faith! –the Editor

MY ROAD TO THE SEMINARY

To God be the Glory for great things he has done!

My formative years:

I am Rev. Fr. Matthias Yaw Kotoka Amuzu. My parents, of whom I have very fond memories, were Mr. George Sandzi Semenu Amuzu and Mrs. Veronica Abla Wotor Amuzu. I have seven brothers and two sisters living, including three sets of twins. Unfortunately, my other two siblings are deceased. I have the unique position of being the sixth of twelve children. A true middle child.



I was born into a staunch Catholic home and family on February 24, 1966 at Kisesmah, near Achimota in Accra, the capital of Ghana, a country on the West Africa coast. Both of my parents were devout Catholic Christians, and they firmly believed that no one was ever too little to participate in our daily routine; hence my taking an active role in our family life from very early. We prayed every morning at 4:30 a.m. and then went to the farm to weed the fields and take back some foodstuff as well as firewood to the house before we went to school. This has been the traditional practice of our family for generations.

We attended weekly masses on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays in the evenings. As devoted Catholics, Sunday masses were obligatory; there was and is still no reason to miss mass on Sundays in our home. I can recall our house being a communal place of worship. All the Catholics from the village gathered in our house every evening for prayers and once a month, a community mass was also held in our home. This helped me to become well rooted spiritually, even though I was but a young child.

“A pious community that ‘ate and drank’ prayer”

My community had one important petition and intention - that the Lord would choose from among them and their children good priests and religious brothers and sisters to work in his vineyard. I was told they prayed for this for many years, even before I was born. As a young boy, growing up in this pious community and family who were very dedicated and literally “ate and drank prayer”, I inherited their charisma. My family and the community around them were selfless, hardworking, and faithful believers - very devout Catholics. I was told by my parents that when I was about four years old I was always imitating the priest when we returned home from mass. I dramatized being a priest, offering mass at home and distributing biscuits as communion to my siblings and friends. I was told by my elder siblings that I forced my mom to buy me a cassock so I could truly replicate the role of a priest.

My now deceased dad was well known in our community. He was one of the founding members of the church and was a close friend of then parish priest, Rev. Fr. Joseph Tetteh Addy. When I was seven years old, the most amazing thing happened. I began a journey, which meant the world to me. The parish priest encouraged me to join my elder brothers who were already altar servers, and so I did. Since our church was an outstation church, we had no sacristy back then. The priest brought the altar linens, the sacramentary, ciboria and the chalices from his base to our church. On his arrival, we went to his car and brought all the items inside. I was always enthusiastic, and the first one to get into the priest's car to offload the supplies to the sacristy. At age ten, I told my parents and the pastor that I would like to become a priest in the future. I received encouragement and support from both my family and the community, through their constant prayers as the years went by.

In 1980, I gained admission to St. Martin's Secondary School in Nsawam, which is one of the best Catholic Secondary Schools in Ghana. During my five-year program in this school, I became a member of the Legion of Mary Society, the Charismatic Renewal Movement, and the Vocations Club. By my final year, I became the president of almost all of these societies, and eventually the senior school Prefect in 1987.

During this time, we had a priest chaplain called Rev. Fr. Ste-



St. Paul's Major and Regional Seminary.

Photo: stpaulscsem.com

phen Ruane Noel, an Irish priest who was a member of the Society of the Divine Word Missionaries. Through his efforts, a few of us as students got the opportunity to visit different congregations, and seminaries. We were able to ask many questions about priestly living. We also interacted with many seminarians and got a basic idea of how they managed to live their lives away from their families while in the seminaries.

This experience greatly motivated me and confirmed my call to become a priest and I immediately decided to enter the seminary. My whole family and our community were supportive of my intention, inspiration, and ambition. Even though I had the desire and the zeal, I had a big financial problem because I come from a very poor family. I had no one to sponsor me and to provide for my necessities: clothing, toiletries and other provisions, appropriate footwear and transportation to and from the seminary.

Unfortunately, in 1989 while preparing to enter the seminary my father died. My world crumbled. I was forced to make a drastic choice between entering the seminary and taking care of my mom. After I prayed about it and asked the Holy Spirit to intervene, I decided it would be best for me to stay home and care for my mom and my two younger brothers. Going to the seminary was placed on hold for the time being as there were things I needed to put in place for my family to ensure their wellbeing.

My God blessed me with a job as an ambulance driver for a year, and I was able to save some money to sustain my mom and two younger brothers. Between 1983 and 1990, my older siblings had left for greener pastures in Nigeria. Life was also very difficult for them as well. During these years, there wasn't a menial job I didn't do to ensure that things were better for my mom and my younger siblings, Francis and Victor. I can recall fetching firewood for sale, carrying concrete for builders, going to the stone quarry to crack stones, hunting for food in nearby forests, fishing in any streams, ponds or rivers, and I also sold sugarcane and copra for people.

The Beginning of My Seminary Experience

On October 1, 1990, I entered St. Paul's Major and Regional Seminary. It was breath-taking! I could sense the Holy Spirit throughout the place. My first fourteen days in the seminary were like "Heaven" to me all because of the two vibrant week-long retreats that we had. I was so happy that I didn't want the retreat to come to an end. I studied one year of spirituality and three years of philosophy. Although they were both very informative and interesting, I must say that they were also challenging. In addition, I also studied sociology, the Scriptures, and languages: Greek, Hebrew, and Latin.

I enjoyed my studies and spiritual life. However, I just couldn't hide the reality that my financial problems were very serious.

Sometimes when we were on holidays, I had no money to pay for my transportation home so I would stay back in the seminary instead of going home to my family. Other times I managed to go home but when the seminary re-opened, I had no money to return. This indeed was a huge struggle for me. Thankfully,

some of my cousins were able to help me sometimes but unfortunately something terrible later happened bringing their lives to an untimely and very sad end. On October 7, 1994, the same cousins of mine were traveling on a boat to our grandmother's funeral. Sadly, an accident took place and the boat capsized. All four of them, along with some friends living at our house, perished in this accident. A total of seventeen of the thirty-nine people that died were from my house. I then said to myself, "It is finished. My journey to the priesthood has come to an end, my cousins are all gone, and there isn't any more help for me."

"It is God who drives away the flies of the tailless animal"

However, as the adage goes, "It is God who drives away the flies of the tailless animal". With prayers and supplication, my story became known and special appeals were made, not to support me alone, but to support all those who were in a similar situa-

"It is God who drives away the flies of the tailless animal"

tion in the seminary. On June 14, 1993, I successfully completed by studies at St. Paul's Major and Regional Seminary and moved on to St. Peter's Regional Seminary where I did further studies in theology.

On July 14, 1996, I was ordained a deacon. To the glory of God, and through the support of St. Peter the Apostle Society, which is in charge of the formation of priests and religious life, many of my colleagues and I were able to receive sponsorship to complete our training. We were provided our chalices and ciboria on the day of our priestly ordination. On July 19, 1997, I was ordained to the sacerdotal priesthood for the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra. My home parish is St. Thomas More in Achimota, Accra.

My first parish priestly appointment was on 1 September 1997 at St. Theresa's as the assistant. Then on October 5, 1998, I was transferred to St. Kizito Parish, in Accra as the assistant priest. In December 2000, we lost our pastor and I became the parochial administrator. I was the Pastor of St. Peter Claver from 2002-2006 and Pastor for St. Maurice from 2007-2012.

Closing

Please allow me to use this medium to express my undying gratitude to all the persons who supported me on my journey to the priesthood. I am very happy with my vocation. Now I know firsthand, that when God calls you to serve in his vineyard, He will surely provide for you. As St. Paul said, "My God shall supply for you according to his riches in glory" (Ephesians 4:19). God has done it for many others and me. He will do it for you as well.

I also wish to thank all of you who have embraced the opportunity to read this brief article, my journey to the priesthood.

I hope it will help to motivate parents who wish a spiritually fulfilling life for their children as well as our brothers and sisters who are being called to live a priestly and religious life. Do not be afraid to accept God's call. As the scripture says, "Before you were conceived in your mother's womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:4-10).

Thirdly, I must express my thanks for having been blessed with Godly parents who gave me the opportunity to have an encounter with my God at such an early age. To the Catholic community members of Kissema, I am very grateful to you for your continued prayer and support and for your petition and intention that the Lord will continue to choose your children as good priests and religious brothers and sisters to work in His vineyard.

Finally, to the St. Peter the Apostle Society members who are in charge of the formation of priests and religious faith, I say thanks to each of you for your contribution towards my formation and that of my fellow seminarians. To the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra, I offer thanks for the opportunity given me to serve as a priest.

Rev. Fr. Amuzu arrived in Toronto, Canada in August 2012. His primary focus was to complete his degree in pastoral theology at the University of Toronto, St. Michael's College, which he accomplished in November, 2015. He is presently in residence at St. Mary's Parish in downtown Toronto. Besides working in parish ministry at St. Mary's, Father Amuzu celebrates the sacraments in various downtown hospitals. Recently, he officially was appointed chaplain to all downtown hospitals by his eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins, archdiocese of Toronto.

Answering the Call...

The Priesthood continues to grow in Ghana. Witness these scenes of the ordination ceremony held in August, 2015 in the Archdiocese of Ghana as 5 new members joined the priesthood. The chief celebrant at this ceremony was Most Reverend Charles Palmer-Buckle, Metropolitan Archbishop of Accra. Photos courtesy of the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra, accracatholic.org



Iraqi Refugee Children Make First Communion in Erbil Camp



Clipart courtesy Hermano León

This is an edited version of the original story filed by reporter Elise Harris for CNA/EWTN News on May 28, 2016.

Erbil, Iraq - On Friday (May 27), the first of three rounds of displaced Iraqi children made their First Communion in a refugee camp in Erbil, providing a silver lining to an otherwise bleak situation.

Out of the 5,500 people living in Erbil's Aishty 2 camp for the displaced, the majority – more than 2,000 – are children. Of these, 470 will make their First Communion in the coming weeks.

The number of children receiving the sacrament is up from last year's class, which numbered about 400.

Refugee children in Erbil receive their First Communion May 27, 2016. Photo courtesy of Deacon Roni Momica.

Since this year's number of recipients is so high, the children have been divided into three groups. The first of these groups, which numbers around 175, made their First Communion on May 27.

On June 3, a second group of about 145 will receive the Eucharist, while the third and final group of about 150 will receive the sacrament, June 10.

All of the children are from the Syriac-Catholic rite, and most fled with their families the city of Qaraqosh, the former Christian capitol of Iraqi Kurdistan, when ISIS militants attacked the night of Aug. 6, 2014.

The May 27 Mass for the first group was celebrated by Syriac-Catholic Archbishop of Mosul Yohanno Petros Moshe in the

camp's large, prefabricated church.

With a capacity for roughly 800 people, the church started out as a tent when the Christian refugees first poured into Erbil two years ago, asking for a place to pray. Now it serves as the main parish for the city's Aishty camp, which is the largest in Erbil and is divided into three smaller camps: Aishty 1, 2 and 3.

After moving the official See of their Church from Mosul to Qaraqosh several years ago due to both security concerns and the fact that most of the faithful resided in the city, Syriac-Catholics have now been left without any official diocese or headquarters whatsoever.

Although they face an uncertain future in the country, they have been welcomed in Erbil by their fellow Christians of the local Chaldean Church. Together they work daily to keep up the spirits of their faithful.

For nearly 500 children to receive their First Communion in the camp is a sign of hope in a place where the flame of Christianity is flickering, growing dangerously closer to burning out.

Another sign of hope for Iraq's Christians was the March ordination of four deacons in the same prefabricated parish. They are now working with refugees around the clock, and will likely be ordained priests in a few months' time.

Three of the deacons, alongside the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena – who largely make up the backbone of Erbil's extensive displaced Christian community – have been in charge of teaching the children's catechesis in scripture and liturgy.

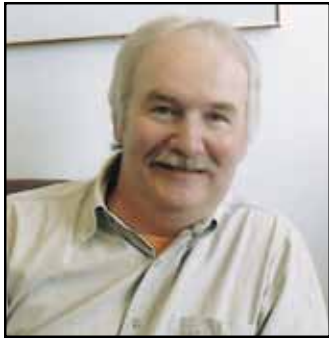


Refugee children in Erbil receive their First Communion May 27, 2016.

Photo courtesy of Deacon Roni Momica.

Mission Conversations with the Editor

“...a good Christian must be a leader of great change.”



I remember when I was very young playing in our small backyard (which of course seemed huge to a six year old). When I tired of my toys, I would lie in the grass and let the local ants crawl up onto my arm. I watched them, fascinated, as they struggled to get through the fine hairs on my

arm. After observing their struggles for a short while, I would intercede and put them on top of a grass stem. They seemed puzzled, perhaps disoriented for a moment, but always they soon recovered their bearings and moved on.

It was equally fascinating watching the ants race along the top of a fence, or across the sidewalk. I figured they were really happy and finding a path with little resistance. An ant expressway that moved much better than the ones we travelled in the family car. Sometimes two ants would meet head on, briefly pausing in their journey to check out the news. Antennae would be waving back and forth sending important messages of food, danger, best routes home etc. Or maybe they were just saying, “Hello” to each other, commenting on how hot it was and whether or not there was a better way.

I’m sure they knew where they were going and that there was purpose behind all their activity. Frantic activity would be a good way to describe it. Purposeful, frantic activity. Then I would

wonder, “When do ants sleep?”

Over the years, I have kept my fascination with ants and the little lives they lead. I learned that they are social beings who live in colonies of like-minded creatures with a common purpose. While they may explore in a solitary manner, they always end up back with the group.

We could certainly learn a thing or two from ants. Like the little ones, we engage in a lifestyle of frantic activity, but at times, I question whether or not there is purpose to all of our rushing about. There is a constant din that fills our minds as we go about our ‘daily lives. We replace meaning and purpose with busyness and bustle. We are uncomfortable with silence and pause.

Unlike ants, we fear social contact with those we encounter in the streets and malls of life. If you have ever sat on a bus or subway and caught someone else’s eye, you know what I mean. Do you ever get uncomfortable and raise your antennae at the sight of a homeless person up ahead? In one of his parables, Our Lord advised us to consider the lilies of the field. Today, he might consider adding the ants in the field next to the lilies for our discernment.

Oh, by the way, I also discovered that ants do sleep! Over the course of a day, ants will nap for a minute or so up to 250 times.

That adds up to four to five hours of sleep. I hope it’s enough.

Paul Coady
Editor



Missions Today is always interested in hearing from you. If you have any comments on the articles we have used; the new structure of the magazine; or anything you would like to see us explore in future issues, please get in touch with us!

Contact the Editor via email at: editor@missionsocieties.ca

Or write us at: Editor - Missions Today Magazine
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Don’t forget to visit our web-site.

www.missionsocieties.ca offers: access to feature stories from our magazine, Missions Today, child activities and news from Holy Childhood, and direct links to World Mission TV (RomanCatholicTelevision) where you can find stories of mission work from across the globe in documentary formats complete with teacher/student guides and activities. Our site also makes it easy to donate in a safe and secure way. Visit us today!

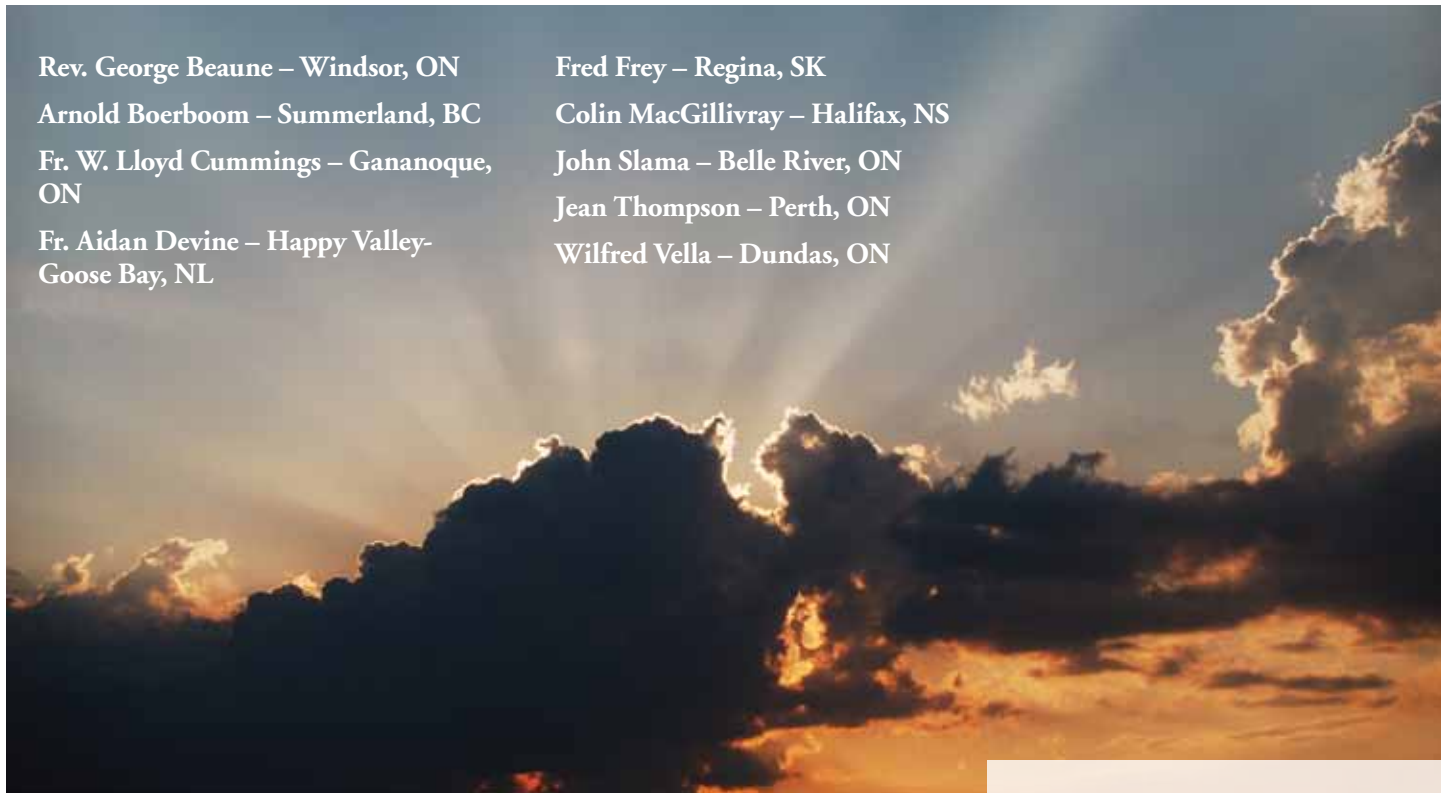
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Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased members of the Pontifical Mission Societies:

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JUBILEE OF MERCY



A PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE OF MERCY
by Pope Francis

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.

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"Today I was in heaven, in spirit, and I saw its unconceivable beauties and the happiness that awaits us after death. I saw how all creatures give ceaseless praise and glory to God. I saw how great is happiness in God, which spreads to all creatures, making them happy; and then all the glory and praise which springs from this happiness returns to its source; and they enter into the depths of God, contemplating the inner life of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, whom they will never comprehend or fathom. This source of happiness is unchanging in its essence, but it is always new, gushing forth happiness for all creatures."

St. Faustina

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**"You shall thresh until vintage time and gather
grapes until sowing time. You shall eat your fill of
bread and live secure in your land"**

Leviticus 26:5