

A group of young people, including a woman in the foreground and two men behind her, are looking at a tablet computer outdoors. The background shows trees and foliage.

# MISSIONS TODAY

VOL 79, NO. 4

Fall 2021

**We cannot but  
speak about what  
we have seen  
and heard**  
(Acts 4: 20)

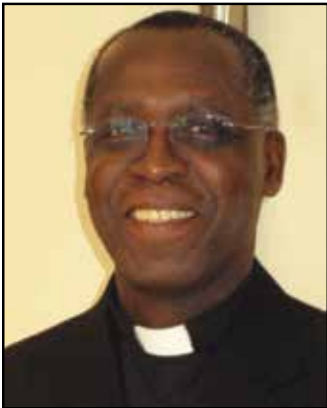
**World Mission Sunday October 24, 2021**

*The Society for the Propagation of the Faith*



# National Director's Message

Mission Today Fall Issue 2021



## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: OCTOBER 24, 2021

“We cannot but speak about what we seen and heard” (Act 4: 20)

EVERY YEAR, SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENS on the next-to-last Sunday of October. World Mission Sunday brings all Catholics of the world into one community of faith. At Mass that Sunday, we recommit ourselves to our common vocation, through baptism, to be missionaries, through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the society for the Propagation of the Faith.

This year Pope Francis addresses his World Mission Sunday message to us as we live out our baptismal call to proclaim what we have heard and seen. The mission is closely linked to the love of Christ which springs from gratitude. The Covid-19 Pandemic has made many people fragile, marginalized, and vulnerable. But the presence and compassion of Christ bring to our fragile world consolation and hope. Pope Francis calls us in his World Mission Day message to be ‘missionaries of hope’ in a world that is so much in need of kindness, hospitality, mercy, and community. The mission is to carry out every action of our life with the spirit of the Eucharist. It is to live a life of gratitude to God. This is the mission that all Christians have received, and God gives us the grace to live it out wherever we may be. As we pray and respond

on World Mission Sunday here in Canada, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish, school, seminary, and convent all over the world. Together with the Church of Christ on missions in the world, we cannot but speak out what we have seen and heard, providing the prayerful and financial support necessary to bring the Lord’s mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the world.

United as we are to each and everyone of goodwill, the mission calls us to be signs of Faith, Hope, and Love. May the love for the church’s mission which is a passion for Jesus Christ and a passion for us all grow stronger every day. The missionary month of October and World Mission Sunday prescribes “prayer” and “sharing”, two vaccines to the baptized people for a successful mission.

In a world where so much divides us, we can rejoice on this World Mission Sunday in our unity as missionaries by our Baptism. In addition, it provides an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,200 young dioceses.

**Fr. Alex Osei, C.S.Sp.**  
**National Director of the PMS**  
**English-speaking Canada**

## The Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intentions:

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

### SEPTEMBER: An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

### OCTOBER: Missionary Disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

### NOVEMBER: People Who Suffer from Depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

### DECEMBER: Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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*Novices of the Sisters of Jesus the Redeemer, highlighted in the St. Peter the Apostle report, pray in their chapel.*



## 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: Design Chris Marcucci,  
Photo - gettyimages.com

Back Cover Photo: taken by editor Deacon Dominic Pullano

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

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

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# Across the Globe

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



## ■ ASIA - Churches committed to protecting the right to drinking water and its link with human dignity

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69891>

Chiang Mai (Agenzia Fides) - The Christian Churches in Asia, together with other religious organizations and civil society movements, play an important role in raising awareness of the global water crisis. As stated in the webinar “Decreased Access to Safe Water in Asia: Challenges to Human Security” recently organized by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), an interfaith network based in Thailand, Christian faithful in Asia, of all denominations, are aware of the need to defend the right to water for all. The panel of experts underlined the need for “genuine reform and democratic governance on the issue of water conservation and pollution”, said Mathews George Chunakara, Secretary General of the CCA.

In Asia, water-related problems have become increasingly acute with worrying implications. The threats of climate change, rampant urbanisation, and unplanned development have placed great stress upon the regions water resources. In recent times, water scarcity has triggered reduced food production, supply chain blockages, loss of land and livelihoods, large-scale migrations, and even exacerbated economic and geopolitical tensions.

Chunakara said: “Water is the essence of life and safe water is indispensable to sustain life and health. The right to water cannot be

interpreted in an abstract perspective but must be grounded in the framework of human security. Human security fundamentally is freedom from fear and freedom from want; and its interrelatedness with right to water is significant and obvious”.

“The right of access to water, which entails sufficient, safe, accessible, affordable water for personal and domestic use, is a matter of increasing concern in the Asia region today”, he added.

The CCA has been educating, encouraging, and empowering its constituencies to work for the wellbeing and prosperity of all God’s creation in this world and to be engaged in a prophetic mission, loudly and boldly advocating for right to water. The CCA hopes that the deliberations of the webinar on World Water Day will continue to inform the prophetic witness of Asian churches in the ongoing struggle for equality and justice.

The panellists collectively proposed suggestions for actions of churches on the issue of equitable water access. This included speaking about decreased access to water from the pulpit, developing specific “Sunday School modules and curriculum on water and the care of creation”, releasing publications on biblical-theological perspectives on the importance of water conservation. Given that churches had large grassroots networks, such networks could be leveraged to spread information on the importance of water and its links to human dignity. (SD-PA) (Agenzia Fides, 7/4/2021)



that they can be hung with a frame made by us from local wood”. “The faithful in these villages had spent a lifetime waiting for a church, the only thing they wanted. They didn’t care about the condition of their huts or whether the water was more or less far away or if they had to walk miles and miles to their orchards. They wanted their church”, he concludes. (CHS/AP) (Agenzia Fides, 28/7/2021)

## ■ AMERICA/COLOMBIA - The Bishops join the cry of “so many brothers and sisters who ask for peace, respect for life and human rights”

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/70603-AMERICA\\_COLOMBIA\\_The\\_Bishops\\_join\\_the\\_cry\\_of\\_so\\_many\\_brothers\\_and\\_sisters\\_who\\_ask\\_for\\_peace\\_respect\\_for\\_life\\_and\\_human\\_rights](http://www.fides.org/en/news/70603-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_The_Bishops_join_the_cry_of_so_many_brothers_and_sisters_who_ask_for_peace_respect_for_life_and_human_rights)

Bogotá (Agenzia Fides) - “The Catholic Bishops of Colombia support this cry for peace, life and respect for the human dignity of so many of our brothers and sisters”, declared the Episcopal Conference of Colombia, expressing its support and solidarity with the bishop of Buenaventura, Monsignor Rubén Darío Jaramillo Montoya, who this week lived the “Day of Life”, through religious, cultural and reflection events, the culmination of which ended on July 30 with a march to repudiate violence.

Through this initiative, the Diocese of Buenaventura wanted to join the cry of its inhabitants to once again ask for peace and reconciliation for this region plagued by violence and inequalities. “We cannot remain silent”, said Monsignor Jaramillo Montoya, in a video message, explaining that this day was called because during the first 20 days of July, there were 24 murders, as well as extortion, theft, disappearances and kidnappings that continue.

From July 26 to 30, various initiatives took place, including the lighting of a candle in homes, which represents the light of Christ, in order to invoke it for families and the city; an inter-religious day through social networks; 1,000 trees were planted as a sign of hope and life; a visit was made to seven vulnerable areas where violence is most prevalent: residents wore white clothes, while white balloons were displayed in their homes and offices, as a sign of peace; there were reflections and cultural and playful moments on the situation of violence faced by the population. Even the Bishops of the Pacific and South-Western Colombia, in a statement, said they would join the cry of the people of Buenaventura who invoke peace and respect for life. “The time is not for indifference”, write the Bishops, “the time has come to raise your voice and demand respect for the dignity of human life”. We encourage our communities to accompany in prayer the days of peace called in the diocesan sister church of Buenaventura”. The Bishops urge those who, through violence, take the lives of so many innocent people to exchange “arms and hatred for tools which forge a healthy coexistence and respect for all citizens”. Likewise, they call on local, regional and national authorities to seek means of ensuring the safety of the population and urge them to provide the education and employment opportunities necessary for the communities to realize their life plans. (SL) (Agenzia Fides, 31/7/2021)

## ■ AFRICA/SOUTH SUDAN - ‘Father, we want a brick church’: the millennial dreams of a believing and suffering people have come true

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/70579-AFRICA\\_SOUTH\\_SUDAN\\_Father\\_we\\_want\\_a\\_brick\\_church\\_the\\_millennial\\_dreams\\_of\\_a\\_believing\\_and\\_suffering\\_people\\_have\\_come\\_true](http://www.fides.org/en/news/70579-AFRICA_SOUTH_SUDAN_Father_we_want_a_brick_church_the_millennial_dreams_of_a_believing_and_suffering_people_have_come_true)

Naandi (Agenzia Fides) - “When I arrived in South Sudan, the Naandi mission in which I am located, near the border of South Sudan with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, had only a single brick church, totally in ruins and vandalized by the Islamic hordes. All the others were made exclusively of grass and tree branches”, writes Father Christopher Hartley Sartorius to Agenzia Fides. “The first thing people asked me was: “Father we want a brick church, without a church we are like animals”, a parishioner told me. From that moment on, the various communities have committed themselves to making bricks with their own hands, as well as donating the land on which to build the new house of Jesus. Brick by brick, the millennial dreams of a believing and suffering people have come true”, said the missionary who arrived in Naandi in 2019 (see Fides, 12/6/2019). The two churches of Andari and Baragu in the Naandi mission, which are almost completed, are huge and can accommodate nearly 700 faithful. According to Father Christopher, these buildings are at the center of the lives of these people, they represent an oath, they testify to the loyalty of the Church to her city. “Christ is there, the Church is there, the bishop and his pastor are there, and they do not leave, no matter what. I cannot explain in words the emotion of people when they entered the church for the first time”. Despite the fact that the rainy season has started in the country and it rains on the faithful almost every Sunday, everyone present still wants to celebrate in the new church. “There are still many details missing to complete the work, the windows have not yet arrived from Kampala, the pews in the church do not exist and we have to make them ourselves. In addition, we print the sacred images in Spain on a strong material so



# MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

(25 July 2021)

## “I am with you always”

*Dear Grandfathers and Grandmothers,*

Dear Elderly Friends,

“I am with you always” (Mt 28:20): this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. They are the words that he repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends. “I am with you always” are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!

I am well aware that this Message comes to you at a difficult time: the pandemic swept down on us like an unexpected and furious storm; it has been a time of trial for everyone, but especially for us elderly persons. Many of us fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved ones, while others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods.

The Lord is aware of all that we have been through in this time. He is close to those who felt isolated and alone, feelings that became more acute during the pandemic. Tradition has it that Saint Joachim, the grandfather of Jesus, felt estranged from those around him because he had no children; his life, like that of his wife Anne, was considered useless. So the Lord sent an angel to console him. While he mused sadly outside the city gates, a messenger from the Lord appeared to him and said, “Joachim, Joachim! The Lord has heard your insistent prayer”. [1] Giotto, in one of his celebrated frescoes, [2] seems to set the scene at night, one of those many sleepless nights, filled with memories, worries and longings to which many of us have come to be accustomed.

Even at the darkest moments, as in these months of pandemic,



the Lord continues to send angels to console our loneliness and to remind us: “I am with you always”. He says this to you, and he says it to me. That is the meaning of this Day, which I wanted to celebrate for the first time in this particular year, as a long period of isolation ends and social life slowly resumes. May every grandfather, every grandmother, every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an angel!

At times those angels will have the face of our grandchildren, at others, the face of family members, lifelong friends or those we have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs and visits are for each of us. How sad it makes me that in some places these are still not possible!

The Lord, however, also sends us messengers through his words, which are always at hand. Let us try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms, to read the prophets! We will be comforted by the Lord’s faithfulness. The Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today. For at every hour of the day (cf. Mt 20:1-16) and in every season of life, he continues to send labourers into his vineyard. I was called to become the Bishop of Rome when I had reached, so to speak, retirement age and thought I would not be doing anything new. The Lord is always – always – close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us. You know that the Lord is eternal; he never, ever goes into retirement.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (28:19-20). These words are also addressed to us today. They help us better understand that our vocation is to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

At this crucial moment in history, you have a renewed vocation.

You may wonder: How this can be possible? My energy is running out and I don’t think I can do much. How can I begin to act differently when habit is so much a part of my life? How can I devote myself to those who are poor when I am already so concerned about my family? How can I broaden my vision when I can’t even leave the residence where I live? Isn’t my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? How many of you are asking just that question: isn’t my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? Jesus himself heard a similar question from Nicodemus, who asked, “How can a man be born when he is old?” (Jn 3:4). It can happen, the Lord replies, if we open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. The Holy Spirit whose freedom is such that goes wherever, and does whatever, he wills.

As I have often observed, we will not emerge from the present crisis as we were before, but either better or worse. And “God willing... this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing... If only we might keep in mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators... If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might discover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human frailty can experience a rebirth” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 35). No one is saved alone. We are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters.

Given this, I want to tell you that you are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow: the world in which we, together with our children and grandchildren, will live once the storm has subsided. All of us must “take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies” (ibid., 77). Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than anyone else, can help to set up. Those three pillars are dreams, memory and prayer. The Lord’s closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.

The prophet Joel once promised: “Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men will have visions” (3:1). The future of the world depends on this covenant between young and old. Who, if not the young, can take the dreams of the elderly and make them come true? Yet for this to happen, it is necessary that we continue to dream. Our dreams of justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions; in this way, together, we can build the future. You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship. I am sure that you have had more than one such experience: in your life you have faced any number of troubles and yet were able to pull through. Use those experiences to learn how to pull through now.

Dreams are thus intertwined with memory. I think of the painful memory of war, and its importance for helping the young to learn the value of peace. Those among you who experienced the suffering of war must pass on this message. Keeping memory alive is a true mission for every elderly person: keeping memory alive



and sharing it with others. Edith Bruck, who survived the horror of the Shoah, has said that “even illuminating a single conscience is worth the effort and pain of keeping alive the memory of what has been.” She went on to say: “For me, memory is life.” [3] I also think of my own grandparents, and those among you who had to emigrate and know how hard it is to leave everything behind, as so many people continue to do today, in hope of a future. Some of those people may even now be at our side, caring for us. These kinds of memory can help to build a more humane and welcoming world. Without memory, however, we will never be able to build; without a foundation, we can never build a house. Never. And the foundation of life is memory.

Finally, prayer. As my predecessor, *Pope Benedict*, himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, *once said*: “the prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others.” [4] He spoke those words in 2012, towards the end of his pontificate. There is something beautiful here. Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 262). Especially in these difficult times for our human family, as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of the pandemic, your intercession for the world and for the Church has great value: it inspires in everyone the serene trust that we will soon come to shore.

Dear grandmother, dear grandfather, dear elderly friends, in concluding this Message to you, I would also like to mention the example of Blessed (and soon Saint) Charles de Foucauld. He lived as a hermit in Algeria and there testified to “his desire to feel himself a brother to all” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 287). The story of his life shows how it is possible, even in the solitude of one’s own desert, to intercede for the poor of the whole world and to become, in truth, a universal brother or sister.

I ask the Lord that, also through his example, all of us may open our hearts in sensitivity to the sufferings of the poor and intercede for their needs. May each of us learn to repeat to all, and especially to the young, the words of consolation we have heard spoken to us today: “I am with you always”! Keep moving forward! May the Lord grant you his blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 31 May 2021, Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

FRANCIS



# Pauline Jaricot:

## Founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith

### A Saint for our Times

*{As we approach World Mission Sunday, we continue to reflect on Marie Jaricot, who founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. As was reported in the fall issue of Mission Today, 2020, Pope Francis declared that a miracle attributed to the intercession of Pauline was genuine and thus her cause for sainthood is well under way. The 200th anniversary of the society she founded will be celebrated in 2022 and hopefully, part of those celebrations will include her being declared venerable. Two of our readers discuss below, what makes Pauline a saint for our times.}*

Pauline Jaricot, who founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in France approximately 200 years ago, continues to be an inspiring role model for women. She modelled resilience and perseverance despite several major personal and community setbacks. She also used her social status and religious connections to launch, sustain and extend practical initiatives to create work and provide much-needed income for women in her community. She also provided spiritual comfort and education by sharing her devotion to Jesus and Mary, as well as establishing a home with other women who devoted their lives to prayer. Most importantly, she created the Society for the Propagation of the Faith as well as the Living Rosary, both based on continually expanding networks of the faithful, which highlight the abiding necessity for charity and prayer to care for and sustain one another. These prayer-based movements that extend and deepen the Catholic faith continue to provide much-needed spiritual and societal support in many parts of the world.

Pauline's health was often fragile, and she mourned the untimely deaths of several close family members, including her mother, who died when Pauline was a teenager and very ill herself. Fortunately, she was given compassionate medical and spiritual assistance, which helped her to overcome her illnesses and the depression that sometimes accompanied them. For example, her physical and mental health improved in her adolescent years after she was encouraged by her parish priest to turn to her Catholic

faith and prayer to uplift her spirits and find serenity and the will to continue. As a result of her family's example and her experience, she also understood the power of connection and peace of mind gained through prayers and shared rituals.

Except for periods of enforced rest when she was not well, Pauline was a very busy woman throughout her life. She set goals for herself and worked hard to accomplish them. She balanced her devotion to prayer with providing practical assistance to the poor in her neighbourhood and city. For instance, she diverted poor women from supplementing their meagre incomes with prostitution by creating jobs for them making artificial flowers. Pauline was clearly

an intelligent, compassionate woman who strove to give meaning to her life by helping others, especially women who were less advantaged than she was.

Pauline Jaricot is uplifting because she clearly understood her responsibilities and actively did her best to help others as she was helped at different points in her life. She came from a relatively affluent family. She had access to spiritual guidance as well as medical advice that, in tandem, helped her when her health declined. Also, her father could afford to send her to a good school where she learned the skills that gave her the confidence to achieve her goals. In other words, she tried, by her example to demonstrate that "to whom much has been given, much will be required" (Luke 12:48). She benefitted from the kindness and affluence

of her family and community, so she endeavored throughout her life to 'pay it forward,' fulfilling her childhood goal to carry out the work of a missionary.

*{This reflection on Pauline Jaricot was submitted by Maria Fornasier. If this name sounds familiar, it is because she also submitted an article in the last issue about her mother's experience during the pandemic. Maria has agreed to become a regular contributor to the magazine.}*



# From “Why not?” to being truly inspired...

## How Pauline Marie Jaricot opened my eyes on my faith journey.

In March 2021, I was approached by our Lay Pastoral Associate to join a small team that was being put together to translate a document on the biography of the Venerable Pauline Jaricot. At the time, I had spent the last few months of my new retirement life mostly at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and so I thought, “Why not?” as it would be something to keep me busy!

Since I had never heard of Pauline Jaricot, I started reading the document before getting on to the translation in order to have a general sense of her life. Right from the start, I was amazed by what Pauline Jaricot dared to think and do in her missionary work, given the era (1799-1862) in which she lived. Her novel vision of the missionary work was of a universal one aimed at assisting all the various missions across the world and I was delighted to read that her works even reached the missions in Mauritius – the tiny island nation where I was born and where my grandparents and following generations including mine were baptized. Providing financial assistance was only one aspect of Pauline's mission. Pauline deeply believed that the Eucharist is the holiest sacrament of God's love for us, and that prayers were very important. She initiated the “living Rosary” and soon thereafter, there was a renewed and fervent interest in praying the Rosary across the country. From the Cardinal to the working class, Pauline motivated people from all walks of life to be actively engaged in the Church's mission.

A few months after finishing the translation, I was listening to the homily of the daily mass from St. Michael's Cathedral and was totally absorbed by the priest's words, especially when he recounted the holy places he visited in France years ago as a seminarian, and when at the end of his trip he visited the Missions Etrangères de Paris, wherefrom Bishop François de Laval was sent out as a missionary to Canada about 360 years ago... Imagine that! There and then, I fully understood how after all these years, the seminarians from Canada visiting France constitute the full cycle! Truly, if not for the translation work of the biography on Pauline Jaricot, I would not have been aware of the missionary work of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. I am thankful that God has graced me with this collaborative effort to reveal himself to me. It was certainly a wonderful “God-incidence” that the Lay Pastoral Associate, through prayer, was given my name so that I could spend a few steps of my journey to God alongside Pauline Jaricot, who will definitely stay with me as a companion.

All in all, it was a God-given privilege to have been able to contribute to the Mission and I'm certain that the other members in the

translation team feel the same. The gifts stemming from giving back manifest themselves over time and are perceptible when we stay rooted in God and make time to stay connected to the Vine (John 15:5). Praise the Lord for the opportunity given to us!

*{Sylvie Wong was part of a team from Paroisse de la Sainte-Famille, Mississauga. This team translated from French to English the reflections based on the life of Pauline Jaricot for the month of October 2021. This resource can be found on the PMS Canada website under World Mission Sunday resources. She was so inspired by the life of Pauline Jaricot that she was asked to discuss her reaction to Pauline.}*

### World Mission Sunday Prayer

Dear God,

*You have blessed us with your truth. You have guided our lives along the right way. You shower our lives with love.*

*May we who have received so much from you never cease to proclaim what we have seen and heard.*

*May we always be missionary disciples, who proclaim your truth through lives well lived.*

*May you continue to support our efforts to bring the Gospel of your Son to the world.*

*May we always tell of your many blessings to those who have yet to experience your love.*

*On this World Mission Sunday, may your whole Church recognize their call to support the work of the missions.*

*May all your faithful recognize its responsibility to provide for those communities who have only recently come to the faith.*

*May the voices of your people always reach your altar in heaven as they pray for the missions.*

*May we always proclaim what we have seen and heard that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.*



# The Universal Solidarity Fund: How Your Donations are Distributed.



## THE CHARITY OF THE BAPTIZED ALL OVER THE WORLD FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

The Universal Solidarity Fund has its roots in the behavior of the first Christian community mentioned in the book of the Acts of the Apostles: “The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. In fact there was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need” (Acts 4: 32.34-35).

The first Christians had given birth to specific forms of commitment both for the poor and for the mission; the community in Jerusalem had endowed itself with both a charitable structure, which hinged first on the twelve apostles and later on the deacons, and a solidarity fund, the result of free offers and free contributions from the sale of property.

These collections, initiated by St. Paul and carried out with a charitable purpose, had at the same time a pastoral objective: the unity of faith and love among Christians.

It is the same concern that drives Pauline Jaricot to bring her friends together to devote themselves to prayer and fundraising for the missions.

## SUBSIDIES ARRIVE WHERE NEEDED

The Pontifical Societies for the Propagation of the Faith, Holy Childhood, St. Peter the Apostle set up a solidarity fund, capable of supporting universal assistance programs. The Universal Solidarity Fund is «a sign of the unity of faith, love and justice that unites all the faithful and all the particular Churches in the world in communion of the universal Church» (cf. PMS Statute, Art. 67).

Every baptized person carries within himself the responsibility of the catholicity of the Church and therefore of collaboration in universal evangelization.

The PMS ensure a fair and responsible distribution of the offerings donated each year by the People of God throughout the world to the Pope’s Universal Solidarity Fund.

Through the distribution of subsidies, the PMS are attentive to the situations of each particular church and show that they have their needs at heart.

In this way the PMS are able to support an annual aid program in favor of all the mission Churches, in view of their progressive autonomy and to enable them to respond, in turn, to the needs of the sister Churches most in need.

“... The Church continues to advance thanks to the widow’s mite and the contributions of innumerable people healed and consoled by Jesus, who for this reason, overflowing with gratitude, donate whatever they have”. (Pope Francis, in the Message to the PMS, May 21, 2020).



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# A View from the Pew...



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

What happens to the story that doesn't get told? What happens to the truth that doesn't have ears to hear it? What happens to faith, hope and love if it doesn't get shared? The answer is 'nothing'. As the old adage states, 'Nothing will come of nothing.' If we want something, we need to be agents to make it happen.

It has been almost two years since our world was turned upside down. The Covid-19 pandemic caused our world, as we

knew it, to come to a grounding halt. What was once an active, thriving and evolving world, has become a place of worry, sadness, brokenness, exclusion, solitude, and poverty. It has become a world divided, where injustices are more prevalent than ever before. To quote the singer Burt Bacharach, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of...". It is time that we, as missionary disciples of Jesus, continue with more fervour than ever before to spread God's love. We, who believe, are charged to bring the good news to those who may not know the hope of the risen Lord, or who may have fallen prey to the arduous journey that this pandemic has created. Motivated by our baptismal call to spread the good news, it is incumbent upon us to be living examples of God's love. 'We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard'. (Acts 4:20)

These are the words of Peter and John to the rulers, elders and scribes who forbade them to speak or teach in Jesus' name. Having witnessed the love of God first hand, they were compelled to the mission of evangelization. So, too, are we.

This year on World Mission Day, the 3rd Sunday in October, we focus on the fact that 'we cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard'. As Pope Francis says, 'Universal openness to love has a dimension that is not geographical but existential. Always, but especially in these times of pandemic, it is important to grow in our daily ability to widen our circle, to reach out to others who, albeit physically close to us, are not immediately part of our 'circle of interests. To be on mission is to be willing to think as Christ does, to believe with him that those around us are also my brothers and sisters.'

What have we 'seen and heard' and how do we 'speak about it'? Well, we begin by reminding ourselves that we are loved unconditionally by God, who is LOVE. We are one in Jesus Christ, and

we do not exist alone. Therefore, when one hurts we all hurt, but we all have the potential to share our love and heal each other's hurt. Regardless of the consequences, we must reach out to our brothers and sisters and actively share the message of love, in word and in deed, much like the apostles did in the past. As Pope Francis states, "The Book of Acts teaches us to endure hardship by clinging firmly to Christ, in order to grow in the conviction that God is able to act in any circumstance, even amid apparent setbacks and in the certainty that all those who entrust themselves to God will bear good fruit." (Evangelii Gaudium 279) We need to help turn our hardships into opportunities and do all that we can for the glory of God. How do we do this? We elevate our brothers and sisters by bringing them out of their difficult predicaments. We console those who are grieving the loss of a loved one due to Covid; we visit with those who are feeling disconnected because they were isolated during the provincial stay-at-home orders; we bring comfort to those who are suffering anxiety and fear in the face of this pandemic; we show compassion to those who may be displaying anger or withdrawal because of the uncertainty of this deadly virus; we bring food and financial aid to those who are struggling to make ends meet; we inspire hope in those who may have lost it, and we create joy in every situation.

Consequently, by being active disciples of Jesus, helping others to know and be in relationship with God, and doing good for others, we are telling the story, sharing the truth, and ensuring that everyone experiences faith, hope and love, because 'we cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard.' (Acts 4:20)

## Let's make our Missions a Priority!

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

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

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

**Pontifical Mission Societies**  
416-699-7077 | 800-897-8865 | [missions@missionsocieties.ca](mailto:missions@missionsocieties.ca)

## Badjao Ministry, Philippines: Please continue to walk with us!

*It's been well over a year since the COVID-19 pandemic brought the whole world to a pause. But some communities already faced disadvantages before the pandemic, and have been hit harder by it.*

*The Presentation Sisters work with the Badjao community. They have sent us this update of the challenges the community is facing, and how, with help from Missio, UK, they are continuing to bring hope and help.*

During the height of the pandemic, there is very little we can do, except giving food packs to assist families and communities who are badly affected by COVID-19. This is because of the many travel restrictions imposed by the government to lessen the spread of the virus.

In the later part of the year 2020, some borders were re-opened to the public, to allow people to go out and start rebuilding the economy. But for the Badjao people, rebuilding is a very slow process, because their means of livelihood are very much affected.

### Badjao People Have Lost Their Income...Twice Over

The Badjao are traditionally fisherfolk. But because their access to fishing grounds has been limited, many Badjao had to shift to vending pearls - in different resorts and in different places. The problem is that resorts have re-opened but vendors are not yet allowed to go in. So the families who relied mostly on vending pearls cannot earn enough to feed their families.

To try and help them through the crisis, we distributed 180 packs of rice, coffee, powdered milk, and instant noodles back in October. Grants from Missio have helped us with this distribution.

### Covid-19 Is Spreading Fear

Another effect of COVID-19 in the community is fear: Fear of being infected and fear of dying. The fear itself has resulted in deaths because people are afraid to bring sick people to the hospi-



Philippines Sisters-distribution

and Learning Centre Team are working to halt the spread of fear. The centre is holding health training sessions on COVID-19 awareness, prevention and referrals.

Community leaders, both youth and adults can join, and in turn they then pass the information on to the families and wider community. Education on the COVID-19 vaccination programme is also included.

### The Pandemic Will Not Stop Us

In the meantime, alongside these new programmes, our education programme continues. With help from Missio, we are still providing education to the Badjao children from preschool onwards. We're providing stability throughout the crisis, and continuing to strengthen those vital messages to the children that they are loved and cherished by us and by God.

Our next step is to bring back the feeding programme. This pandemic is not stopping us from doing good, especially for the children. With faith in our hearts, we keep on moving forward. Thank you for continuing to walk with us in our journey.

### Walk With Us

Please join us to pray for our Badjao sisters and brothers - and all those in need of the compassion and hope of Christ around the world.

With faith and love we can meet the needs of our sisters and brothers around the world - throughout the pandemic and beyond. Will you help us with a donation to the Pontifical Mission Societies on World Mission Sunday?

*{This blog first appeared on the website of our sister organization in Great Britain, Missio, on July 2, 2021. It is used with permission and can be accessed at the address below.}*

<https://missio.org.uk/badjao-ministry-philippines-please-continue-to-walk-with-us/>



At the education centre, community leaders get training to pass on to the community.



# Society of Saint Peter the Apostle

## Report:

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



*The novitiate class of 2021, Sisters of the Redeemer, Nigeria.*

PMS Canada also received a letter of appreciation for supporting the novices of the Sisters of Jesus the Redeemer in Nigeria. Who are these religious women? Below is some information about this religious order.

## Our Apostolate

### The Congregation of Sisters of Jesus the Redeemer:

Was founded on the 15th January, 1863 when, our Foundress, Victorine Le Dieu, obtained a special audience of Pope Pius IX who approved the foundation of the Congregation.

We have the Charism of Reparation and Reconciliation that is atoning for the sins of humanity and reconciling man with God through the Eucharist celebrated and adored and the service of brothers and sisters broken by sin, violence, poverty, marginalisation, etc.

The Foundress, Victorine Le Dieu, a French woman was born in France on 22 May, 1809 into a noble family. A first and only

female in a family of three children, she had a serene and joyful childhood surrounded with love. From her earliest childhood, there was within her an attraction of absolute withdrawal and strong desire to give herself totally to God. On the day of her First Holy Communion she prayed “Lord, may I belong to You forever. I will either be Your spouse or die”. She said: The Eucharist was the focal point of her life because it is the sacrament of the love of God that restores harmony to all that is disorganised, wounded and broken by sin.

On 15th January 1863 Victorine met with Pope Pius IX who, while approving the mission of Reparatory Adoration, asked her to include the work of mercy in the world. This request of the Holy Father brought about our works of charity towards the poor and the needy. The works include provision of education to the less privileged children, food to the hungry, setting the prisoners free, establishment of retreat/prayer houses and other innumerable works of charity.

Victorine had it rough; her life was full of suffering due to obstacles that made it difficult for her to realize her vocation until

towards the end of her life. Initially it was her parents who strongly objected to her becoming a religious and then the betrayal and injustices from various people who strongly opposed the actualisation of the mission approved by the Pope. She was stripped of everything she had but she maintained an unshakable faith in God. Just before she breathed her last on 26 October 1884, she entrusted to her successor the mission she had started with the following words: “Daughters, I have finished, you begin. I entrust the children to you, love them, take care of them. I recommend peace, humility, simplicity and sincerity”.

### Special Contributions to the Church in Nigeria

The Congregation has contributed immensely to the Church in Nigeria. In the community in Abuja, the Sisters carry on the reparatory adoration which is the primary mission of the Congregation. For their apostolate, the Sisters reach out to the remote villages of Abuja mainly: Ketti, Gbao and Takalafia where government presence is lacking. On arrival in these villages with no water, roads, electricity, schools, etc we met children in very bad health situation. In the villages where schools existed, attendance was very poor due to ignorance and lack of interest in education. The Sisters’ awareness programmes have brought a lot of changes in every aspect of their life. The Sisters have provided the villages with boreholes, opened nursery schools in Ketti and Gbao while

in Takalafia a primary school has to be added as the nearest one is three kilometres away from the village. The Sisters also bring medical doctors and drugs to assist the sick. The interaction of the children with the Sisters and the visitors who often accompany them has enhanced their communication in English language and has also improved the social life of the people.

Their spiritual life is not left out. The Sisters organize moral instructions to improve their knowledge of God. Now the priests, seminarians, Church societies who usually visit these villages are now able to communicate better with them.

In addition to these, we, in collaboration with our lay associate members, have established a Foster Home for Children in difficulty to cater for children of female prison inmates, insane mothers, orphans, etc.

It is after adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament that we go out to meet Christ present in the suffering and the poor. For us there is no difference between Jesus in the Eucharist and Jesus in the poor, dirty or disabled brothers and sisters on the streets.

*(This article was taken from the Nigeria Women Religious Conference at <https://www.ncwr.org.ng/sjr.html> and used with permission.)*



*PMS Canada received a letter of appreciation from the Provincial Superior, Fr. Benjamin Abah, CSSp., of the Spiritan Fathers in northwest Nigeria. Fr. Abah was grateful for our contribution towards the training of Spiritan novices in Nigeria. Pictured are the twenty-one novices who will be supported on their road to the priesthood by your donations.*



# RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL CRISIS: CATHOLIC REACTIONS

**Expression of Commitment Archdiocese of Vancouver**  
June 2, 2021

Dear First Nations governments and all Indigenous communities, families and citizens,

In light of the heartbreaking disclosure of the remains of 215 children at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, I am writing to express my deep apology and profound condolences to the families and communities that have been devastated by this horrific news. Each time new evidence of a tragedy is revealed, or another victim comes forward, countless wounds are reopened, and I know that you experience renewed suffering.

I take this opportunity to reflect upon the apology I gave publicly before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2013, words to which I remain committed and accountable: “I wish to apologize sincerely and profoundly to the survivors and their families, as well as to all those subsequently affected, for the anguish caused by the deplorable conduct of those Catholics who perpetrated mistreatment of any kind in these residential schools.” The Church was unquestionably wrong in implementing a government colonialist policy which resulted in devastation for children, families and communities.

If words of apology for such unspeakable deeds are to bring life and healing, they must be accompanied by tangible actions that foster the full disclosure of the truth. Truth comes before reconciliation. On behalf of the people of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, I commit to the following first steps in support of the Nations, families and communities impacted by the recent heartrending disclosure:



*Residential School Crisis - shoe displays on Parliament Hill in Ottawa*  
Photo: Alexandra Pullano

1. We will be fully transparent with our archives and records regarding all residential schools, and strongly urge all other Catholic and government organizations to do the same. Our records regarding the Kamloops Indian Residential School (Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc) were provided to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and will remain available for review.
2. We will offer and support mental health support and counselling for family members and others whose loved ones may be buried on the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.
3. We will offer to assist with technological and professional support to help the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and other affected Nations in whatever way they choose to honour, retrieve and remember their deceased children.
4. We commit to supporting the same process and resources to all Nations in whose territories Catholic-run residential schools were forcibly located, and which fall within the historical boundaries of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.
5. We will renew our efforts to listen to Indigenous Peoples to hear from you how we can best walk with you along the path of justice.

We recognize that there is so much work remaining to be done, yet we hope that, if we persevere in these commitments with humility, we can restore the trust among us that will bring healing.

Sincerely yours,

*J. Michael Miller, CSB Archbishop of Vancouver*  
{Statement used with permission from the Archdiocese of Vancouver}

## Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice

### Advocating for Justice and Right Relationships

The recent discoveries at the former Kamloops (BC), Marieval (SK), and Brandon (MB) Indian Residential Schools highlight the need for ongoing education and advocacy in favour of justice and right relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

At the Jesuit Forum, we believe we have a moral obligation and sacred duty to address ongoing legacies of injustice. We therefore commit ourselves—and call on all our supporters—to listen carefully to Indigenous voices, build respectful relationships of solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and the living land, and work in allyship to dismantle colonialism in Canada.

At the same time, the successful passage of Bill C-15 to begin the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada highlights that advocacy can indeed bring about change.

### Advocacy within the Catholic Church

As Catholics, we know that many religious orders and dioceses have issued apologies for the role the church played in the Indian Residential School system; yet, to date, there has been no clear, unambiguous apology from the Church as a whole. One of the key recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is for the Pope—as spiritual leader of the Catholic church—to issue an apology to survivors, their families, and communities for the Roman Catholic Church’s role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools.” As well, many Indigenous leaders have called for the Pope to clearly renounce the Doctrine of Discovery which has served as a legal justification for invading and occupying Indigenous lands.

The church also needs to disclose all outstanding records and information about the running of residential schools and fund a national, Indigenous-led, Catholic reconciliation plan which includes addressing intergenerational trauma, supporting survivors, reclaiming Indigenous cultures and languages, educating to decolonize minds and hearts, and supporting other programs essential to the healing process.

To support these and other initiatives, we invite you to sign the online petition to the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops available at: <http://tiny.cc/cccb-petition>

### Broader Advocacy

Most recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls have yet to be implemented. For more ideas on advocacy, see the KAIROS Winds of Change campaign at: <http://tiny.cc/kairos-woc>

**Some Organizations to Support •** Indian Residential School Survivors Society • Legacy of Hope • Orange Shirt Society • Canadian Roots Exchange

{Article Taken from Open Spaces, June 2021, vol.13, no.4. Used with permission}



The “Our Father” in the indigenous language of Micmac as displayed in the museum and art gallery in St. John’s, Newfoundland called the Rooms.



*Residential School Crisis - shoe displays on Parliament Hill in Ottawa*  
Photo: Alexandra Pullano



# The Editor's Point of View



The theme for World Mission Sunday 2021 is “We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20) This scripture quotation is said by Peter before the high council in Jerusalem. While going to the Temple one day, Peter and John heal a crippled beggar. This miracle causes such a stir among the people that the Jewish authorities are worried about the possibility of a public disturbance. They have Peter and John arrested and the next morning, the authorities warn Peter and John not to speak of the miracle and not to speak in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Peter and John refuse to comply with this order, uttering the words that are the theme for WMS this year. The authorities are concerned about the reaction of the people if they punish Peter and John any further and so they release them. Peter and John return to their community where they give praise to God for His protection.

Peter and John were among Jesus's first disciples. Soon after Jesus was baptized, which marked the beginning of his earthly ministry, Jesus began calling men and women to follow him and Jesus called them disciples. A modern term for this group, that might help us understand the role of the disciples better, would be apprentice. The disciples were apprentices. From the very beginning, Jesus realized that his mission here on earth was not something he was to do alone. Jesus recognized that he would need to create a team or a community

that would support him in his mission. Jesus, therefore, began calling disciples, like Peter and John, to train them so that they could become co-workers with Jesus in the vineyard. In the Gospel of Mark, there is even a passage where Jesus sends his disciples out two-by-two for the first time to get some practical experience. (Mark 6:7-13) Like Jesus, the disciples preached repentance for the Kingdom of God was near and they healed many sick people. From the very beginning, the disciples could not but speak about what they had seen and heard Jesus do. The disciples of Jesus give witness to two fundamental tenets of our faith. The first followers of Jesus remind us that the primary reason for the existence of the church is to continue the work of Jesus here on earth. The church exists primarily to proclaim the Gospel as Jesus did and to make people well in mind, body, and spirit. The disciples also remind us that ministry is a team game, a group activity. No one is called to be a lone wolf. But we are all called to work with others within a community structure.

Not only were Peter and John unable to be silent about what they had witnessed. All Catholics are called to proclaim what they have seen and heard as well. One of the primary reasons the Catholic Church exists at all is to proclaim the name of Jesus. We the church, the people of God, have been chosen to continue the work of Jesus. We have

all been called to share our experience of God's love and mercy. It is for this reason that we are all called to be missionary disciples. We too need to be apprentices and learn from the master. All baptized Catholics are to be trained in the mission of Jesus and to go out two-by-two into the mission field and proclaim God's love.



*Messages by children on the fence of the Government Building in St. John's Newfoundland, for children of residential schools.*

Now, many hearing this message about being missionary disciples and proclaiming the Gospel may raise the reasonable objection that they are not public speakers. They cannot preach before large crowds of people and may not know enough about the faith. Proclaiming the gospel, however, has very little to do with philosophical speeches but very much to do with simple acts of kindness. As the adage that is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi says, “Preach always. And when necessary use words.” The most effective way that the Gospel is proclaimed to the world is not with words but with love. We are to speak about what we have seen and heard by giving as a gift to others what we have received as a gift from God. We are to give to others the same mercy and forgiveness that God has given to us. We are to show the same kindness and patience that God has shown us. We are to be as non-judgmental and understanding to others as God has been with us. We are to love sacrificially as God sacrificed His Son for us. Proclaiming the Gospel is about the quality of our lives.

When Jesus sends his disciples out to proclaim the Gospel, he tells them not to bring anything with them such as two tunics or a money belt. Those things that Jesus told his disciples not to bring were all symbols of prestige, authority, and wealth. We too are to go out without any symbols of importance. In our times, we might say, we do not need to go out with any fancy university degrees, or impressive job titles, or large stock portfolios. All any of us need to bring with us is ourselves. All that we need to bring with us is the gift of our humanity. Humanity was created in the image of God and when we bring the best of ourselves to the world, we bring God to the world. All we need to bring is our smile and a hug. All we need to bring is our humour and a listening ear. All we need to bring is our sense of peace and serenity that only comes through prayer. All we need to bring with us in order to speak about what we have seen and heard is ourselves, and of course, our God who goes with us.

Perhaps the best example of actions speaking louder than words that we have in more recent times is Mother Teresa. Now known as St. Teresa of Kolkata, she was able to inspire the whole world

with the love she showed to the homeless and hungry poor of her adopted city in India. St. Teresa saw an injustice of a vast number of destitute people being ignored and she accepted the call to do something about it. She proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus by feeding the poor and taking care of their physical needs, regardless of the religion to which they might have belonged. These simple but heroic actions caught the attention of others until she became a global sensation. Millions around the world were inspired by her. Tens of thousands returned to or joined the Catholic Church because of her example. Thousands of women joined St. Teresa in her work. In imitation of Jesus and his disciples, Mother Teresa formed a new religious order to work together to proclaim the Gospel of love by taking care of the poor.

While St. Teresa may be an example of preaching the Gospel effectively, recently in the Canadian Catholic Church, we have heard about an atrocity committed to our Indigenous people in the residential schools that demonstrate what missionary work is not. At present, thousands of children in unmarked graves have been found on the site of residential schools that have long been closed. While I do not feel terribly qualified to speak on such a significant issue, however, we must all realize that the presence of these graves is a stain on the Catholic Church in Canada of immense proportion. Not only was the treatment of these children in the past who were not returned to their families atrocious, the lukewarm response of the Catholic Church in the present similarly does not measure up to the standards of the Gospel. The simple point that I would like to make, however, is that missionary activity can easily go array.

In a tweet of Bishop Scott McCaig, CC, Ordinary of the Canadian Armed Forces on June 16 – which I read in an article in the Catholic Register, July 18-25 – “The church should not have participated in government policy of residential schools. It contradicted our teaching on inculturation and supporting what is good, true and beautiful in culture. It opposed subsidiarity and centrality of family. May we never sacrifice Gospel principles again.” While we should always preach what we have seen and heard with a loving heart, the residential school crisis demonstrates that sometimes we evangelize from mixed motives and from less than pure intentions. Sometimes, all we really want is for others to look and act like us, which is far from the Gospel of love. In the present, let us commit ourselves to learning more about this issue and the elimination of the continuing presence of colonialism in Canada. Let us commit ourselves to listening to indigenous voices and implementing the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Let us commit ourselves to bringing awareness of this issue to our parishes and examining ways that we can act in solidarity, and love, with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. At this moment of Canadian history, this is the way that we can speak about what we have seen and heard in our own country.

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

Contact the Editor via email at: [editor@missionsocieties.ca](mailto:editor@missionsocieties.ca)

Or write us at: Editor - Missions Today Magazine

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## Don't forget to visit our web-site.

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



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*View of the coastline of Conception Bay, Newfoundland.*