

MISSIONS TODAY

VOL 80, NO. 4

Fall 2022



World
Mission
Sunday
2022

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
a Pontifical Mission Society

“YOU SHALL BE MY
WITNESSES”

(ACTS 1:8)

844,000
CATECHISTS
TEACHING
THE FAITH

258,540
RELIGIOUS
SISTERS CARING
FOR CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

38,140
SEMINARIANS
PREPARING
FOR THE
PRIESTHOOD

26M
CHILDREN
IN PRIMARY
SCHOOLS

Blessed Pauline Jaricot,
who 200 years ago founded
the first of the four Pontifical
Mission Societies, the Society for
the Propagation of the Faith

11,480
CLINICS
CARING FOR
THE SICK
AND DYING

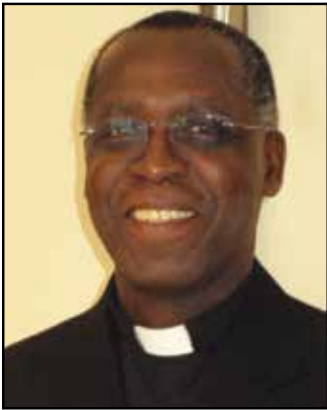
8,750
HOMES FOR
ORPHANED
CHILDREN AND
THE ELDERLY

World Mission Sunday **October 23, 2022**

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

National Director's Message

Missions Today Fall Issue 2022



THE CELEBRATION OF WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

“Every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ, and the Church, the community of Christ’s disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ. To evangelize is the very identity of the Church.”

World Mission Sunday is an opportunity for us to honor our life as Catholics through the special call we received at baptism to be missionaries in bearing Christ’s message of salvation to all people. Pope Francis in his World Mission Sunday message for 2022, called for renewed efforts to spread the Gospel. The Holy Father wrote; “Dear brothers and sisters, I continue to dream of a completely missionary church and a new era of missionary activity among Christian communities.” He emphasised that every member of the Church has a shared responsibility to witness to Christ.

You shall be my witnesses (Acts 1:8)

Jesus instructed His disciples to witness to people of all nations about him. This verse describes a series of ever widening circles. The Good News was to spread geographically, from Jerusalem, into Judea and Samaria, and finally to the ends of the earth. God’s Good News has not reached its destination if someone in

your family, your school, your Church, your community has not heard the good news about Jesus Christ. Make sure you are contributing to the ever-widening circle of God’s loving message.

How do we direct our zeal when there is no possibility for us to go physically to witness by our lives to the Gospel? This is where the Society for the Propagation of the Faith comes in. We ask you - all the baptized – to pray for missionaries and to offer your sufferings for this intention in union with Jesus our Redeemer.

The disciples are urged to live their personal lives in a missionary key: they are sent by Jesus to the world not only to carry out, but also and above all to live the mission entrusted to them; not only to bear witness, but also and above all to be witnesses of Christ.”

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: Abolition of the Death Penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

OCTOBER: A Church Open to Everyone

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

NOVEMBER: Children Who Suffer

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

DECEMBER: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

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Praying during the Papal Visit to Canada 2022

<https://slmedia.org/popeincanada-photos>



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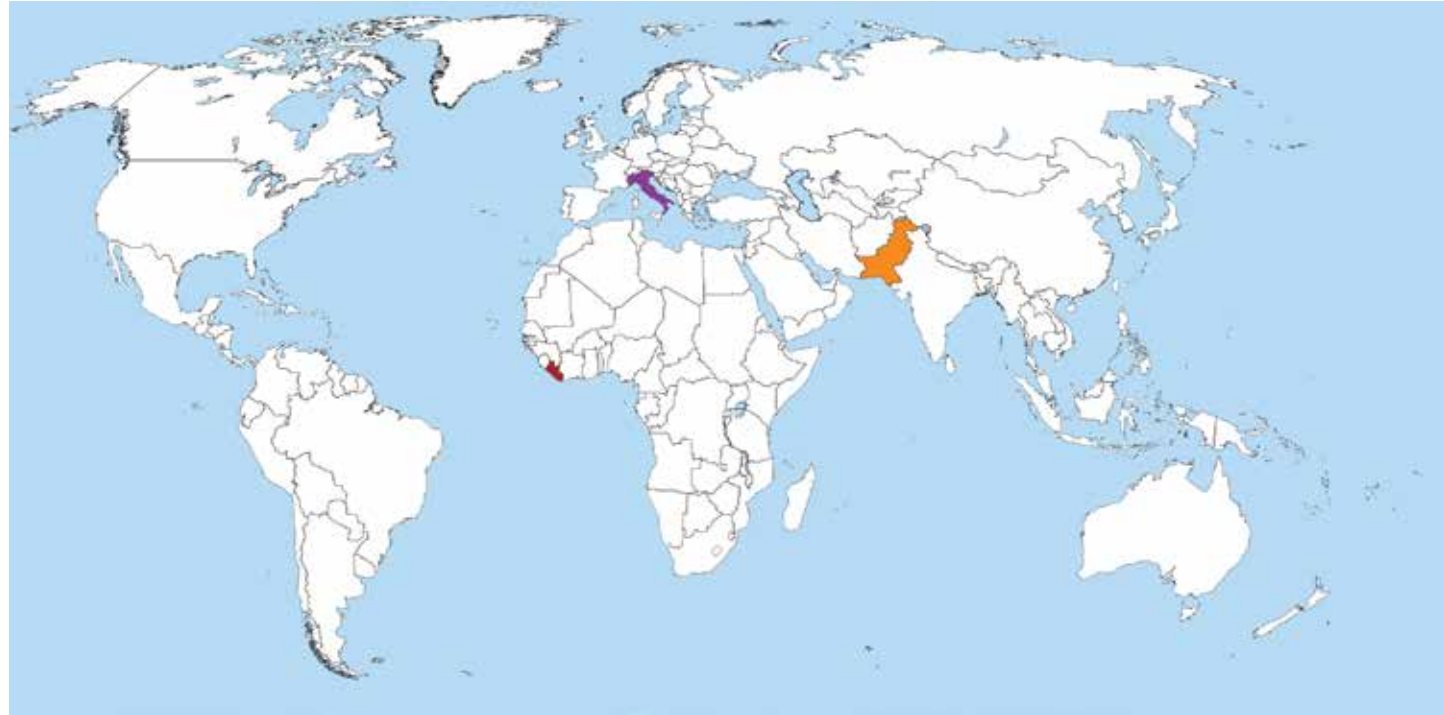
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Across the Globe

*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.*



■ EUROPE/ITALY - Sister Luigina Coccia: “Mission for us is everywhere, it is the world”

http://www.fides.org/en/news/72733-EUROPE_ITALY_Sister_Luigina_Coccia_Mission_for_us_is_everywhere_it_is_the_world

Rome (Agenzia Fides) - “Regarding the missions, Pope Francis has illustrated the complexity of the relationship between the local Churches and the universal Church: the Church today is called to remain firmly rooted in her own local reality, but with one mind and one heart open to the universal Church,” said Sister Luigina Coccia, Superior General of the Comboni Missionary Sisters, during the study days organized by the Office for Missionary Cooperation between the Churches of the Italian Bishops’ Conference and the Missio Foundation and this year in its twentieth edition (see Fides, 22/7/2022).

“A world in turmoil and in motion compels the Church of our time to live out the mission with the peoples and for the peoples; it is a universal mission that the Church must face today, no matter in which corner of the world she is. The Christian of today is everywhere a missionary ad gentes, he is an emissary of the universal mission of the Church, because today’s world has more and more multicultural and universal features”, emphasizes the Superior General of the Comboni Missionary Sisters, who this year celebrates its 150th anniversary of founding (see Fides, 20/4/2002).

The existential and not just geographical peripheries, the way of inhabiting them, with a style of closeness and the knowledge of recognizing those who are marginalized along the way, the poor: these are the three “paths” of reflection proposed by the religious in her lecture, which she gave as part of the second study day with the focus on mission as cooperation and exchange between the churches.

“We must accept the challenge and know how to move in new ways between the local and the global. Recognizing the existential peripheries near and far and listening to one another... The mission for us is everywhere, it is the world,” continues Sister Luigina, who concludes by emphasizing: “The distant lands, the peoples excluded from the network of global reality continue to be a call for us, because the Church asks us to be close to them. We think of the Amazon, of the indigenous peoples of Africa or the Americas, but at the same time we are asked to turn our gaze to the whole world, because everywhere is a mission for us, precisely because of this universality that characterizes the world today”.

Listening, dialogue and sharing are some of the words chosen by the participants to describe the days in Assisi which ended with an eye to the second edition of the Mission Festival scheduled in Milan next 29 September-2 October. (EG) (Agenzia Fides, 2/9/2022)

■ AFRICA/LIBERIA - A project to support young mothers and their children

http://www.fides.org/en/news/72721-AFRICA_LIBERIA_A_project_to_support_young_mothers_and_their_children

Monrovia (Agenzia Fides) - A total of 570 young mothers and their children are receiving assistance from the HELINA project, an aid program run by the Catholic Relief Services for young mothers and their children in the Liberian capital, Monrovia.

In a country where one in three children suffers from rickets due to poor diet, malnutrition and poor hygiene, such a project is particularly important: all 570 participants are regularly visited by a health worker trained by the country’s Ministry of Health, who

provides advice on nutrition and hygiene at home. The children’s growth is monitored monthly at the local health facility.

In 2013, 32% of children in Liberia had stunted growth. In 2020, the average was 30%. In 2013, 6% of children were classified as underdeveloped, a percentage that dropped to 3% in 2020.

Special support programs for mothers and families and other measures aim to reach out to mothers, other family members and spouses so that they can get the support they need to care for their children independently.

In the second phase, the program then offers young mothers entrepreneurship training and

and initial funding to start, expand or improve a small business so they can become financially self-sufficient. By learning new skills, mothers will be able to better manage or increase their income and thereby also take better care of their children, starting with better nutrition. The project also promotes the mutual support of all participants in the spirit of solidarity. (L.M.) (Agenzia Fides, 31/8/2022)

■ ASIA/PAKISTAN - Archbishop Arshad: “All united to give relief to the poor, victims of the floods”

http://www.fides.org/en/news/72731-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Archbishop_Arshad_All_united_to_give_relief_to_the_poor_victims_of_the_floods

Islamabad (Agenzia Fides) - “We call on the entire nation to offer all its solidarity to the people affected by the floods and help them recover from the disaster as quickly as possible. We must make every effort, in unity, to ensure that people do not continue to suffer the shocking impact of these floods in terms of hunger, poverty or lack of livelihoods.” This is the message sent to Agenzia Fides by Archbishop

Joseph Arshad, Bishop of Islamabad-Rawalpindi and President of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Pakistan, following the severe floods that affected the country. Heavy rains continue in Pakistan. More than 60% of the usual monsoon rains have fallen in just three weeks since the start of the season. The rainfall has caused devastating floods and landslides across the country, especially affecting Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh provinces.

“The loss of life, the suffering, the destruction of homes, bridges, roads, crops and livelihoods is enormous and serious. Citizens, especially farmers and the poorest, urgently need humanitarian assistance. Thousands of people, especially the most vulnerable, are facing internal displacement and need help to survive”, explains the Archbishop with concern.

“In this situation of great emergency, as the Catholic Church in Pakistan we express our closeness and prayer for the deceased and their families, especially for those who have lost everything; May the Lord sustain the work of those who bring relief to those in need. We also want to launch an urgent appeal to all so that we can remain united and work together, government and civil society, religious communities of all faiths, people and entities of diverse inspiration, to support and help those who suffer from this calamity. It is the moment of unity, of bearing fruit and going out to meet others in need and despair in a spirit of true charity. Christians in Pakistan are ready to give their contribution in a spirit of love and gratuity”, concludes Msgr. Arshad.

In recent days, the leaders of the Christian, Catholic and Protestant Churches in Pakistan have joined their voices to ask for help for the victims, nationally and internationally, after the government declared a state of emergency. At the Angelus on Sunday, August 28, in Saint Peter’s Square, Pope Francis invited the international community to support Pakistan. (PA) (Agenzia Fides, 2/9/2022)



APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS to CANADA

(24 - 30 JULY 2022)

MEETING WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT

ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS

Maskwacis
Monday, 25 July 2022

*Madam Governor General,
Mr Prime Minister,
Dear indigenous peoples of Maskwacis and of this land of Canada,
Dear brothers and sisters!*

I have been waiting to come here and be with you! Here, from this place associated with painful memories, I would like to begin what I consider a pilgrimage, a penitential pilgrimage. I have come to your native lands to tell you in person of my sorrow, to implore God's forgiveness, healing and reconciliation, to express my closeness and to pray with you and for you.

I recall the meetings we had in Rome four months ago. At that time, I was given two pairs of moccasins as a sign of the suffering endured by indigenous children, particularly those who, unfortunately, never came back from the residential schools. I was asked to return the moccasins when I came to Canada; I brought them, and I will return them at the end of these few words, in which I would like to reflect on this symbol, which over the past few months has kept alive my sense of sorrow, indignation and shame. The memory of those children is indeed painful; it urges us to work to ensure that every child is treated with love, honour and respect. At the same time, those moccasins also speak to us of a path to follow, a journey that we desire to make together. We want to walk together, to pray together and to work together, so that the sufferings of the past can lead to a future of justice, healing and reconciliation.

That is why the first part of my pilgrimage among you takes place in this region, which from time immemorial has seen the presence of indigenous peoples. These are lands that speak to us; they enable us to remember.

To remember: brothers and sisters, you have lived on these lands for thousands of years, following ways of life that respect the earth which you received as a legacy from past generations and are keeping for those yet to come. You have treated it as a gift of the Creator to be shared with others and to be cherished in harmony with

all that exists, in profound fellowship with all living beings. In this way, you learned to foster a sense of family and community, and to build solid bonds between generations, honouring your elders and caring for your little ones. A treasury of sound customs and teachings, centred on concern for others, truthfulness, courage and respect, humility, honesty and practical wisdom!

Yet if those were the first steps taken in these lands, the path of remembrance leads us, sadly, to those that followed. The place where we are gathered renews within me the deep sense of pain and remorse that I have felt in these past months. I think back on the tragic situations that so many of you, your families and your communities have known; of what you shared with me about the suffering you endured in the residential schools. These are traumas that are in some way reawakened whenever the subject comes up; I realize too that our meeting today can bring back old memories and hurts, and that many of you may feel uncomfortable even as I speak. Yet it is right to remember, because forgetfulness leads to indifference and, as has been said, "the opposite of love is not hatred, it's indifference... and the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference" (E. WIESEL). To remember the devastating experiences that took place in the residential schools hurts, angers, causes pain, and yet it is necessary.

It is necessary to remember how the policies of assimilation and enfranchisement, which also included the residential school system, were devastating for the people of these lands. When the European colonists first arrived here, there was a great opportunity to bring about a fruitful encounter between cultures, traditions and forms of spirituality. Yet for the most part that did not happen. Again, I think back on the stories you told: how the policies of assimilation ended up systematically marginalizing the indigenous peoples; how also through the system of residential schools your languages and cultures were denigrated and suppressed; how children suffered physical, verbal, psychological and spiritual abuse; how they were taken away from their homes at a young age, and how that indelibly affected relationships between parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren.

I thank you for making me appreciate this, for telling me about the heavy burdens that you still bear, for sharing with me these bitter memories. Today I am here, in this land that, along with its ancient memories, preserves the scars of still open wounds. I am here because the first step of my penitential pilgrimage among you is that of again asking forgiveness, of telling you once more that I am deeply sorry. Sorry for the ways in which, regrettably, many Christians supported the colonizing mentality of the powers that oppressed the indigenous peoples. I am sorry. I ask forgiveness, in particular, for the ways in which many members of the Church and of religious communities cooperated, not least through their indifference, in projects of cultural destruction and forced assimilation promoted by the governments of that time, which culminated in the system of residential schools.

Although Christian charity was not absent, and there were many outstanding instances of devotion and care for children, the overall effects of the policies linked to the residential schools were catastrophic. What our Christian faith tells us is that this was a disastrous error, incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is painful to think of how the firm soil of values, language and culture that made up the authentic identity of your peoples was eroded, and that you have continued to pay the price of this. In the face of this deplorable evil, the Church kneels before God and implores his forgiveness for the sins of her children (cf. JOHN PAUL II, Bull Incarnationis Mysterium [29 November 1998], 11: AAS 91 [1999], 140). I myself wish to reaffirm this, with shame and unambiguously. I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the indigenous peoples.

Dear brothers and sisters, many of you and your representatives have stated that begging pardon is not the end of the matter. I fully agree: that is only the first step, the starting point. I also recognize that, "looking to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient" and that, "looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening" (Letter to the People of God, 20 August 2018). An important part of this process will be to conduct a serious investigation into the facts of what took place in the past and to assist the survivors of the residential schools to experience healing from the traumas they suffered.

I trust and pray that Christians and civil society in this land may grow in the ability to accept and respect the identity and the experience of the indigenous peoples. It is my hope that concrete ways can be found to make those peoples better known and esteemed, so that all may learn to walk together. For my part, I will continue to encourage the efforts of all Catholics to support the indigenous peoples. I have done so on other occasions and in various places, through meetings, appeals and also through the writing of an Apostolic Exhortation. I realize that all this will require time and patience. We are speaking of processes that must penetrate hearts. My presence here and the commitment of the Canadian Bishops are a testimony to our will to persevere on this path.

Dear friends, this pilgrimage is taking place over several days and



in places far distant from one another; even so, it will not allow me to accept the many invitations I have received to visit centres like Kamloops, Winnipeg and various places in Saskatchewan, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Although it is not possible, please know that all of you are in my thoughts and in my prayer. Know that I am aware of the sufferings and traumas, the difficulties and challenges, experienced by the indigenous peoples in every region of this country. The words that I speak throughout this penitential journey are meant for every native community and person. I embrace all of you with affection.

On this first step of my journey, I have wanted to make space for memory. Here, today, I am with you to recall the past, to grieve with you, to bow our heads together in silence and to pray before the graves. Let us allow these moments of silence to help us interiorize our pain. Silence. And prayer. In the face of evil, we pray to the Lord of goodness; in the face of death, we pray to the God of life. Our Lord Jesus Christ took a grave, which seemed the burial place of every hope and dream, leaving behind only sorrow, pain and resignation, and made it a place of rebirth and resurrection, the beginning of a history of new life and universal reconciliation. Our own efforts are not enough to achieve healing and reconciliation: we need God's grace. We need the quiet and powerful wisdom of the Spirit, the tender love of the Comforter. May he bring to fulfilment the deepest expectations of our hearts. May he take us by the hand and enable us to advance together on our journey.

The Papal Visit to Canada in Pictures



From Steven Pinnock, Fundraiser for PMS

This summer, during July 24-29, the Holy Father made his first apostolic journey to Canada to meet with Indigenous residential school survivors to focus on healing and reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. This was a very important trip, which took over one year of planning. But it was also a needed mission. The Holy Father's visit demonstrated his impact on missions by providing an opportunity to pray, reflect, and heal for those who may have suffered and are seeking peace and resolution.

The response from Canadians for the Holy Father was incredible. Websites to get tickets to see the Holy Father in Edmonton and Quebec City were gone in minutes. Millions of viewers from around the world witnessed this pilgrimage on television, as tens of thousands of people from across Western Canada, Quebec and Iqaluit filled football stadiums, churches and outdoor spaces to be a part of Holy Father's important mission of reconciliation. His 85 years of age didn't slow down six days of travels, meetings, and more importantly, prayers for those that needed to hear him express his repentance.

The Holy Father reminds us that the Church is missionary by nature and that to believe in Christ you must focus on mission work, no matter how challenging or difficult the task may be. The Holy Father believes that the example of a Christian life and the proclamation of Christ are inseparable. One is at the service of the other.



To remember the devastating experiences that took place in the residential schools hurts, angers, causes pain, and yet it is necessary. It is necessary to remember how the policies of assimilation and disenfranchisement, which also included the residential school system, were devastating for the people of these lands.

AMERICA/CANADA - The Director of the PMS in French-speaking Canada: "Pope Francis, pilgrim of reconciliation"

Montréal (Agenzia Fides) - "Walking with Pope Francis and all our indigenous brothers and sisters made us experience, day after day of the papal visit, how this mission of reconciliation is carried out. The still acute wounds of the past of European colonialism can finally find some balm. The Pope said at the very beginning that it is Jesus who reconciles us, unites us to form one people!". This is how Father Yoland Ouellet, OMI, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) of French-speaking Canada, comments to Fides the days of the papal trip to Canada.

"In the face of the errors of the past, Pope Francis repeated his humble and penitent request for forgiveness, and he recalled that love is unconditional, it never imposes itself, it does not suffocate, it does not deprive the other of its inner freedom - continues the Director of the PMS in French-speaking Canada -. Faced with the shadows and lights of the mystery of life, he posed the right question for our future: what society do we want to build now, what fraternity, what peace, what home on earth for the entire human family? Furthermore, he asked what is everyone ready to do for his family, his church, his society, his world. He calls everyone to be architects of a new history, it is up to us to plant new seeds, to bear new fruits. Each with a unique role in history".

From the Holy Father's pilgrimage to Canadian land, therefore,

the challenge for the future opens: "In Canada the time has come to continue the mission of Christ Jesus together, reconciled and united. All of our local churches are training missionary disciples for today and tomorrow. They learn, observing Pope Francis, compassionate listening, truth, justice, forgiveness, healing and peace - concludes Father Ouellet -.

We continue to observe this pilgrim who teaches us, in short, to walk together. A native said these days that by walking together, there is no path in the beginning, but we will trace it together... walking. Thus is renewed the appeal of him who said: Walk, follow me. Another native, at the end of the celebration in Edmonton, sang the national anthem in his language: O Canada, with tears and pain, like a cry from the heart. This is how we continue the mission together". (EG) (Agenzia Fides, 30/7/2022)



Pictures of the Papal Visit are courtesy of and used with permission of Salt and Light TV. A special thanks to Deacon Pedro-Guevara-Mann of Salt and Light for providing the pictures of the Papal Visit for this issue of the magazine.

CELEBRATING WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2022

Prop. Grants - 2022

Country	Amount	# of projects
GHANA	\$20,000.00	1
GAMBIA	\$92,360.00	3
TANZANIA	\$217,017.41	12
ZAMBIA	\$422,791.03	23
Total:	\$752,168.44	39

SPA. Grants - 2022

Country	Amount	# of projects
GHANA	\$259,706.00	9
SIERRA LEONE	\$30,400.00	4
MALAWI	\$121,100.00	8
Total:	\$411,206.00	21

HCA. Grants - 2022

Country	Amount	# of projects
NIGERIA	\$57,000.00	8
TANZANIA	\$63,000.00	11
INDIA	\$27,000.00	10
THAILAND	\$52,344.00	10
Total:	\$199,344.00	39

Collection for World Mission Sunday

The universal collection for World Mission Sunday is unique: its fruits are distributed worldwide according to the needs of the poorest dioceses. Everyone contributes to the cause and this allows the survival of the poorest dioceses, especially those who do not benefit from twinning or privileged contact with the West. The universal collection provides each bishop the means and freedom of action for the formation of catechists, solidarity, priestly vocations and consecrated life, education, health care, etc. Therefore, it represents a tool of justice and fraternity between all the dioceses. Furthermore, it allows supporting the permanent effort of the Universal Church to go and proclaim the Gospel to all nations. This mandate, received from Christ, is assumed by the baptized people and those who are jointly responsible for the Universal Mission along with the Church of Africa, Asia, South America, Central America, Europe and Oceania

Two examples of where money went: Archdiocese of Songea and Orphanage (see below)

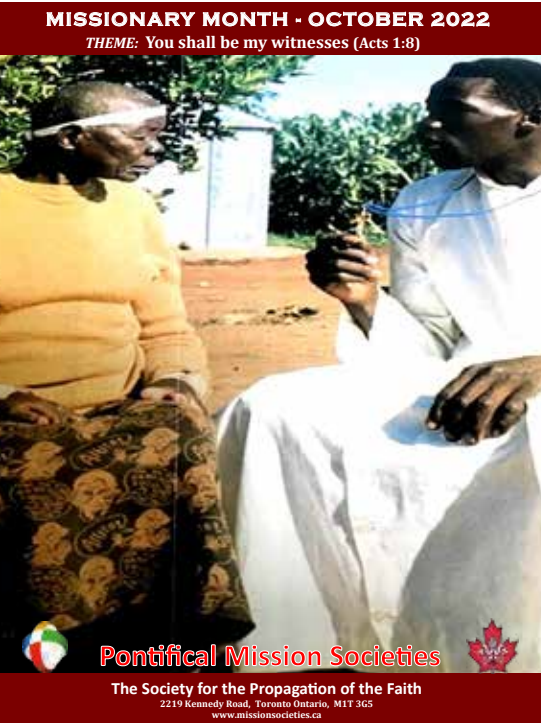
EXAMPLE #1

*The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Songea,
Province of Songea in Tanzania.*

Archbishop Damian Denis Dallu of Songea writes, “We ask for the prayers and support of all our friends and people of good will to us. The various Agents of services and mission in the Archdiocese are undertaking a lot of projects for the human promotion through pastoral, social and economic development programs. Among these projects and programs are the following:

Pastoral Projects

The Archdiocese is working hard to build Outstation Churches for Villages where the faithful have not had a house of prayer.



For Education

The on-going construction and Building of the Centenary Secondary School in Songea township. This is a project undertaken by the office of the Archbishop. It is a two-story building. So far, the first floor is almost complete. We have to start with the second. While we continue with the construction work, we shall nevertheless start operating by recruiting Form One students in the old building where we had prepared two classrooms.

Chipole Sisters are still struggling to finish the buildings of the Girls Secondary School. Thanks to God, through many benefactors they have managed to finish with classrooms, with dormitories, and soon they will complete the building of the Refectory. On 22nd January, the day after St. Agnes Feast, we blessed the buildings to allow the 380 girls to enter the premises. They are now schooling in the new buildings.

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate Sisters are intending to start building a Polytechnic School in Songea town in the area of Mshangano. Before that, on 12th February they will inaugurate a computer learning centre near the Diocesan Youth Centre in Songea.

Projects for Health

We are coordinating all our organs in the Archdiocese in order to work on a common front and with common strategies against HIV. Our Hospital in Peramiho, our dispensaries, together with our various Religious Communities are embarking on a serious house-based care and as far as possible on a curative program also. So far, we are supporting already about 1400 children/orphans in the various primary schools in the Archdiocese. HIV is a serious problem. We shall soon be having more orphans than parented children.

For Agriculture

This year we shall launch a Tractor Hire Service Project whereby village farmers can borrow our tractors for cultivation, harrowing, collecting their harvested crops, etc. We have five Tractors in place for this project. We are convinced that the empowerment of the simple farmer will lead to great and secure social emancipation.”

EXAMPLE #2

St. Martin De Porres Orphanage, Tanzania

Sr. Maria Goreth Ulaya is the director of the St. Martin de Porres Orphanage in the city of Sumbawangam in western Tanzania and she writes, “St. Martin de Porres Orphanage Center serves about 70 children — sometimes more. The children range in age

from newborns to six year old. Many of the boys and girls became orphans when their parents died from diseases such as HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis, as well as from drinking contaminated water.

“We try to provide the children with whatever they need for nurturing and good health. People from the community donate clothing, medicine, and food as often as they can. We also grow our own vegetables and raise some of our own livestock. Not long ago, we were also able to raise enough funds to drill a borehole well for the orphanage,” she continues. “Since we are in a very dry area, having a reliable source of safe drinking water is critical — especially in caring for the small children. Once the well became operational, though, the costs of electricity began to rise — making it extremely expensive to pump the water. Additionally, we can sometimes lose electricity for extended periods of time . . . meaning that we also lose access to fresh water.”

Sr. Maria says to us: “I hope that you are well and that you and your loved ones are enjoying good health. Our missionaries continue to remember you in their daily prayers and Masses — for it is because of your kindness that they are able to work and serve among the poor and those in need. As I have shared with you so often — and it is a message from the heart: without your generosity, we would not be able to touch the lives of so many! And again, I am writing to you on their behalf.”



Children in the orphanage kindergarten!

https://missionariesofafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2018_07_letter03-274x300.png

(For more information on the Missionary Sisters of Africa, see <https://missionariesofafrica.org>)

World Mission Sunday 2022

ONE SUNDAY FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

EVERY YEAR, SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENS on the next-to-last Sunday of October. **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** joins 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**.

In 1926, Pope Pius XI instituted World Mission Sunday for the whole Church with the first worldwide World Mission Sunday collection taking place in October 1927.

Pope Francis' message for World Mission Sunday this year reflects on the theme: "You shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). He reminds us that the Church is missionary in nature and that we are called at Baptism to share in this mission together. The Holy Father exclaims, "Would that all of us in the Church were what we already are by virtue of baptism: prophets, witnesses, missionaries of the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the ends of the earth!"

On World Mission Sunday, we join our Holy Father in supporting his missions. As we pray and respond here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world. Together, through our prayers and financial support, we bring the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions.

In a world where so much divides us, World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as missionaries by our Baptism, as it offers each one of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized in more than **1,100 mission dioceses**.

WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS FOR YOUR MISSION SOLIDARITY!

ON WORLD MISSION Sunday, WE PRAY....

For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, head missionary of the Church, and for all missionaries and martyrs who give their lives to tell the glory of the Lord among the nations, that they may be loving, wise and holy witnesses of Christ, Our Savior... Let us pray to the Lord...

For the 200th Anniversary of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, that we may build on its strong mission foundation and legacy, through renewed and revived commitment to active witness... Let us pray to the Lord...

For the intercession of Blessed Pauline Jaricot, foundress of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, that she may continue to inspire souls to actively participate in the work of the Mission Church... Let us pray to the Lord...

For benefactors of the Missions, that all faithful supporters be blessed for their generosity and that more souls will be animated to help and pray for missionaries... Let us pray to the Lord...

PREACHING MISSION

WORLD MISSION MONTH | On this World Mission Sunday, let us embrace the gift of sharing our faith with others

On this World Mission Sunday,

we join as a Church to pray for missionaries and those they serve. We pray for their protection, guidance and inspiration. We pray that the gift of faith in Christ our Savior will enliven the souls of more and more people.

In the second reading (on WMS), St. Paul says that he is likely reaching the end of his life, called to martyrdom for his faith in Jesus. "I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well, I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From

now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for His appearance" (2 Timothy 4:6-8). Paul, among the greatest of the Church's early missionaries, wanted Timothy and all who spread the message of salvation to remain steadfast in their task.

While many would suffer for their Christian belief in the days and centuries to come, communicating the news of redemption through the Son of God is absolutely necessary. Mission activity is an elemental part of the Church since we are all called to share the love and forgiveness of Christ with every person possible. Saints Paul and Timothy and the other Apostles and disciples knew this, just as we do, two thousand years later. And each of us needs to be willing to do all we can to bring the word of Jesus Crucified and Risen to others. We do this not only through prayer, but also through our example, witness, and support for Missions.

For almost a century, the Catholic Church has taken up a collection on World Mission Sunday to assist the work of the missions and missionaries in countries around the globe. While the

Church shares the joyful message of God's mercy, it also assists our neighbors who struggle with material needs. Priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and laypeople continue to reach out to men, women, and children who do not know Christ or do not yet entrust themselves to His mercy. We must live our faith by sharing our faith. Today – and every day – we need to commit ourselves to follow in the footsteps of our Lord by welcoming others to His gracious and glorious embrace.

On this World Mission Sunday, let us witness to our faith through our prayers and financial help to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Our generosity on this Sunday, combined with what is offered in churches and chapels around the globe, join us to the efforts of missionaries who proclaim the Gospel and serve the poor.

(Resources on page 12 and 13 are used with permission from the Pontifical Mission Societies of the USA and taken from the following link: <https://www.missio.org/resources>. Thank you to our neighbours to the south for their support and sharing their resources with us.)



Blessed Pauline Jaricot, who 200 years ago founded the first of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

3296 CHILDREN
IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

38,340 SEMINARIANS
PREPARING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

258,540 RELIGIOUS SISTERS
CARING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

World Mission Sunday 2022

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, who 200 years ago founded the first of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

"YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES"
(ACTS 1:8)

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
a Pontifical Mission Society

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11,480 CLINICS
CARING FOR THE SICK AND DYING

8,750 HOMES
FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY

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.

Joyful Witnesses of Jesus

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

-Acts 1:8

Everyday each one of us becomes a witness to the events and the people around us. When we wake up, we can attest to a new day because we see the daylight. When we take a trip from one destination to another, we can verify that we have arrived because we experienced the journey. When we attend an event, we can share what occurred because we participated in it. When we learn of a new situation, we can confirm it because we heard it with our own ears. And, when we speak of a friend or a family member, we can testify to his/her character because we know him/her. Seeing, experiencing, participating, hearing about and knowing help us to be witnesses to events and people.

Have you ever been asked to be a witness to anything or anyone? What does that mean? The etymology of the word witness goes back to the Greek root word <Martus> which translates to 'a witness' in a legal, historical, and ethical sense. <Martus>, <martureo>, <marturia>, <marturion> all speak to providing personal testimony. As the Apostles, who Jesus told were to be his witnesses, we, as disciples of Jesus, are also called to be His witnesses, in every sense of the word.

"...for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard."

-Acts 4:20

When Jesus tells the Apostles that they will be his witnesses, he declares that with the help of the Holy Spirit, they will go and spread the Good News 'to the ends of the earth' and proclaim all they know of Him and all that they have seen and heard. When He ascends into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father, the Apostles, on fire with the Holy Spirit and their love for Jesus, will continue His mission on earth. They will set off to share the Good News with the world and make disciples of all nations.

What about us? How does what Jesus says to the Apostles impact us in our daily lives, as lay people of the Catholic Church? Who does He ask to be His witnesses? What does He ask us to bear witness to? When does He want us to proclaim this? Where does He

want us to profess it? Why do we need to be faithful witnesses to Jesus? How does He want us to testify to the Good News?

These are the questions upon which all Christians must meditate, daily. Pope Francis reminds us that we need to cultivate a life of prayer, which is central to missionary life, and that in prayer, we must continue to implore the Holy Spirit to bestow His power upon us so that we may be true and faithful witnesses of our Lord, in all we say and all we do wherever we live, work, and play and everywhere we go.

The answers to all those questions rest in our conviction to our faith. Because we believe and profess that Jesus is our Lord and Saviour, we are called to bear witness to this truth. This is the mission for all disciples of Jesus.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

-1 Peter 2:9-10.

We are to bear witness to the fact that salvation is found in Jesus Christ, and we are to do this everywhere, all the time, in both word and deed, "so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God."-Colossians 1:10. This is not always easy. The Apostles, and many martyrs after them, were often met with disbelief and oppression from those who did not, yet, know God.

Like the missionaries before us, we are sent to do the same. Our words and actions help bring others in relationship with Jesus. That is our mission. Pope Francis tells us that disciples are to bear witness, "not only to carry out the mission, but also and above all to live the mission entrusted to them; not only to bear witness, but also and above all to be witnesses of Christ." For it to be missionary, we must live the mission, as well as proclaim it.

"Without actions our words are not believed; without words, our actions are not understood"

-Fr. James Mallon

We are commissioned to seek and pursue ways in which to share in the mission of taking the Gospel 'to the ends of the earth'. Although we may not all be able to travel outside our immediate surroundings, it is incumbent upon us to bear witness to Jesus by supporting those missionaries who do travel in order to evangelize those who live in the most remote areas of the world.

"So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

-2 Corinthians 5:18-20

This year, Pope Francis released the Message for the 2022 World Mission Day, which is celebrated on Sunday 23 October on the theme "You shall be my witnesses" -Acts 1:8. When we participate in World Mission Day, we are answering our call to be witnesses to Jesus. Our donations make it possible for those missionaries who have left everything and everyone behind in order to proclaim the Good News to all the world. In addition to

making donations, our lives must testify to the story we are part of, as God's children. The Holy Scripture is the witness for us. It is the principal source of our story and it guides our lives. Reading Scripture is fundamental to growing in relationship with Jesus and finding the courage and strength to be His faithful witnesses, even in the face of oppression.

This is our collective story! How do we show fellowship with our Christian sisters and brothers in bearing witness to Jesus? How does following Jesus and being his witness look, for us? Our task is to practice living our faith from the inside out. Demonstrating that the gifts (wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, piety, knowledge and fear of the Lord) and the fruits (charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, long-suffering, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity)

of the Holy Spirit are alive and well in our lives. May the power of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon us continue to give us strength and courage and help us to be joyful witnesses in the mission of taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet. Amen

'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Romans 10:13-15



"YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES"

OCT. 23, 2022

"PARA QUE SEAN MIS TESTIGOS"

PRAY AND GIVE GENEROUSLY | ORAR Y DAR GENEROSAMENTE

PRAYER RELATED TO CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION OF PAULINE JARICOT

Pauline Marie Jaricot, pray for us!

Almighty and merciful God, Who has chosen a humble virgin, Marie Pauline of Jesus Christ, the poor one of Mary, to found the great Catholic works of the Propagation of the Faith and the Living Rosary, and Who has wished in the midst of humiliations, trials and persecutions to purify her works, deign to hasten the day when Holy Mother the Church will publicly recognize her saintly life. We pray that by her example of patience and love for the Cross, her life-time prayer may be realized: the Universal propagation of the Faith in all its Purity. Amen.

MARIA'S FAITH

A REFLECTION ON THE WAR IN UKRAINE.



By Maria Fornasier

In conjunction with Pope Francis's public prayers and pleas for peace, the Catholic Church in Canada and elsewhere is providing ongoing practical and spiritual aid to Ukrainian refugees and families displaced by the war's impact. The help is being given in several meaningful ways: through Caritas, CNEWA, and other grassroots organizations;

prayers and donations organized in local parishes throughout Canada; and missionaries in Ukraine and other countries in eastern Europe. The Salesians, whose focus is helping the poor and young, as well as many religious sisters throughout Eastern Europe are providing shelter, food and other practical, supportive assistance for displaced Ukrainians of all ages. According to the UN Refugee Agency, by July more than 12 million Ukrainians had left their homes due to the increasing destruction of buildings and necessary infrastructure. The vast majority are in neighbouring European countries or in other, hopefully safer, areas of Ukraine. Many people are attempting to return home, hoping to resume their lives in safety.

The Salesians, through their various shelters and centres throughout Ukraine, are providing much-needed safe havens for those who are fleeing from areas destroyed or threatened by Russian bombing. Father Michal Wocial, a Salesian missionary working in Ukraine, summarized their efforts: "Our goal . . . is to welcome as many people as possible in accessible Salesian houses. We want to bring all those in need of protection to safety . . . and subsequently transfer them to safer places across the border [to Poland]. Immediate help is needed to ensure food, mattresses, blankets and disinfectants." Also, to provide some continuity and normality, the Salesians are supporting and encouraging young people to continue their education through online lessons.

In Poland and Ukraine, nuns belonging to a variety of religious orders, in over 1000 convents, are providing practical and spiritual support and relief in a wide variety of ways to thousands of Ukrainian families severely affected and displaced by the Russian invasion. For example, the sisters are organizing and distributing nutritious meals, hygiene products, and warm clothing. In Poland, they are also helping to facilitate much-needed basic needs such as finding employment, enrolling children in school, translating, and coordinating the necessary services for seniors and disabled people. In addition, they are collecting funds and distributing them where they are needed.

In Canada, Catholics are helping in various useful ways. Besides prayer, strongly encouraged by Pope Francis, the Toronto Archdiocese, among others across the country, encourages donations to CNEWA (the Catholic Near East Welfare Association) and ORAT (the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto). By April 20, CNEWA had provided \$1.86 million in emergency aid. Besides providing financial support for refugee centres operated by the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, CNEWA funds are supporting the emergency relief efforts in the Caritas centres in Ukraine as well as neighbouring countries including Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, which are hosting many of the displaced people, including millions of children. Caritas, which also coordinates its endeavors with Canada's Development and Peace, has been working to provide food, safe water, shelter and hygiene kits to those in need of assistance. They are also helping to reunite Ukrainian families separated by the war.

Various communities throughout Canada are organizing and fundraising to provide effective help. Easter Baskets for Ukraine, an initiative that is part of the "ongoing passion and mission" of a school teacher in northern Alberta to provide useful aid for Ukraine, provided over 120 Ukrainian families, displaced by the conflict, with practical items such as staple foodstuffs, diapers and hygiene supplies.

By opening their hearts and using their skills and knowledge, Catholics are assisting Ukrainians displaced by war in meaningful spiritual and pragmatic ways.

<https://www.missio.org/project/20899/In-Solidarity-With-Ukraine-?localization=EN>



Stop the War Now: Third peace convoy is on its way

EUROPE/ITALY - StoptheWarNow: Third peace convoy is on its way

Monday, 29 August 2022

Rome (Agenzia Fides) - "I am leaving for Ukraine to give a witness of solidarity, to cry with those who cry, but also to bring, in addition to the greeting of the Italian Bishops, a message of peace and non-violence and to encourage negotiations and dialogue to end the war. I am happy to do this on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Encyclical 'Pacem in Terris', which falls next spring; Pope John XXIII wrote it six months after the opening of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council and in that document the message on war is very clear: 'alienum est a ratione', that is, it is beyond reason ". As explained to Agenzia Fides, Msgr. Giovanni Ricchiuti, Bishop of Altamura and President of the National Council of the international association "Pax Christi" is leaving to reach the places of conflict in the heart of Europe together with the third convoy of "StoptheWarNow", the large Italian coalition which, after reaching Lviv and Odessa in recent months (see Fides, 30/6/2022), is returning to Ukraine, in particular to Mykolaiv, a city on the front line.

The Prelate will join the convoy that left earlier this morning from various parts of Italy by plane for Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. From there he will continue by car to the border, where he will join a convoy of ten vehicles loaded with food and medicines bound for Mykolaiv.

"We don't want to leave the Ukrainians alone and accompany them along the street, even in the most dramatic moments of their lives, when they make their way to the air-raid shelters," explains Gianpiero Cofano, Secretary General of the

Pope John XXIII Community founded by don Oreste Benzi. For three months, some volunteers from the association have been living in the city on the front line, where bombs fall every three to four hours.

Msgr. Ricchiuti knows how difficult it is to travel to places "where war has taken root and where it is difficult to speak of peace. But we must do it", he notes, "because the message of the Gospel is very clear "There are no just wars, no distinctions that excuse conflict. Of course, the situation is complex and this complexity must be understood and respected. But too often in Italy I have heard speeches that excuse war. This also happens in the Catholic world , where instead I would like to see a tension, a passion for the gospel message of peace that I don't see all too often".

The President of Pax Christi adds: "I also had the opportunity to tell the representatives of the political world which side the

Church is on: always and in any case on the side of peace. Pope Francis reminded us that not only war is madness, but also the manufacture and sale of arms is problematic. I wonder how many Catholics censor these formulations. These are uncomfortable phrases, just as the position of those opposed to war is always uncomfortable".

Among the 176 organizations and associations of the "StoptheWarNow" network are numerous Catholic groups and communities: These include, among others, Focsiv, the "Fondazione Punto missione", the "Associazione San Vincenzo Abbiategrosso" and many others. The two previous convoys, which were always characterized by a message of peace and concrete solidarity efforts, took place in April to Lviv and in June 2022 to Odessa-Mykolaiv. Another peace initiative will make its way to the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv in September. (MG) (Agenzia Fides, 29/8/2022)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/72700-EUROPE_ITALY_StoptheWarNow_Third_peace_convoy_is_on_its_way



The destruction caused by days of ongoing blasts in Ukraine has left people homeless, fleeing as refugees to other countries for shelter, or seeking safety in underground subways and hospital basements. There is a growing and urgent need for food, and other basic aid. Through the Pontifical Mission Societies, you can support the priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay pastoral leaders who are reaching out to those who are suffering and in need with concrete help, and with that help, offering hope. As part of his Lent message, Pope Francis tells us, "In God, no act of love, no matter how small, and no 'generous effort' will ever be lost." Pope Francis has encouraged help for the people of Ukraine. With your gift, you can answer that call.

The Editor's Point of View



In July 2022, Canadians experienced the theme of this year's World Mission Sunday, not just in words, but in action. In July, of course, Pope Francis visited Canada to apologize to the Indigenous peoples of this country for the Catholic Church's role in the residential schools' crisis. In this trip, Pope Francis exemplified the message of this year's World Mission Sunday. Pope Francis embodied in his visit to Canada the theme "You will be witnesses of me." As Catholics, we are called to witness in our everyday lives the message of the Gospel, especially God's love for all humanity. In his visit to Canada, Pope Francis witnessed some important qualities that should be central in any Catholic life.

First, Pope Francis exemplified the important skill of listening. The papal trip to Canada was the result of the discussions that took place at the Vatican with a delegation of indigenous people earlier in the year. At that meeting, Pope Francis listened to the stories of residential school survivors related to him by the delegation. Pope Francis listened to the suffering that these survivors endured at the hands of some church officials charged with separating children from their homes and culture. He listened to the cries of the poor, just as the scriptures tell us that God does, and he did something for them. He came to Canada offering an apology, an act that is not always easy to do. Pope Francis apologized because the delegation suggested that an apology would go a long way to reconciliation.

An important quality, therefore, of a witness of God is the ability to listen. Witnesses of God do not rush into to any and every situation believing that they have the right answer in all circumstances. Witnesses go among the people that they are called to serve and begin by listening. They begin by listening to the joys and sorrows of the people and they respond to the lived experience of the people. Witnesses start their ministry where people are at and can only do this if they listen to where people are.

Of course, we live in times where people are no longer listening to each other. We live in times where people are entrenched in their opinions and ideologies and most people are no longer able to cross the divide and put themselves in other people's shoes. We live in a fractured society where dialogue is difficult. Perhaps, one of the more significant witnesses that we can give in these times is listening to each other and to those in the margins of society, as Pope Francis exemplified in his interaction with the indigenous people of Canada.

Furthermore, in his visit to Canada, Pope Francis also exemplified the central Gospel message of forgiveness. In the four Gospels, Jesus speaks repeatedly about forgiveness. Not only is God always ready to forgive us, we in turn must be prepared to forgive those who have hurt us and ask forgiveness of those whom we have hurt. We are called by Jesus to ask for forgiveness even seventy times seven, or as often as necessary. Pope Francis came to Canada to offer an apology (see pages 6 and 7 of this issue) and ask the indigenous people for forgiveness for the role of the church in the residential school crisis. Pope Francis put into practice the Gospel injunction to ask forgiveness for our misdeeds. He witnessed to the indigenous people of Canada and, indeed, to the world that forgiveness is a central component of the Gospel message and, even the Church is not above asking for forgiveness.

In our lives too, we are called to be witnesses of forgiveness. Witnesses do not hide behind excuses and do not try to sweep misdeeds under the rug. Witness take responsibility for their actions and are not afraid to reach out to those whom they have hurt. In our own lives, we are to be witnesses of God's forgiveness by asking forgiveness of those we have hurt and of accepting forgiveness from those who have hurt us. Neither action is particularly easy to accomplish. We are apt to make excuses for our actions and do not want to accept forgiveness because we fear being victimized again. But for those of us called to love our others, there is no better way to demonstrate Christian love to our neighbours than by being quick to forgive and ask for forgiveness. In a world where transgressions are always someone else's fault, we are called to be witnesses of forgiveness as Pope Francis so



courageously exemplified this summer in his visit to Canada.

Finally, Pope Francis's visit had an ultimate purpose in view. The goal of the papal visit was to contribute to the efforts of reconciliation* between indigenous and European peoples. Pope Francis exemplified that tensions and conflicts between peoples do not need to endure endlessly but relationships can be healed. Just as when we move away from God, reconciliation with God is always possible, especially through the special sacrament established for this very purpose, reconciliation between individuals is also achievable. Our reconciliation with God should lead us to be witnesses of reconciliation by building bridges with those with whom we may have been in conflict. As Pope Francis became a witness of the gospel message of reconciliation by reaching out to Canada's indigenous people, we too are reminded during this World Mission Sunday to be witnesses of God's reconciliation.

In short then, one way to interpret the Pope's visit to Canada is

to view him as a witness to some of the more basic and profound messages of the Gospel. When we hear the theme of this year's World Mission Sunday, we might find it somewhat abstract and we may wonder what it means to be a witness. The visit of Pope Francis reminds us that being a witness is a call to something very practical and concrete. Being a witness means exhibiting in our lives the many special qualities that God exhibits in the Gospel and which we are called to emulate. Being a witness means appropriating into our own lives the call to love, compassion, kindness, and mercy. Being a witness is more than preaching from a street corner. It means living the values of the Gospel in our own lives and offering those values to the people in our lives, just as Pope Francis exhibited in his visit to Canada.

**While an explanation of the difference between the concepts of forgiveness and reconciliation would take us too far afield, suffice it to say that the two concepts are not identical.*

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!
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In Remembrance

Our Deceased Donors

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

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