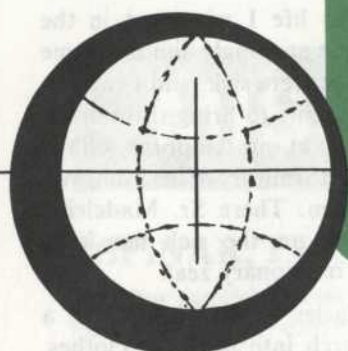




WHOM SHALL I SEND?

As in the days of the prophet Isaiah, God is looking for hands to use. He is always saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Is 6:8. So many tasks call for willing hands: the task of him who must go out and the task of him who must stay at home; the task of him who must use his hands, and the task of him who must use his mind; the task which will fasten the eyes upon the doer and the task which no one will ever see. Always, Jesus' eyes are searching the crowds for those willing to do his work. He does not make conscripts; he seeks only volunteers.

The Lord's invitation to a young heart, yearning for fulfillment to be sought in self-giving dedication to his interests and those of his Church, forever remains a mystery. The priestly, religious or missionary vocation remains a breathtaking challenge today as it did by the sea of Galilee, over two thousand years ago.

The Church still needs men and women to devote themselves with enthusiasm to the missionary task. Some may find outlets for missionary activity nearer home. Others will be called to carry the Good News beyond the boundaries of their homeland. The task is gigantic; the challenge has never been greater. If Christ is calling you to follow him more closely, do not be afraid to answer, "Here I am. Send me." Sparks from the fire of your sacrifice will light souls living in darkness, and by it they will see the way that leads to eternal life.

Facets of Delia Tetreault's Personality

A Thankful Heart

Thanksgiving is the main characteristic of the missionary congregation Délia founded. She herself embodied this spirit of gratitude to God for his bounties, and of thankfulness to others for the least good turn. Those who were privileged to know her were struck by her gracious way of acknowledging what she owed to others. In her talks with the Sisters and in her letters, the spirit of thanksgiving ran like an ever recurring melody. The delicacy of her feelings on this point may be gauged from the following excerpts: "Our vocation has a double aim: to make God known throughout the world, and to



thank Him in our own name and in the name of all those who forget to do so... We sometimes hear it said that gratitude

(Continued on page 2)

Fast and Feast

- Fast from despair and
feast on hope*
- Fast from blame and
feast on esteem*
- Fast from self-pity and
feast on compassion*
- Fast from anger and
feast on love*
- Fast from envy and
feast on kindness*
- Fast from arrogance and
feast on humility*
- Fast from selfishness and
feast on generosity*
- Fast from worry and
feast on confidence*
- Fast from grumbling and
feast on appreciation*
- Fast from bad humour and
feast on cheerfulness*
- Fast from gossip and
feast on silence*
- Fast from doubt and
feast on faith*
- Fast from prejudice and
feast on fair-mindedness*
- Fast from avarice and
feast on liberality*
- Fast from defeatism and
feast on progress*
- Fast from discouragement and
feast on optimism*
- Fast from discord and
feast on union*
- Fast from the blues and
feast on smiles*
- Fast on deceit and
feast on frankness*

CALAMINTAO, Occ. Mindoro, Philippines

A STEP FORWARD

by Virginia Guerrero, M.I.C.

The making of a fence is rarely mentioned among missionary projects, but to a neophyte it can be significant. It may mean being-with-fellowmen. A project to plant fruit trees, vegetables, and ornamental shrubs around our M.I.C. nipa hut in Calamintao necessitated a protective fence. A group of Mangyans, from a clan upstream under the leadership of Gabino, the barrio captain, accepted the job. The materials, bamboo and reeds, were all secured from the hill-top where the Mangyans live, and were then conveyed to the river leading to the barrio. These men displayed splendid team work. Their salary included three meals during working days, plus clothing or money, depending on the laborer's choice. For us each work day was a privileged reaching out to their personal lives, a stepping stone to knowing more about their basic needs and latent possibilities. After the day's work, they would squat in front of our hut and request to learn reading and writing, at least enough to be able to write their

names or count. Though learning schedules were staggered and the process was slow, all exhibited a will to learn, probably motivated by the desire to avoid being exploited by lowlanders (whom they call Christians).

The finished fence was the beginning of a continuous sharing. Any time one of these men came to the barrio, he would pass by our hut, even if it was just to sit and rest after a long hike or simply to enjoy a friendly presence. One evening, Sr. Madeleine and I were surprised to see seven men, from the same clan, offering to cut timber at a modest rate. Sr. Madeleine did not hesitate to accept the offer, for there were huts to be put up, and a clinic to be built. Having accomplished their work, the men decided to go back upstream the following morning. In order to come in touch with their families, I decided to join them on the way back. The angle of inclination of the hills we climbed sometimes seemed to reach 85 degrees. It proved to be a hard climb to the top, but it gave me a certain clarity of direction.

The primitive life I witnessed in the settlement was startlingly simple. Some of the children were sick, and I encouraged their parents to bring them down for a check-up at our temporary clinic, housed in the dormitory of the Mangyan school children. There Sr. Madeleine daily lavishes on the sick her love, service, and missionary zeal.

The salaries to be given meant a half day search into boxes of clothes, some of which were donations from our Manila schools: ICA, San Juan, and ICAM in Gagalangin, I shared the Mangyans' sense of dignity for the accomplishment of a job well done, and their happiness in using the clothing they had honestly earned. I found out how, that same afternoon, each of these men was ready to give up his share in behalf of Sheor, the brother of Gabino, who had to offer 30 different things so as to ransom the woman Dalgin from her first husband. A marriage contract was finally concluded between Sheor and Dalgin after the settlement of the problem. Mang Martin, the chief of one of the tribes present, invoked Apo Uraya, the god the Mangyans honour, to bless the couple.

A Thankful Heart

(Continued from page 1)

is a rare and exotic flower. In our garden of the Immaculate it should bloom everywhere and in all seasons. How good it is to give thanks! We should accept with a grateful heart not only the good things that God sends, but also the big or little annoyances. He permits them to happen for our own good... Every moment of our life should be a perpetual *Magnificat*... Gratitude! Each moment brings us the opportunity of putting this virtue into practice... Try to see the Lord in all creatures, in nature, in everyday events, in order to praise Him and to thank Him at all times... It is not enough to thank God in words. Our gratitude must be translated into action... It seems to me that God is more deeply offended by our lack of gratitude than by our faults... We should do all things in a spirit of gratitude... A grateful person will never go astray... Our life should be a perpetual song of thankfulness."



The fence which seems to isolate the Sisters is in reality an open door of welcome.

KANYANGA, ZAMBIA

FIRST COMMUNION IN KANYANGA

By Irene Champagne, M.I.C.

Our Kanyanga mission, situated in the eastern province, is slowly recovering from a series of setbacks suffered in the early fifties. At that time, Eleshina, a self-styled prophetess, launched a new native religion. This so-called religion was really a camouflaged political movement advocating riots and the overthrow of the government.

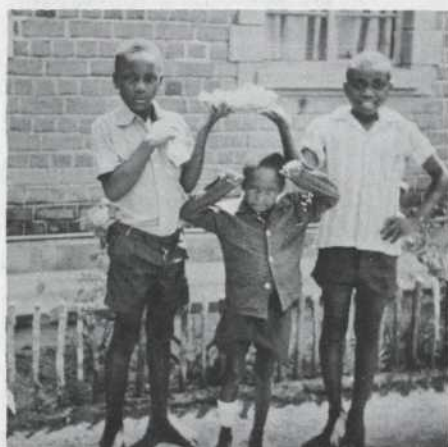
As the mission was then young, hundreds of our catechumens flocked to Eleshina's standard, drawn by the fact that this was a national issue. Hundreds

of men and women in fifty different camps secretly manufactured weapons preparing, as the prophetess urged, for the conquest of a "Promised Land". The trouble finally came to a head in August 1964. To the rallying cry of Alleluia, Eleshina's adepts broke into the villages killing all who were not numbered among the "elect". The lawful government acted vigorously in putting down the uprising, but not before hundreds had been killed.

Eleshina was arrested and put into sequestration. Since then it has been

slow work for the missionaries to gather the scattered flock. We need your prayers to help us rebuild a strong local church with good leaders, a church able to hold its own against the enticements of false prophets.

Lately we had a simple but moving First Communion ceremony. Our devoted pastor had carefully prepared a group of fervent Christian children for this great event. The parents gladly cooperated in making this an unforgettable day for the Kanyanga community.



Older boys present rolled bandages in kidney basins. Not to be outdone, Little Brother puts a bandage on his leg and sneaks into the picture.



At the offertory, the children present offerings: pupils offer their school books; youthful gardeners their hoes; the littlest ones their toys.



After Mass, First Communicants carry bundles of firewood to the patients at our nearby hospital.

MYSTERY OF GOD'S WAYS

Those of us working in a socialist milieu never cease to wonder at the mysterious ways in which God reaches out to souls of good will. Barred from all religious teaching in schools and universities, many young people nevertheless feel drawn to God and hunger after him. In our modest little chapel, they come and kneel for hours in silent prayer. Then they go back to their campuses, feeling comforted and strengthened. Once in a while, some particularly significant event confirms the reason for our presence here, in a place where we are forbidden to exercise any outward apostolate.

Many university students practise yoga as a kind of spiritual discipline,

although this is frowned upon by the authorities. Such is their hunger for the Absolute, that they devise secret means of exercising the art. One of them once confided, "The trouble is that after yoga has created a vast interior void, we lack the means of filling it."

So, these seekers after the Truth, come to our chapel and quietly sit here in the Divine Presence. "It is like basking in the sunshine," one of them remarked. How very true! Another student called on us one day saying he had a big secret to share with us. "Sister", he confided, "I know there is no way in which I can find a priest willing to baptize me. My father is a prominent member of the Party. I

myself hold a party card. But, I was bound to solve my problem in my own way. Do you know what I did? I went to a deserted beach where I can practise yoga unobserved. I knelt on the sands to say a fervent prayer, then I baptized myself." He sounded triumphant. We asked, "But how could you baptize yourself?" He answered simply, "I threw myself into the sea and made the sign of the cross, splashing water all over myself."

What else is this but a baptism of desire? How lovingly the Lord must look down upon these sheep who although forcibly kept outside his Fold desire so ardently to enter it and belong to Him, their divine Shepherd! With the poet of yore we can well repeat, "God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform."



Sr. Theresa Germain (Photo BCC)

Sister Theresa Germain celebrated her golden jubilee on September 1, 1976, with her many friends and Sisters. Of the 12 children in her family, one was to become a priest, and four became nuns. After studying at Laval University, Sister Theresa joined the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in 1923.

The order — founded in Canada in 1902 — has Sisters at work in Africa, South America, Asia, the Antilles, Madagascar. A group came to Vancouver in 1921 to work with the Chinese community here, and the Sisters still maintain links with it. They administer Mount St. Joseph Hospital.

After her novitiate, Sister became a printer — they called her "Sister Printer" — until 1952. She was then transferred to Vancouver to study X-ray technology, and in December 1954 was appointed head X-ray technician at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital.

Retirement has been a busier time than ever for Sister Theresa. A great aid to the hospital, she is on call nights and week-ends in X-ray, and is once more "Sister Printer", part time, looking after most of the hospital printing.

A "jack of all trades", Sister Theresa is quite capable of expertly fixing anything from a chair to most electrical appliances. She is one of the few "outsiders" to invade the engineers' domain, and be allowed to borrow tools. (They gave her a hammer for her jubilee.)

Sister Rolande, superior, says that Sister Theresa reflects the spirit of the foundress of the order with whom she lived for several years. When asked why she never takes a holiday, she replies, "But, I'm always on holiday, I'm so happy!"

On a recent visit to her doctor, Sister Theresa received a strict prescription: "Keep on working", and she will, as she looks forward to her 75th jubilee.

The B.C. Catholic

CHERRY BLOSSOMS

By Madeline Maillet, M.I.C.

In Japan, the cherry tree is cultivated for its blossoms, not for its fruit. Its flower has long been to the Japanese what the rose is to most Westerners. For many centuries, poets have sung its praises, and hundreds of thousands have travelled long distances to spots renowned for the beauty of its blossoms. *O hanami* or flower viewing is a national institution. Japan is perhaps the only country in the world where people travel just for the sake of admiring flowers. For about three weeks, beginning in early April, a festive spirit reigns supreme as the air is filled with clouds of delicate pink. The most famous spots in all Japan are Yoshino in Yamato, and Arashiyama near Kyoto.

Even patriotism has adopted the cherry blossom as the country's national flower. Motoori, a poet of old sings, "If one were to inquire concerning the spirit of a true Japanese, point to the wild cherry blossom shining in the sun." Again, a Japanese proverb

says, "The cherry blossom is first among flowers as the warrior is first among men," an allusion to the high rank enjoyed by warriors during the feudal era.

Another poet, Saigyô, thus expressed his wish to die during the cherry blossom season, "My earnest desire is that I may die beneath the cherry blossoms in the spring of the year."

The Japanese prefer the single blossom variety generally at its best during the first week of April. Its frail petals drift to earth like gently falling snow, without withering, symbols of a blameless life.

Outside of their aesthetic aspect, cherry blossoms are appreciated for the making of a special kind of tea. Preserved in salt, they are occasionally served as an infusion. While the fragrance is delightful, the taste may be a bitter deception at least to Western palates.

Mother
takes Kimie
flower-viewing
for
the first time
in her life.



MISSION BRIEFS

ESPINAR, PERU

Our catechists were very happy to learn they would benefit again this year by a short intensive course in catechetics. Left free to choose the time they found most convenient, they unanimously voted for the carnival period. One of them explained, "This will be the best time, as we will thus avoid having to take part in the customary drinking of copious draughts of *chicha* (local kind of beer)." Sister Thérèse Bergeron who organized the course expected only a few catechists. Rare, indeed are the inhabitants of Espinar who miss the carnival rejoicings. But she was in for a pleasant surprise. Forty-five catechists showed up, and faithfully followed every meeting and prayer sharing. The opening theme was Abraham's vocation. He left everything in order to follow the Lord's call. Reflections were applied to each person's call to the faith. A penitential ceremony brought this first day to a close. The second day, opened with the Eucharistic Celebration. During the day, Moses' vocation was discussed. Before leaving, the catechists went over the programme of their pastoral activities for the coming months. All carried away messages of joy and hope to their respective villages.

Agnes Bouchard, M.I.C.

TSARAMASAY, MADAGASCAR

Twice a week, I spend part of my day with a group of young volunteers preparing to assume duty as future catechists. I am very happy to help initiate them into their difficult task of making the children ready for their First Communion or their Confirmation. It does one good to see how eager they are to become genuine apostles, although none of them have had much chance to study catechetics before. Priests being all too few to cope with the ministry, these youthful apostles will be able to do much good. We lately had an impressive ceremony in our parish church. Our guests of honour were the sick, the handicapped, and the aged. They occupied special seats right in front of the altar. For our part, we saw to

conveying six old women who were blind to the parish church on time for the ceremony. A procession around the church came first. Then we had the Eucharistic Celebration. Afterwards the priest gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed by the blessing of the sick as is done at Lourdes. Our dear sick and handicapped people went away feeling very happy and important for once in their lives.

Marie Odila Plante, M.I.C.

KATETE, MALAWI

Seventeen-year-old Magdalena, a polio victim, lately had her own banner day. She received Holy Communion for the first time. As both her legs are paralyzed, she cannot budge from her house. Living in a remote village, she has long been deprived of religious instruction and of the sacraments. Her parents, both non-Christians had allowed her to be baptized when she was stricken with polio, but were not in a position to do more. I discovered her a few months ago, as I made the rounds of distant villages, and I visited her regularly ever since in order to prepare her for her First Communion. Father Thomas Leany agreed to accompany me on one of my trips, and to say Mass for Magdalena. A group of Christians living in the neighbourhood, prepared a rustic altar of twigs and leaves and shared in the crippled girl's great happiness.

Pauline Brodeur, M.I.C.

ROCHE A BATEAU, HAÏTI

A group of teachers recently gathered here for two days of recollection, a novel experience for many. The more we get together, the better we are bound to know one another. As theme of the meeting we chose: "How can I accept the children entrusted to my care if I do not accept myself?" During these moments of reflection and prayer the problems of happiness, of man and his world, a world made more beautiful and "livable" through love and collaboration. Before they left, the participants, seven women and ten men, shared their impressions: "These two

days of prayer and reflection have helped me accept myself as I am... They have awakened my sense of responsibility as a teacher... The slides shown have quickened my appreciation of the beauties of nature lavished upon our beautiful island... Before I attended these sessions I used to make mountains out of molehills. Now, I have learned to exercise self control... My inferiority complex used to land me into various awkward difficulties..." Such reflections show how profitable these moments of reflection and prayer sharing have been for our teachers.

Arlette Toussaint, M.I.C.

SAN FRANCISCO

St. Mary's Incredible Learning Experience for which the letters SMILE stand was another success. This year's program was entrusted to the leadership of Sister Nancy Vy So, a novice at our Holy Spirit Formation Center. SMILE is a learning-by-doing experience, the learning process being done mostly inside the classroom. Now and then, however, there are field trips. The program lasts six weeks. There were 46 high school and college students who volunteered as Counselors. Among the college volunteers was Susan Byrne, the niece of Sister Patricia Blanchet, who came all the way from Framingham, Massachusetts to participate. Asked how she liked the directress' seat, Nancy replied she would have done a better job behind the driver! However, as the experience proved beneficial in many ways especially in terms of witnessing as a religious, Nancy's second thought is "It was well worth it!" In spite of a beginner's setbacks she fared rather well. Three cheers for you, Nancy!

MIC Newsletter — USA

KWANSI, TAIWAN

We have had a very busy month of May. Each Sunday was marked by a particular event: a picnic organized for the children of the catechism classes; Mother's Day celebration; vocation day; pilgrimage to our Lady of Lourdes's sanctuary... Moreover, every evening we went to the house of some parishioner to pray the Rosary. This is an excellent way of keeping in touch with the people around us. We can thus learn more about their problems and how to solve them. The majority are eager to deepen their knowledge of the faith. Of course, we

would like to be able to do more for them, but being mere novices, we must first learn ourselves what we will later be called upon to teach. At the end of May, we went on a special kind of excursion. With some professed Sisters, we travelled to Sio Lan, a remote mountain village where a dispensary for aborigines was to be blessed. Mgr. Pierre Tu presided over the religious ceremony. The inhabitants are all either Catholics or Protestants. On this occasion, the local authorities had the school children dismissed at 10:00 a.m., in order to allow them to be present at the Eucharistic celebration. In the afternoon, the villagers entertained us with folk dances, songs, and mimes. They also invited us to visit their homes. The aborigines taught us many good lessons by the simplicity of their lives and their generous collaboration.

Mary Han, novice

How an African Student Handles Difficulties

by Francis K. Ghonde,
Chifubu Sec. School,
Ndola

Thank God you have difficulties. It's a sign you are alive. Learn to stand back from your troubles and take a calm survey of them. The best way to do this is through the practice of quietness. Use your full mind power to analyse your difficulty, then chip away at it systematically.

Think positively about your difficulty and believe that you can overcome it. Let persistence work for you and keep at it, and you eventually will be victorious. Never build a case against yourself. Calmly take life as it comes, deal with your difficulties with controlled emotion, and keep on working for victory. Make use of the available power of the Almighty. Troubles will defeat you without God, but with His help you can handle any difficulty.

quoted in "The Sun"

MIC MISSION NEWS
is a bimonthly published by
the Miss. Sisters of the Imm. Conc.

Box 157, Laval Branch P.O.
Laval - Quebec, H7N 4Z4

Second Class Mail Registration No. 0358
Return Postage Guaranteed

TAIWAN

CH'ING-MING FESTIVAL

by Odile Malboeuf, M.I.C.

While we honour our dead in November, the Chinese remember theirs in spring. The Ch'ing-ming festival usually falls on the 106th day after the winter solstice of December 21, half a month after the spring equinox, (March 21). Like our Christian feast of Easter, it is a spring celebration.

The willow tree plays a special role in this festival. Women and children stick small branches into their hair or hang them on door posts. Willow branches are placed beside tombstones in order to drive away evil, ward off sickness and accidents, and invite good spirits.

On the occasion of this festival the whole family comes together. Those who live at a distance try to make the journey home. When this proves impossible they offer a small "sacrifice", wherever they may be at the time, in the hope that the "spirit" of their offerings will bring comfort to their departed

ones. This "sacrifice" from a distance as well as the family ceremony itself must be performed early in the morning. The dead are supposed to be "asleep" during the day and "at home" during the night.

Various offerings of food are made at the tombs. The poor offer coarse millet gruel while the rich often provide an elaborate meal. Each ancestor gets his share. Besides, a general "sacrifice" is offered so that even those who may have been overlooked individually will not feel slighted.

The graves are usually situated on a hillside, opposite a river or the sea where soothing breezes may comfort the spirits. Choice food and lovely flowers are offered. Candles are lighted and incense burnt while family members make their prostrations. This festival is the first family excursion of the year. Ch'ing-ming means "clear brightness". Although tinged with sadness it has many overtones of joy.

Our newsletter MIC Mission News keeps you tuned to missionary doings around the world. Nothing could awaken missionary interest more effectively than your winning new members to the cause. How about asking your friends to join our missionary association ICMA? Use coupon below.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION (ICMA)

Please enroll me as member of ICMA which gives me a right to "MIC" Mission News

NAME For one year (\$2.00) ☐

ADDRESS For two years (\$3.00) ☐

..... For five years (\$8.00) ☐

BIRTHDAY

Please remember a dear departed one at Masses offered for deceased Associates:

NAME

Cut along dotted line and return to ICMA: Box 157, Laval Branch P.O.
Laval, P.Q., CANADA
H7N 4Z4