

Series 8, No. 5
September-October 1981

MIC

MISSION NEWS



Silent Encounters

*Everyday you stand there at the front door
cane in hand.
You wear those same black pants
and faded grey suit.
Your face knitted with lines
reveals your years long gone.
Sometimes you seem pensive
or is it a hurt look I missed in a fleeting glance?
Often I wonder
when you look so restful
if you had not already met my Friend
the One who died so both of us might live...
Then, as if to answer my unspoken thought
you look at me with those grave eyes
and your face breaks into a smile.*

*Blissful moment
when thoughts and heart embrace.*

*Sr. Angelina Yap, M.I.C.
Taiwan*

DAVAO, PHILIPPINES

OLD FRIENDS... NEW PROJECT

Who are they? Sisters Ditma Luz Trocio, formerly from St. Michael's College, Padada, Antoinette Castonguay, formerly from Good Counsel, Davao City, who both came from Manila on the ship Don Enrique to join their co-Sisters Lolita Villagrancia, and Lydia Cabornay, all M.I.C.'s, for a Vocation Workshop.

Although in the Philippines since 1921, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have only recently initiated a Vocation Promotion

Program. The workshop at Good Counsel, held during the last week of March, aimed at planning the implementation of that program by all the M.I.C. Sisters in general, and at focussing on the priorities for the promoters in particular.

What's so special about a vocation program that we should write a column about it? Have not all congregations their own? Of course. But here is exactly what is particular with the M.I.C. Vocation Program: it is at the same time a Missionary Animation Program for all.

Its specific objective is "that the youth of the Philippines may become aware of the needs of the Church for lay, religious, and priestly missionaries, particularly those to be sent to the non-Christians of Asia, and to be committed to the spread of the Gospel". This striking feature of mission awareness is very much in consonance with the needs of our times. It comes as an answer to Pope John Paul II's challenge to our Filipino people, to be the Christian Light of Asia, to become its Missionary Task Force. This he repeatedly implored us to be in all the speeches he made during his stay here. This missionary role of the Philippines was topmost in the Pope's mind, as may be

Continued on p. 2

TOKYO, JAPAN

IMPACT OF POPE'S VISIT

by Sr. Therese Laliberte, M.I.C.

In a brief three-and-a-half day tour of Japan, Pope John Paul II made news all over the land. The media conveyed his every move to the remotest towns and villages. People everywhere rejoiced over the great honour paid to their homeland. It was indeed a historic occasion, for John Paul II was the first Pope ever to visit Japan, with its population of 117 million, of which only 400,000 are Catholics. At first, some anxiety was felt by the latter on account of their small number compared to the millions who had acclaimed him in the Philippines. But this anxiety proved groundless. Thousands of Japanese of all social levels and religious denominations thronged to greet the Pope on his arrival. Ten thousand members of the police force stood on guard.

Together with groups of our M.I.C. Sisters from Wakamatsu and Koriyama we joined a crowd estimated at 40,000 who waited in gusty rain, for the Pope's arrival. The Eucharistic celebration was to be held inside a huge three-tiered amphitheatre. All had to wear a papal insignia to gain entrance. At first, an atmosphere of prayer and silent recollection reigned, but as soon as the Holy Father advanced towards the altar, a storm of applause broke out. He radiated the tenderness of the Good Shepherd. We were under the impression

that Jesus himself walked in our midst. The Mass and homily were given in the Japanese language.

On his first day in Tokyo, the Pope met groups of religious and representatives of various Catholic Associations in Mary Queen of the World cathedral. The second day brought delegates from non-Catholic Churches, and from Shintoist and Buddhist communities. In the early evening, the Pope gave audience, at the Budokan, a centre of Japanese martial arts, to 700,000 young people. Topics such as peace, social justice, sports, love, hope were discussed. Completely at ease with his young auditors, John Paul II answered every question and delighted everybody by speaking Japanese. He remarked, "Language is the heartbeat of a nation."

Bad weather followed him everywhere in Japan - cold gusty rain in Tokyo, turning to snow later in the day. Snow kept falling in Hiroshima, 800 kilometres south of Tokyo, and in Nagasaki. In these two cities the Pope tendered homage to the pioneers of the Christian faith, to the victims of the 17th and 19th century persecutions, as well as to the thousands who were killed or maimed in the holocaust of the atomic blasts. He remarked on the falling snow and biting winds, "Our Eucharistic cele-



People everywhere rejoiced over the great

bration offered here today, in such unfavourable weather, on the site of the martyrdom of so many Christians, should serve to bind us more closely together because we have somehow shared in their sufferings."

In Nagasaki, the Pope proceeded to the ordination of priests and again recalled the memory of the martyrs, more especially the group of 16 he had beatified in the Philippines, of whom nine were Japanese. He stressed the

Continued from p. 1
OLD FRIENDS... NEW PROJECT

gleaned from the March 1st General Audience in Rome. Giving a brief summary of his Apostolic trip to Asia, the representative of Christ on earth invited his brothers in the faith to pray for the Church of the Philippines, entrusted with the particular Mission to evangelize East Asia. He urged them to pray that the Filipino Nation may perceive this God-sent task and make itself capable of tackling it. The vocation and missionary animation program being elaborated in the wake of our beloved Pope's visit, will surely prove to have timely impact and fruitfulness.

But how do the Sisters hope to concretize it? Their priority begins at home. They will strive to develop Mission awareness and commitment among themselves, and among the people with



MIC Sisters in a happy mood during their project planning

whom they are in contact, within their own schools and other apostolic activities.

Through a religious syllabus that forcefully expounds the missionary dimension of the Christian call, they will foster a strong desire to live the faith and share it with others; with their

families, their parishes, their cultural minority groups, and with all those who do not yet know Christ's saving love here in Asia.

They will offer their collaboration to certain dioceses to promote the same mission consciousness in parishes, hospitals, schools, by means of information, sessions, and recollections.

Conscious of God's special care for our people endowed with the gift and blessing of Christian Faith for more than four centuries, we make a prayerful wish. May a throng of young men and women enthusiastically offer themselves "to return this gift to other surrounding peoples as is shown in an exemplary way by the sacrifice of our Blessed Lorenzo Ruiz."

The M.I.C. Filipino
Mission Animators Team



the great honour paid to their homeland

aim of his visit to Japan - "I have come as a pilgrim of peace, bearing a message of friendship and respect for every man, woman, and child in Japan." According to a veteran Maryknoll missionary priest who has worked in central Japan for over twenty years, the impact of the papal visit may be summarized as follows: "In just under four days John Paul II has probably done more for the public relations of the Church in Japan than missionaries could possibly have done in forty years."

KASEYE, MALAWI

Spirits and Shooting Stars

There was mourning in our town. Our friend, Mr. Mulenga, an African herb doctor, had died unexpectedly. He lived almost next door to the mission, and often came to our hospital for medication as he suffered from recurring bouts of asthma.

On the fatal day, he felt unwell, and started to ride his bicycle to the dispensary. On the way over, he was stopped by another herb doctor who insisted on his taking a rest at his own hut where he was given an injection of cafenol diluted in water. The needle was not sterilized. Far from bringing relief, this medication only made the patient feel worse. He staggered home and fell face

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Mount Saint Joseph Hospital Celebrates 35th Anniversary

In May, 1921, four Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception made the long train trip across Canada from Montreal to Vancouver, then only a name on the map to them. One of the travellers had lived in China and spoke Cantonese, another was American, and two were French Canadians. They were on their way to open a new mission for the Chinese community of Vancouver.

The Sisters began by renting a small house on Keefer Street, which turned into a school. Three years later, they bought a house on Campbell Avenue, which served as a dispensary. They bought the old Woodward house, also on Campbell Avenue, to be used as a convent for the Sisters, and as a small makeshift hospital. At first, 18 patients were admitted. Within four years the pioneers had built a hospital adjoining the residence and it was not long before it was filled to capacity.

Finally, the property on Prince Edward Street was purchased, and in 1946 Mount Saint Joseph Hospital was opened. One of the first doctors, Dr. Fred Chu, still a member of our Honorary Medical Staff, recalls: "Our main chores were taking out tonsils and delivering babies; not a very impressive start, but it was a beginning." In 1948, Mount Saint Joseph became a general hospital, no longer restricted to Oriental patients. An expansion in 1956 added the centre wing. So cramped were the Sisters' quarters that offices by day became their bedrooms by night. The need for still more space was soon

felt. A residence for the Sisters was built so that the rooms they occupied in the hospital could be used for expanded administrative and admitting facilities.

With its commitment to update patient care through improved equipment and facilities, Mount Saint Joseph soon began bursting at the seams. In response to the needs of our growing city, a major expansion program was completed in 1977. We are proud of our hospital, and we are proud of all those who, through the years, have contributed in maintaining the high standard of health care that has been synonymous with Mount Saint Joseph.

* * *

On our 35th Anniversary, we extend our warmest greetings to our former Sister Superiors now retired from hospital administration and living in Quebec, but who still take an active interest in the growth and development of M.S.J.

Sister Marcelle St. Arnaud	1946-52
(formerly Sister St. Jean du Redempteur)	
Sister Marguerite Farrell	1952-56
Sister Yvette Ricard	1956-62
(Sister St. Yves)	
Sister Marie-Jeanne Nantais	1962-65
(Sister Jean Baptiste du Sauveur)	

Also, best regards to Sisters Madeleine Payette, Simonne Lafontaine, Emma Barrette, Marguerite Mulaire, Marguerite Dumont, Hélène Gemme, and so many others who are gratefully remembered.

Condensed from M.S.J. Newsletter

by Sr. Yvette Carle, M.I.C.

down. Some time later, as his wife returned to the house after working in her garden, she found that he was dead.

According to Mr. Mulenga's last wishes and following a local custom, he was supposed to be buried only after seven days had passed, in case he should come to life again. This custom was vetoed by the village chief, the doctor, and the police, on account of the torrid heat. But nobody was able to talk Mr. Mulenga's relatives out of this arrangement. The body was kept...

On the sixth day, a man belonging to the Mulenga family called for me at the mission school. In an almost hysterical state, he announced that the

dead man wanted me to rise at two o'clock on the following night, and stand outside the house, with my prayer book in hand. I was to pray and sing hymns. Then, I would be sure to see the dead man's soul rising above the mountain top. The herb doctor's spirit would descend upon me and streak over the next mountain top, like a shooting star. A great honour was to be bestowed on me! However, this passed me by as I slept like a log through the following night, and awoke long past my appointed vigil-hour!

Yvette Carle, M.I.C.

BAURES, BOLIVIA

New Beginnings in the Beni Region

by Sr. Solange Garneau, M.I.C.

On March 25, feast of our Lady's Annunciation, Sisters Rose Alice, Marie Paule Ross, and I left for Trinidad, the capital of the Beni department, in eastern Bolivia. This department ranks second as far as surface is concerned. Its inhabitants number 45,000 scattered over an area of about 241,000 square kilometres. The climate is hot and humid. Nearly all the rivers in the Beni flow into the Amazon, and are for the most part navigable. Principal sources of income, in a land where nature is prolific, are agriculture, the raising of cattle, hunting, and fisheries.

Our new mission is situated in Baures. The only means of communication with the exterior is by air. A military plane flies from Cochabamba once a week, when the weather permits. As there is no airstrip, the plane touches down on a large field. During the rainy season, from November to March, the field turns into a quagmire where no plane will venture.

Baures is a village with a population of about 4,000. Life is primitive: no telephones, newspapers, radios or TV sets. There is no running water. The luxury of electricity is available only from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. daily. As the region's first missionaries were of Spanish origin, the church and chief buildings reflect Spanish architectural style, with large plazas in front. Throughout Bolivia, such plazas are made pleasant by shady trees and luxuriant gardens. Not so, in Baures. Here the people seem to see things from a more practical point of view. They think the plazas are an excellent place to stable horses, cows, pigs, etc. Watch your step as you go through! Else, you may slide in a puddle and have a nasty fall. But the farmers all agree on putting plazas to good use, where their cattle may graze and fertilize the soil. Sanitation is the least of their worries.

Village houses are made of adobe and sparsely furnished. There may be a bed or two, a few hammocks swung from the rafters, some crude chairs or stools, and perhaps one rickety table. Kitchens are well in the back, mostly hidden from view.

Baures boasts of one small hospital with 15 beds. The doctor is a young practitioner sent here on an obligatory basis, for his first year of internship. Two auxiliary nurses are in attendance,

caring for the few patients who do show up for treatment. People in this region are chary of doctors in general. Medicine as it is practised today is a new-fangled idea for them. They have not the faintest idea of the wonders it can perform. So the hospital remains empty most of the time.

The one and only school is a ramshackle affair, conducted in random fashion. Not one of the teachers is regularly accredited to teach, although the course stretches over twelve years. The teacher of the 12th Grade has just gone through the Grade himself and has had no teaching experience whatever. The school runs on two shifts because of lack of space to accommodate the student population. There are two recesses for each group, so very little serious work is done.



Sr. Marie
Paule Ross
cares for a
small patient

TAIPEI, TAIWAN

THE CHURCH IN TAIWAN

by Monette Ouellette, M.I.C.

The Church in Taiwan is still a young Church, the first Catholic missionaries having reached it a mere twenty years ago. But although young in the Faith, it is full of promise. Its small groups of Christians, scattered among a great mass which knows nothing about God, will prove to be a leaven in this mass.

Taiwan is a small island, developing at an extraordinarily rapid rate,

Maybe all this sounds rather pessimistic to you but it is the stark reality we have to face. There is much work to be done. My two companions being registered Nurses have started on awakening the people to the urgent need for sanitation. For my part, I have taken over the teaching of doctrine in the school-room.

There is also much to be done in surrounding villages, with no resident pastor. We are expected to make the rounds once in a while. This is no easy task as there are no roads to speak of. We can reach these places only on foot, on horseback, or by boat. Our work there has yet to be classified. It will take a little time before we can see what can be done and how.

As the pastor of Baures travelled to distant villages to hold religious services during Holy Week, we were left alone to guide the faithful at the parish in the various prayers and ceremonies. It was a new and very inspiring experience for me and my companions. We hope to tell you more about our apostolic ventures here in the near future. Meantime, we rely on your prayerful collaboration.

whose people work day and night, seven days a week. They never balk at difficulties. Materialistic comfort, keen competition, the ambition to earn more and more money, create a climate where all means are good as long as the aim of quickly enriching oneself is attained. Our Christians find themselves inevitably drawn into this vortex. They need all the support and encouragement we can give them in order to live up to their Christian ideals.

Continued on p. 5

Mission Briefs



Chinese Centre, Ottawa

Soon after his arrival in Canada, about one year ago, Mr. Ung Mui Hout had asked to receive religious instruction together with his family. Acting upon his request, and with the approval of the pastor of St. George Parish which sponsored this Cambodian family, I began to teach them the rudiments of our Catholic faith. Mr. Ung with his wife and four children made it their duty never to miss Sunday Mass at the Centre. During the summer, the family asked to be baptized. But it seemed too soon, as they had only the barest notions of the Catholic creed. Finally, on December 22, 1980, Msgr. John MacDonald, pastor of St. George Parish, agreed to accompany me to the home of the Ung family. Pleasantly surprised to find them so well prepared and so eager to be baptized, he resolved to confer the sacrament upon the whole family.

A few days before the ceremony, the Ung's 16 year-old son arrived in Ottawa. When he learned about his family's resolution, he also asked to be baptized. We were very happy to learn that this boy had, during the past three years, attended a Catholic school in Hong Kong. As he seemed keenly desirous of being baptized with his family and was sufficiently prepared, the pastor gave his consent much to the joy of his parents.

The whole family of seven was baptized on the evening of December 23 in the St. George Parish church, at the hands of Msgr. MacDonald. Only the members of the various parochial

committees were present. The godparents were chosen among the members who had more especially sponsored this refugee family. It was a beautiful and touching ceremony. Afterwards, delicious refreshments were served in the parish hall by ladies from the different committees.

Sr. Odile Malboeuf, M.I.C.

WAKAMATSU, JAPAN

A surprise visit from Msgr. Mario Pio Gaspari, Apostolic Internuncio to Japan, brought us great joy even if it was too short to our liking. He made a rapid tour of the premises, meanwhile stressing the importance of education in Japan as a means of apostolate. The following are a few excerpts from an interesting article contributed by the Internuncio to the "Japan Times" under the title "A Church for the Full Development of Man".

"There is no doubt that in the history of the Church, teaching at all levels, from the kindergarten to the University, has been one of the primary and most effective ways for the fulfilment of her mission. Christianity had an influence upon the history and culture of the Japanese people mainly through the dedicated work of a large number of missionaries teaching in all kinds of schools. If the Church were to ignore this important field of her activity, she would betray one of the most vital aspects of her mission based on the very words of Christ: 'Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature'".

It is no wonder that the Catholic Bishops of Japan, in their message to all who are engaged in the Catholic schools apostolate, very explicitly say: "We do not agree with some tendencies which seem to make light of the apostolic value of the Catholic Schools in our country, nor do we share the opinion of some that the self-dedication which this work demands is not in agreement with the truly priestly, religious, and apostolic vocation of a missionary."

Information MIC, Japan.

KOWLOON

Sr. Laura Thérien had an inspiring meeting the other day at the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, on Clear Water Bay Road. While she was chatting with one old lady, a younger lady passed by, pushing a wheel chair. Imagine Sister's surprise and joy when this young woman, mother of several young children, told her she was one of her past students of Good Hope; regularly, during the past four years, she comes to give benevolent service several hours a day, service which brings her much joy and gives a deep meaning to her own life as a mother. Another past student of Good Hope, now working for a large firm, told Sr. Therese LeBlanc how happy she was each month to help the Little Sisters when they came for their regular collection among the employees. Here, in Hong Kong, we often hear such stories confirming the value of Catholic education, and the lessons that our wonderful girls have retained from our contact with them.

Continued from p. 4
THE CHURCH IN TAIWAN

We, missionaries, also need you as our loyal collaborators in the mission which has been entrusted to us - to proclaim the Good News far and wide. Should we fail in this mission we would lose the right to be here in Taiwan.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for the material help which marks your solidarity with Christians everywhere. To those who do not know Christ, we carry the same Gospel mes-

sage all over the world. This message urges men of all races, tongues, peoples, and nations to grow daily in the practice of justice, love, generosity, and conciliation. May the Lord of all nations hear our prayers and make us grow in his love!

New ICMA Associates / Collaborators may send back their membership coupons to:

**The Missionary Sisters of the
Immaculate Conception**
74 Constance St.
Toronto, Ontario, M6R 1S6
Canada

HONG KONG

OPERATION 6 X 6 AT GOOD HOPE

This year, the Chinese New Year was exceptionally meaningful to us. Just before the break for the holidays, the Students' Central Board organized a Knit-in Campaign. All students and staff were invited to join. What they were asked to do was to produce small woolen squares measuring 6 x 6 inches, either by knitting or crocheting. These small squares would then be joined to form blankets which would be donated to a Home for the Aged.

As a kind of encouragement, two competitions were introduced in the campaign; one for best quality and the other for the biggest quantity. Our aim was really to give ourselves a chance to work for the poor, to remember them when we were enjoying the wonderful Chinese New Year, to give rather than to receive.

Once the activity began, it progressed rapidly. The whole school was suddenly filled with balls of yarn, scissors, long and short needles, crochets, as well as books and pencils. Small squares were quickly finished, gathered and joined. At any time of the day you could hear the tinkling sound of needles falling to the floor. During dinner recesses or lunch breaks, groups of students gathered together chatting, laughing, and knitting.

Not to be outdone by the girls, our Forms 6 and 7 boys also took part in the competition. They did not know how to knit, but they were willing to learn. One of them expressed his feelings as follows: "Yo ho! Competition with long needles and wool... Who says we're idle? Your hands are so wonderful in its movements... Ladies, we have long been your admirers; now we will be your followers."



Sister Mary and our P.E. Teachers give a hand

The staff also were active participants. All the teachers, officers, sisters, and even Sister Principal supported the campaign. Their effort was very much appreciated, and proved a great encouragement for the student body. Aiming at the same target, the staff started to work together. All were eager to help. Those who did not know how to knit helped to roll yarn into balls, or join the squares. Some of the male teachers even asked their wives to help knit squares.

This active response to the campaign - 50 blankets completed - was

quite unexpected. All of us participants were happy to be able to share with others. As one student summed up her involvement in the activity: "I feel happy when I knit, although I don't know who will receive this piece of knitting from my hand. All I know is that this person is homeless. I have a family, that's why I can keep warm. Now I have the opportunity to share this warmth with others and make them feel they are not neglected."

by Virginia Chi
Student, Good Hope School

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

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

ISSN 0315 - 9655