

Series 10, No. 2
March - April, 1983

MIC

MISSION NEWS



Africa

*Come! We are a harvest full ripe for the reaping.
We are the myriad voices of mankind.*

...We are the voices of mankind, crying out to those of you who recognize our brotherhood.

My children!

In the silence of My eternity, I have heard your cry. I am your God who loves you, who created you to be with Me as long as I am. Before the depth of My Fatherhood, color, race, age, beauty, and language fall away.

You have not been forgotten by Me.

I sent My only-begotten Son to dwell among you; and through His sacrifice, your salvation has been wrought for all time.

*Come to us! We do want to be the children of God
Who made us,
Who loves us,
Who died for us.*

My children, you should not be left in darkness, neither understanding nor comprehending the meaning of life.

Did not my Son tell all who believed in Him to reach out the hand of brotherhood to you, and to give you your share in My love? I am a God of love, and those who believe in Me can be known through their love for all I created.

Like sheaves of grain that wave full golden heads, we are ready! Come to us! Come wherever we are - along uncharted rivers, in hidden windswept valleys, upon hill tops and wastelands, in the hearts of ancient slums, on deserts of sand that lead to the sun.

Come! We are a harvest full ripe for the reaping.

We are the myriad voices of mankind.

A Universal Dialogue
(Maryknoll)

Cover photo:

Sr. Hélène Labelle, M.I.C., and her young friends welcome you to Malaŵi.

MIC MISSION NEWS

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EDITORIAL TEAM:

Sr. Ma. Anthea Raso, M.I.C.

Sr. Madeline Maillet, M.I.C.

Sr. Nina Ennis, M.I.C.

Lay-Out Consultant:

Sr. Fleur-Ange L'Heureux, M.I.C.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

Box 157, Laval Branch, P.O.

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Mary, the Woman of Beginnings and Fulfillments

***"It is accomplished".
Your pierced but joyful heart
Echoed this word
of your suffering Son and Lord.***

***Standing beneath His cross
Your silent presence expressed
The fulfillment of your Yes
which in its beginning
made you handmaid of the Lord
to mother His Incarnate Word.***

***Now the hour has come
to fulfill your motherhood
and begin man's brotherhood.
"Woman, behold your son".
Opening your universal womb
to conceive redeemed mankind***

***Ecce
Fiat
Magnificat
Answered your grateful heart.***

Guada, M.I.C.

The Poor: Delia Tetreault's Favourites

By Sr. Pauline Longtin, M.I.C.

For Delia Tetreault, "to love means to be present and to act." This loving presence she wished to ensure more particularly for those who stood in greatest need.

Even before the foundation of her missionary Institute, Delia devoted her time to the "Work for the Poor" conducted by Father Almyre Pichon, S.J., in one of the large poor districts of Montreal. There she witnessed the physical and moral miseries experienced by many people. She gave herself without stint to the relief of the poor, the sick; news boys whose tasks prevented them from attending school to whom she taught catechism and immigrants. (She learned Italian, the better to relate to them.)

The works of her religious community which were founded in foreign missions were in favour of the poorest: orphans, lepers, the aged. But even in her own country, Delia manifested her preference by her constant care of the poor and the collaboration she assured to immigrants. When the "flu" epidemic broke out in the years 1918-19, Delia multiplied her requests to the religious and civil authorities of Montreal to obtain a permit to open an Infirmary for

the Chinese working in restaurants and laundries. She herself saw to making the beds to welcome the first patients and placed the Sisters in care of the most miserable. Who might have guessed that this was the embryo of the Chinese Hospital of Montreal which still functions today!

Like the Church which has never, in the course of centuries, ceased affirming Her care for the poor, Delia has affirmed her solicitude for the less fortunate by deed and words which can never leave us in the dark regarding her preference. To a group of Sisters sent to Vancouver to open a modest Home for Asiatics, she confided: "I haven't had time to tell you how happy I am to hear that you are welcoming a few poor persons in your little house. Surround them with tenderness, enable them to spend happily the years that are left and let your kindness radiate something of God's goodness." Her words are clear enough - she tells of respect, tenderness, love.

To be witness of the goodness of God - such was the deep motivation of the foundress' least as well as greatest ventures. What she esteemed most was fidelity to the will of God in her life and in that of her Missionary Institute.

YOU and the MISSIONS

*Would you like to share the MISSION SPIRIT
with a friend, a grandchild, a neighbour?*

OFFER a subscription to the MIC MISSION NEWS!

*Would you like to be involved more closely
with the MISSION WORK?*

*Be an active PROMOTER of the MIC MISSION NEWS
within your family circle, your neighbourhood, your parish
clubs and associations such as*

- *The Legion of Mary*
- *The Catholic Women's League*
- *The Knights of Columbus*
- *The Daughters of Isabela*
- *Other groups...*

Kindly forward to the MIC MISSION NEWS the names of those interested.



Shown in the photo with Sr. Anthea is Mrs. Helen Toner from St. Patrick's Parish, Grand Falls. Since November, 1981, Helen has been coordinating the promotion work for the MIC MISSION NEWS among her fellow-collaborators from 9 parishes in New Brunswick.

Walking with Bolivia's Poor

By Sr. Alice Berleur, M.I.C.

...We are the voices of mankind crying out to those of you who recognize our brotherhood.

Profile of Bolivia

In Bolivia, 70 per cent of the population are peasants. Very few are literate and only a small percentage speak Spanish well, most favoring Quechua or Aymara. Ninety per cent of the peasants live on the Altiplano or in the valleys while only 10 per cent live in the lowlands. Schools, health facilities, public services and roads are scarce or non-existent in many places. The low income and general socio-economic conditions in the Altiplano, valleys and jungle areas have had a direct and disastrous effect on the health conditions of the peasants and their families.

A long way to Pacotanca

My main missionary task at present is ministering to the needs of the sick living in remote villages, deprived of sanitary facilities. Fortunately my staff and I are now equipped with a mobile clinic, which makes it easier to cover distances in less time. One of the more isolated villages we serve is Pacotanca. Due to lack of passable roads, our mobile clinic has to stop five kilometres away from this place, and the rest of the way is covered on foot, over dirt tracks, potholes, stones and protruding roots. The four kilometres already paved have been done by dint of hard work on the part of a team of peasants. No bulldozers being available, the men worked with pick axes and shovels. The remaining five kilometres will be done the same hard way, whenever they can spare time from their busy day at the farms.

Local people share responsibilities

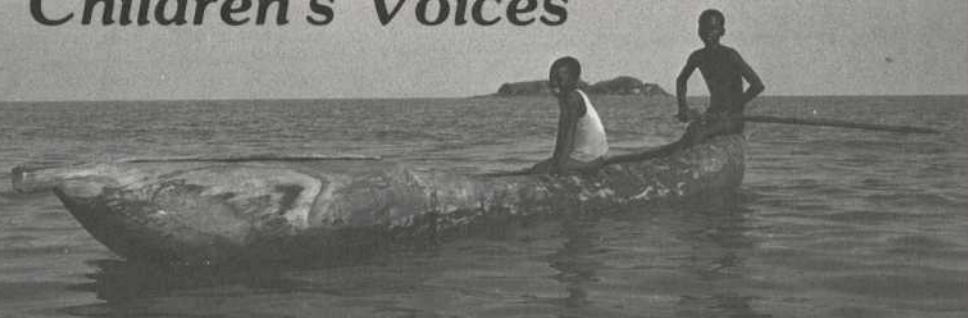
Harmony reigns among the people who gather at the crossroads and accompany us back to their village. Their eagerness in serving their less fortunate brothers and sisters is contagious and uplifting. While the men and young boys act as carriers and weight lifters for cases of medicine, sleeping bags, etc, the women prepare a meal of dehydrated potatoes, maize, and dried beef. As we start out on foot toward Pacotanca, some peasants lead the march with local music.

My vocation as a M.I.C.

Trudging on the way to Pacotanca and other such distant villages, I have plenty of time to ponder over the true meaning of my missionary life. My prayer follows the stark realities of daily life among God's poor and often turns into a hymn of thanksgiving. The peasants are grateful to God for the simple things of life. They are content to live on little but at the same time are keenly aware of their dignity as men and aspire after social justice.

I am happy to work closely with these people. I feel very privileged to have opportunities of helping them form, as far as possible, communities which are brotherly and evangelical. From them I learn the fullness of Our Lord's words, expressed in Mt. 25: 35-40: *"...For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; ...sick and you visited me... In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."*

Children's Voices



By Sr. Louise Denis, M.I.C.

Dear Parents and Teachers,

This section of the MIC Mission News was prepared especially for young people. We invite you to encourage those under your care to be interested in it and to follow the suggested activities.

We sincerely hope that together, we may help them develop a sense of mission awareness and concern, awaken in them respect for and kinship with people of other cultures, as well as develop a sensitivity to the needs and struggles of these people.

Monire! Hi friends!

My name is Kondwani, which means 'joy' in my native dialect, the Chitumbuka. I am 11 years old. I come from Malaŵi, a small country in the big African continent. Malaŵi means 'Land of Sunshine'. It has an enormous lake, the sparkling waters of which abound with more than 220 species of fish. In fact, Lake Malaŵi is Africa's third largest and the world's twelfth largest lake.

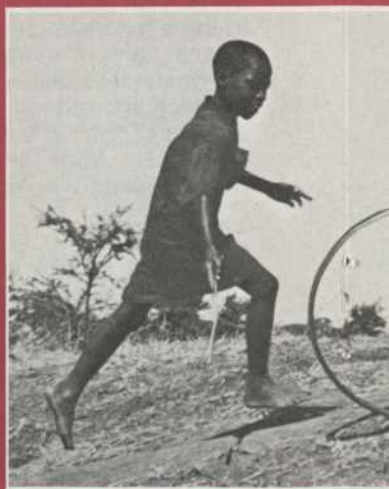
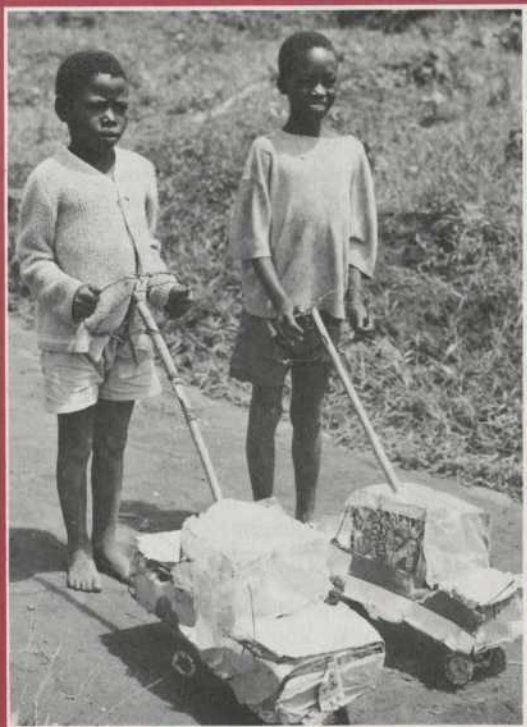
Today I wish to take you with me to my village in the northern part of Malaŵi to meet my family and friends. I live on a farm with my adada, my amama, my older sister Tamiwa, my younger brother Penjani and my sister Tamara. Each member of our family has particular tasks to do at home and on the farm. Adada plows the fields during the

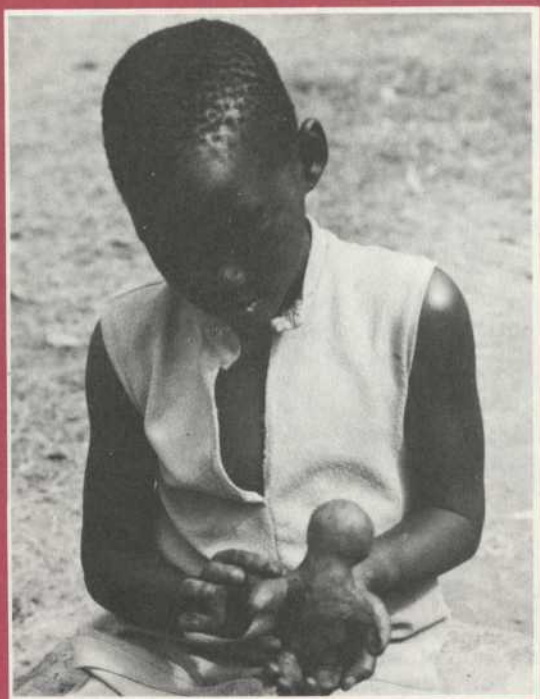
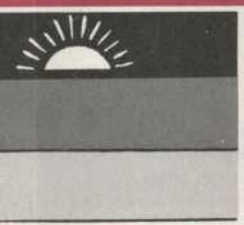
dry season or just before the start of the rainy season in December. He sows maize, beans, peanuts and cotton which grow beautifully under the tropical sun. Maize is our staple food. Amama and my sisters pound the maize into a white flour which they use to prepare our favorite 'sima' (dough). Adada sells a good part of the harvest from the farm to the cooperatives who in turn sell these products to other countries.

We are all Catholics in my family. My parents learned their catechism and were baptized by the missionaries who came to my country long before I was born. The missionary Fathers and Sisters still come to visit us periodically. We hear about the Lord Jesus from them and from the catechist in our village. Not all of my friends and their families are Catholics.

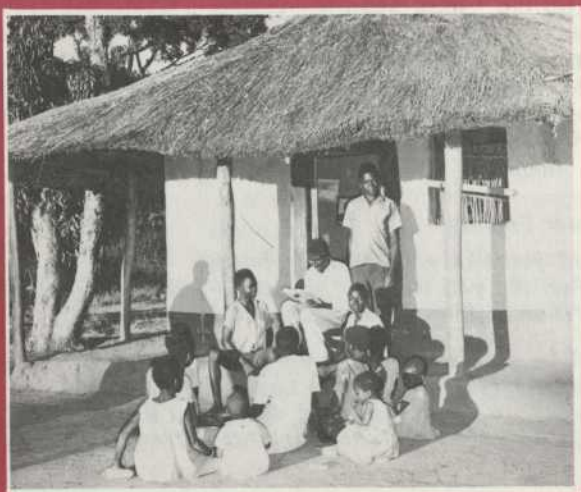
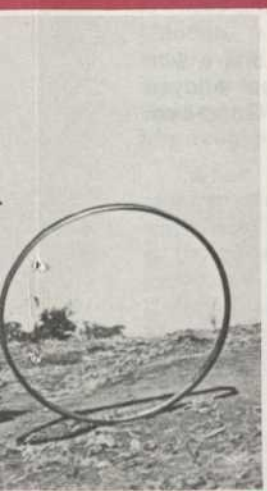


Malaû





awî Welcomes You!



I am lucky to be attending the mission school, five miles away from our village. Some of my friends do not have this chance because they are needed to herd their father's cows and to help in the fields.

We children of Malaŵi are joyful, fun-loving and quite active. Like other children around the world, we surely love to play! We also like to share what we have with our friends and neighbours. We make our own toys from what we find around us - wood, bark, mud, and sometimes a few nails or some wire which we have saved from old things that have been thrown away. Last year, my friend Wongani and I each built a lorry like the one his uncle drives to the capital. How proud we were of ourselves and how many hours we spent playing with them!

During the dry season we make hoops out of walls of old rubber tires. You tie a piece of string to the rim, and by a special knack you can roll it for miles, keeping the tire straight. This is a game we play on the move, when taking the cows from one grazing ground to another.

So far, I have been telling you about myself and my friends. I suppose you also would like to know what the girls in our village do. Tamiwa could better tell you all about these things.

Monire! I am pleased that you came to visit us. I am 13 years old and I go to the Girl's Mission School. Our school is built of mud, with a grass roof. We are eager to learn many new things, especially about people from other lands.

My younger sister Tamara stays home to help amama with the household chores and our vegetable garden. Early every morning before I leave for school and on my return in the afternoon, Tamara and I go with amama to fetch water at the pump about a mile from our village. We use this water for drinking, for cooking and for washing. After school and on non-class days, I help amama pound the maize. Tamara gathers firewood which we need for cooking.

During the rainy season there are lots of mud and we play with it a good deal - making dough and bread, or even dolls!

Music and dancing are very much part of our life in the village. My cousin made a guitar and we love listening to him. We also enjoy singing together. There is, of course, our favourite musical instrument which we use to accompany all our dances - the tam tam (african drum).

These are all I can share with you for now. I hope you enjoyed your visit to our village. Good-bye! *Paweme.*

Dear Friends,

Did you like your visit to Malaŵi?

What did you discover about the village life and activities of Kondwani and Tamiwa?

I'll be glad to send you a little souvenir from Malaŵi if you write to me at this address:

***Sr. Louise Denis, M.I.C.
Box 157, Laval Branch, P.O.
Laval, P.Q. H7N 4Z4, Canada***

Taiwan



By Sr. Celia Chua, M.I.C.

Formation of Catholic Youth in Christian Life Communities

*...Come to us! We do want to be the children of God
who loves us.*

Background

Compared with the economic situation of the Island some thirty years ago, development in Taiwan is rapid and it has raised the living standard of the people. Considerably, this affluence has played an important role in the changing of their mentalities and attitudes toward life, religion and spiritual needs.

When the Nationalist Government of the late President Chiang-Kai Shek came to Taiwan, many of the government officials and military men were baptized to the Catholic faith. Today a good number of the catholic youth are offsprings of these Christians.

Problems

Following the trends of progress and ever aiming for a brighter future,

competition in the schools become even more strenuous. In view of entering the university gates and going abroad, parents encourage their children to attend to their studies rather than go to Church on Sundays. We are thus faced with a catholic youth who know little or practically nothing about their religion and have no time or interest in the study of religion. Only a few are willing to take up again and examine their faith.

Statistics

The Christian Life Communities Movement was started in June 1970 by a group of Chinese Jesuits for the Catholic youth of Taiwan. This movement counted 41 collegial groups with a membership of 348. In 1980, the groups have increased to 52 with the total membership of more than 600.

What are Christian Life Communities?

The Christian Life Communities (CLC) are lay organizations; "World Community" would be a better name for the movement. These local groups are Christian communities which aim to form committed men and women for service to the Church and the world in every area of daily life.

My personal experiences as a CLC moderator

Sensitive to the needs of the local Church in forming lay leaders and conscious of the services rendered by missionaries in the work of evangelization, my involvement as a CLC moderator for the last 8 years has been one of my priorities. Teaming up with two Jesuits, I hold weekly meetings with two groups. The first is a university group composed of 20 students from our parish,

Holy Family Church. The second group is composed of 35 professionals whose commitments are translated through their roles as citizens and Christians. In 1978, I was invited to join the directors' group whose function was to prepare the formative activities of the CLC at a nation-wide level. We held the following activities: "live-in" faith camps; Summer Theology courses: three-day and eight-day retreats based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. These contacts have definitely enriched my missionary experience and helped in my own inculturation in Taiwan. Moreover, they have allowed me to plunge into the milieu of my young companions. As I look back and now see them maturing in their Catholic faith, I can not help but thank the Lord for what the CLC movement has been doing for the Church in Taiwan. It is a fertile ground for both personality development and spiritual formation for the members.

Philippines

Responses to Mission

By Sr. Antoinette Castonguay, M.I.C.

*...Like sheaves of grain that wave full golden heads,
we are ready! Come to us!*

Among all their neighbours in Asia, the Filipino people are unique. Their country alone has the majority of Christians. Indeed, they number more than half of all Catholics in this part of the world. Four hundred years of Christianity has prepared the Filipino people to meet the challenge of bringing the Gospel to other nations. Asia needs Christ. Does the Filipino Church share her spiritual treasure?

From Pope John Paul's teachings during his visit to the Philippines, there emerged the exhortation to a clear awareness of the role that this country can and must carry out to help build a better world. There is, above all, the reaffirmation of the missionary responsibility of the Church in the Philippines for the proclamation of the Gospel to the rest of Asia.

A missionary-animation visit to 20 parishes of Tuguegarao diocese in Northern Luzon gave Sr. Lydia Cabornay, M.I.C., and myself the privilege of taking a close look at a concerted effort among the people at the grass roots toward awareness of and concern for the missions; a missionary outlook which is manifested with simplicity, zeal and enthusiasm.

Our visit through the diocese provided us many opportunities to meet groups in public and private schools, in churches and in hospitals. We marvelled at the stamina and determination of high school and college students, majority of whom make their way through higher studies. We witnessed the generosity and eagerness of teachers and administrative personnel to collaborate in the Christian education of the youth. We learned a lot from the barrio folks who gathered for their Basic Christian Community meetings. But the persons who impressed us most were the catechists. We found them a particularly joyful and dedicated group. We saw that they strive daily to live gospel values within their own families as

well as their community. Once informed of the deep needs of peoples in other countries, they become key persons who could be relied upon to share their interest and concern for the missions among their fellow-parishioners.

While among the people of Tuguegarao, Sr. Lydia and I witnessed and experienced for ourselves the reality of Pope John Paul's Message of Love to the Filipino people:

"It is heartening to see the vitality of the Church in the Philippines: to see the active part played by the laity, the contribution made by catechists, teachers, social action workers and so many others, the indispensable role of Christian families - each in its own way furthering God's Kingdom. I am pleased especially at the way in which many Filipinos have responded to the call of Christ to serve the Church as priests and religious, not only at home but in other countries as well. They go as missionaries of Christian hope. Clearly, the missionary activity of the Church has borne abundant fruit in your land."

Srs. Antoinette Castonguay and Lydia Cabornay respond to a call from Tuguegarao diocese.



Mission Briefs



...Come, wherever we are...

Tokyo - Japan:

Sr. Rachel Gérin, M.I.C., has spent 30 years as a missionary in Japan. During this time her special assignment was teaching English, mainly to secondary school students. This is an excellent means of establishing contacts with young people, and it is often the first occasion they have of hearing the Good News. That such lessons do bear fruit after many years of patient waiting is proved in the following letter Sr. Rachel received from one of her former students:

Dear Sister Rachel,

It has been long since I last wrote to you. I am very sorry. I must say I have been extremely busy since I'm in the fourth year of university.

I wondered what kind of profession I should choose, and am still wondering. I would like to be a reporter in a newspaper company but I also would like to become a scholar, continuing my education at the university. I am really not sure what I want to become most.

The word 'Christmas' reminds me of the Prayer of St. Francis: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love..."

When you taught it to me, I really thought I could not understand it. But now, after studying social psychology for two years, I think I can understand the true sense of this prayer.

Though I am not a 'practising' Christian, I believe the Lord will help us if we pray. So I pray every day.

With love,

Makoto Hattori

Cuba:

When we remain open to the lay people's initiatives, we discover, in their ideas, new paths for our apostolic and missionary activity. This is what I have been able to confirm in my work with adolescents. A year ago, the father of one of them asked us to celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass for the birthday anniversary of his son. After Mass, a light lunch would be graciously offered to all participants in the parish hall. It was a good idea and on the occasion of other birthday anniversaries, several fathers asked the same thing. And so this feast became a tradition which is one year old today... Nevertheless, we have changed the form a little: all the anniversaries of one month are celebrated together and it is the fathers of those concerned who organize the reception after Mass.

This event is now more than an anniversary, it has turned out to be a liturgical celebration starting with an invitation to the Penitential rite. In this way, all can offer Communion for the elects of the day. Eucharist is celebrated in an intimate, meditative and thanksgiving atmosphere. For all the persons present, teenagers, families, friends and members of the community, it is an occasion of prayer and renewal. Moreover, this event assumes a missionary character since the adolescents have among their guests some friends and other teen-agers who are not Catholics. The latter thus receive a share of the Christian message, fruit of their presence at this simple, family celebration.

Sr. Dinorah Ayala, M.I.C.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION (ICMA)

In 1902, Delia Tetreault founded the first Canadian Missionary Congregation: **The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception**. Since 1923, at the launching of a missionary publication "The Precursor," she invited her compatriots to participate more directly in the Mission by becoming ASSOCIATES and BENEFACTORS of the Congregation.

Today, we offer you in her name a means of personally collaborating in the missionary service of the Church: **Immaculate Conception**

Missionary Association (ICMA). The bimonthly magazine, MIC MISSION NEWS, the link between the MIC's and their Associates, is sent to all the members.

Your affiliation gives you share in the prayers and apostolic works of all the MIC's. Every week, two masses - applicable to the deceased - are offered in one of the MIC houses throughout the world. Moreover, a stream of Marian prayers flows in the Congregation for the intentions of the Associates and Benefactors.

Schedule of Masses for our Associates

March, 1983

Kaseye (Malawi)
Colon (Cuba)
St-Dominique, Montreal (Canada)
Joliette (Canada)
Rosal (Philippines)
Trou-du-Nord (Haiti)
Longueuil (Canada)
Taipei (Taiwan)

April, 1983

Cap-Haitien (Haiti)
Tokyo (Japan)
Pont-Viau (Canada)
San Juan (Philippines)
Chikungu (Zambia)
Tak Oi (Hong Kong)
Ambohibary (Madagascar)
Louis-Colin, Montreal (Canada)

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and subscribe to the MIC MISSION NEWS.*

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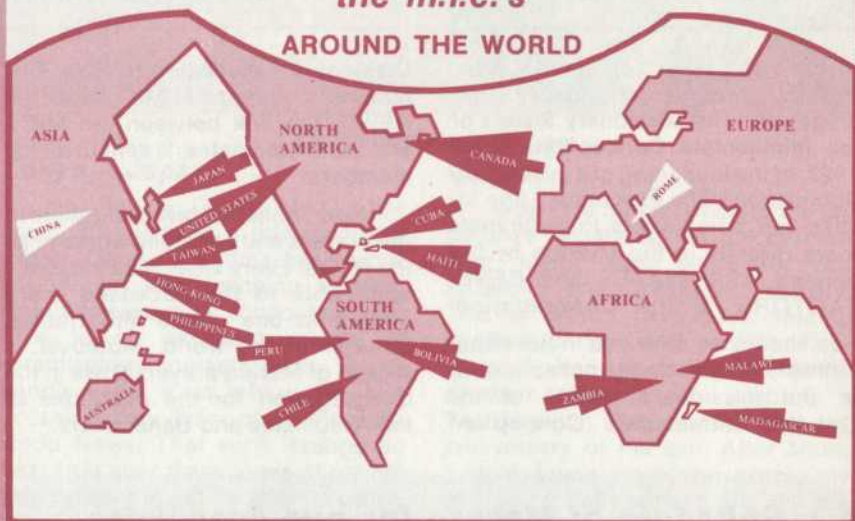
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Cut along line and return to ICMA:

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the m.i.c.'s AROUND THE WORLD



For further information, please contact The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception at any of the following addresses:

The Generalate
121 Maplewood Avenue
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
H2V 2M2

Missionary Animation Centre
2100 De Londres, Ville St. Laurent
Montreal, Que., Canada
H4L 3A6

Chinese Center
30 Goulburn
Ottawa, Ont., Canada
K1N 8C8

56 Indian Road Crescent
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M6P 2G1

2950 Prince Edward St.
Vancouver, B.C., Canada
V5T 3N3

1417, 38th Avenue
San Francisco, Cal.
U.S.A. 94122

Provincial House
13-16 Fukazawa 8 Chome
Setagaya Ku, Tokyo 158
Japan

Provincial House
Good Hope, Clear Water Bay Road
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Provincial House
10 Grant St.
Greenhills, Metro Manila
Philippines 3113

Provincial House
P.O. Box 47
Mzimba, Malawi
Central Africa