

Series 10, No. 4
July - August, 1983

MIC

MISSION NEWS



Madagascar

*"We bless You, Father, for the trust you place in us,
for the boldness You inspire us with, for the fire alight in us,
that is You in us, You the just". Dom Helder Camara*

Vocation

If we desire to keep in mind the community of the people of God, which is so vast and so differentiated, we must see Jesus saying to each one of us: "Come, follow Me".

*The beautiful thing about Jesus
is that He never calls us alone.
When Jesus says, "Come, come",
to Philip and Andrew,
then Andrew goes to Peter and says,
"we have found the Messiah."
Philip goes to Nathaniel and says,
"We have found the Peacemaker".
So it is when He gives us His Spirit;
He very quickly creates a family.
Then there remains that question of Jesus:
"Do you love Me"?*

Since the establishment of the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception 81 years ago, hundreds of missionaries who have come to know and experience the love of Jesus in their own lives, have gone out to share their life and all its gifts, especially their faith in Jesus, with God's people throughout the world.

In this issue, we catch glimpses of how the MIC Sisters see themselves responding to and expressing their call to mission work within the context of the MIC Community.

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

Cover photo: Sr. Suzette Jean, M.I.C., and Françoise Florisina, novice, share the joy of bringing the Good News to Malagasy Children.

MIC MISSION NEWS

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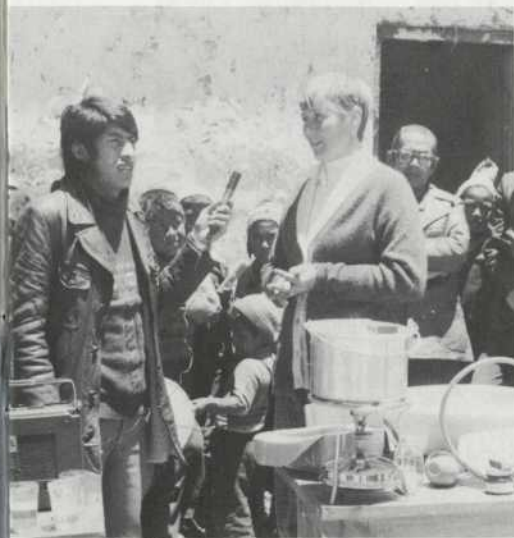
Poetic musings describe the hopes of a missionary:

A dream to keep

With the disciples
on the Road to Emmaus
I dream of peoples of all colours,
creeds and cultures
Whose hearts will be burning
within them
Because I, too,
walked along the road
with them
And they will see and will be ignited
from my dim but glowing spark.



*MIC Sisters on their way to visit
barrio folks in Mindoro, Philippines.*



*Sr. Alice Berleur,
with villagers in Catavi, Bolivia.*

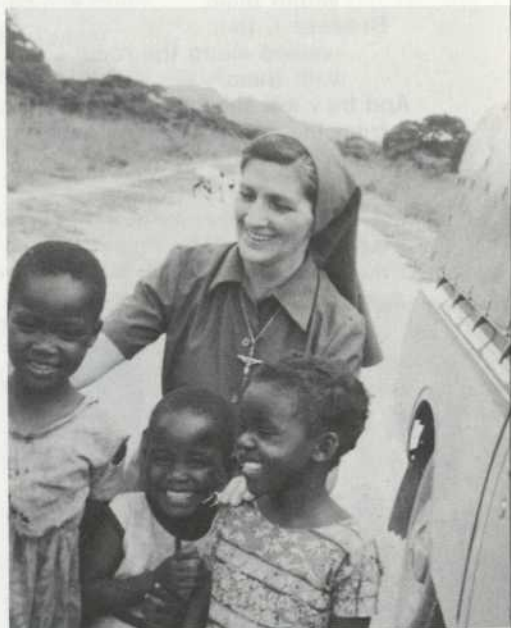
I dream of grasping a sliver of ray
To penetrate the windows of
minds and hearts still dark
To brighten the shadows of fear
imprisoning human concerns
and deadening bondage
To dispel the gloom
with the light of Him who
is the Light.



*Sr. Cécile Martel,
with neighbours in Joliette, Quebec.*

I dream of being
a firm pebble of understanding
a shapeless rock of value and truth
a foundation - stronghold of
love and faith
In the home-garden of those
Who may have rejected -
And then accepted -
Jesus, as their Cornerstone.

I dream of a Smiling World
Rejoicing in the Good News I speak
To those no longer poor
To prisoners no longer captive and
To seers no longer blind
I dream of a Radiant New World
that smiles in the
Joy of the Risen Lord!



*Sr. Noëlla Fréchette,
with young friends in Banga, Malawi.*

Adapted from:
A Dream at 21 years a priest
by Charles Davignon



*Sr. Louise, with her father,
Mr. Alcide Sauvé.*

Canada

Call to mission

Sr. Louise Sauvé, M.I.C.

For 5 years, I have been engaged in the work of Christian solidarity called **The Propagation of the Faith**. This work, founded by Pauline Marie Jaricot in France in 1822, exists today in more than 100 countries.

The experience which I now live in my Church of origin, after 18 years

as a missionary in Japan, has allowed me to understand better the universal dimension of the Church. While trying to share the experience I lived in Japan with my fellow-Christians here, I realize more than ever that we are not Christian alone and we are not Christian only for ourselves.

Faith is a gift from God, but a very special one: a gift which compels us to be at the service of others. As Christians, we are assembled by Jesus and sent into the world to help transform it into the Kingdom of God, into a Kingdom of justice and peace.

Among Christians, those who are called missionaries are those who are invited by Jesus in a more radical way to offer their whole energy, their entire life at the service of the Kingdom - those whom Jesus asked to go beyond the boundaries of their own country, their culture, their language, so as to live concretely the universal fraternity which He came to inaugurate.

The missionary going afar needs the faith and dynamism of his Church of origin. And each Christian community needs its own missionaries, to be in touch with the other Christian communities around the world. Through dialogue, exchanges and sharing, links of solidarity are woven among all Christians. The big human

family is thus gathered together in the name of Jesus.

My experience during the past years have also brought me a deeper understanding of the orientations adopted by my own religious family. I see more clearly why Delia Tetreault, our Foundress, attached a great value to the service of missionary animation in the Christian milieu. From the very foundation of the Institute, Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception worked for the promotion of **The Propagation of the Faith** and of **The Holy Childhood**. From the beginnings, too, aside from preparing the Sisters for foreign missions, Delia encouraged them to welcome in their midst all peoples from other countries.

After these enriching years of service in my native Church, it is with new hope and eagerness that I return to Japan. United with the Christians of Canada, I leave again for the Orient, to continue the mission of Jesus among my Japanese brothers and sisters.

MARY can be considered a mirror of the expectations of men and women of our time. She offers us the perfect model of the disciple of Jesus: the disciple who builds up the temporal city while being a diligent pilgrim enroute to the eternal city, the disciple who works for justice which sets free the oppressed and for that charity which assists the needy; above all, the disciple who is the active witness of that love which brings Jesus into people's hearts.

Pope John Paul II



Sr. Estrella Solibio, missionary to Japan, during her 'send-off' ceremony held in Davao, Philippines.

"As the Father sent Me, so am I sending you" (Jn. 20: 21)

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

The whole world has been assigned to the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception as their field of apostolate.

The first group of MIC Sisters left Canada for China in 1909. Since then, many others have been sent to different mission lands. Delia Tetreault had accepted the challenge of laying the foundation of the first missionary Institute of women in Canada. She realized that it was time for the Canadian Church to share the Faith received from the Christians who emigrated from France. Anticipating all the great missionary encyclicals, she dared to push forward and direct her little missionary band to other shores of the world, especially to those where Jesus was yet

unknown. This took place at the beginning of a century when crossing seas was long and perilous, when human and financial resources were insufficient. But Delia accepted the challenge because of the great dream she harbored in her heart: To proclaim and to witness the Good News of Jesus, by life and service.

In 1983, as in 1902, the MIC Sisters are still urged on by this same dream - they believe in it - they live it.

For missionaries to be committed to universal mission is perennially necessary and never more so than today, for beyond all riches, as Pope John Paul II says, 'the world needs Christ'.

Sent...

*To proclaim joy
the
of s*



joyfully
the Good News
of salvation in Jesus Christ



to the poor
who do not know it.

Through the passing years, the religious missionary community drew on the backgrounds, personalities and talents of its increasing members to develop broader approaches to sharing the Gospel message with other cultures. Today, nearly 1,000 MIC Sisters serving in 14 countries have chosen to answer the same call to mission. The members have grown to include women of different races and nationalities... they cross national and cultural lines to reflect the universality of the Church.

In response to Christ's call, the MIC Sisters place themselves at the core of the church's missionary effort as members of a service-oriented faith community.

They view their most important role as pastoral agents of the Gospel

message. They serve the local churches in different parts of the world, in the development of lay leadership and work in the area of education, health, promotion of women, youth ministry, social communications and community development. Their experiences of involvement in another culture help them to deepen their understanding of their own faith and hopefully to create an even greater mission awareness among people.

Continually growing and adapting to the needs of the people they serve, the MIC Sisters find that their basic commitment to mission is lived out differently in each age and each area of community life. But the strength of that common commitment remains, marking each passing year only as another beginning in an ongoing response to Christ's call, and to being 'sent'!

Shown at the center page are some of the 25 MIC Sisters who have left for the missions between January and June, 1983:

(From top to bottom row, left to right:)

- 1st row: **Japan** - Thérèse Chabot, Gabrielle Michaud
 2nd row: **Haiti** - Lise Doucet; **Zambia** - Cécile Blais, Marguerite Cloutier, Jeannine Forcier, Louise Lefebvre; **Bolivia** - Suzanne Labelle
 3rd row: **Philippines** - Françoise Royer; **Peru** - Rosario Salazar; **Malawi** - Yvonne Casault, Louise Denis, Lise Lamarche, Marguerite Legault
 4th row: **Hong Kong** - Nicole Beaulieu, Colette Soucy

The MIC Community in Pont-Viau, Canada, bids Godspeed to Sr. Louise Denis, on her return to Malawi, Africa.





Sr. Thérèse Langevin, missionary to Bolivia, with members of her family, on her departure day.

Departure Day is always a time filled with deep feelings and mixed emotions – sadness mixed with happiness, sacrifice combined with the joy of achievement, the pain of parting mingled with the hope and enthusiasm for the days ahead.

MIC Sisters, serving in 14 countries, respond to their vocation by following Jesus where He calls and by ministering in His name to those in need, especially to the poor. You are one with us in the missions as you help with your prayers and material support. Your help makes our mission presence possible.

DEPARTURE GIFT

Mission Procure
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
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I wish to have a receipt:

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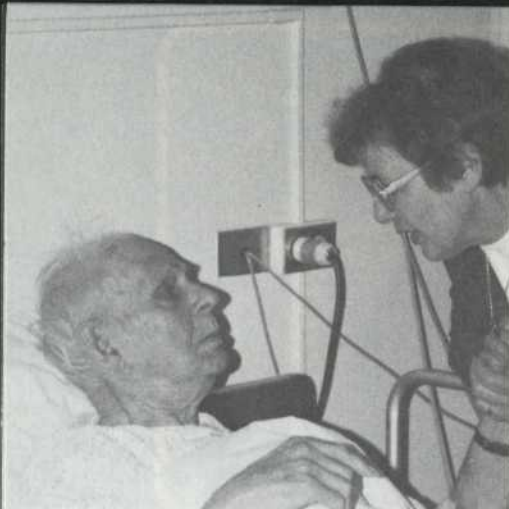
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*Sr. Madeleine with a patient
at St. Mary's Hospital.*

"I have neither silver nor gold"

Sr. Madeleine Delorme, M.I.C.

Although I left the Philippines in 1972, after 15 years there, and have since been on various assignments, one long cherished missionary dream remained unfulfilled – that of working with the sick. A course in Hospital Ministry Training which I followed at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco answered my deep aspirations.

I realized that as a minister, I take my place with the team of professionals filing in and out of hospital rooms. What credentials and tools do I have to offer in the healing process? It would seem that all the other professionals on the team might throw out the question: "What do you have to offer that we cannot give?" The answer, I believe, lies deeply embedded in the Scripture passage: "I have neither silver nor gold, but I will give you what I have..." (Acts 3: 6)

I would thus like to call this service Creative Ministry. To create is to make, to become, and in its most beautiful meaning, to give life. As I delved into my own self, I came to realize that God is constantly creating me and is allowing me to

become more creative with each moment.

This was discovered more and more each time I ministered to the sick. As I went from bed to bed, I encountered powerless and wounded persons and no longer the prestige figures of professional titles. As I carried my own powerlessness and woundedness, I approached each bedside in a continuing search for God in the life of each person, and developed a growing sensitivity to God's work therein – love, isolation, hate, reconciliation, guilt, forgiveness, etc. With time, I reached through something greater and deeper than can be seen or observed – a greater love, deeper truth and richer beauty in the patient. Each visit became a challenge to restore life and hope in a realistic way. I realized that as a minister, my strength lies fully in my faith in the promise – the Spirit – at work in the hearts of my sick friends as well as in my own.

"Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created, and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth."
(Ps 103: 30)

Mission Briefs



The MIC Sisters' call to mission is lived out differently in each age and each sector of the community they serve. Every encounter ushers in opportunities to respond to Jesus' invitation, "Come, follow Me".

Lima, Peru

During these first 5 months since my arrival in Peru, I can easily compare myself to a new transplant. My MIC Sisters have welcomed me warmly into their hearts and to my new mission. They tell me to take my time... their solicitude is surely a good 'fertilizer' for the newly arrived 'plant' in their midst.

The two years I spent in Canada serving as a nurse at the MIC Infirmary were a very enriching experience. It was painful to say goodbye to the people one has learned to love, especially my own infirm and aged MIC Sisters who have returned from mission service. Yet, by coming to Peru, I experience great joy in the beautiful realization of my missionary aspiration.

I was deeply touched by the Departure Mass prepared by my Sisters in Pont-Viau. Three of the five PME Fathers who concelebrated the Mass were missionaries in my country... they represented the Philippine Church sending its own missionary to a foreign mission.

"Bloom where you are planted" seems a tall order but knowing that my Gardener is always there, showing my life with the love and care He alone can give, I am very confident that the 'plant' that is in me, in its new environment and with the realities it faces now, will continue to grow and bloom!

Sr. Rosario Salazar, M.I.C.

Ayase, Tokyo, Japan

Among the elderly whom I have been visiting regularly was an old woman who did not seem to look on me favourably. Was it because I am a Christian and a religious? I could not tell. I often felt like going home before she would start being quite rude to me. However, I received a phone call from her. I was surprised to hear her say:

"I have no friends. No one comes to visit me. I am lonesome."

She then spoke to me about her sicknesses and her daily worries. Then, she quietly added:

"I am waiting for you."

She closed the phone. I could hardly believe what I heard. I had become her friend! My heart was filled with joy. Through my new friend's appeal, I heard the call of numerous other elderly persons who may be burdened with the same suffering in our present-day society.

*Kesayo Sato
MIC Novice*

Trois-Rivières, Canada

The following are excerpts from a sharing given to the MIC Community by Fr. Jean-Yves Marchand, director of the Diocesan Vocation Office in Trois-Rivières:

We are glad that you are here, that you exist for the Church of our diocese. You are the only

missionary Community in the diocese - you are its missionary vocation conscience!

What does the Diocesan Vocation Office expect of you? First, we ask you to be proud of your vocation. You have received the mandate to preach the Good News according to your own way as religious missionaries. Secondly, we ask you to be faithful to your vocation, like Mary Immaculate, whose name you bear. Thirdly, through your joy and fidelity, missionary vocations will be engendered. The example of your life constitutes the best recommendation from your Institute and serves as the most efficacious invitation for other women to opt for the religious missionary life.

MIC Information

Hong Kong

Visits to the student-teachers from the Chinese University doing their practice teaching in the protestant and catholic schools bring Sr. Thérèse LeBlanc in contact with

many leaders of different denominations and open up dialogue on the ecumenical level. More than that, these visits not only provide her occasions to assess the teaching ability and skills of some 70 student-teachers; they bring her opportunities of being in contact with life around the Island, the New Territories, and Kowloon... an experience of hope as she sees the young mentors' eagerness to share their Faith with their younger brothers and sisters.

The student-teachers are enrolled in the two-year program of Saturday courses at the Diocesan Catechetical Centre, where Sister Thérèse gives them 'Methods of Teaching Religious Education in the Hong Kong Schools'. She shares with them a vision of cultures coming together to enrich each other. Teaching gives her a chance to impart Gospel values and to explore them with her students in the light of Chinese thinking.

*MIC Newsletter
Hong Kong*



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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

July, 1983

Mzuzu (Malawi)
Trois-Rivières (Canada)
Les Cayes (Haiti)
Koriyama Momodai (Japan)
Toronto (Canada)
Chaiten (Chile)
Gagalangin (Philippines)

August, 1983

Quebec, Murray St. (Canada)
I.C.A., Greenhills (Philippines)
Pucallpa (Peru)
Chipata (Zambia)
Mother House, Montreal (Canada)
Maison de Delmas (Haiti)
Ste-Dorothée (Canada)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION (ICMA)

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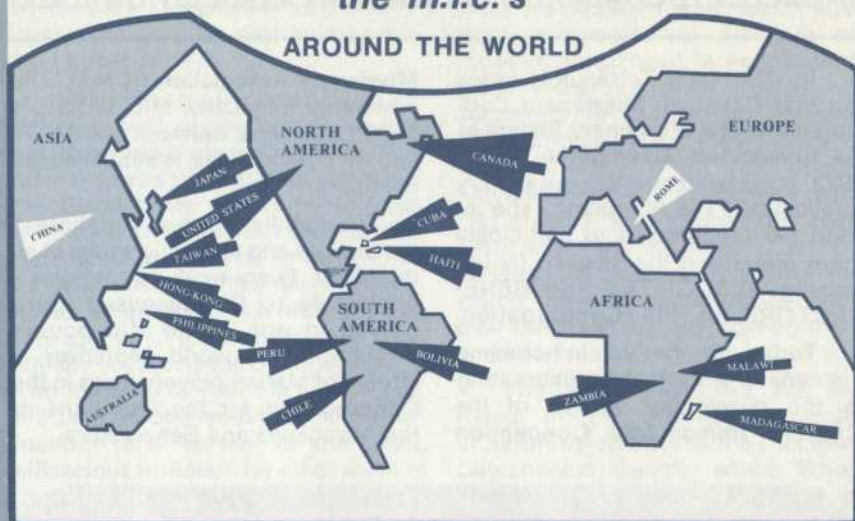
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Please remember a dear departed one at Masses offered for deceased Associates:

Cut along line and return to ICMA:

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



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