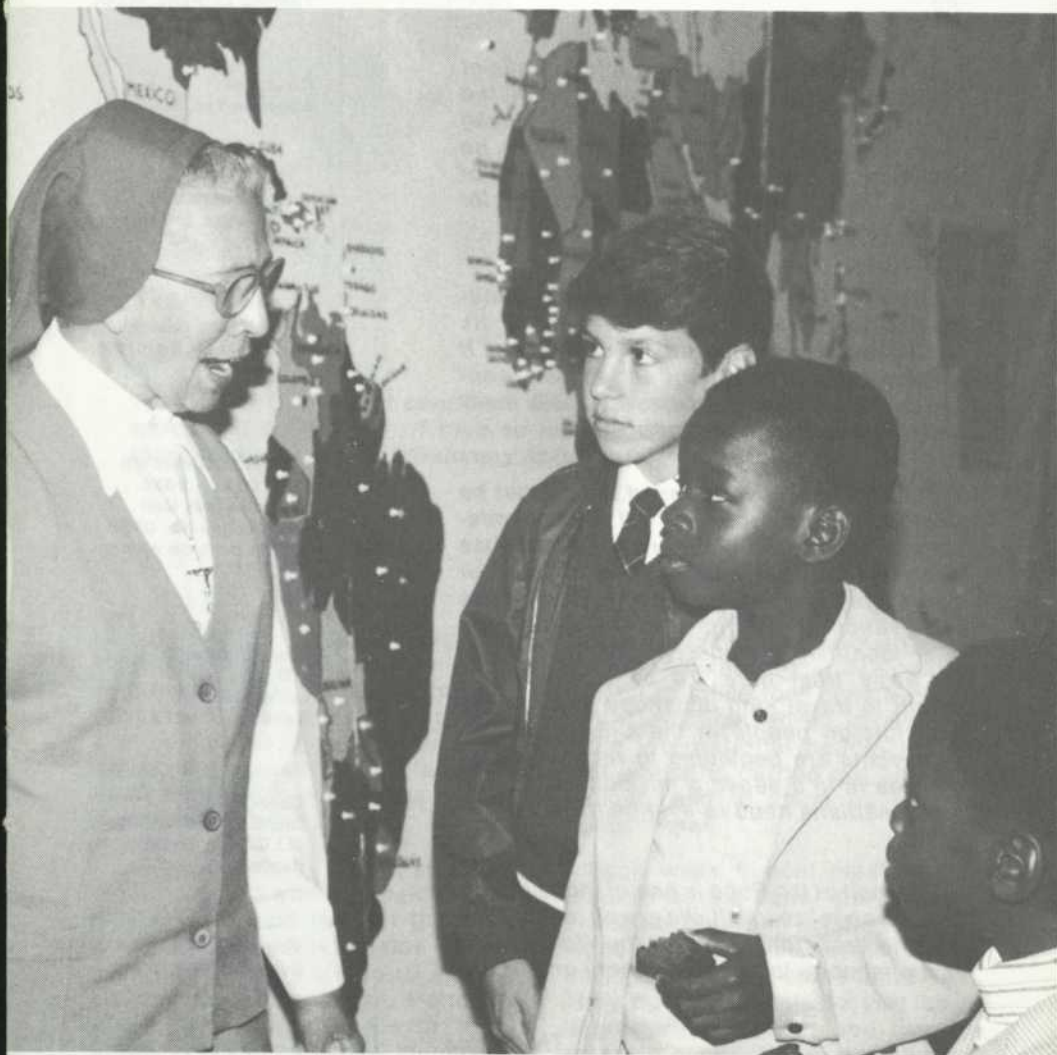


Series 11 No. 3
May-June 1984

MIC

MISSION NEWS



We must aim to instill a missionary spirit by all the means available.

Della Tetreault

Dear Readers,

These days all of Canada is busy planning for the Papal visit. For Pope John Paul II, it may be his twentieth visit outside of the Vatican... but for us, it is a first... the first such event ever to happen in Canada. The first time that a reigning Pontiff ever walks on our Canadian soil bringing us his blessing.

All the stadiums and parks, all the walls of the great churches will resound with the message that he will relay in the eleven cities that he plans to visit. In these talks, he will address not only the particular group of people there, but he will have a message for all Canadians, for all people in fact.

The Papal visit, like a mirror on the Canadian Church, will reflect images of its achievements, its failures, its challenges. It will invite us all to repent and to be reconciled. It will help us to shape our Faith. It will be a celebration of our Faith!

Among the many proposed topics that he will touch, Pope John Paul will speak of missionary activity. For years now, Canada has been sending her missionaries to the four corners of the world to share the Good News of salvation. Until quite recently, Canadians have identified the mission field as a place far away from here. To be a missionary meant to travel long distances and to work with foreign people in the Church. Lately, Canadians are beginning to recognize that Canada is in a sense a mission field... that we Canadians need re-evangelization.

The visit of the Pope is one of those means to re-evangelize us all. We are all looking forward to hear from him, how the Word of God is a challenge to each and every one of us.

The Editor

MIC MISSION NEWS a bimonthly published by The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

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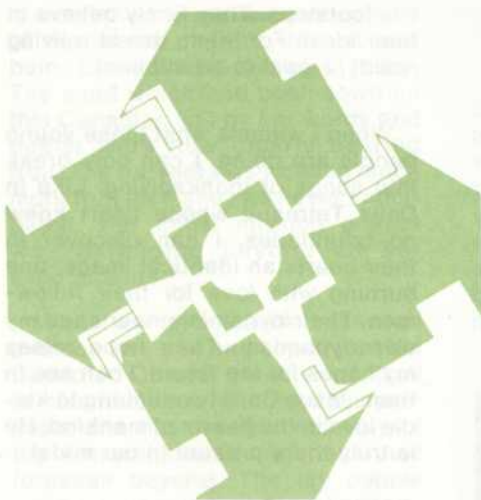
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MIC MISSION NEWS
ISSN 0315 - 9655
Second Class Mail
Registration No. 0358
Return postage guaranteed

Postal Address:
P.O. Box 157
Laval, Quebec
Canada H7N 4Z4

Cover Photo:
Sr. Georgette Richer, M.I.C. with Toronto students.

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The Dream Goes On...

by Ida Brochu, M.I.C.

Today, Delia Tetreault continues the project of her life. Her charism, welcomed by women of diverse nations, still urges on to a life of thanksgiving and to a missionary apostolate.

M.I.C. Constitutions

These last few years, in the light of the Holy Spirit, I can identify myself as one of these women. After having missioned in Peru for five years and now being held back in Canada for an indefinite period of time, the very same charism nevertheless urged me onward in mission.

Last September, I began searching for a group where I could insert myself and could live out this ongoing call. Luckily, I met some animators, leaders of a youth movement called "Jeunesse du Monde". Working and sharing with this group, I re-discovered my identity.

The members of this Christian education movement have an international solidarity ideal. They aim to live up to these four objectives: to struggle against racism, to help promote international peace, to see that justice is carried out between nations, and to stand up for the rights of man.

Each week I meet most of the leaders as an equal participant. These are all young people continuing their studies either at the level of the CEGEP or that of the university. They do not hesitate to give up a large portion of their free time to organize summer camps, Saturday

encounters with younger members, and visits to schools.

Their aim is to communicate to other youth of the secondary level the flame of love burning in their hearts. They give of their life, of their free time, of the little money they can dispose of, to help build up the kingdom of God here on earth. This is a kingdom of peace, justice and human solidarity, following Jesus in



Sr. Ida Brochu, happy to see that the lay people are now picking up the challenge of missionary animation

His footsteps. They firmly believe in their ideal. For them, this is a living reality, a goal to be attained.

When I witness what these young people are doing, I can only break into songs of thanksgiving. Like in Delia Tetreault whose heart knew no boundaries, I can discover in their hearts an identical image, one burning with love for their fellow-men. Their dynamism nourishes my own dynamism. Their hope raises my hopes for the future. I can see in them Jesus Christ continuing to kindle love in the hearts of mankind. He is truly there present in our midst.

Besides meeting with these groups, I have gone occasionally to meet others so as to give them information of how faith is being lived out there in Peru.

At one of these meetings, I came across some pastoral animators in Marieville, the birthplace of Delia. That day I had an unforgettable experience. It is a day which I will long remember.

What I witnessed made my heart burst with praise and thanksgiving to God for the wonders I saw and heard.

Here were men and women, lay people deeply and truly committed within Church activity. They were taking up the dream that Delia had dreamt in the very same village, the dream that all men recognize and accept to live out their missionary vocation, bringing the Good News all over the world.

At this point, the Holy Spirit clear-

ly confirmed to me the authenticity of the dream of Delia. Now it was being carried out in this world today. The seed which had been sown on this Canadian soil by her words and deeds were now clearly bearing fruit. The harvest was yielding much more fruit than she had never anticipated. Her initial mission project was extending beyond all her expectations.

When we take a look backward and see how she had hoped that the Canadian Church would exert itself in this missionary animation process, she had thought not only of the hierarchical Church, she had foreseen beyond. The lay people were now accepting the challenge and carrying on! The marvel of God's work was spiraling into the Kingdom of God through the missionary animation of the lay people.

There are many people animated by the same Spirit that dwelt in Delia and who have, like her, a heart without boundaries. They carry in them their brothers of all lands. Some, willingly give up their lives for them; others, strive to bring about a better world so that all men will be treated with dignity as children of God.

Yes, I feel I am right in thanking God for all the marvels that He operates within the hearts of these men and women of today, these dedicated lay people, in whom I can easily perceive the same charism as that given gratuitously to Delia Tetreault. Yes, they belong to the same family of God even if they have not met her yet.

Yes, her work continues...her vision is being grasped by hundreds...and it leads us on and on!

Evangelization on Wheels

by Sr. Patricia Blanchet, M.I.C.

To begin with, let me tell you about Sulphur Springs Valley in which I live and where I work. This area includes many little towns and villages. I will mention only one, that is, Elfrida and the three main settlements that are part of our parish and where I have organized religion classes. Those places are McNeal, Double Adobe, and Sunizona. My brother Conrad, the La Salette Father, has a parish in this Valley. He is in Pirtleville, a small town near our one little city, Douglas.

Elfrida is a small town, just a village, run by the County. It has 3 churches, 2 of them being Southern Baptist, one Mormon, and one Catholic, named St. Francis of Assissi Church. There is only one general mercantile store, three gas stations, one tiny Post Office and an all-volunteer Fire Department.



Sr. Patricia Blanchet, evangelizer of the poor living in trailers

Most of the people are farmers, that is, they farm for large corporations who do the farming. The main crops are cotton, alfalfa hay, pecan nuts, chili, etc.. There are also immense peach orchards and vegetable gardens where we can go and pick for ourselves.

Many of my neighbors are out of work and some families are subsisting on Government Food Stamps as they have no cash whatsoever. I would like to help them and I am doing all I can. After my own bills are paid, I don't have that much left myself but trying hard to do what Christ would do, I am sharing with them as much as I possibly can. I advise them to look for work elsewhere but when you have no money how can you go elsewhere...no money to rent a room while looking for a job, no money to buy food to eat while you are looking for a job...

The CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) program which I came here to organize is growing and progressing far beyond our wildest dreams. The Holy Spirit is at work! Each Thursday I go to Double Adobe, sixteen miles south to teach seventeen children from first grade to the sixth grade. Now, I have to split classes.

At first, I was teaching in a little trailer but it soon became too small. Now I prefer going one hour before class to prepare Mrs. Castillo, one of the mothers, to teach the little ones in her trailer home. She takes the younger children while I got to a nearby trailer with nine of the older children. Then I proceed to another farmhouse where I teach Junior and Senior students. On another day, it's a further village, meeting 18 more students in a large trailer. (As

you perhaps know, 90% of our people live in trailers as I do.)

On Wednesday, I have classes in Elfrida. I have some high school volunteers and two women helping me, but preparing them is a big responsibility for their religious background is extremely poor. I am especially responsible for the First Communion class here, and of the groups of High School students. Every other week, I also have an adult inquiry class where fourteen people regularly show up. The pastor, Fr. Bedard alternates with me, giving Bible classes.

Lots of good is being done through my classes and I know that someone back there must be praying real hard.

At the Easter Vigil we will have eight Baptisms. The next morning, Easter, eighteen will make their First Communion. Many of these youngsters belong to unchurched families that are slowly finding their way back into the Church. Now that the children want religion, the families want it too.

One old gentleman who has just returned to the Sacraments is 83 years old. He was formerly from Ontario... at Midnight Mass he came to me with a gift of a **tourtiere!**

One thing I forgot to mention when speaking of the work I do and that is the reason why I find it so difficult, is that there is so little to build upon... so little... often no knowledge whatsoever of God and the message that Christ came to bring us. It is truly pioneer work and one in which I rely on the Holy Spirit 100%. I have to

keep simplifying my classes, otherwise the message doesn't get across.

Do pray for my apostolate. I want to continue and give it my all as long as the good Lord gives me strength.

Here, I must tell you that I have to teach without books both to the children and to the adults. I don't even have a copying machine to try to make my lessons interesting to the children. Even in Arizona I find myself poorer than in many of the former missions where I had worked, either in the Philippines or in San Francisco. I am praying that I can find someone who will donate books and at least a simple copying machine.

I enjoy every precious moment given to me here. I love and enjoy my work. I'm grateful to God for this little chance to give Him a bit more while I still can. I do still love you all and miss you who have been my friends for so many long, wonderful years. We were often miles apart — even oceans apart — but we were close.

I pray and ask that God will grant me many more years with the poorest of his children, for here, I feel very much at home and I know that I am doing good.

Sr. Patricia Blanchet, M.I.C.
St. Francis Church
P.O. Box 587
Elfrida, Arizona 85610
U.S.A.

THE ROAD MINISTRY

by Therese LeBlanc, M.I.C.

In 1917, Delia Tetreault, the foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, plunged into a new ministerial area of mission work with permission of the Bishop of Montreal, Mgr. Paul Bruchesi. He gave the M.I.C.'s not only his blessing but an official mandate appointing them promoters of the Holy Childhood Association in his diocese.

In no time at all, other dioceses followed trend, and invited these missionaries to come to speak to their young people in schools. This was the beginning of a new road ministry which would take the Sisters from one end of the Province of Quebec to the other, to both the French and English schools.

The Sisters travelled far and near by public transportation, in cold or rain wherever they were invited. The Catholic children eagerly welcomed them and enthusiastically joined the Holy Childhood which meant that they would be sharing prayer and



Sr. Madeline Maillet, a English M.I.C. publication

A radiant Sr. Odile Malboeuf accompanying a young Chinese deacon





Sr. Lucie Gagne, a pioneer of the publications

Sr. Lucie Gagne, sharing a faith experience with friends in Toronto.



sacrifice on behalf of their brothers of other lands.

The Birth of Missionary Publications

In 1920, when Delia Tetreault decided that one of the most dynamic methods to sensitize her fellow Canadians to their commitment towards the Missions was through the written word - the press - she herself organized and managed the French missionary publication known as **Le Precur-seur**.

Three years later, in 1923, the English publication was launched. This was known as **The Precursor**, the forerunner of the present day MIC MISSION NEWS.

For years, hundreds of M.I.C.'s went from door to door in Canada and the United States making personal contact with families, reminding them of their missionary commitment in the Church. These Sisters were quietly developing a mission awareness in the minds and hearts of the people. They were reminding everybody that the local Church has a commitment towards the Universal Church, and that all men are our brothers regardless of race, color or creed.

Editing and Diffusion Work

As these Sisters were going about the country, another team was busily occupied with the editing of articles received from missionaries in the field, describing their efforts in bringing the Good News of Jesus to people who had never heard of God as their Father.

Among the early pioneers of this team was **Sr. Madeline Maillet**, former editor of MIC MISSION NEWS and THE PRECURSOR. She was a novice at the time, and served until her appointment to work in Japan from 1927 to 1943. Afterwards, she assumed full direction of the mission publication as editor. She maintained this position until recent years when she asked for replacement due to ill health and age. Sister Madeline still highly praises our Foundress who dared to risk and launch this mission review in English as well as in French.

Today in Canada, the diffusion of MIC MISSION NEWS is carried out in another manner. No longer do the Sisters go from door to door but most of the time they go to the parishes inviting people to become interested in our small mission publication.



Sr. Angelina Yap of the Philippines, recently arrived from Taiwan,

goes from one English parish to another, addressing the people. She expresses the gratitude of one coming from a receiving church and tells the Canadian faithful that they, as members of the sending church, have shared their faith through their missionaries working in other lands.

Oftentimes, she is accompanied by some elderly Sisters such as 84-year old **Sr. Irene Pinsonnault**, a long time missionary in the Philippines and two former China missionaries, **Sr. Marie-Berthe Fleurent** and **Sr. Corinne Bourassa**. In spite of their age, these Sisters brave rain and snow in winter to meet parishioners and greet them at the door of the church.

Missionary Animation in Ontario

Several M.I.C.'s of Ontario origin and former missionaries are now engaged in full time ministry in various dioceses of their home province.

Sr. Noella Brisson of Cornwall, a former missionary in several countries of Asia for more than 30 years, is actively engaged in the Ottawa Diocese. Her work brings her to various types of schools where she meets the students of all ages. Her interesting talks, supported by her lively and creative personality are appreciated by many young people of **Jeunesse du Monde**, an association for teenagers in the Church.

Sr. Odile Malboeuf of Sudbury, a China missionary for some 45 years has just completed her work of missionary animation in the various English and French schools of Ottawa and Sudbury. She loved to meet the Canadian children to tell them stories about her little Chinese

friends of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

In Toronto, **Sr. Lucie Gagné** of Black Lake, P.Q., visits secondary and elementary schools as often as she can. With the aid of her slide projections, she explains to the Toronto children how the Filipinos with whom she worked for several years in their country, have enriched her faith life. Sr. Lucie participates in mission exhibitions organized in parishes also.

Sr. Claudette Bouchard, an American M.I.C., a former missionary of Malawi, Africa, has occupied the post of executive secretary in the



Toronto Mission Council until recently. This gave her the responsibility for the planning and the organization of the work. Sr. Claudette also organized several Mission Exhibitions where many other missionary congregations were involved.

In St. Catherine's, Ontario, **Sr. Georgette Richer** of Plantagenet, former missionary in Africa, serves on the National Council of the Pontifical Work for Children (PWFC) formerly called the Holy Childhood. As a member of this team, Sr. Georgette visits schools to discuss with school boards, principals and mission animators about the projects that the team offers to Catholic Schools. While one of her companions gives forth the history of the Association, she presents the themes which are to be taken up during the school year.

Sr. Georgette enjoys her work and expresses it thus: "You are asking whether I like this work of fostering mission awareness in the children? I love it! I have great faith and hope in it for the children. I feel I am helping to build up the Kingdom of God within the Church as I go around the schools here, promoting a missionary spirituality and education among our Canadian children through the medium of this Papal Association. I firmly believe the motto that children can evangelize other children, in their own way, of course. When they join the Holy Childhood with the commitment of prayer, caring and sharing, they become missionaries right here.

Our children are the Church of tomorrow as Pope John Paul keeps reminding us. The motto **Children helping other children** appeals to the kiddies and their response is warm and enthusiastic. Our 1984 children are spontaneous and generous! The teachers and parents soon become aware that a child never helps another child without something happening in his own heart.

The adults are very cooperative with us as they can see for themselves how the Holy Childhood

gives the children a feeling of belonging to the Universal Church. As an educator, I am convinced that it is a precious means of formation, shaping values and attitudes of our younger brothers and sisters."

In the Atlantic Provinces

In New Brunswick, the missionary animation work of the M.I.C.'s is carried out through invitations from the local mission office directors. This again consists in school visitation where the Sisters go about sharing their faith experiences with the students and other groups in the diocese of Edmundston.

In Western Canada

In British Columbia, **Sr. Adeline Mead** a former missionary of Africa, has been very busy throughout the Archdiocese of Vancouver since her official appointment as one of the organizers of the Pontifical Work for Children in 1982.

This Association, the **Holy Childhood**, was once flourishing there and has been lying dormant for the past 25 years. It was no easy task for Sister to attempt to revive it. Principals and teachers had to be convinced of its educational value; however, when she reminded them that this association was the Church organization for school children, they were willing to listen. Fortunately also, some of them remembered their own childhood experiences within that group. After examining the new Mission Awareness Program traced out by the National Office, they went along with it and ever since then, have been giving their full support to the movement.



Sr. Adeline Mead busy reviving a mission awareness program with children

Sr. Adeline visited many parochial schools within the diocese last year, and previous to that had been visiting many schools in Alberta. She also found a means to capture the interest of parish catechists, that is, parents and college students, who are now using the method and content of the Mission Program. In this way, many children attending the government public school classes are reached through their weekly hour of religious education in the parish.

On-Going Animation

As the M.I.C.'s of all the provinces return home to visit families and friends, they find opportunities to share with all, about mission today and the experience they have acquired through their meeting with brothers of other cultures all over the world.

INSERTION IN THE CANADIAN CHURCH

***Sensitizing the Canadian Church to its
missionary vocation is our constant preoccupation...***

By Pauline Williams, M.I.C.

Very often our MIC MISSION NEWS brings you in contact with the work done by our Sisters scattered all over the world. Today, I am happy to share with you the missionary experience that some of us MIC's are undergoing, right here in our Church of origin.

Sensitizing the Canadian Church to its missionary vocation is our constant preoccupation, and I should add, it has been so ever since our congregation was founded in 1902. Even if there has been a major transformation in our mode of action and presence to the world these last years, we have always considered this a personal and collective responsibility: to awaken Christians to their duty of spreading the Gospel.

We are fully convinced that this missionary promotion work is an integral part of evangelization.

Therefore some of us have accepted the challenge to serve in our own country after having

worked a number of years in the mission field overseas.

Perhaps you are wondering how we live out this missionary insertion in our Canadian Church?

Well, this is how it is done. For some of us it is taking up the direction of the Diocesan Mission Offices. For others, it is working on the Diocesan level for youth associations such as "Jeunesse du Monde" for secondary school students, or for "Mond-Ami" for primary school children.

Another way we have to reach out to the people is through homilies that we are invited to give in several dioceses of Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick. There we share the experience we had when living in young Churches, our sister-Churches.

In these homilies, it is always a great joy for us Sisters to share with you all what is going on in these young Churches, to tell you how alive they are! If we inform you of their needs, their hopes and aspirations, it is not only to invite you to be in solidarity with them through your prayers, but also to encourage you to share in a tangible way here and now.



Sr Pauline Williams displaying a mission exhibit before a group of elderly people.

We keep reminding people that the mission of the Church is every one's business.

But we also ask you to collaborate with us who go out in your name to bring the Good News of salvation in Jesus-Christ to the poor who do not yet know Him.

Another way we have of reaching out is meeting youth groups. At the proposal of teachers of catechetics or of pastoral animators, we meet students in their classrooms. Again our aim is to make them more aware of the missionary dimension of their Baptism.

With children of the Primary we use the approach of modern catechetics as prepared by "Monde Ami". With teen-agers we use the discussion methods. It is amazing how both groups spontaneously open to the ideal of universal brotherhood.

With adult groups, we discuss about aid to the Third World countries, about organizations that bring this aid to missionaries, or about certain Christian movements that inspire people in the various countries where the M.I.C.'s work. We try to keep in mind also to appeal to universal solidarity by first inviting the adults to get involved in their own respective milieu. We explain how our oppressed, exploited and illiterate brothers of other lands often challenge us by their courage in the struggles they are carrying out to recover human rights and human dignity.

The deep conviction that animates us in our work and what we wish to communicate to our Christians here, is that salvation is an ever on-going process and event. As men and women of good will we are all invited to collaborate in spreading this Good News.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION (ICMA)

In 1902, Delia Tétreault 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

May 1984

Banga (Malawi)
Davao (Philippines)
St. Hubert St. (Montreal)
Wakamatzu (Japan)
Quebec City (Canada) 2
Chantal (Haiti)

June 1984

Ancud (Chile)
Mati (Philippines)
Los Palacios (Cuba)
Shih Kuang Tze (Taiwan)
Somerville St. (Montreal)
St. Jean (Canada) 2
St. Dominic St. (Montreal)

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and subscribe to the MIC MISSION NEWS.*

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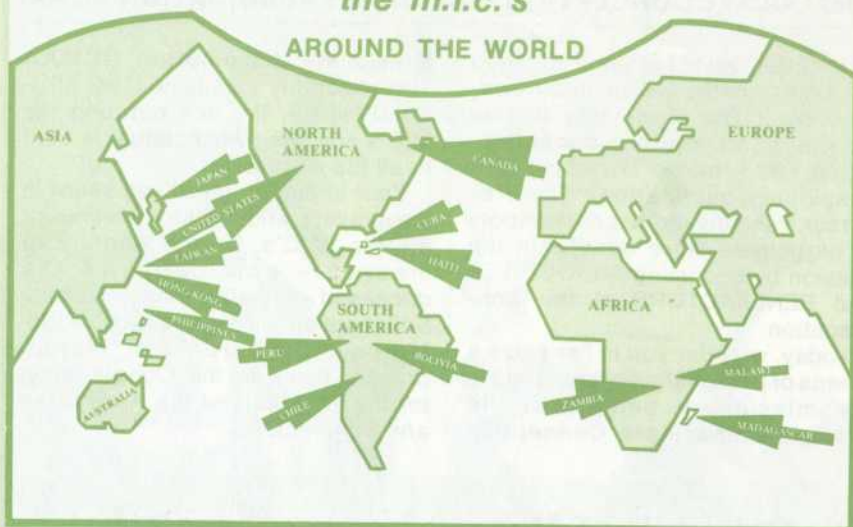
Please remember a dear departed one at Masses offered for deceased Associates:

NAME _____

Cut along line and return to ICMA:

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



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