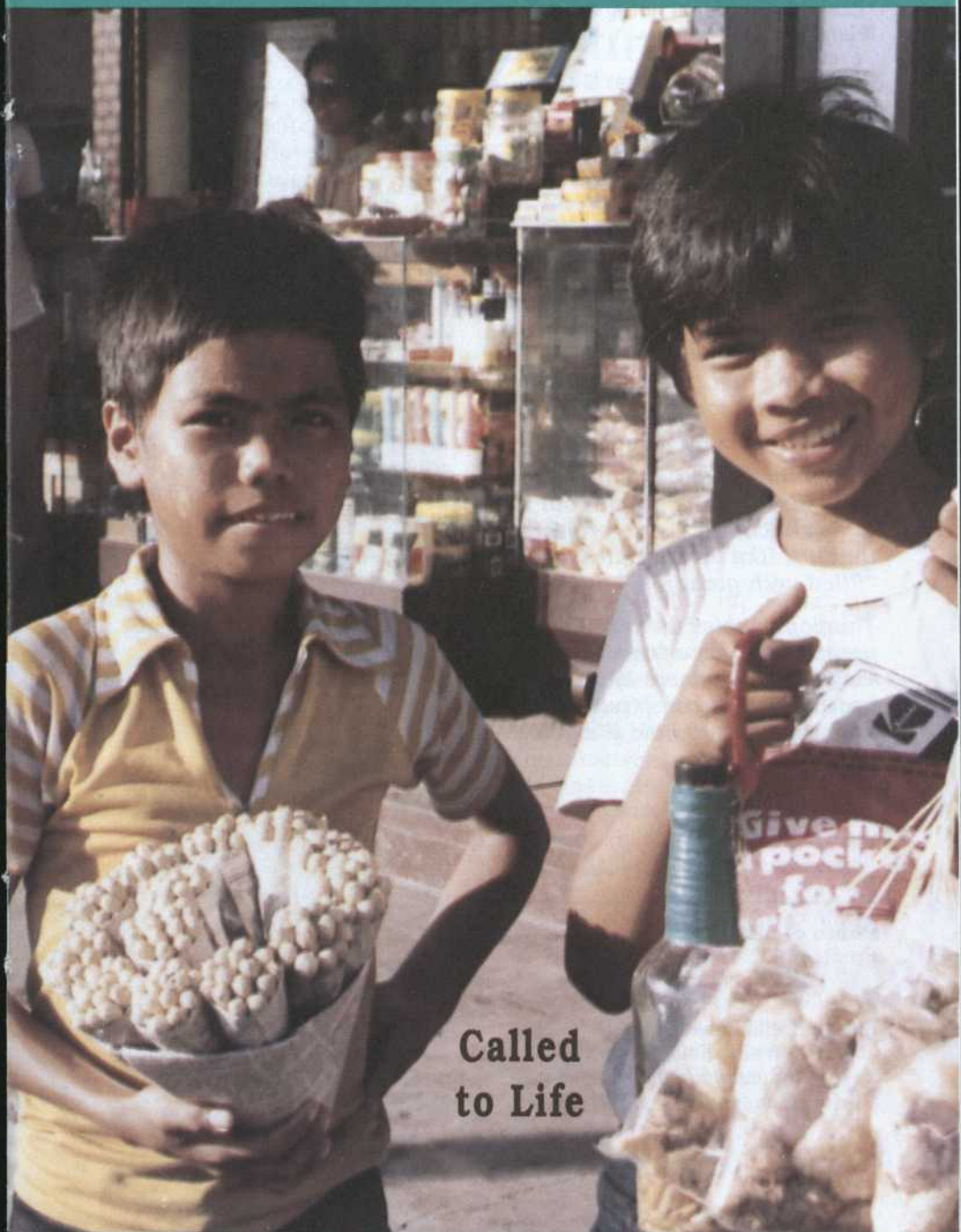


MIC MISSION NEWS

Series 20, No. 2
March-April 1993



Called
to Life

The Good News of Easter

"Easter is a season, not just a day
It isn't even just a season, but part of
every day
It is the trust we have that life
is more powerful than death
Love is stronger than hate
And that nothing good will be lost."

(Scarboro Missions)

*We are all called to be celebrants
of Easter Joy!*

*No matter how many Easters we
may have experienced, we
gradually come to see and believe
each time that the Lord Jesus is
indeed risen for us, and in us,
today.*

*It is in those moments when we
truly discover the Lord in our day
to day encounters and projects,
that we, like the disciples, are
"filled with great joy".*

*This joy enables us to re-live the
great Easter experience. We find
ways to break down barriers, to
begin anew, to reach out to others
and, together, to hold life in its
fullest. **

Ma. Anthea Raso, M.I.C.

Photo credits:

Front: M.I.C. Photo (Philippines)
Street children at work.

Back: E. Plamondon, M.I.C. (Peru)
Lorraine Falardeau, M.I.C.,
and her young friends in
Lima.

MIC MISSION NEWS

a bimonthly published by
the MISSIONARY SISTERS OF
THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION

Issued: April, 1993

P.O. BOX 157,
Laval-des-Rapides
Laval, P.Q., Canada
H7N 4Z4
Tel.: (514) 663-6460

Directress

Micheline Marcoux, M.I.C.

Editor

Ma. Anthea Raso, M.I.C.

Staff

Helene Labelle, M.I.C.
Christine Desrochers

Circulation

Lucille La Salle, M.I.C.
and MIC team
René Cournoyer

Printed by "Imprimatéc"

Publications mail
Registration No. 0358
Return postage guaranteed
ISSN 0315-9655
Printed in Canada

Subscription rates

1 year	\$5.00
Support (1 year)	\$10.00
3 years	\$14.00
Life	\$75.00

Change of Address

Please send your old
and new addresses.
When renewing subscription
please include file number.

Reaching Out to Street Children

One of the resolutions of the recent PCP II (Second Plenary Council of the Philippines) is the **Preferential Love for the Poor.**

To help members of the Legion of Mary of the Military Diocese live this option, Bishop Severino Pelayo entrusted to them the outreach program among street children. After two months of preparation, the different praesidia of the major military camps in Metro Manila started to meet and gather the children loitering in nearby vicinities.

The Outreach Program in Action

The junior and senior legionaries of Camp Aguinaldo go to Pinaglabanan, San Juan. In a park where the children of poor families (mostly squatters) loiter every day for lack of space at home, the legionaries give literacy and catechetical lessons every Saturday afternoon. After some 45 minutes of lessons, their pupils are offered "pan de coco" (buns) and juice.

The junior legionaries, ages 9 to 13, who are children of enlisted men, prepared for this project by first sharing their purposes for reaching out to street

children. Among the reasons expressed were:

- *I want to show my gratitude to God for the blessings received.*
- *These children are also my brothers and sisters.*
- *I feel sorry for these children because their poverty is caused by greedy and selfish people.*
- *I want to share the gift of my faith.*
- *I became a legionary to serve others.*
- *To offer my friendship and make them feel important as children of God.*

Before leaving for 'class', the legionaries hold a regular meeting where they pray the Rosary, read Scripture and receive some input from the animator. After the lesson, they make a report of their teaching experiences, prepare new lessons and take a simple snack of pan de coco and water. In their report, these young catechists expressed their appreciation for the attention, cooperation and interest of the children they teach.

The members of the Legion of Mary of Camp Crame are helping the children who stay around the Greenhills Shopping Center. These children work the whole

night cleaning and watching private cars or securing parking areas for those in need. They sleep most of the day but agree to have literacy and catechetical classes an hour every Saturday before going to work. Some of them had dropped out of school. They were encouraged by the legionaries to return to school and were even accompanied to enroll since some of them are overaged for their grade level. Generous benefactors help to provide for their school uniform, registration fees and school supplies.

The members of the praesidia in Villamor Airbase are giving catechetical instructions to some children who collect garbage and empty bottles around the base.

From Camp Atienza, the legionaries have their own contact with the children they encounter in nearby vicinities. They were asked to give comfort and support to sexually abused children who were gathered and housed in a center.

Cases in Need of Urgent Aid

In their contacts with street children, the members of the Legion of Mary of the Military Diocese encounter children who have no families to go home to. These children sleep on sidewalks. Others live with their grandparents, often only a grandfather or a grandmother, who want to give them away. There is the case of four children,

the youngest age 4, who have no mother and whose father needs to be kept in confinement because of tuberculosis. Their small shack is over a creek. Who will look after these children when the father is confined for treatment? A boy of seven asked a senior legionary to adopt him since he has no mother and his father has left home. The legionaries are trying to respond to cases like these in spite of their own limited resources.

The literacy and catechetical programs are graciously funded by "Les Oeuvres Pontificales Missionnaires" of the Propagation of the Faith Office in Quebec, Canada. We are deeply grateful to Sister Eliette Gagnon, m.i.c., who helped us obtain this financial assistance.

Beneficial to All

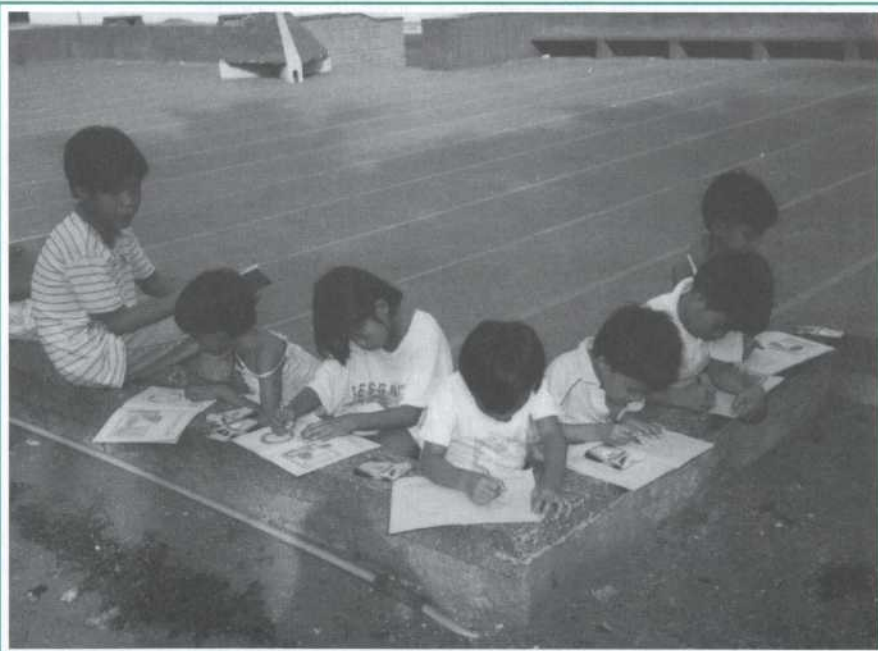
This outreach program is a source of value formation and an effective form of missionary animation. The junior legionaries experience at an early age how to share their blessings with their less fortunate brothers and sisters. They learn the values of self-sacrifice, teamwork, fellowship and, above all, love for the poor. *

Guadalupe Sempio, M.I.C.

Sr. Guadalupe is the animator of Mary Immaculate praesidium at Camp Aguinaldo and coordinator of the project for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Curia.



Quiet zone - classes going on!
Zealous legionaries and attentive pupils use park benches to advantage.



A Missionary Is...

One who constantly proclaims in her being:

"How great is our God in Jesus!"

Ever grateful and in wonderment for the gift of life

within her and in the whole of creation

She says Yes to others, to community, to risks.

She dares to answer Jesus' question:

"Do you love me more than these?"

*"Lord, you know all things. You know
that I love you."*

A missionary is...

One who is being called forth - Here and Now

And who, in faith, hope and love, joyfully responds:

*"Lord, let US go!"**

Aida Sabandal, M.I.C.

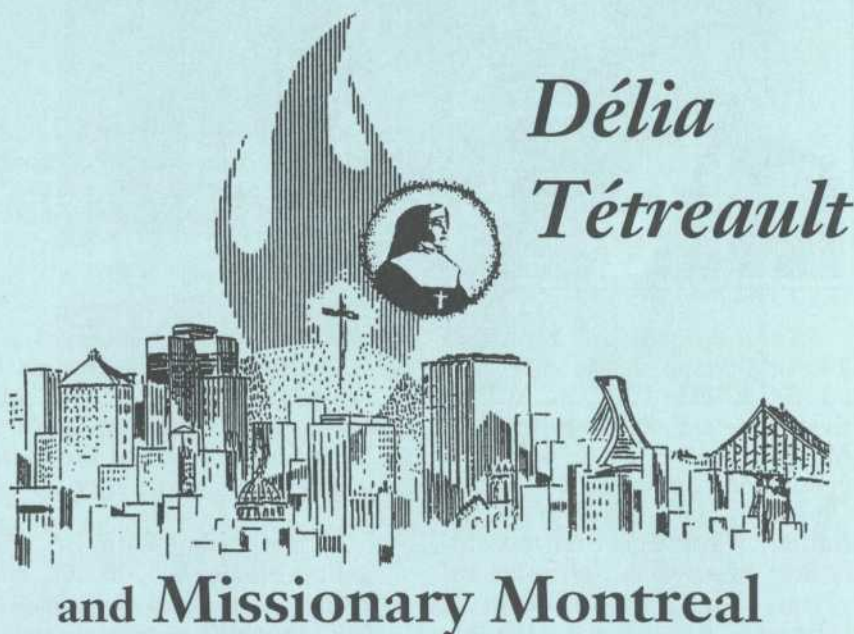
Missionary Intentions 1993

March

That Europeans rediscover their Christian roots and that local Churches carry out their duty to spread the Gospel.

April

That Chinese Catholics give an ever more generous testimony of fidelity to Christ, the Church and the nation.



Délia Tétreault

and Missionary Montreal

1992 marked the 350th anniversary of the foundation of Montreal. The many facets of the origins of the city have been recalled, including that of being a "missionary venture". History, however, still goes on and Montreal has, in turn, become missionary.

For the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 1992 also marked the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute.

Nearly two hundred people took part in a colloquium on "Délia Tétreault and Missionary Montreal", held November 14th in the auditorium of the Dominicans, on Côte Ste-Catherine

Road, Montreal. Organized by Sr. Pauline Longtin, M.I.C. (Vice-postulator of the Cause of Délia Tétreault and coordinator of the colloquium) with the valuable help of Fr. Benoît Lacroix, O.P., this event gave us the opportunity to reread a page of history in the context of the city's 350th anniversary.

At the same time, it made it possible for us to give some form of animation in the framework of our specific vocation. We wished to make known to the public the role played by Délia Tétreault, M.I.C. Foundress, who told the Canadian bishops: "It is time for Canada to pay its debt of gratitude for the faith received..."



Organizers of the colloquium - Rev. Benoît Lacroix, O.P., and Sr. Pauline Longtin, M.I.C.

The presentations on Délia Tétreault were greatly appreciated. Sr. Eliette Gagnon, M.I.C., first gave a general portrait of Mother Délia, after which a renowned historian, Fr. Gilles Chaussé, S.J., cast her in the context of her time and presented her as a woman of universal vision. The spiritual aspect followed, beginning with Sr. Lorraine Caza, C.N.D., a well-known theologian, who showed how amidst the harsh realities of her missionary venture, this woman of faith, joy and hope lived. The testimony of Fr. Cassian Yuhaus, C.P. touched upon his wonderment and joy on discovering Mother Delia's spirit-

uality of "Marian and missionary thanksgiving". Fr. Benoît Lacroix, O.P., a great admirer of Délia Tétreault, explained the "Trinitarian and cosmic dimensions" of her spirituality.

In her closing word, Sr. Evangeline Plamondon, M.I.C., superior general, fired the rocket for the launching of a new missionary era in Montreal, following the example of Délia Tétreault who, 90 years ago, had the knack of innovating ... !

(M.I.C. Information)

Starting with this issue, excerpts of the presentations will appear in MIC MISSION NEWS.

In the Lineage of the Founders of Marie-Ville: Délia Tétreault

The celebration of the 350th anniversary of Montreal was an occasion for us to rediscover our history, one which, though still recent, never ceases to amaze us by its pervading heroism. It is the history of those who dreamt of Ville-Marie and came to it from so far away, the history of those who pushed its limits outward, further and further, until they reached the remotest parts of the world.



Sr. Eliette Gagnon, M.I.C., gives the first presentation on Délia Tétreault.

To this race of the founders and foundresses of Ville-Marie belongs Délia Tétreault, a Quebecer with an amazing vocation: a mystic and a missionary of global stature.

Every vocation has historic significance. Every vocation, being part of the sequence of the history of Salvation, contains a specific mission, an irreplaceable task to be fulfilled. On hindsight, it appears more and more clearly that Délia Tétreault's vocation was to introduce the Canadian Church into the great missionary trend of the beginning of this century.

A Daughter of our Land

Délia Tétreault is a true daughter of our land, this land of Quebec at the end of the 19th century with a predominantly French, Catholic and agricultural population. "The good God came to get me in the country which was my home," she said. This was true. She was born in the Diocese of St. Hyacinthe, February 4th, 1865, in Marieville, a remote country parish, notwithstanding the urban connotation of its name... With a family of many children, her father eventually moved to the United States, as did so many of our fellow-countrymen in those days. The mother, still young and in frail health, almost paid with her life for the joy of giving birth to Délia. She did die two and a half years later after bearing another child. She was 30 years of age.

Fortunately, Madame Tétreault had thought about the future of her frail little girl and given her for adoption, as was the custom of the time, to her godfather, Mr. Jean Alix, and to her sister Julie, who was his wife. In this new and deeply Christian home, which was childless and

where she remained till she was 25, Délia soon became the central figure; in it she found all at once strength and warmth, tenderness and understanding. There, she developed great refinement and thoughtfulness and a solid faith, which was made even stronger by the education she received from the Sisters of the Presentation in Marieville.

God had Chosen her

Going by the rare testimonies that have been preserved, nothing seems to have set this good little girl apart from so many others around her. Yet, God had chosen her "before the creation of the world" (Eph 1,4) for a plan known to Him alone and unimaginable in her day. Already, in silence, deep in her being, she was more sensitive than others to certain realities through which the Holy Spirit mysteriously began to beckon her.

When still a child, Délia found in the attic of the house of her foster parents old annals of the Holy Childhood and of the Propagation of the Faith, which undoubtedly had come from France. These gave her, already, a foretaste of those far away lands for which all of us long more or less consciously as descendants of the pioneers and woodsmen whom our ancestors were. Délia delved with delight into those stories of lepers and foreign babies saved from death and then, baptized. She dreamt about them!

Fifty years later, she told one of those dreams she had as a child.

...I was kneeling by my bed when, all of a sudden, I saw a beautiful wheat field ready for the harvest and stretching as far as the eye can see. At one point, those ears of wheat changed into children's heads. At the same time, I understood that they represented the souls of pagan children. I was struck by this dream, but it never occurred to me to tell anyone about it, not even my mother to whom I usually told everything.

She was deeply impressed by the visit in her parish of a great missionary from North-Western Canada, Bishop Vital Grandin, o.m.i., who had come to solicit donations for his missions. Her admiration for the "apostolic life" became greater and greater, but:

I would never have dared to aspire to it. Besides, the apostolic life seemed impossible for me since no congregation of missionary sisters existed in Canada.

This was true! How could she suspect at that time that God had chosen her to found the very first congregation of missionary sisters essentially dedicated to the foreign missions. *

Eliette Gagnon, M.I.C.

Translator: Miss Antoinette Kinlough

God for 41 NT

A strange title, isn't it? If this is true, then, it must be one of the best bargains going. 41 NT (New Taiwan dollars) amounts to less than 2 US dollars. For me it's the price of a bus ticket on my regular bus journeys from Chungli to Taipei in Taiwan.

On this bus, I meet my God.

I don't know how it developed, but I found myself enjoying this ride so much. The cool air-con, the smooth ride, watching the people and the stores go past, letting my mind wander, per-

haps a few moments of sleep or meditation.

It never fails!

I found myself really enjoying this journey, really looking forward to the solitude. I found myself complete, everything around me felt good... I was at peace with the world and myself. I desired for nothing, yet something was touching me deeply.

When I asked myself why - well, there's no answer. But I soon realized that on this bus I

Kevin Gallagher introduces his favorite means of transportation and the priceless gifts it affords him.



was touching God. In my usual busy schedule, with so much to do and not enough time to do it, it was difficult to switch off, to let go and just be. On the bus though, it was different... a chance to get away and just let things happen.

You see, in our usual busy lives we miss the simple things, the sheer pleasure in the ordinary, like the freedom to ride a bus, to watch others, to rest. These things become gifts from God rather than something we do out of necessity.

Yet it is in these things that God comes to us, that we realize we are all part of creation. He is always there if only we would listen and open ourselves to that experience and to that love. And in doing so we lose so much of our selfish desires on life, our desire for things that eventually bring us no real joy or pleasure.

We find God - and slowly but surely, our lives make sense.

Try it, next time you ride the bus. *

Kevin Gallagher

CANADA

Simply a Choice of Love

Born in Cuba, I arrived in the United States as a refugee at the age of 17.

Having become a Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception, I lived with the poor in Latin America and especially in Guatemala. However, because of the civil war, I had to leave Guatemala.

Soon after my arrival in Quebec, I felt at home and committed myself to the refugees who escaped terror, persecution and death... and who are considered among the poorest of our society.

Most of them have lost everything, some are without family or are separated from loved ones - and worse still, they have been uprooted from their own homeland. They often come from countries with harsh regimes and are somewhat lost in a democratic milieu.

Entering a new culture raises many problems. Family relationships are quite different from what parents and children lived in their own country. I realized that I can be of help to them, particularly to the womenfolk.

Another major problem faced by newcomers is the search for a job. Thus, in 1987, the ALPA Center started a service unique in Montreal - a research group for jobs adapted to the immigrant situation. Since then, other services have been added such as the sponsorship of professional formation for immigrant women.

The ALPA personnel and I try to favor a familial and friendly atmosphere at the Center. Beyond the service itself, what the person searches for at times is more to feel loved, listened to, understood and accepted. Above all, our efforts are directed toward helping each one become self-sufficient.

Yes, it is already 10 years since my arrival in Quebec, this country blessed by God! I have discovered how much newcomers in our midst welcome love, peace, liberty and friendship! What is there to do? No doubt, we can be of help to them! Let us tell them that our lovely country is their country. Together we build the future.

A demanding choice? No, simply a choice of love! *

Gliceria Acosta, M.I.C.

Sr. Gliceria is the foundress and directress of the ALPA Center and member of the Administrative Council representing 46 organizations in Montreal serving refugees and immigrants.

Young Guatemalans receive a warm welcome to ALPA Center from Sr. Gliceria.



M.I.C. MISSIONARY PRESS...

A BOND OF PRAYER

YOU, dear readers,
have a special place
in our missionary prayer.

Do you know?
Every week,
all around the world
2 masses are celebrated
for your intentions!

Moreover, every day,
our elderly and sick sisters
carry on their mission
by presenting to the Lord and to Mary
your intentions and those of the whole world!

SEND US YOUR PRAYER INTENTIONS

**TOGETHER, LET US FACE
THE CHALLENGE
WITH FAITH
AND COURAGE
RIGHT NOW!**

WITH YOU, IT IS POSSIBLE!

A BOND OF SHARING

MIC MISSION NEWS
and LE PRECURSEUR -
two instruments of animation
at the service of the Church and its mission!

To our world searching for love,
To our youth thirsting for hope,
our magazines present testimonies of faith,
a faith which generates commitment,
which gives life a meaning,
and is to be shared with our brothers and sisters
throughout the world.

Your subscriptions ensure
the future of our magazines.
We depend on your support!

***... A Bond of Solidarity
with All Peoples of the World***

A LOVING GIFT

I wish to support your missionary animation work through MIC MISSION NEWS by offering the amount of _____ \$
_____ dollar(s).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ POSTAL CODE: _____

Cheque to be made to the order of: MIC MISSION NEWS

Tax receipt (25\$ and more): Yes ☐ No ☐

Registration No. 0940007-47

**Taking a new subscription means
helping the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
make the Lord's work progress in the missions.**

Délia Tétreault

MIC MISSION NEWS

*I wish to subscribe to MIC MISSION NEWS
published by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
P.O. Box 157, Laval-des-Rapides
Laval, P.Q. Canada H7N 4Z4*

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTAL CODE

\$5.00 (1 year) \$10.00 (support 1 year) \$14.00(3 years) \$75.00 (life)



The joy of mission: sharing the Good News of the Risen Lord!

THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

If you wish to contact us, here are a few addresses:

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

MIC Sisters
236 Glynn Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1K 1S3

MIC Sisters
2950 Prince Edward Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V5T 3N3

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

MIC Sisters
P.O. Box 510107
Chipata, Zambia
Central Africa

Provincial House
P.O. Box 468
1502 Greenhills
Metro Manila, Philippines

Provincial House
Tak Oi Convent
8 Tsz Wan Shan Road
Kowloon, Hong Kong

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

MIC Sisters
30, Lane 148
Fu-Hsing South Road,
Section 2
Taipei 10641, Taiwan