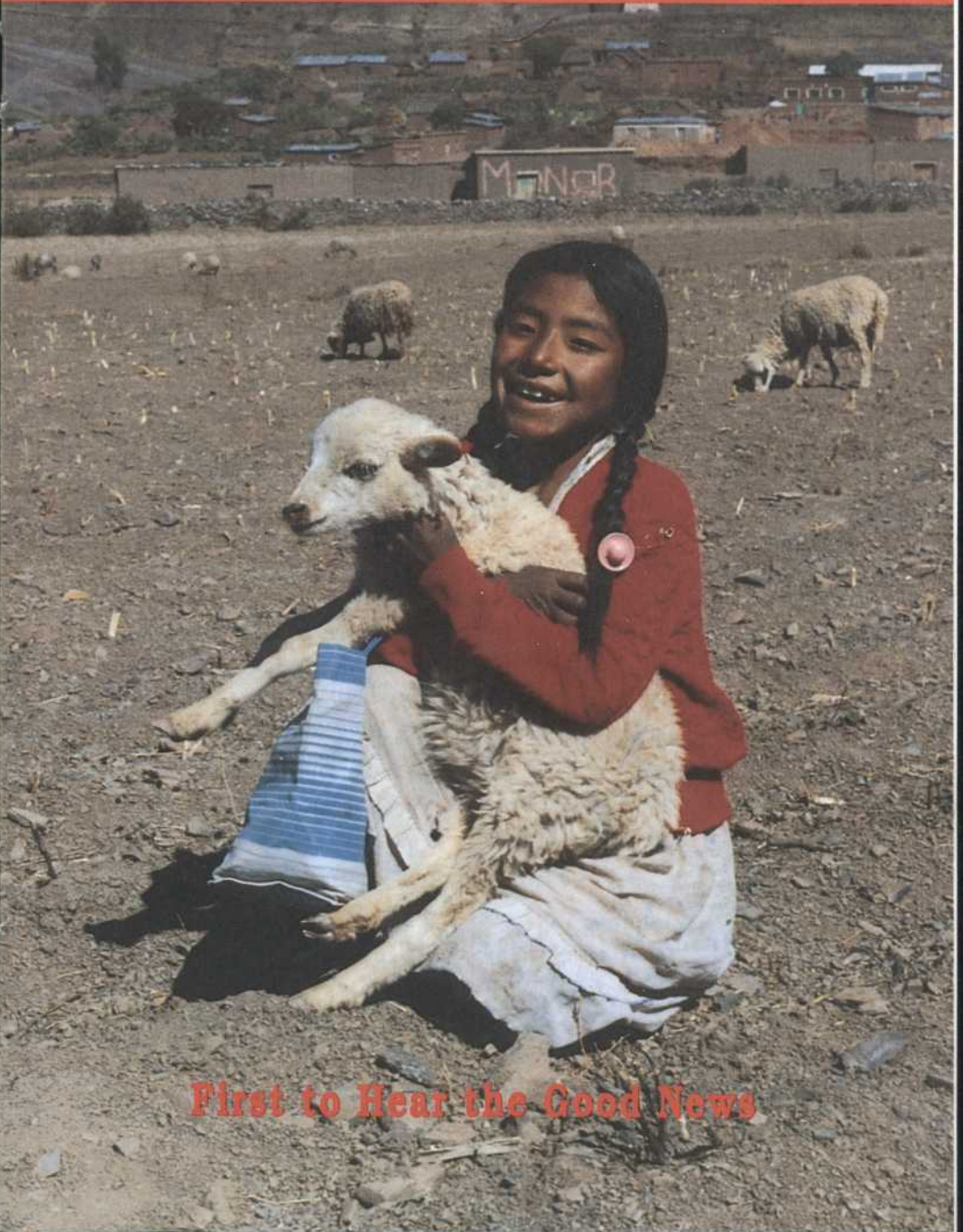


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First to Hear the Good News

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The Future... in the Present

How we love speed! How we love to hurry! Hi, 1994... and we catch ourselves thinking about the year 2000! True, the third millenium is right around the corner and there's nothing we can do about it. We all say that we need the change to a new century... therefore, we better get ready for it.

But then... by rushing for the year 2000, don't we risk shortening the time we have today? The speed at which news "pass before our eyes" and at which events and even people come through our lives often leaves us not knowing what to think. How can we allow ourselves to be driven by so many unforeseen events and by the urge to hurry on? Oh! how I admire the wise who live their time fully.

Convinced that the present moment is the only one they hold, they welcome it and commit themselves to it. This is why they reach beyond this moment, beyond that which is superficial; the look in their eyes is deep and their vision spreads wide. For them, the smile of a child is tenderness and promise; silence is rest and creativity;



Sr. Evangéline Plamondon, M.I.C.

tears are a way of deliverance and abandonment and the span of their lives is a bit of heaven. They harmonize the present moment with the past and the future.

And if, by the grace of God, faith lights up their hearts, this wisdom within them shines forth. They grasp the message of Jesus: "Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the sky; are you not worth more than they?" Such words, you will say, may seem far removed from the year 2000!

Are they really when we know that the future is built right now out of what each person holds in his or her heart?

1994, six years before the year 2000! 1994, a year during which everyday living will tell us something of the future, in the present tense. May we shed each page of the calendar with this wisdom of heart. Life will then become a commitment to justice and peace and the colours of hope will mingle with thanksgiving motifs.

On behalf of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, of our Associates — ASMIC — and of our partners in the missionary laity, thank you for your solidarity with us in harmonizing the present and the future.

*Have a Happy and Holy Year! **

Evangéline Plamondon, M.I.C.
Superior General



Christmas

A Time to Raise Awareness and Share



Students of Wakamatsu School welcome donors to their Christmas project.

One summer, five teachers of Wakamatsu school went on a tour to the Philippines. While visiting, they met the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception who helped them discover the marvelous historical sites of the country as well as the less fortunate milieus which greatly impressed them.

Becoming Credible Witnesses

Upon returning to Japan, the teachers wished to share their

experiences. In the fall, with the help of slides, they explained to high school students what they had seen, heard and enjoyed. Besides the natural beauty, the richness of the vegetation, the broad smiles of the children, they showed the poverty in certain quarters. They spoke of the social and economic problems of the country. The sight of "street children" impressed the older girls more especially.

To help support their families, these Filipino children spend days in the streets as sellers or shoe shiners. This upset and questioned the youth of Wakamatsu school. While they benefit from all the advantages of education, is it possible that many other young people who wish to be educated are deprived of it? While they live in abundance, so many children lack even the basic necessities.

Belonging to One Family

The Students' Association joined the Peace Club committee, "Heiwa no kai", to form a committee of volunteers who will take action and extend a helping hand to the children of the street. What could be done? The problem was so vast; to take up a collection in the school? Yes, but that wasn't enough. More could be done! Besides collecting money, awareness must be raised — not only among the students, but also among the population of Wakamatsu. A missionary spirit truly animated these young people: "Raise awareness and share". Even if they don't do this expressly in the name of Jesus Christ, they know we are all brothers and sisters in a large human family, that we are all God's children. They have learnt how to pray the Our Father. It is now time to put it into practice.

Giving a Meaning to Christmas

It was the beginning of December and time to prepare for exams. But generosity and zeal

prevailed. The students got down to action. The president of the Students' Association, Maki Hoshi, took the initiative. A collection was organized. Large posters illustrated the aim of the collection, thousands of flyers illustrated the situation of street children in the Philippines.

The students went to one of the city's commercial streets to gather donations from passers-by. In a loud voice they summoned the people in favor of their Filipino friends. Their objective was to collect 100,000 yen (approximately 800\$ can.) To their amazement, they collected 232,000 yen! They were exuberant! They who usually enjoy abundance and luxury, experienced the truth of the saying: "There is more joy in giving than in receiving." Maki Hoshi expressed the common feeling of her fellow-students: "This is wonderful but it musn't end here. It must be repeated next year... and every year."

Six months have passed. Maki looks back on her experience. "The most important factor is not the money collected but becoming aware of our solidarity with others. When sitting at table each day, I think of the less fortunate children and I have no right to complain. How can I waste 10 yen, even 1 yen, when I recall the misery that prevails throughout the world." *

Céline Bourbeau, M.I.C.

Epiphany

Looking out over the South China Sea from the Ling Chiu Mountain on Taiwan's northern tip is a vast expanse of blue — sparkling blue ocean and powder blue sky.

A bearded monk, robed in saffron and wearing a stocking cap and a ruby necklace walked towards me out of the clouds. He smiled and gave me a long, warm embrace.

Master Hsin Tao, 46 years old, founder of the Wu Sheng Monastery, welcomed each member of the TV crew of Kuangchi. We were here to interview and videotape him for our weekly TV program.

A thin, quivering man edged up to Master Hsin Tao. His family explained that he can't sleep, that he sees things that are not there, that he is unable to work and that his spirit is troubled. The Master placed one hand on his back and one hand on his chest, closed his eyes and began to meditate.

After the crowd had dispersed, the Master looked at me, smiled and said, "I did my best, but I don't know... I didn't get much sleep on the train last night. Sometimes it works; sometimes it doesn't. Your spirit must be

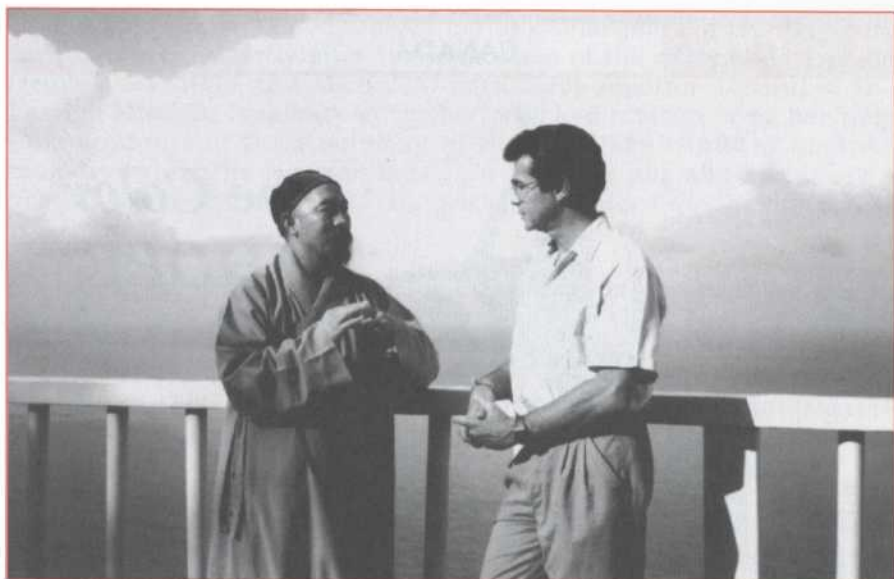
strong. Here, have a beetle nut. It'll pick you up!"

So, munching on a plain beetle nut, which he insisted was healthy as long as drug-laden condiments were left out, Master Hsin Tao took me to a cave on the rocky side of the mountain. In those bare, cramped corners, he had spent two full years in solitary meditation, eating only powdered flower petals and drinking rich mineral water from an adjoining spring.

He remained in excellent health for the entire two years. On the wall of the cave, I spotted a large frog, the color of rock save for a bright green stripe on its back. The frog clung to the wall, as if meditating. It seemed totally unconcerned, even oblivious, of our presence. If the snakes he once discovered right under the rock where he sat in meditation behaved the same way, the Master had nothing to worry about.

"Then one day", said the Master, "it occurred to me, we're only given a few years of life. Better not spend too much time in meditation. There's work to be done."

His lifestyle changed. He began to build his monastery and



**Fr. Jerry Martinson, S.J., and Master Hsin Tao invite us to discover Love
in our own hearts.**

started social work projects, environmental projects, cultural projects. He is planning to establish a museum of world religions. Now over 70 monks, nuns and followers live in the monastery next to the cave and to the spring, overlooking the sparkling blue sea.

Listening to Master Hsin Tao, I felt a kinship with him. I could see parallels between his and my own spiritual journey. I shared his hopes for a better Taiwan, a better Asia, a better world. I understood why our Asian Bishops now insist that dialogue with other religions is essential to missionary work.

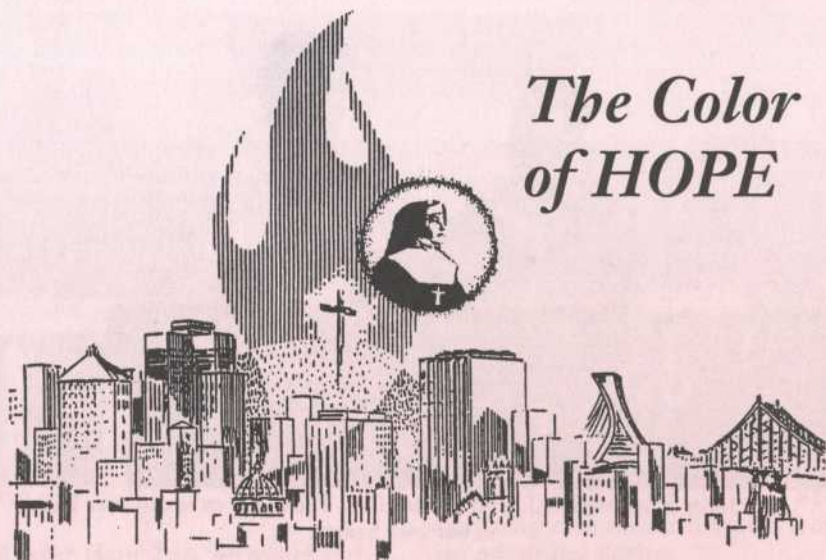
In our pragmatic, competitive and consumeristic societies, there are so many problems to be

addressed, so many ruptures to be healed, so much confusion to be dispelled. All people of good will just have to work together... only united, cooperative action can have a significant impact on our unruly human race.

In Master Hsin Tao, I recognized a brother, a partner and an apostle. As he spoke of his reverence for the Love he discovered in his heart while sitting in a cold cave, I thought of other Wise Men in another cave. Was his discovery all that different from theirs?

May we all discover that Love again. A Peaceful Christmas and New Year to you. *

Jerry Martinson, S.J.



The Color of HOPE

in the Life and Work of Delia Tétreault

Excerpts of the presentation given by Sister Lorraine Caza, CND, during the colloquium on "Délia Tétreault and Missionary Montreal".

I would like to consider Délia Tétreault's **hope** by seeing how she expressed in her life her deep desire, which is inseparable from her certitude of being under God's promise: "Our deep desires are promises of God."

The Emerging Desire

In the account she wrote to Archbishop Gauthier in 1922, the Foundress recalled how, at the age of 10, she had a dream which left a deep impression in her memory:

In this dream, I was kneeling beside my bed and, all of a sudden, I saw a ripe wheat field as far as the eye can see. At a given moment all the ears of wheat changed into heads of children; 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.

To her first companion, Joséphine Montmarquet (Sister Marie de Saint-Gustave), shortly after the foundation of the community and, on October 1st, 1933, to Canon J.A. Roch, first superior general of the Foreign Missions Seminary in Québec, who had come to bring her Holy Communion and the Anointing of the Sick, she confided another memory which had never faded away since her short stay as a postulant, at the age of 17-18, with the Sisters of Charity of St-Hyacinthe:

One evening, while in a small room with postulants, it seemed to me that Our Lord was telling me I should later found a Congregation of women for the foreign missions and help found a similar Society of men and a Foreign Missions Seminary similar to the one in Paris. I soon forgot this incident: it came back to my mind when we opened our house, without my ever thinking of telling anyone about it.

Some time around 1914, she confided again to Joséphine Montmarquet, her first companion:

The same year when I had the idea of a Congregation of missionary women or of a Seminary for the missions, or the following year (1883 or 1884), as I was in the country at an uncle's home, I went, one day, to pick raspberries with my cousins. While I was busy picking berries, I saw in spirit a large house, something like a monastery filled with religious sisters.

As one can have a foresight of a plant by looking at the seed, so it seems that Délia's future was already mapped out in those three dreams (night dream or day dreams): a future committed to opening the treasure of faith to the multitudes; a future of founding a community of women for the foreign missions and of taking part in the foundation of a community of men for the foreign missions.

A Desire which was Nurtured

Délia Tétreault provided details as to the people and events which contributed in nurturing this great desire, the promise of God.

I would add that her desire was somewhat pruned: Délia identified the future to which God was calling her not only through doors of opportunity that opened for her, but equally through doors that were shut: the door of Carmel, the door of the Grey Nuns of St-Hyacinthe, the door of Bethany after 10 years of service and the door of Africa. Between her decision to consecrate her life to God and the establishment of her work, she waited twenty years. What a fertile ground for hope!

Délia's desire was nurtured most powerfully the day when Pius X uttered the famous words: "Found, found, Monseigneur, and the blessing of God will descend upon this new foundation."

A Desire which was Matured and Interiorized

We have a letter from Délia Tétreault dated September 4th, 1916, written to Sister Marie-Immaculée (Alice Van Chestein). I quote that part of it which is usually considered as the "charter of life" of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. I find that it marvelously expresses the maturity of desire:

The more Our Lord makes me penetrate into the spirit of our vocation, the more it seems to me that the main raison d'être of our Society is really thanksgiving, in union with our Immaculate Mother and all the blessed in heaven... It seems to me that the apostolate among infidels was given to us by the Blessed Virgin as an exterior means of manifesting our gratitude. God has given us everything, even His own Son; what better way of making returns — insofar as a weak creature can do so in this world — than to give Him children, chosen ones, who will sing His goodness for centuries to come?

Let each of our lives, then, be, through prayer, sacrifice and work, a perpetual hymn of thanksgiving for ourselves and for all those who forget to thank the One to whom they owe everything. Let us imprint this idea in ourselves, let us live by it, let us do so well that we may leave it as a heritage to those who will replace us.

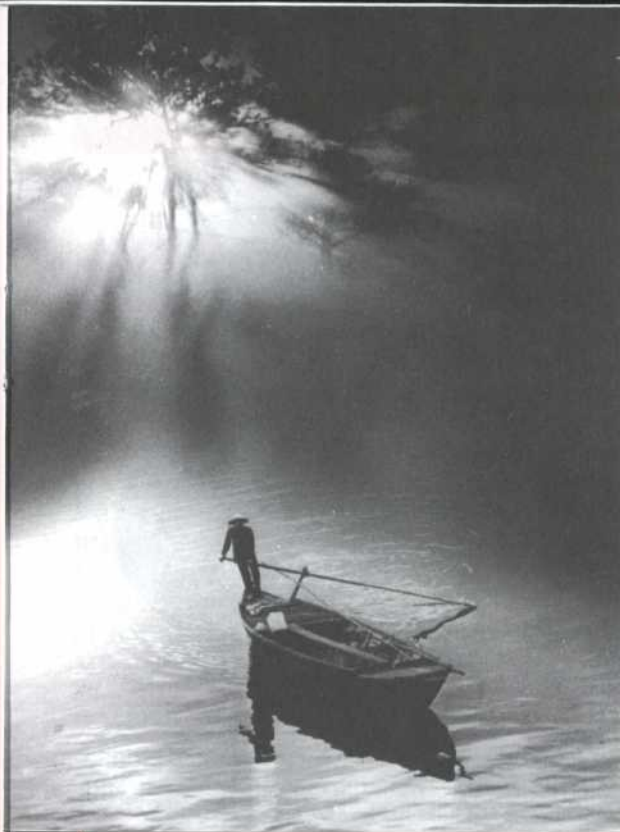
Yes, as her desire and the hope that gave direction to her life grew deeper and deeper, Délia Tétreault was able to define them better and better in terms of becoming a woman of thanksgiving for the glory of God. What graceful language to express the theological character of her hope: as a service entrusted to her by Mary! She was totally intent on the mission, of course, but insofar as the ultimate goal was to acknowledge the grace of God, to make returns for the grace received. This marvelous blending of the Marian dimension, thanksgiving and mission in the desire actualized by Délia and her community gives their hope a character of its own.

... The whole life of Délia Tétreault speaks to me of a God who is faithful to His promises, of a woman who lived under His promise in trust and patience and of a religious family whose entire purpose is an act of hope: the certainty that the Spirit is active and the certainty that the Gospel must be proclaimed everywhere.

Yes, Délia Tétreault is truly "consecrated because God has laid His eyes on her". *

Lorraine Caza, CND

Translator: Antoinette Kinlough



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As we celebrate Advent in preparation for Christmas, we pray in faith and joy that our M.I.C. Sisters who, like John the Baptist, announced to nations the coming of Jesus, may rejoice with the Lord in His glory.

We invite you, dear friends, to join us in prayer for those who died during the past year:

*Emma Barrette
Maria Beauregard
Rachel Bouchard
Alice Carrier
Jeanne d'Arc Desrochers
Berthe Dufresne*

*Marguerite Gagnon
Annonciade Gauthier
Thérèse Laliberté
Rose-Blanche Noël
Gertrude Papillon
Maria Perron*

For your beloved dead, two Masses are offered each week in one of our mission houses.

A Benemerenti Medal for a Decade of 'Helping Children to Help Children'

Pope John Paul II honored six Catholics for their contribution to Church life in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. All those honored received their pontifical citations and decorations from Archbishop Adam Exner, of Vancouver.



Among the six recipients was **Sister Adeline Mead, M.I.C.**, who directed the Archdiocesan Holy Childhood Association for 10 years (1982-1992). By her witnessing of faith and service, she has raised missionary awareness in the hearts of the youth.

Sister Adeline was awarded a **Benemerenti** medal which honors Catholic men and women who have rendered significant service to the Church and society.

Our very sincere congratulations, dear Sister Adeline! *



Missionary Intentions 1993

November

That missionaries who have given their lives for the Gospel and for love of others, find peace and joy in the Lord.

December

That the 150th anniversary of the Holy Childhood Association attract the participation of children in missionary activity.



Happy 150th 'Birthday'!

Our young people did it! Something we adults shrink from doing or find excuses not to do, 225 children and youth from Davao got together for an overnight of solidarity and friendship. The occasion? — the celebration of the 150th anniversary of foundation of the Pontifical Missionary Society of the Holy Childhood.

The Second Plenary Council of the Philippines called for a systematic exposure of administrators, faculty members, staff and students of Catholic schools in order to foster the missionary spirit. This anniversary celebration for the Holy Childhood, held at the Stella Maris School compound, was coordinated by Fr. Agustin Paunon, PMS, Davao

It's tent-pitching time during the Children's Convention for the Holy Childhood.



Mission Director, along with the M.I.C. Mission Animation Team, school heads and teachers.

Students from the University of the Immaculate Conception, the Philippine Women's College, Ateneo de Davao, Stella Maris and the Holy Cross of Calinan mingled with ease and joy with the parish Holy Childhood Association groups of Obrero, the deaf and mute from San Pablo, our tribal brothers and sisters from Barangay Malabog, underprivileged children from Reach-out Centers under the care of the Religious of the Good Shepherd and of the Missionary Sisters of Charity. All were there as members of one big family — all, children of God.

What special gift did these students possess that enabled them to make this encounter a fruitful experience of communion? Each one possessed a precious gem: trust in one another. Love for Jesus and fellow brothers and sisters led them into the camping adventure in togetherness. Students, ages 7 to 13, set up their tents, shared meals, learned to serve "the other" first, played and prayed together.

As one community, they enthroned their patron, the "Santo Niño", sang the evening praise and celebrated the early dawn

liturgy, lighting their candles from a huge bonfire. They viewed some video tapes which led them to share their reflections on care for Mother Earth. Together, they enjoyed preparing a social and cultural show, fully enhanced by their youthful creativity and spontaneity. They were honored by the presence of Bishop Antonio Mabutas, of Davao, who had words of praise, gratitude and challenge for them.

The young participants were to be evangelizers in their milieu, particularly of their fellow youth. Most of all, they were led to search together for answers from their own hearts. The question put to them was: How can children help children to promote a "civilization of love" that cares for ethnic groups and respects Mother Earth? At this Children's Convention for the 150th year of the Holy Childhood, these young people came up with a mission statement which provides for concrete commitments on these two issues.

Indeed, a new springtime of Christianity is budding forth and the youth of Davao are already engaged for a "new and better world", based on a civilization of love. *

Antoinette Castonguay, M.I.C.

Christmas



C. Chua, M.I.C.

... a season for giving!

Sister Jeannine Forcier, M.I.C., shares her gifts of time and friendship with the people of Malawi, Central Africa.

We invite you to be one with us in mission by

- making a donation for the missions
- supporting the works of the M.I.C. Sisters through an annuity or by including them in your will
- by offering a gift subscription of MIC MISSION NEWS to a family member or friend.

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Celebrating God-with-us

Huguette Chapdelaine, M.I.C., and friends in Taiwan.

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