

MIC MISSION NEWS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2001

One Gospel, Many *Gifts*



MIC MISSION NEWS



Photomontage : Y. Demers Paris

MIC MISSION NEWS

Mission Magazine published since 1923 by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

- Directress: Louise Denis, M.I.C.
- Editor: Ma. Anthea Raso, M.I.C.
- Editing Team: Céline Gauvin, M.I.C., Helene Labelle, M.I.C.
- Translator: Antoinette Kinlough
- Promotion: Antoinette Castonguay, M.I.C., A team of M.I.C. Sisters and Lay Collaborators
- Circulation: Alma Couture, M.I.C., Marie-Thérèse Salhab St-Roch, A Team of M.I.C. Sisters
- Accounting: Paquerette Gauthier, M.I.C.
- Layout & Design: Yves Demers Paris
- Film Stripping: Film-O-Progrès
- Printing: Transcontinental Inc.
- Tax Receipt: Registration Number: NE 89346 9585 RR001 - PRESSE MISSIONNAIRE M.I.C.
- Legal Deposits: Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec, National Library of Canada; ISSN 0315-9655
- Associate Member: Association of Roman Catholic Communicators of Canada (ARCCC)
- Subscriptions: see p.23
- PUBLICATIONS-MAIL-REGISTRATION Number: 09645
- Convention Number: 1378287
- Change of Address: Please send your old and new address. When renewing subscription, include file number.

MIC MISSION NEWS

120 Place Juge Desnoyers, Laval (Québec) CANADA H7G 1A4
Telephone: (450) 663-6460
Fax: (450) 972-1512
E-mail: micnews@colba.net
M.I.C. Web Site:
<http://www.soeurs-mic.qc.ca>

Contents

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 1. JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2001

Editorial

Growing Toward Fullness of Life 3

Ma. Anthea Raso, M.I.C.

At the Cost of their Lives 4

Céline Gauvin, M.I.C.

Doors Wide Open at Expo Missio 2000 6

Lucie Gagné, M.I.C.

Beyond our Frontiers 8

Murielle Dubé, M.I.C.

Pathways of Hope 10

From the Doldrums to Hope

André Beauchamp

Prayer 11

Here We Are, Lord...

Along Mission Routes... 12

For Love of the Children 14

Rita Ostiguy, M.I.C.

What a Chance! 16

Micheline Marcoux, M.I.C.

News from Here and Elsewhere 18

A Precious Booklet 20

Jeannette Légaré, M.I.C.

In the Garden of God 21

Huguette Turcotte, M.I.C.

We Give You Thanks... 24



Beyond our Frontiers



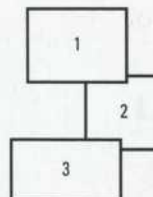
For Love of the Children



What a Chance!

Front Cover:

1. Rome. Expo Missio 2000. Pauline Yuen, M.I.C. with visitors
2. Taiwan. A moment of farewell. Jeannette Légaré, M.I.C. and friends
3. Argentina. Children at the Missionary Congress of the Americas



MISSIONARY INTENTIONS 2001

January

That through civic and religious education all over the world every form of intolerance and discrimination may be uprooted.

February

That through the acceptance of the Gospel, the family may be an evangelizing instrument and make humanity a true family of peoples.

March

That the heroism of the Martyrs and of Witnesses to the faith may spur all people to increase ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue.

Growing Toward

By Ma. Anthea Raso, M.I.C

The gifts that we have differ according to the grace that was given to each of us. Rm 12:3

The beginning of a new year is an opportune time to pause and see that many people and events have called us to growth. We give thanks especially for our faith life... as we open our hearts to the messengers God sends us and as we try to live in the heart of the Scriptures.

Many lives give witness to our profound belief that the Word of God and the life of Jesus are ongoing invitations to grow toward the fullness of life offered by a loving Creator. In this

Fullness of Life

issue of MIC MISSION NEWS, we feel privileged to present people from all walks of life who have welcomed such invitations in their heart. They are overjoyed with the powerful love that moves through their being. They are aware that God bestows bountiful blessings on them and works in and through them. The letter of St. Paul to the Galatians describes the working of the Spirit of God in people's hearts as *the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*. These *gifts of sacred life*, ever alive and pulsing, move people toward action.

All of us can readily single out individuals, who, by

sharing the gift of their faith life, have set us free to discover and express *gifts of sacred life* we were not aware we also had. However, reverencing the gifts of others and our own is not easily learned. Not always good stewards of our own gifts, we fail to set others free to share their gifts. We need the message of the lives of people who have gone before us or who walk with us now - witnesses to the faith, missionaries and others we know or meet from day to day - every one of them truly imbued with the

same passionate single-heartedness based on love of God and of His people.

May our own life of faith bear abundant fruits! May we remain ever steadfast in the belief that God's love, poured generously into our hearts, is a continuous stream of grace waiting to fill our lives with vitality and purpose. May we recognize the ordinary and pervasive gifts of our own lives, receive them as gifts and acknowledge them as ours to give away.

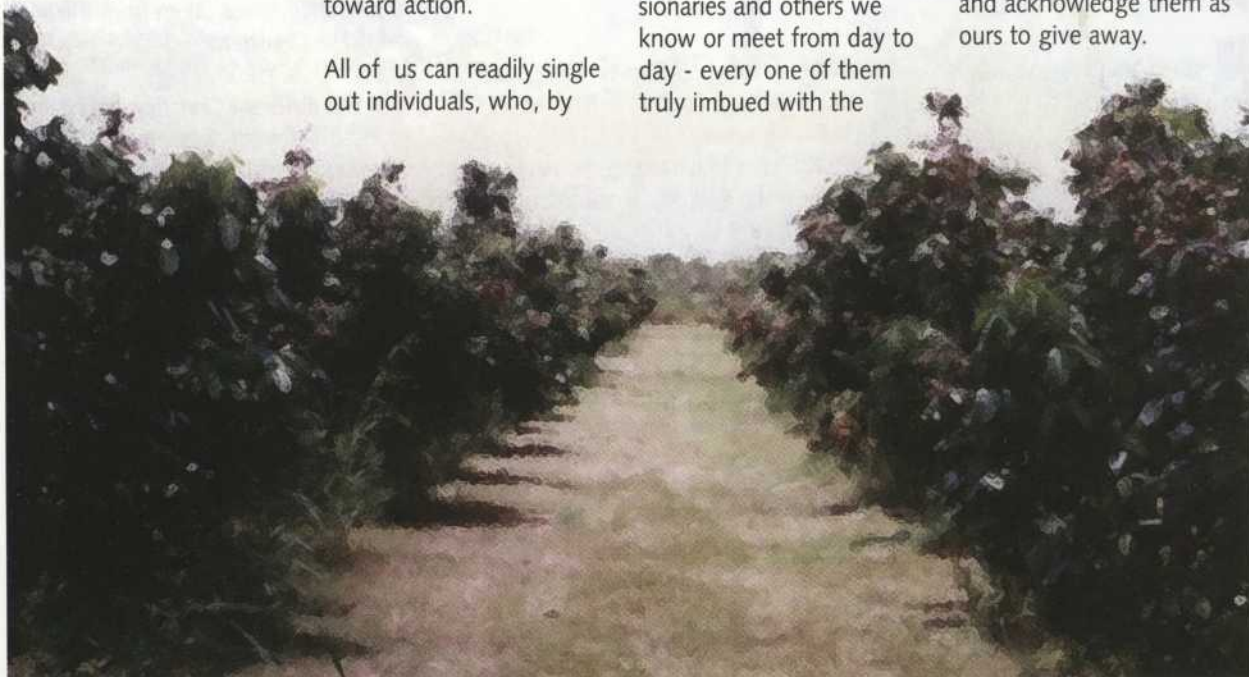
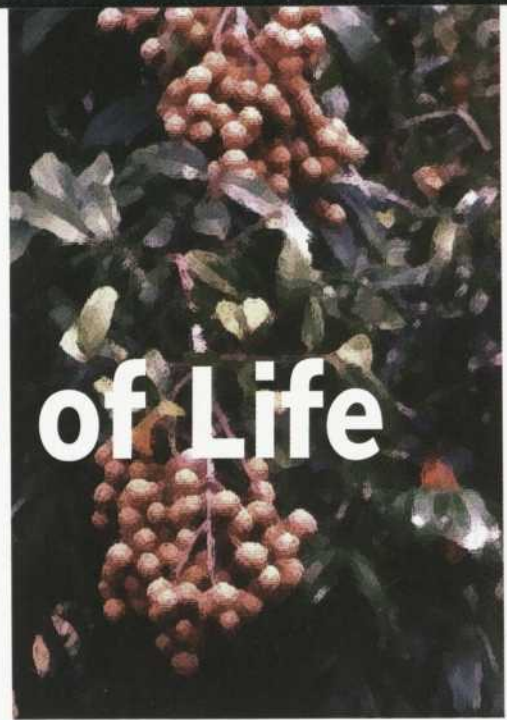
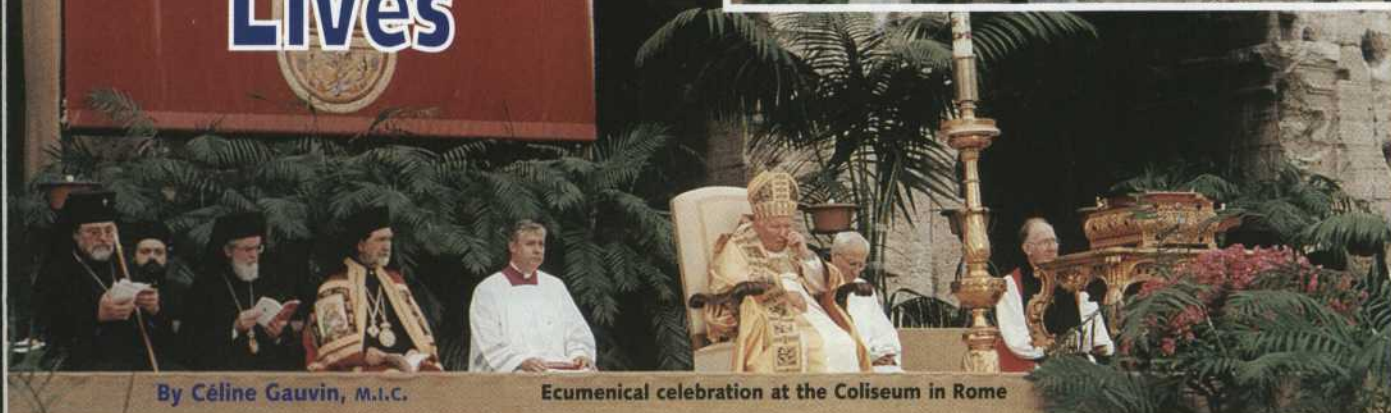
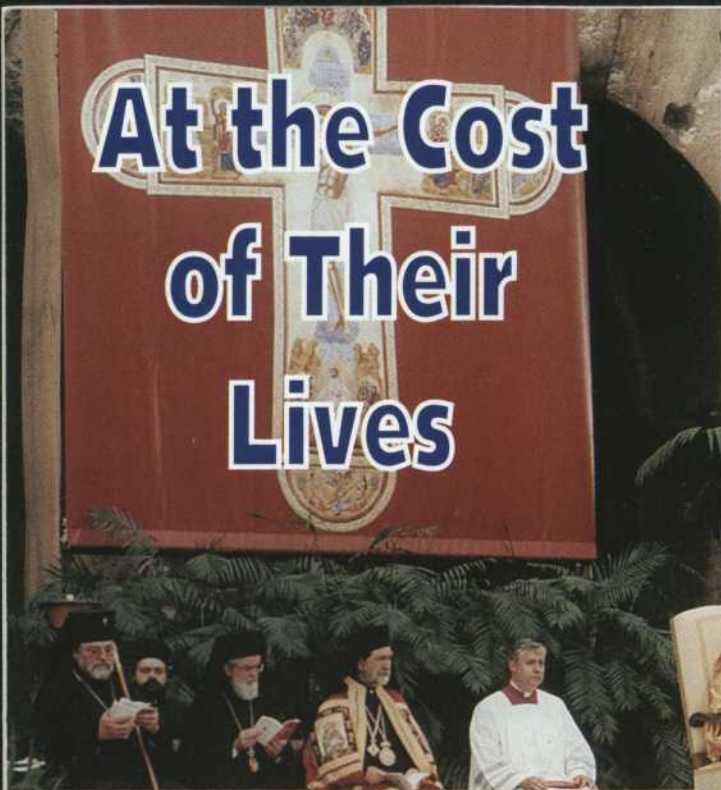


Illustration: Y. Demers Paris

At the Cost of Their Lives



By Céline Gauvin, M.I.C.

Ecumenical celebration at the Coliseum in Rome

Photos: L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican City

It was believed that their names had been forgotten, that their lives had disappeared, forever useless... And behold! in Rome, on May 7, 2000, a moving ecumenical celebration gave life and form to the faith witnesses of the 20th century. It was an event of great significance for Christian unity and for the affirmation of faith all over the world.

In Rome, the Coliseum remains an eloquent testimony to the sufferings and persecutions which the early generations of Christians endured with heroic courage. In the evening of May 7, 2000, this memorable place echoed with the poignant testimony of thousands of witnesses to the faith of the 20th century. Undoubtedly, in no other century have so many Christians given their lives for Christ, stated John Paul II. At the close of the second millennium, the Church has become once again a Church of martyrs. A large crucifix faced an impressive number of believers assembled for the event. Pope John Paul II and representatives of the Orthodox, Protestant and Catholic Churches took part in this momentous event. It was a striking

image of how the witnesses to the faith are also leavens of unity among the different Christian Churches. The total gift of their lives for the cause of the Gospel exceeds and overcomes all divisions among Christians. Among the witnesses honoured were a few who suffered for their faith, but not to the extent of shedding their blood. The tortures they endured for nearly ten, twenty, thirty or more years are overwhelming.

Who are these Witnesses to the Faith?

The people who suffered persecution, violence and death on account of the Gospel during the 20th century are so numerous that it was impossible to remember them in the celebration other than collectively. Certain categories of witnesses of every culture, nation and walk of life were remembered. Those present at the celebration were taken on a moving journey all across the 20th century... all across the world. The victims of Communism, Nazism and of other dictatorships were recalled. So were the witnesses to the faith who fell in the course of ethnic and tribal wars, the

believers persecuted as a result of hatred for their faith, the Christians in the service of justice and all the unknown people whose faith is known to God alone. Mention is made of the Christian denominations to which they belonged. A lamp was lighted for each of these groups and placed at the foot of the large Crucifix. Then the whole assembly listened with amazement and respect to a few testimonies taken from the lives of these Christians.

For the different Christian denominations, this event was an opportunity to exchange one another's books of witnesses to the Gospel. Since 1996, the Catholic Churches of each country have been sending to Rome the names and stories of their martyrs. Some of the files are rather short, others include hundreds of pages. A complex and delicate survey of all the data is only now at its beginnings. What is important is to get better acquainted with these martyrs of our times. Finding out about their stories presents a real paradox. Most of the witnesses were not directly charged with offenses of a religious nature. In most cases, political grievances were

pointed out against them. Besides, through ill-treatment and drugs, they were intentionally reviled to the point of becoming human wrecks incapable of accounting for their faith before giving up their life for Christ.

The Significance of this Faith Event

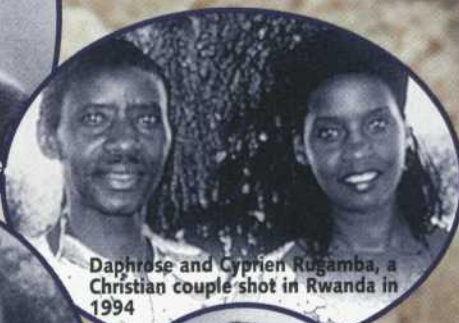
The homily of Pope John Paul II unveiled the deeper significance of this faith event. He insisted vigorously that the memory of these witnesses to the faith not be lost, but that it be enhanced and transmitted to the Christians of the new millennium as a treasure of immense worth. *They were frail people like us*, he said, *and what is manifested in them is the strength of faith and the grace of God. This valuable heritage indicates for Christians the way towards unity. It is a leaven that leads to full communion of all the disciples of Christ. The most convincing kind of ecumenism is that of the martyrs and of the witnesses to the faith.*

This great celebration of witnesses to the faith of the 20th century has triggered for us a serious awakening to what these people had to experience. It reminds Christians that they cannot live estranged from them and not make their lives known. It shows them that the lives of these apostles exuding a very strong sense of solidarity, love and hope can energize their personal experiences. It can help them live out with courage and faith the gift of their own lives for the cause of the Gospel.

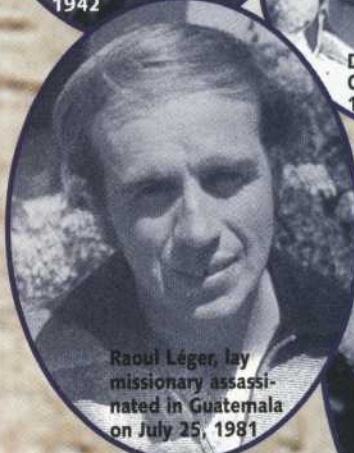
Besides, this celebration makes Christians more sensitive to the Churches in distress. In many countries, there are still today situations of religious discrimination and intolerance. In other regions, persecution is visited upon those who work among the poor and struggle against injustice and violence. No, the era of witnesses to the faith is not yet over. ●



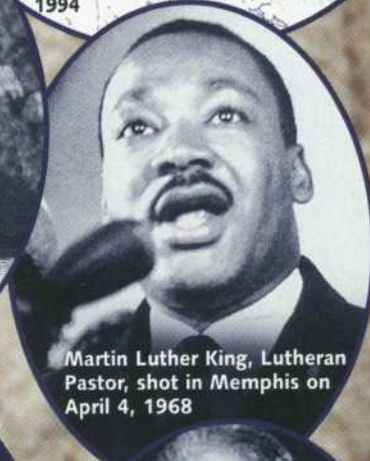
Edith Stein, Carmelite
died at Auschwitz in
1942



Daphrose and Cyprien Rugamba, a
Christian couple shot in Rwanda in
1994



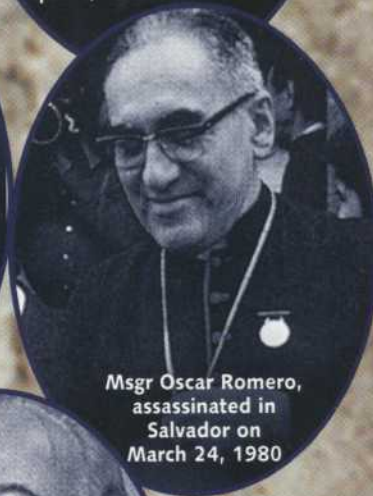
Raoul Léger, lay
missionary assassi-
nated in Guatemala
on July 25, 1981



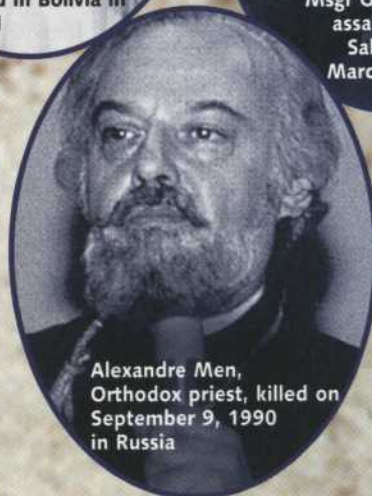
Martin Luther King, Lutheran
Pastor, shot in Memphis on
April 4, 1968



Maurice Lefebvre,
Oblate missionary
killed in Bolivia in
1971



Msgr Oscar Romero,
assassinated in
Salvador on
March 24, 1980



Alexandre Men,
Orthodox priest, killed on
September 9, 1990
in Russia



Expo

Doors Wide Open at *Missio 2000*

By Lucie Gagné, M.I.C.

Millions of pilgrims took part in the huge gatherings in Rome for the Jubilee. To help them get a better grasp of the meaning of the universal mission of Christ and Christians across twenty centuries of Christianity's history, a special presentation was included in the programme of the Jubilee: *Expo Missio 2000*. Sr. Lucie Gagné, who was invited to take part in this project, relates the event.

It was extremely hot when I arrived in Rome at the end of August 2000. The city which is usually abandoned at the height of summer was invaded by a sea of pilgrims. Invited by the organizing committee of *Expo Missio 2000* to take part as a guide to the visiting pilgrims, I had to immerse myself without delay in this unique experience. Thérèse Lebeau, M.I.C. and Pauline Yuen, M.I.C., were members of the team. Sr. Pauline, a theology student at the Gregorian University, had already worked two weeks at the Expo as a pilgrims' guide. She shared her experience with us and quickly introduced us to the dynamics of the project.

The Dynamism of the Mission

Launched and supported by the central committee of the Jubilee, by the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and by various missionary organizations and Institutes, *Expo Missio 2000* offered visiting pilgrims the opportunity to set out on a missionary journey across 20 centuries of Christianity's history. The project was put together by a team of experts in communication, theology, missiology and other fields of studies. The presentation they chose was audacious in scope: a huge outdoor scene capable of reaching audiences of different ages, faiths and cultures, and a production that included the use of music, symbols and moving images. And that was only the most visible part of the project. The soul of it was the presence of competent guides and witnesses of the mission who accompanied the visitors and developed friendships with them, making this *Expo Missio 2000* something more than a tourist attraction.

The missionary exposition was located at the Three-Fountains Abbey, the place of St. Paul's martyrdom. The dynamism of the mission in the course of two thousand years of history was presented in three segments: *The Search for God*, *The Encounter with Christ* and *Mission in the World*.

The grounds where each of these segments was presented were vast and the decoration exceptional. The first part of the journey took place outdoors. A magnificent re-enactment of human history from creation until the coming of Christ expressed the *search for God* that lived in the human race throughout the ages. The second part of the journey brought out God's response to this search, a response according to the Christian faith: Jesus of Nazareth. The *encounter with Christ* was evoked through the *Sound and Light* images which showed

how the face of Christ is known and respected in the different cultures of the world. Then came the third segment in which the pilgrims were given a choice between various ways of fulfilling the mission: *Witness and Proclamation, Gospel and Culture, Justice and Peace, Dialogue and Faith*.

Encounter with Missionaries

It was in this last segment, particularly the part dealing with *Witness and Proclamation*, that the visitors were offered time to meet the missionaries. Testimonies were given by lay people and religious of various missionary Institutes of Europe or elsewhere in the world, telling their stories and those of the people among whom they worked. They shared their experience of being seized by Christ, like Saint Paul, to go and proclaim the Gospel. Using posters, our missionary magazines *MIC Mission News* and *Le Précurseur* and different pamphlets on the people associated to our Community (ASMIC and lay missionaries), the M.I.C. booth expressed our lived experience and the missionary and Marian spirituality that animate it.

A large photograph of Délia Tétreault occupied the central space. We were proud to make her known as one of the great missionaries of the 20th century, to show that she was at the heart of the missionary dynamism of the Canadian Church and foundress of the first community of women missionaries in Canada.

For two weeks, we had the joy of being in contact with people of all ages from nearly 65 countries. Around one hundred of them each day. We were very impressed by our visitors. I specially remember a bishop from North Vietnam. He had been authorized by the government of his country to come to Rome for the Jubilee with a group of Christians of his diocese. It was the first time they had been allowed outside their country since the advent of communism. The concern of this bishop for the universal mission really moved me. And a group of young African sisters - a new community founded in Nigeria in 1986 and already so prosperous! These sisters bore witness to joy, vitality and confidence in the future.

And what can I say of the Salesian seminarians, 32 young men of different nationalities nurturing in their hearts a single aspiration: to consecrate their lives to Christ and to share in this mission. Also, there were all the lay people involved in their local Churches, who demonstrated such an interest in the mission.

All peoples will see your salvation! We experienced this prophecy of Isaiah in a concrete way during *Expo Missio 2000*. Peoples from all over the world saw and experienced the Salvation of our God. We witnessed this and we give thanks! ●

A dynamic M.I.C. team, rich in different missionary experiences. (L. to r.): Srs. Thérèse Lebeau, Pauline Yuen and Lucie Gagné



Photos: L. Gagné, M.I.C.



Sr. Pauline Yuen, from Hong Kong, writes the names of visitors in Chinese characters.





A breath of missionary vitality is sweeping through South America. It is taking even farther in their mission the Churches of North America. That is what transpired from the first Missionary Congress of the Americas – CAM-I – held in Paraná, Argentina, already more than one year ago. Sr. Murielle Dubé recounts lively echoes of this significant event.

Missionary congresses have been a part of the recent history of Latin America and their evolution has been amazing. They first began as diocesan congresses, followed by national congresses, and then by the Latin American Congress (COMLA). Actually, the Latin American Missionary Congresses were initiated in Mexico. It took seven Mexican congresses before the

By Murielle Dubé, M.I.C.

thought came to have one that would assemble South and Central America and the Caribbean Islands. That was COMLA-1 in 1997. Over the years, these Latin American gatherings were opened to include all of the Americas, so that COMLA-VI held in Argentina in 1999 became the first Missionary Congress of the Americas (CAM-1). To assemble in this way all the Churches of the Americas was undoubtedly a daring achievement and an act of faith in the future.

Better than any speech, the following testimony of Anne-Marie Drainville, then in charge of mission animation in Joliette, gives us a glimpse of the fruits of the previous congresses: *I was immersed in a crowd that exuded the enthusiasm and dynamic energy of youth... I was in contact with a Church that, in the course of its journey, had become aware that being Christian does not only mean receiving the faith, but also sharing it. I took part in concrete manifestations of faith coloured by symbolic gestures and cultural images. I met witnesses involved in various fields of action, concerned about living out the*

message of Jesus Christ in practical ways, in a profound spirit of joy and celebration.

I witnessed a new evangelization in its initial stage being carried out with audacity. An evangelization that is new in terms of those doing it: young people in great numbers, local, diocesan and intercontinental missionary groups; youth whose vision knows no frontiers, missionary children, missionary families. An evangelization that is also new in terms of how it is done: a mission-oriented Church, on its way, a pilgrim Church that goes out of its boundaries; a Church that is passionate about the options of Jesus and goes out to meet those who are excluded in order to journey along with them.

Sal de tu tierra – Go out of your homeland

America, go out of your homeland with Christ! That was the theme of the Congress. This phrase ran through the different stages of the gathering and made its way in the hearts of all. The Spanish word *sal* expresses both the dynamic significance of the mission - to be the salt of the earth - and the call to leave, go out of your land. In short, to be a witness in a given culture and to go out to new places to proclaim Christ. Filled with joy because of the gift of faith they



Missionary dynamism of the Churches of the Americas

Beyond our



Participants at the Congress received warm hospitality from the families of Paraná, Argentina. Jeanne-Odet Rasoarimanana, M.I.C., from Madagascar, missionary in Bolivia (1st row, at centre)



Frontiers

received and grateful to Christ for that immense gift, the Americas represented by 3,500 delegates said yes with one voice to the responsibility to proclaim the Gospel within and without their frontiers. The faith received is a gift, a wealth to be shared, it is Good News which thousands of brothers and sisters are waiting to hear. Whether they live near us or at the other end of the world, these women and men have the right to know Jesus, the Christ sent by the Father, the Salvation and Joy of every human being. Through witnessing, service and dialogue, all of us committed ourselves to joyfully proclaim this Good News.

Thus the Church of Latin America is no longer merely a Church that receives missionaries; it is also a Church that sends and witnesses out of its poverty. In the words of Bishop Erwin Krautler of Brazil: *In our mission of evangelization, we, the people of the South, are poor in material resources, but rich in enthusiasm, joy and hope in spite of the sufferings we must endure and of the struggles we must carry on.*

The Churches of North America had both a similar and a different stance, in the opinion of Bishop Gilles Lussier of

Joliette, chairman of the Mission Committee of the Assembly of Quebec Bishops: *We, the Churches of the North, have been accustomed to send and to give. We increasingly need to be converted and to learn how to receive from the sister Churches of the South; we also need to learn how to give out of our own poverty, for there exist some major areas of poverty in the Church of Canada... The climate may be colder in the North, but our hearts are no less filled with hope as we look to the future Christ is opening for us.*

For the first time in the history of COMLA, 300 children were counted

in as participants. They took their place in this Congress and went through the different activities: reflection, choice of orientations, etc., a factual reminder that they too can be friends of Jesus and make Him known. On their return from Argentina, seven children representing Mond'Ami organization, aged 10 to 13, who were members of the Canadian delegation, expressed as follows their missionary task: *In our parishes, in our school and in our families, we shall tell others how the people we met live their faith with conviction and enthusiasm. We shall not be afraid to say how the missionary witnessing has made us reflect. With Jesus, we shall try to make the world a better place. We shall have the courage to say what we think, to respect ourselves and to respect others.*

For us, adults, our mission is to cooperate with Jesus in making what is lifegiving grow. This mission will be accomplished in practical ways through tangible signs of solidarity and universal charity, among which is the indispensable sign of sending missionaries... *America, go out of your land with Christ!* ●

Mond'Ami delegates to the Congress.
Rose-Philomène Gédéon, M.I.C., Haitian (1st row, 1st l.),
Murielle Dubé, M.I.C. (1st row, 3rd l.)



Photos: M. Dubé, M.I.C.

From the Doldrums to Hope



By André Beauchamp

The doldrums... does that ring a bell? I am not talking about a nervous breakdown or a burnout, just the ordinary doldrums. As the dictionary puts it: *a dull, depressed or bored condition of mind*. The feeling we have, every once in a while, that nothing works, nothing has ever worked and nothing will ever work.

I am sixty-two, in top physical shape and full of zest for life. Though I have been a priest for 38 years, I did not always work in pastoral activity, far from it. But I can say that I have worked hard in many fields and capacities, in leadership and research, lecturing, writing and management. I have sailed on many seas and encountered the dangers of shipwreck on lurking reefs. And I am still sailing on, not knowing exactly where the voyage will end.

I admit that some nights I am in the doldrums. I do, sometimes, look at the shreds of a Church we are left with, and remembering the days of my youth I wonder what happened. Did we work so hard for such pitiful results? Have we been so utterly ineffective? that greatly mistaken? Did we waste our lives, as Vigneault puts it, *in the pursuit of lands carried away by the horizon*? I think of my elderly confreres who did not, as I did, have the chance to do any other kind of work, and I see in their eyes an unfathomable sadness. Oh! Those evenings in the doldrums!

As I was reading the story of the pilgrims of Emmaus (Lk 24: 13-25), a thought came to me... Two men were trudging along, feeling very low. A stranger walked up beside them and asked: *What are you talking about along the way?* They stopped, their faces downcast, and said to him: *You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in the last few days* (Lk 24: 18).

Here are two men in distress, at the end of their rope, and whose lives appeared to them as a tragic failure. They invested all they had in Jesus and have lost everything. Here they are telling a stranger all about their misfortune and about their sadness and bitterness. What a failure! They pour out their hearts as they tell their story and they add to it. The stranger listens; he asks questions, refers them to the Scriptures and explains to them the long and roundabout ways of salvation. *Isn't that what Christ was meant to suffer?* Once they have reached the city, the disciples did not want him to go away. *Stay with us*, they say. At the sharing of the bread their eyes are opened. They understand. But Christ has already disappeared.

As I reflect on what looks like the wilderness here, leaving us with a bitter taste, I am naturally reminded of Emmaus and of how the disciples were in the doldrums. What do we know about God and why should we always see the harvest? There is a time for sowing and another for reaping (Jn 4: 34-38). We are in the season of sowing, such a beautiful and long time, a time of trust... a time of faith!

I know that elsewhere in the vast world, the Church gathers admirable fruits of love, hope and witness. I also feel like lying down near the fireplace and licking my sores quietly like an old tired dog. But I take a look and, behold! I see little green shoots sprouting from the bushes and heralding a new harvest to be reaped one evening in the future. And I hear a voice saying to me: *You foolish man, so slow to believe!* (Lk 24: 25)

One often needs to be in the doldrums to discover hope. •

Here We Are, Lord...

*Here we are, Lord, before You,
at the dawn of a year of joy.
Let us give You thanks
for beauty, for love and for life.
The beauty of the earth asleep
in the depth of winter and in the dead of night;
the love of brothers and sisters for one another,
here at home and all over the world;
the new and so beautiful life
of the child in the cradle.
Thank You, Lord, for the hope
held by those who belong to You.*

*Let us, O Lord, stretch our hands to You
as does a hungry child.
Our hands are empty, fill them with Your blessings...*

*Grant our hearts to be free
to love the poor knocking at our doors,
the outcast, the sick, the little ones,
whose identity You claim as Your own.
Grant our hearts to be full of audacity and love,
overflowing hearts that compel us
to cry out our thirst for fraternal love
among all people, among all nations.
And grant our lips to be those of prophets
who dare to propose Your ways,
for You are the Way.
You beg us to be ONE in the eyes of the world,
to be Your witnesses - that people may believe.
Tomorrow is possible, tomorrow belongs to You.
Grant us to prepare it today
by the commitments of our lives.*

*Roger Bichelberger
Prier, no. 168*

Along Mission Routes...

Lord, accompany on their mission those who are leaving in your name to proclaim Your Gospel. Through their witnessing, their friendship and their presence,
*may those in need of comforting be comforted;
 may those seeking peace find it;
 may those wishing to give thanks be enabled to do so;
 and may each one return to his or her own home
 with the joy of having met You,
 who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.'*



Ghislaine Parent, M.I.C.
from Drummondville,
Diocese of Nicolet

In March 2000, Sr. Ghislaine returned to Japan, where she worked for 15 years in an orphanage and at a Centre for university students. In Gyoda, she took part in a project to help Latin American immigrants. Last November, she left Japan for the Philippines. Presently at the Inter-Provincial Novitiate of Baguio, she collaborates in the formation of young M.I.C. Sisters coming from countries of Southeast Asia.



Theresa Chang, M.I.C.
from Guanshi,
Diocese of Hsinchu

Sr. Theresa left for Japan last September 2000. This is her first departure for a foreign mission. In Tokyo, she continues her study of the Japanese language. In her native country, Sr. Theresa was directress of the Kindergarten in Guanshi for several years. She was also involved in Youth Ministry in parishes and schools.



Gisèle Picard, M.I.C.
from St-Roch-des-Aulnaies,
Diocese of Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière

Sr. Gisèle has travelled a long missionary route. Assigned to Bolivia in 1960, she also ministered in Chile and Peru. She devoted herself especially to family catechesis while assuming administrative services in our different local Communities. Back in Peru since September 2000, she gives a helping hand to the M.I.C. team at the Provincial House.



Claire Carrier, M.I.C.
from St-Martin,
Diocese of Quebec

Last October, Sr. Claire went back to Cuba, where she has been carrying out her mission for the last 34 years. Currently stationed in Los Palacios, she is a member of the M.I.C. team involved in the formation of Christian communities. Her visits to the families, and especially to prisoners, are a source of comfort appreciated by all.



Atsuko Martha Sagara, M.I.C.
from Aizu-Wakamatsu,
Diocese of Sendai, Japan

Last September, Sr. Atsuko returned to the Philippines where she had worked since 1985. In Davao, she carries on her ministry of Missionary Animation and also collaborates in Vocation Promotion. She is responsible for the project *Salamat Po Kai*, which provides scholarships for students in need of financial help.



Madeleine Patenaude, M.I.C.
from St-Alexandre,
Diocese of St-Hyacinthe

Sr. Madeleine has already lived 25 years in Haiti. In addition to providing various community services, she has always been involved in parish work, especially in facilitating liturgical services and forming choirs. She went back to Haiti last October and is now in Port-Salut, working at the same commitments.

Claire Guérard, M.I.C.
from Quebec City,
Diocese of Quebec

Sr. Claire has been a missionary in Madagascar for 31 years. In all this time, she has performed various offices in our houses: accounting, food services, maintenance. Having returned to Antananarivo last October, she resumed the office of Provincial Bursar which she has been discharging for 12 years.



Paulette Côté, M.I.C.
from Quebec City,
Diocese of Quebec

In November 2000, Sr. Paulette returned to Peru where she previously worked for many years. In Tate, she visits families and accompanies them in various projects aimed at improving their situation. Her experience in the ministry of social action in various countries - Haiti, Bolivia and Chile - helps her in this new commitment.



Huguette Pigeon, M.I.C.
from Laverlochère,
Diocese of Timmins

Last November, Sr. Huguette went back to Malawi, Africa, where she has worked for 35 years. First a teacher until 1980 at the Marymount High School in Mzuzu, she then took on administrative tasks. Now in Mzimba, she resumed her office as Provincial Bursar.



Nicole Rochon
from Montreal,
Diocese of Montreal

Nicole is a lay missionary. Having left for Hong Kong in October 2000, she is currently in a period of immersion in the Chinese culture, while sharing in the service of hospitality to visitors at our house of Kowloon. She also gives English lessons to students of Good Hope School.



Herlinda Batista, M.I.C.
from Havana,
Diocese of Havana, Cuba

November 2000 marked Sr. Herlinda's first departure for a foreign mission. Currently in Malawi, Africa, she is taking intensive courses in Chitumbuka, the local language. She also lends a hand at the library of Marymount High School which is attended by nearly 425 girls.



Thérèse Lebeau, M.I.C.
from Repentigny,
Diocese of Montreal

Sr. Thérèse has been carrying out her missionary work in Latin America since 1970. In Guatemala, Bolivia, Chile and Peru, she was involved in parish and diocesan pastoral work and has especially devoted herself to the formation of catechists. As a resource person in this area, there are new projects awaiting her in Peru where she returned in November 2000.

1- Adapted text: J. Eyquem, O.P.

MISSIONARIES WITH US

Your departure gifts help our missionaries

Enclosed the amount of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt.: _____

Code: _____ Tel.: () _____

Address to:

Mission Procure
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
121 Maplewood Avenue
Outremont, QC..Canada H2V 2M2
Tel: (514) 274-5691

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SOLIDARITY!

Do you want a tax receipt Yes ☐ No ☐

For Love of the Children



Beatriz Almos (standing, 4th r.) and CAIC educators

By Rita Ostiguy, M.I.C.

Living out the Gospel message means constantly creating new forms of solidarity. Sr. Rita Ostiguy has been in Bolivia for 30 years. In her ministry as an educator, she chose to work among children living on the fringe of society and whose rights are violated - the children of San Sebastian Prison. She tells us about a project set up to help them: CAIC (*Centro de Apoyo Integral Carcelario*).

One is Canadian, the other, Spanish. Young and eager to reach out, they left their home country for Bolivia to share a few years of their life with the most destitute. They encountered each other in Cochabamba. Isabelle, a medical student, works with single mothers at a downtown centre. Beatriz, who holds a degree in History, teaches in a college. In the evening, after their long day's work, they go to a public park to relax a while. They are soon joined by a number of children and are won over by their candour, simplicity and loving manner. They chat with them and invent games for them. That is where the two of them first met.

A Situation Full of Risk

Every evening, the children had been coming... in ever greater numbers. But where do they come from? *We live in that prison you see over there*, they said, pointing to a dilapidated three-story build-

ing. With its displays of foodstuffs and used garments, it looks more like a huge market and a gigantic laundry place. It is the San Sebastian Prison. Little by little, Isabelle and Beatriz get to know everything about the life of the children in this overpopulated prison. Eighty-five percent of the men imprisoned at San Sebastian are charged with transporting or selling drugs. They are detained there until their trial in court, in fact approximately four or five years. The State provides an allowance of 40 cents a day for each inmate. The latter must pay his own rent, food and other expenses. He must rent a cell for the whole time. The cost varies according to the amenities offered: for \$800, \$2,500 or \$5,000 in American currency. The best cells include a refrigerator, a private bath, a telephone, cable TV, a computer, etc. It is up to the family members to collect among themselves the amount needed to

pay the rent. Once the cell is rented, the mother and children move in with the father. The mother now has the responsibility of earning the livelihood of the whole family.

At San Sebastian, there are not enough cells to accommodate all the prisoners. Consequently, some children and their parents are cramped together - sometimes up to 70 of them - on a patio where they are exposed to rain and cold in the winter. Most of the children live with their families in rooms of 1 x 3 metres. The children are thus in contact with hundreds of prisoners day after day. In all, 180 children of all ages, from newborns to 15-year-old youths, live with more than 400 inmates and 80 women. No one registers for school the children who are of school age, for the father cannot go out and the mother is very busy earning a few pennies to feed the whole family. She has to be very resourceful to find work. She sells

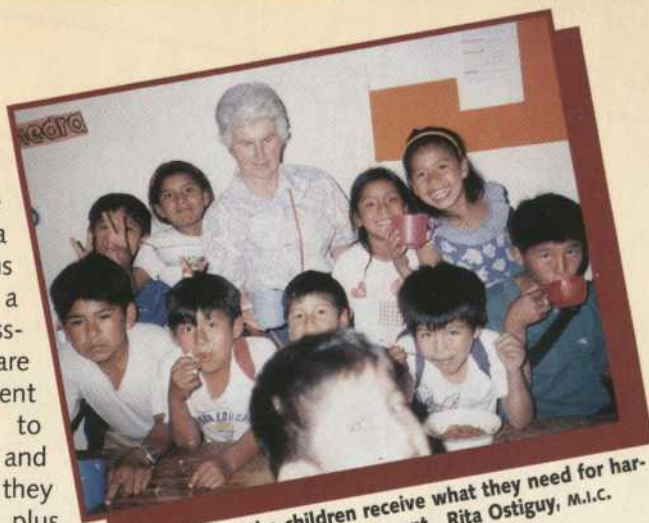
bread she baked and food she prepared, does laundry for a few customers, washes cell floors... Since water is available only for a few hours each day, her working hours are long and exhausting. *If you don't work, you die*, says Carmen, 33, mother of five.

The Chance to Make a New Start

Seeing this tragic situation, Isabelle and Beatriz decided to do something to help the prisoners and their children. They set up a two-pronged programme – one, to help the mothers, and the other, the children. They rented a place and invited the children to come every day. The latter get breakfast in the morning, activities throughout the day, and return to the prison after supper. The number of children increased daily. In order to receive them all, the two women moved into a new house. They called on other people to help provide for the needs of the children. Today, the Centre serves 160 children and is staffed by 23 educators eager to do everything they can to enable these little ones to grow in a healthy way and to succeed in life. Every day, through various activities and situations and a diversity of human relations, the children discover their own abilities, talents and resources. In dialogue with their educators, they learn to help, respect and love one another, in short, to live together as brothers and sisters.

Founded in 1993, the CAIC Centre continues to promote the growth of life... and hope. The new house includes a patio with seven rooms around it: a kitchen, a dining room and classrooms. The children are assigned to the different classrooms according to age. They have books and games. At the Centre, they build and fix things, plus draw, write and paint. They play, sing and dance. They get involved in sports and compete with other young people. Those of school age are registered by an educator who takes responsibility for all their school activities. One group of children goes to school in the morning and the other group stays at the house, and vice-versa in the afternoon. The older ones also share in various house chores such as washing dishes, cleaning floors, etc. All this gives the Centre a cheerful atmosphere. And it is customary to celebrate every progress, effort and success noted in the life of each of the members of this big family.

In my 30 years in Bolivia always devoted to teaching, hundreds of children have entered my life. Today, I find much happiness in working with Beatriz and the children of San Sebastian. They have



At the Centre, the children receive what they need for harmonious growth and development. Rita Ostiguy, M.I.C.

as much right as other children to live in freedom and dignity. They have the right to discover their own personal values and to develop their talents. I want to help them to come out of this situation that keeps them on the fringe of society. I want to journey with each one of them with patience and tenderness, gentleness and love. I wish to be one who observes, approves, encourages and loves them. In order to succeed at this project, isn't it essential that I count on God, whose children they are, and take most seriously the words and actions of Jesus? Today, this is the call to which I am invited to respond with love and generosity. ●

N.B. At present, Isabelle Roger pursues her medical studies in Pa Paz, Bolivia.

Beatriz Almos continues to administer CAIC.

Photos: M.I.C., Bolivia



A national celebration held within the walls of San Sebastian prison

What a Chance!



By Micheline Marcoux, M.I.C.

As a bridge between the *World Youth Days* held in Rome in August 2000 and those planned for 2002 in Toronto, Montreal City hosted a major youth gathering last September 15 to 17 - **YOUTH RALLY 2000**. Sr. Micheline Marcoux gives an idea of the scope of this Church event.

As the majestic opening of the Olympic Games captured the world's attention in Sydney, around one thousand young people gathered that same weekend in Montreal to share and celebrate their faith together. *Youth Rally 2000* was part of a long list of Jubilee celebrations with all its history and accomplishments. The Church of Montreal, after the example of the Church of Rome, opened wide its doors to young people from the different dioceses of Canada.

Youth Rally 2000 was the outcome of a project that originally involved young people of Montreal. The youth were supported in this endeavour by leaders of religious communities and by the Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Montreal. The desire to live intensely their awareness of the Jubilee and thus prepare a better world was at the heart of the gathering. The logo of the rally symbolized the flame that they will share with one another so as to build together a new world, a world built on hope. This was their chance! And they believed it.

A Festival Needs to be Prepared

For two years, a succession of activities have been held to prepare this grand assembly: *Songs Rally*, a festival of young composers and singers of Christian songs of Quebec who shared their values and hopes. *Sharing 2000*: an encounter to take note of the initiatives of solidarity and volunteer work of more than 700 young people. *Arts Rally*: an exposition of artistic works where 350 youth expressed how they perceive God. *Nations Rally*: an ecumenical celebration and multiethnic festivity to understand more fully the religious and cultural richness of the milieu. *Forgiveness Rally*: an experience of interiority during Lent, conducive to conversion. Finally, one weekend of September, *Youth Rally 2000*, the culminating point of the whole process.

What an Experience!

Hundreds of young people 15 to 30 years old gathered at Maisonneuve Park. What was striking was the harmony in the diversity of languages, cultures and religions. The participants lived an experience of fraternity way beyond differences of languages, cultures, religions.

Numerous activities enabled the young people to reflect on the main themes of the Jubilee: *remission of debt*, *release of prisoners* and *rest for the earth*. They gradually became aware of the need to make things

rallye
2000
rallye
pour un monde nouveau
for a better world

This is our chance!
Together we'll stand
Strong despite our weaknesses
Tearing down walls of differences
One in heart, hand in hand,
we'll start over again
Building a new world
This is our chance!



move in their manner of living out solidarity. Activities took place inside large white tents or out in the open: songs, multicultural dances, sports events, entertainment of all kinds. For its part, *Jeunesse du monde* allowed young people to learn about circus arts. Instead of running or swimming, they had the chance to enjoy juggling tricks. An experience where self-esteem, confidence and the joy of success brightened eyes and transformed smiles. The experience triggered the desire to make a new start!



Games and sports activities create a climate of friendship and joy. Ileana Grau, M.I.C., Cuban (1st I.)

Youth Rally 2000 was also the occasion for spiritual activities: prayers and songs of Taizé; a stage presentation, *Les sept jours de création dans la vie d'un jeune* (The Seven Days of Creation in the Life of a Young Person); sharing by the young people who took part in the *World Youth Days* in Rome last August, etc. The peak moments of the Rally remained the Eucharistic celebration and the Jubilee march. A flame was kindled in hearts, such flame clearly mirrored by the following reflections:

What I most appreciated were the times of prayer together. I'm sure all this had a powerful effect on the heart of God. It was just beautiful! To see the young people all together... There was a force that gave us the same vitality.
- Isabelle, 19 years

It was evident that the young participants at the Youth Rally were not there to enjoy the sun or because the weather invited them to activities out in the open air. No. They were there for Jesus. It was like a family party: everyone together, in a fraternity created by a same thirst for communion among people and a same thirst for God. The inner depth of the young people helped them overlook the whims of Mother Nature. This reflected the reality of the youth of Year 2000. Despite the storm, one knows where to seek what one wants... - Alain, 21 years.



A colourful festivity!
Photos : M. Marcoux, M.I.C.

The liturgical celebrations and the word of welcome addressed by the pastors of each Church were the two only activities that mentioned the different religions. We did not hear much about ecumenism, we lived it. I am very happy about my weekend. - Karl, 21 years.

Fired with enthusiasm, the young people are now journeying towards the 16th *World Youth Days* to be held in Toronto in 2002. What a chance! ●

News from Here and



Photo: AMOR XII

The new AMOR Coordinating Team for 2000-2003. (At centre), Celia Chua, M.I.C., Chairperson and Dítma Luz Trocio, M.I.C. (1st l.), Executive Secretary of the Asian Service Centre

AMOR IN JAPAN

One hundred and twenty religious sisters took active part in AMOR XII, a congress held in Hiroshima from August 1 to 12, 2000. This city, the target of the atomic bomb in 1945, was chosen in memory of the death and sufferings of hundreds of thousands of civilians and as a special place of prayer for peace in the world. The delegates from 25 countries of Asia and Oceania attended the sessions held at the Elizabethan University of Music, founded by the Jesuits in 1952 and dedicated to the people of Hiroshima in a spirit of compassion and solidarity. Located in the downtown area, the university stands next to the World Peace Memorial Cathedral and close to the Peace Park where ecumenical prayer services were held on August 6, the anniversary of the atomic raid.

The theme of the Congress, *Women of Asia and Oceania in search of reconciliation, that a spring of new life may flow*, expressed the will of the delegates to find ways toward unity and peace in that place where the integrity of life was destroyed and human relations broken. This resolve was put into practice by experiences of immersion in situations of oppression in Japan and by group sharing on the struggles of women in the participants' respective home countries. Some moving gestures of reconciliation were performed: American and Japanese religious asked forgiveness of one another for the harm done by their governments; survivors of the Second World War embraced Japanese or Pakistani religious sisters, etc.

In this atmosphere of intense communion, the delegates prepared a declaration aiming to create networks of solidarity concerned with respect for life, with authentic human relations, especially trade relations, and with the support to be given those who are disadvantaged by unfair systems.

Celia Chua, M.I.C.

AMOR is an association of religious sisters of the countries of Asia and Oceania. A response to their awareness of the acute situations of poverty in their countries, AMOR is committed to the promotion of human rights, the dignity of women and the right to life for all.

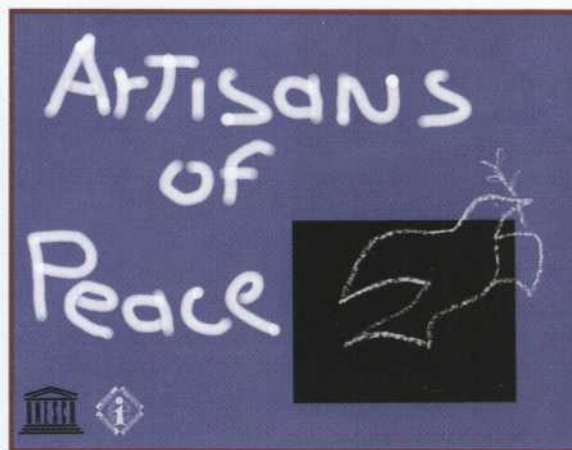


Photo: UNESCO

ECHOES OF THE PEACE MANIFESTO

The Manifesto 2000 for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence, of which our readers found a form to be signed in the April-May-June 2000 issue of our magazine, was enthusiastically received by a multitude of peacemakers. Indeed, the project yielded more than 60 million signatures throughout the world. These were symbolically handed to Mr. Harri Holkeri, Chairman of the General Assembly of the United Nations, at the UN headquarters in New York, on September 19, 2000, Millennium Day for Peace. *Everyone who signed this Manifesto made a personal commitment to live and transmit peace and tolerance*, declared Mr. Holkeri during the ceremony.

The signatures were presented by 800 people - mostly young people - from all regions of the globe. Brazil, Columbia, France, India, Japan and Sudan are among the countries where the campaign received a strong support. During the celebration, children recited a magnificent poem on peace composed by people of more than 100 countries and waved miniature flags of the 189 nations that are members of the United Nations.

One year is not enough to nurture a spirit of peace among the peoples of all countries. In Canada, a task force, the *Canadian Coalition for the International Year of Culture and Peace*, ensures the continuity of the projects initiated during the year 2000. It establishes connections with the *International Decade of the Culture of Non-Violence and Peace for the Children of the World (2001-2010)*, and with the *Year 2001, the Year of Dialogue between Civilizations*. The Coalition organizes various educational activities all across Canada. An activity kit prepared by the Canadian Commission of UNESCO presents these activities and explains the contribution of various Canadian groups towards the effort to build a culture of peace. This vast movement in favour of peace is an opportunity to step up the effort to achieve a way of living that is inspired by peace.

Huguette Turcotte, M.I.C.

Elsewhere...



Nicole Beaulieu, M.I.C. (2nd row, 4th r.) with her students

BECOMING A LEAVEN IN THE DOUGH

I am in the northeastern part of Mainland China, in a region called Manchuria in times past. For some years now, a mysterious and irresistible call had been urging me to go and live out my mission in this country that received our first missionaries. The dream of Délia Tétreault, our Foundress, my desire to live among the people, the profound intuition that the Lord was calling me to be a leaven in the dough - all of this pointed to the way I was to go. No compass, no road signs, no beaten path. Only joy in my heart and wind in my sails to watch for the signs of the Spirit and to invent a new way of being committed to the mission.

In August 1996, Louisa Tan, M.I.C. and myself arrived in Changchun, the capital of the province of Jilin, where our M.I.C. pioneers were already at work in 1927. Changchun means a *long spring*. Today it is an industrial city of around 1.2 million people. A veritable city of higher learning, Changchun counts about 15 universities and as many institutes of major studies. Students from all the provinces and regions of the country rub shoulders here. They are generally highly motivated to study. I teach in a college of 3,000 students. All classes are taught in Mandarin, with the exception of language courses: English and Japanese. The staff counts 300 teachers. Along with three other foreign instructors, I teach English conversation, since the students already possess the basic grammar and a good vocabulary.

In my teaching, I grasp every opportunity to promote the values of justice, respect of other human beings and universal brotherhood. When I meet with young people, I try to be close to them. I try to perceive God's presence in their history, their culture and values and to

witness to the meaning God gives to my life. I am convinced that what little I accomplish cannot compare with all the graces I receive in my contacts with the students. For this, I am most grateful.

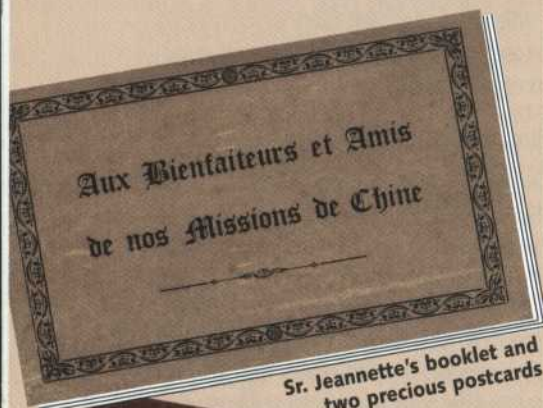
My students teach me that an uncluttered life is conducive to reflection and gratitude. They have no TV, no recreational facilities, very little money for outings, but they are happy. They never complain about their situation: sharing a room with nine other young companions, having access to a shower only three times a week and having to pay for it, not being able to sit at a table for meals, having to do with a limited amount of water, etc. They devote themselves to their studies with great determination. They have a lot of free time to admire nature, to write to their families, to think about their experiences and to share them with their companions. And because they own very little, they are grateful for the least attention given to them. They teach me a lot about kindness and gratefulness. My being unfamiliar with their customs awakens on their part a response of great generosity. Through their liberality, I experience the gratuitous love of God. What a wonderful example for me as I try to live out the values of the Gospel. I also realize more and more that our deepest hopes and aspirations, our struggles and limitations are basically the same. We all dream of happiness, freedom and communion. I firmly believe that my mission is not to convert people, but to be myself converted and to witness to this conversion. How I give thanks to the Lord for this experience of solidarity with my brothers and sisters of China!

Nicole Beaulieu, M.I.C.

A Precious Booklet

By Jeannette Légaré, M.I.C.

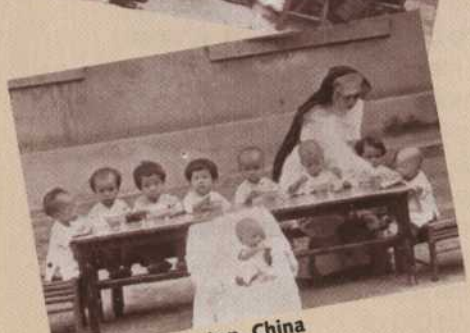
In 1920, Délia Tétreault, our Foundress, launched the magazine *Le Précurseur* and in 1923, the English edition, *The Precursor*, now known as MIC MISSION NEWS. She created through these magazines a movement of mission promotion. M.I.C. Sisters visited homes, schools and parishes. They shared about the work of the missionaries and elicited commitments to the mission. Numerous Sisters lived this experience of going from door to door in towns and country. Sr. Jeannette Légaré has kept a vivid memory of those days.



Sr. Jeannette's booklet and two precious postcards



Photos: M.I.C. Archives



Children of Canton, China

The year was 1926. I was barely four years old when, one day, two Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception rang the door bell. They were promoting their magazine, *Le Précurseur*. My mother invited them in and led them to the living room where they had a brief conversation. Then, she placed a few coins in my hand and urged me to bring them to one of the Sisters. I did so with great excitement, for I had learned to do this for an elderly beggar who came regularly to our house. The Sister received my offering and in return gave me a lovely booklet containing post cards on which were pictures of the Orphanage of Canton, China. I discovered, to my surprise, that these Sisters took care of little children, many of whom were my age. I said to myself: *When I grow up, I too shall go and help these children who don't have a mother*. That childhood dream stayed with me forever.

After the Sisters left, I leafed through the precious booklet once again with my mother. Then she said to me: *If you wish, I will put your lovely booklet in a safe place and give it back to you once you're grown up*. It was hard for me to part with it, but I agreed... However, I followed my mother as she took my treasure to that safe place. My booklet landed in my father's drawer chest, under a pile of handkerchiefs. From then on, when my mother was away, I would go and pay a visit to my little Chinese friends. I had to do it quickly, sort of secretly. Climbing on a chair, I would reach in for my booklet, and then put everything neatly back in place. Once a year, the M.I.C. Sisters came and talked to us about the children of China. The link between the booklet and the visit of the missionaries continued all along my elementary school grades. At the age of 15, the call became more and more pressing, and I asked my mother's permission to go and join the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception. Her assent did not come very easily... Now I understand why.

I was 19 when I entered the Novitiate, on August 8, 1942. During my years of formation in religious life, my dream continued to grow. In 1945, an amazing proposal was made to me: *We are thinking of you for the mission of China*. Given the explosive situation in Asia at that time, my departure was postponed. I had to wait nearly 20 years before leaving for Taiwan. I spent 32 years among my Chinese friends in Taiwan and in Hong Kong. I worked especially with little ones in kindergarten, in Guanshi. I always paid great attention to what went on in the secrecy of their hearts... I especially think of Chen Yung Yi, that little boy who liked so much to come and pray in our chapel... Led step by step to the Christian faith, he is a priest today.

When I recall those memories, I am filled with wonderment and gratitude. The simple visit of two Missionary Sisters helped me to find my way in life. ●

In Taiwan, Sr. Jeannette realizes her childhood dream.

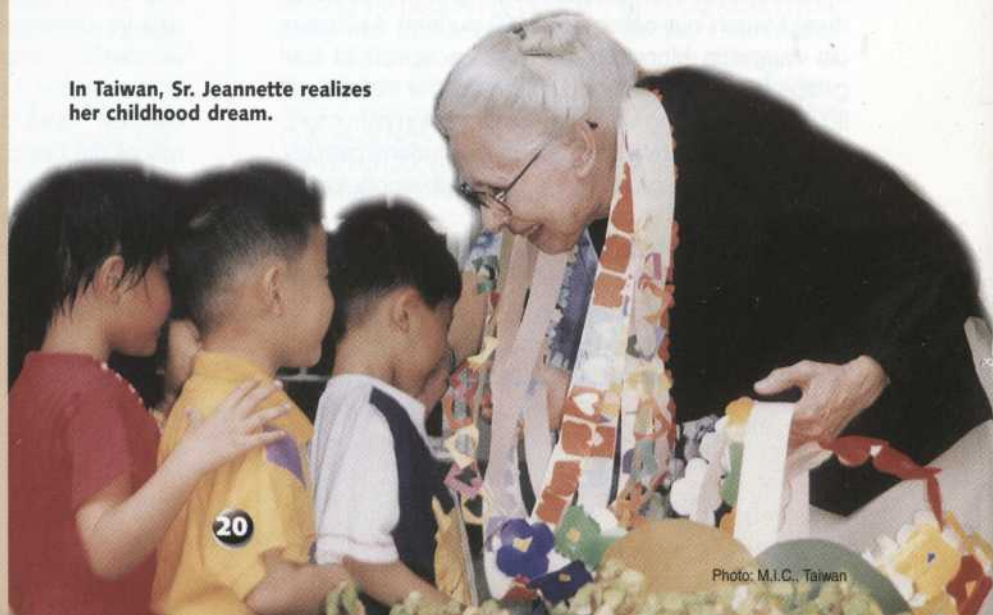


Photo: M.I.C., Taiwan

In the Garden of God

Sister Thérèse Savaria (Sister Marie-Vianney)

Thérèse was born in Montreal on March 30, 1905. She was 16 when her mother passed away. She felt responsible for her young brothers and postponed her entrance to the Novitiate until their decision to join the priesthood. On February 11, 1931, she made her profession in our community, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. That same year she was appointed directress of the *Sainte-Famille* School in Granby where she stayed eighteen years.



In 1949, she was assigned to Canton. On the eve of her departure for China, news came to the Mother House that the war made this departure impossible. What a disappointment! Sister Thérèse went to Cuba instead and spent only two years there. Delegated to the General Chapter of our Community in 1952, she was elected Councillor and Secretary General, and occupied both offices until 1970. She then went to Guatemala and to Peru, until she returned to Canada for good in 1980. At the Délia Tétreault Centre, she devoted her time to typing handwritten letters addressed to our Foundress - a work she undertook with her customary concern for perfection. In 1991, she entered our Infirmary in Pont-Viau. The very active apostolic life of Sister

Thérèse and the great kindness that transpired from her whole being reflected the love of God, the centre of her spiritual life. After a long period of illness, she died on April 4, 2000.

Sister Bernadette Gagnon (Sister Bernadette-de-l'Immaculée)

Bernadette was born in Jonquière on March 21, 1913. After completing her studies at the Ursuline Convent of Roberval, she entered the Postulate of our Institute, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, on February 1, 1936. She spent her early years of religious life at our houses in Quebec where she collaborated actively in the project of closed retreats.



In 1955, she finally saw the day of her departure for a foreign mission: Cuba. In Colon and in Mercedes, she taught catechism and music. She was among those who, in 1959, had to abandon their mission to be repatriated to Canada. In 1966, our Sisters of Peru being in need of reinforcement, Sr. Bernadette joined them for her second field of apostolate. In Lima and Pucallpa, she taught catechism, served as organist and gave a helping hand in different parish activities. After a few years, she returned for good to Canada. Her services as sacristan and receptionist at the Chinese Hospital of Montreal and then at Pont-Viau were highly appreciated. During her retirement years, Sister Bernadette rendered a multitude of services enlivened by

her remarkable sense of humour. She had maintained close ties with her family, and how great was her attachment to her brother Gaudiose, P.M.E.! She died at Pont-Viau on June 28, 2000, leaving us with lively memories of her great charity.

Sister Germaine Veilleux (Sister Saint-Florent)

Germaine was born in St-Clément, Témiscouata County, on July 29, 1924. As a teenager, the reading of missionary magazines and the letters of her aunt, Marie-des-Neiges Veilleux, M.I.C., exerted an influence on her vocation. Germaine entered the Novitiate of our Community, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, on August 8, 1946. As a young religious she assumed in the different houses of our Community, the charge of culinary services and put to use her talent for sewing.



A new stage of her life began in 1976 when she was assigned to Port-Salut in Haiti, where she worked at the integral formation of young women from the rural regions. She also assured the animation of groups of the Legion of Mary, home visits to the sick and to families of the employees. Sister Germaine spent 20 years in Haiti, happy to spread joy around her. Having returned to Canada in 1998, she celebrated her golden jubilee last year in Verchères among her brothers and sisters together with the M.I.C. Community. This took place a few months before her death. A car accident

took her life while she was taking a few days of vacation with her family. As Sister Germaine was in good health, there was nothing to suggest she would depart so quickly. She died at the *Centre Hospitalier* of Sherbrooke on July 5, 2000.

Sister Marie-Cécile Breault (Sister Marie-Cécile)

Marie-Cécile was born on December 22, 1908, in St-Léon-de-Val-Racine, in the Diocese of Sherbrooke. She became a member of our Institute, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, on February 11, 1932. Appointed to our house for closed retreats in Joliette, she ensured its direction with dynamism and competence during the following 12 years. She discharged a multitude of tasks with contagious enthusiasm. The retreatants loved her dearly.

In 1944, Sister Marie-Cécile left for Haiti. She remained there for 16 years, ministering either in education or in the service of authority in our different M.I.C. communities. She knew how to make her companions happy and encouraged them in their work at school or at the dispensary. She also reached out to the sick, to the youth and to people in faraway regions during her tours on horseback through the mountains. Everyone benefitted from her gestures of friendship and attentive care. In 1968, she returned to Canada definitively. During 20 years, she was an attentive and devoted superior in our different Communities until her retirement at the Délia Tétreault Pavilion in Pont-Viau. Her last years were marked with suffering. She was deeply affected by the illness and death of her sister Jacqueline who had joined her as an M.I.C. in 1942. Sr. Marie-Cécile left us on July 7, 2000, at the end of a life totally given to the Lord..



Sister Mathilde Joachim (Sister Julien-du-Sacré-Coeur)

Mathilde was born on January 28, 1927, in Port-à-Piment, Haiti. At age 17, she met the M.I.C. Sisters who had recently arrived at Les Cayes. She devoted herself working with them for a few years before pursuing her studies. She was admitted to our Community, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, on August 4, 1954. In 1958, after her formation to the religious life at the Novitiate of Pont-Viau, Canada, Sr. Mathilde returned to Haiti. After teaching in different schools of our Community, she discovered an attraction to the nursing vocation in which she then engaged herself. Qualified in nursing in 1972, she devoted herself totally at the Hospital of Les Cayes, at the dispensary of La Boule and at the St-Martin Health Centre in Port-au-Prince.



Sr. Mathilde was affected by an illness in 1984. However, she was still well enough to continue her work until 1994. When she had to give up her functions at the St-Martin Health Centre, she continued until the end of her life to give her care and good advice generously to a few people around her. Toward the end of July, she was admitted at the Centre of Delmas, where she died on July 31, 2000. Sister Mathilde desired this return to the Father and prepared for it each day by praying to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, whom she dearly loved. She was the first Haitian M.I.C.

Sister Madeleine Dugal (Sister Madeleine-de-Pazzi)

Madeleine was born in Quebec City on October 12, 1916. Still very young, she was marked by an encounter with the M.I.C. Sisters who visited her school. As a young girl, although very involved in the movement *Jeunesse Ouvrière Catholique* (Young Catholic Worker), she continued to hear the missionary call. She asked to join our Institute, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. She was admitted on February 1, 1939. As a young religious, she promoted our magazine and worked at raising missionary awareness in parishes and schools. She devoted herself to this ministry for ten years.



In 1952, she left for Haiti. During ten years, she undertook the supervision of culinary and maintenance services in our different houses while giving a hand in parish and school activities. In 1962, she followed a formation course in pedagogy. She then returned to Haiti where she was involved in education. *Giving happiness and spreading joy.* These words of our Foundress, Délia Tétreault, greatly inspired Sr. Madeleine's life. People will remember her creativity in the preparation of children's feasts with costumes and songs. After her final return to Canada in 1979, she exerted her artistic talents and creativity as directress of handicrafts in our houses. She left us some superb pieces of needle art, a skill in which she excelled and which she generously taught her companions. On August 21, 2000, at the end of an intensely lived missionary life, the Lord claimed her for Himself.

Huguette Turcotte, M.I.C.

**TO CONTACT
THE MISSIONARY SISTERS
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
HERE ARE A FEW ADDRESSES:**

CANADA:

**THE GENERALATE
AND MISSION PROCURE**
121 Maplewood Avenue
Outremont, (Quebec) Canada
H2V 2M2 Tel.: (514) 274-5691

MISSION ANIMATION CENTER
314 St. Catherine Road
Outremont, (Quebec) Canada
H2V 2B4 Tel.: (514) 495-1551

OFFICE OF THE DÉLIA TÉTREAU CAUSE
100 Place Juge Desnoyers
Pont-Viau, Laval, (Quebec) Canada
H7G 1A4 Tel.: (450) 663-6460

AFRICA:

PROVINCIAL HOUSE
P.O. Box 47,
Mzimba, Malawi, Central Africa

SOUTH AMERICA:

CASA PROVINCIAL
Francisco de Orellana 338
Lima 5, Peru, América del Sur

CUBA:

CASA PROVINCIAL
Calle 33, No 3409 - Entre 34 y 36
Playa, Ciudad de la Habana
Cuba 11300

HAITI:

MAISON PROVINCIALE (Delmas)
C.P. 1085
Port-au-Prince, Haïti, Les Antilles

HONG KONG:

PROVINCIAL HOUSE
Mount Good Hope
381, Jat's Incline
Kowloon, Hong Kong, S.A.R., China

JAPAN:

PROVINCIAL HOUSE
8-13-16 Fukazawa, Setagaya Ku
Tokyo 158, Japan

MADAGASCAR:

MAISON PROVINCIALE
Lot II-J, 178 ter G
Ambodivoanjo
Antananarivo V
Madagascar 101

PHILIPPINES:

PROVINCIAL HOUSE
P.O. Box 468, 1502 Greenhills
Metro Manila, Philippines

TAIWAN:

PROVINCIAL HOUSE
30, Lane 148,
Fu Hsing South Road, Section 2
Taipei 106, Taiwan

MIC MISSION NEWS Offer someone special a gift
subscription.
Telephone: (450) 663-6460

GIFT SUBSCRIPTION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ TEL.: (____) _____

OFFERED BY:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ TEL.: (____) _____

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

Two masses are offered each week for your intentions,
for your family and for your dear departed ones.

MIC MISSION NEWS

120 Place Juge Desnoyers
Laval (Quebec) H7G 1A4 CANADA

TO HELP SUPPORT THE MAGAZINE:

DONATION: _____ Receipt: Yes ☐ No ☐

☐ \$ 8 1 year \$ 10 Support

☐ \$15 2 years \$ 20 Support

☐ \$23 3 years \$ 30 Support

☐ \$15 1 year USA and other Countries

Published four (4) times a year.



**♥ A PLANNED GIFT ♥
A SHARE FOR THE MISSION**

For the benefit of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception:

♥ REQUESTS IN YOUR WILL

NAME: _____

♥ LIFE ANNUITIES

provide you with a lifelong income

ADDRESS: _____

enable you to reduce your taxes

provide you a way to help

our missionaries effectively.

♥ LIFE INSURANCE

CODE: _____

allows you to help generously without
prejudice to the interests of your family.

It is a capital paid after your death by
your insurance company. Your contribution,
in the form of insurance premiums,
is deductible from your taxable revenue
as a charitable donation.

TEL.: (____) _____

HEARTFELT THANKS!

WE WELCOME ALL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

Write to us:

Mission Procure

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

121 Maplewood Avenue

Outremont (Quebec) Canada H2V 2M2

Telephone: (514) 274-5691

Fax: (514) 274-3298

PUBLICATION OF
THE MISSIONARY SISTERS
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

MAILING ADDRESS:
MIC MISSION NEWS
120 PLACE JUGE DESNOYERS
LAVAL (QUEBEC) CANADA H7G 1A4

Thank you for checking your address

The expiry date of your
subscription appears above your
address. We wish to remind you
to renew your subscription two
months before it expires. Please
write your subscription number
on all correspondence.

We Give You Thanks...

We give You thanks for Jesus the Christ.

By His word, He proclaims the life of the kingdom,

He questions and disturbs,

He converts our thoughts and our vision.

By His miracles, He proclaims the life of the kingdom,

He speaks to our fears, to our anguish,

to our prisons and to our infirmities,

He calls us to bring His healing.

By His death and resurrection,

He proclaims the life of the kingdom,

He divests us of our false riches,

He frees us of all our deaths,

He builds up our confidence.

He calls us to love.

Antoine Nouix
Excerpt from *La galette et la cruche*,
Ed. Réveil Publications