

MIC MISSION NEWS

SINCE 1923



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BOLIVIA

MISSIONARIES ON THE MOVE

PHILIPPINES

A RADIANT APOSTOLIC FIELD

IN FOCUS

ARE WE LEAVING TRACES BEHIND?



PUBLICATION OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

MISSIONARY PRAYER INTENTIONS

October 2008

For the Universal Mission of the Church

May every Christian community feel the need to share in the Church's universal mission with prayers, sacrifices and material help.

November 2008

For Christian Communities in Asia

May Christian Communities in Asia find ways to announce Christ, in fidelity to the Gospel, to peoples so rich in culture and in ancient forms of spirituality.

December 2008

For a Manifestation of the Love of Christ, the Hope of the World

May Christians everywhere manifest the love of Christ, the Hope of the world, made visible in Bethlehem.

MASSES FOR READERS' INTENTIONS OFFERED IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

January: *Canada*

February: *Cuba*

March: *Philippines*

April: *Haiti*

May: *Canada*

June: *Bolivia and Chile*

July: *Malawi and Zambia*

August: *Hong Kong and Taiwan*

September: *Madagascar*

October: *Peru*

November: *Japan*

December: *Canada*



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EDITORIAL

It's a Question of Convictions!

How often we hear: *We see all this on T.V. or on the Internet!* But what exactly do we see? A series of commentaries/reports on a certain city, country or event that all goes by so quickly that we retain but a small portion of what is said. On the other hand, a magazine gives us the advantage to go over and over an article that has struck us, to reflect upon it, to pass it on to others and discuss it. Feeling the texture of the pages with one's fingers, like the blind who reads Braille, can help us become more attentive, a habit that might otherwise go undeveloped. Those who pray the *Lectio Divina* place their hand on the Bible in order to remain in contact with the Word of God, hoping it will leave its trace.

The same goes for our religious convictions. More than ever it is difficult to transmit faith in Jesus Christ, to pass our convictions on to our children and grand children. Since September the schools in Quebec offer new ways of learning by introducing the major religions to our young people. Courses in Christian initiation/religious education classes are now given outside regular school hours. In a laicized society, parents become responsible for educating their young ones according to their own faith. For both children and parents this is not done without some juggling of schedules and struggling to find time—choices need to be made (leisure time, recreational activities, homework etc.).

This issue reveals the various ways by which schools adapt to the needs of societies (laicized, Catholic, or Buddhist) thus highlighting the importance of acting according to our deepest convictions and of taking our responsibilities. We could ask ourselves: Will we leave traces behind us?

Soon the marvelous feast of Christmas will draw our attention. We will remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus, Son of God in our midst. It's the feast of Light and Love incarnate. The Lord willed to leave His trace in our world—He left us the Eucharist. May this magnificent celebration arouse within us the urge to share with the next generation our values, our spiritual wealth.

According to my convictions, I wish you all a very Blessed Christmas; may the Source of Peace, Joy and Love rekindle our deepest belief all along the New Year.

Marie-Paul Sanfaçon, m.i.c.

READERS' CORNER

mimissionnews@pressemic.org
calls out to you!

This column belongs to you. Share your impressions and comments with us in order to deepen our reflection. Make yourselves heard!

MIC Mission News does not publish unsigned letters, nor letters whose subject matter infringes on the journalistic code of ethics. We reserve the right to abridge letters.

THÉRÈSE AUGER—QUÉBEC, QC

I truly appreciate your magazine. The short articles lead us to reflection and leave us with a desire to know more. Now living in a residence, I have the opportunity of talking about the subjects mentioned in the issues. Long life to your publication *Le Précurseur/ MIC Mission News*.

ANDRÉ SANFAÇON—QUÉBEC, QC

The *Summer Kebabs* by André Gadbois, are well presented and most appetizing with a profound flavor of thoughtful reflection: the metaphor is helpful and fruitful from the beginning to the end.

A unique chance!

A subscription or a renewal entitles you to this interesting draw: an elegant 13" African figurine.

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ATTENTIVE AWARENESS

Is it sufficient to know the story of Jesus of Nazareth and the Catholic Church dogmas to define one's self as disciple and witness for this crucified and resurrected prophet?



By André Gadbois

Marie-Pier was born 8 years ago... without eyes! A pretty little girl with curly blond hair, cheerful, and when she loses a prosthesis, she laughs, searches for it, washes it and puts it back in place. Marie Pier who has finished grade 2 in a regular class, sees that millions of people look with their eyes but do not see. One afternoon, back from a delightful outing in the snow, she said to her guide: *Do you know, Diane, that life is beautiful?* She is close to her classmates and in their voices she can detect joy, sadness, fear, or confusion.

Certain people have the bad habit of closing their eyes to what surrounds them and have become blind without knowing it.¹ To look without seeing... Jesus spoke in parables because many of his contemporaries would look without seeing the secrets of the Kingdom of heaven (Mt 13:11). He would say, look at the sower, pay attention

to the bad weeds in the field, to the small mustard seed, to the leaven, to the children who are dancing, to the lost sheep, to the wine grower and his vine ...

Word of God, Word of the Father, Jesus tried to reveal to his people the secrets of the Kingdom, His Father's intentions. He did not limit Himself to speeches: Jesus acted and intervened. Considering His pedagogy, we realize the importance He would give to 'ATTENTION': not the military one, but rather the one within each individual whose spirit and heart strive to contemplate—to discover a reality, a person, attempting to be enriched by someone or an event. Take the time and the means...be attentive to the secrets of the Kingdom hidden all around us on this Earth.

Today, while the capacity to be attentive is continuously flogged, and exhausted by multiple stimulants, the rapid pace of life, the fear of 'stopping', would it not be pertinent to develop an

¹Marie-Pier and baby Florence

Photo credit: Diane Latour

²Marie-Pier working on her computer

Photo credit: Louise Vézina

attentive awareness in living out our faith: *We are incapable of being attentive to God and progress in His love if we are incapable of developing an attentive awareness.*² These words expressed by the Quebec theologian, André Naud, summed up in 2002 the thought of Simone Weil, the great philosopher whose search for the God of

Jesus Christ filled her life. I believe that Marie-Pier possesses that 'attentive awareness'. I also believe that Jesus' parables had and still have for us today that quality—inviting us to be attentively aware.

At a time when courses in ethics and religious culture are to be taught in Quebec schools, could we say that parents, as baptized Christians, must take up the responsibility of educating their children in the faith? This being so, they will need to develop in their young ones this attentive awareness, thus helping them

to see the secrets of the Kingdom always present in our world. This refreshing and calming secret, like the pure water of a village fountain (expression of Pope John XXIII) is not obvious and does not flash before our eyes. It cannot be bought on a Saturday morning at a Smart Center or at a Smart Set Style. Noise, speed, zapping do not facilitate the discovery of such a treasure.

BEING ATTENTIVE IS NOT INNATE

Reading the Gospels, slowly, trustingly, helps to discover how we can become attentive: learn to wait without tension or rage, receive/welcome a good idea even though it differs from ours, without fear enter into solitude and silence, take time to contemplate (look with admiration) the wonders of creation and the beauty of all human beings, identify our limits, believe in our strengths, develop the virtue of humility and pray, listen with patience, don't give up too quickly... These attitudes, virtues,

competence, are not innate, nor included in Baptism: they are learnt and gradually develop; they lead us to the Secrets of the Kingdom *hidden here and there* by God in Humanity—they allow the Word of God to lead the way and flood the hearts.

Fathers and mothers are privileged in accomplishing this splendid work which demands TIME and AUDACITY—capture a moment of disappointment to teach the child to resist...; note a clash with the teacher to help the youngster understand there are different angles to look at things...; point to the youth's heroes to underline the beautiful results of effort and perseverance...; seize the opportunity of a late meal to speak about the importance of patience and understanding...; help the child discover the beauty of night time and of its silence. Parents who put into practice such abilities reveal the precious secrets hidden in daily life. If we apply ourselves to be attentive to the other, to the event, to the beauty of nature, then along the way we will encounter the Other already at work, opening our eyes to *see* what He has preciously *hidden* in our World.

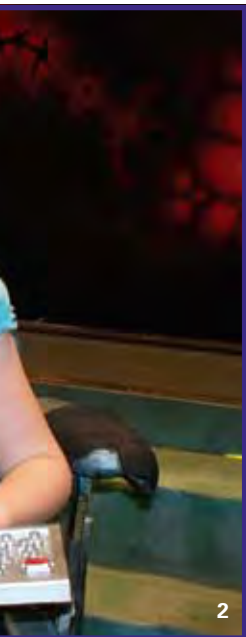
Attentive awareness cannot be bought at a Smart Center or at a Smart Set Style.

Two men who thought they knew their religion were returning home to Emmaus on Easter Sunday. Yet they were disappointed, troubled, and desperate. As they were walking, they met a Stranger who paid attention to them. He helped them recall some events of their lives which linked them to the Word of God; He opened their eyes to the future—their hearts were filled with hope! The Evangelist, Luke, tells us that the Stranger was Jesus, the crucified, the One always alive and in our midst. If Jesus revealed the secrets of the Kingdom to those two disciples, perhaps would it be in our best interest to allow His pedagogy to inspire us, to have faith in each other, and dare look into the future with hope. 

¹ Marc LEVY, *Vous revoir*, p. 243,

Ed. Robert Laffont, Paris 2005

² André NAUD, *Les dogmes et le respect de l'intelligence*, p. 35, Fides 2002



AN APOSTOLATE

via the telephone

Hello! How are you?

*I am calling you today in
the name of Le Précurseur/
MIC Mission News.*

*It's time to renew your
subscription...*

By Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

This message, you've heard it before? Formerly, Sisters would visit families offering them the magazine *Le Précurseur/ MIC Mission News*; this was a way of sustaining the missionary spirit and raising funds necessary for the missions. Today, many generous persons, women and men, take up the cause and phone their friends asking them to subscribe to our publication. They are our faithful collaborators; they are the apostles of our era.

In a very special way, I want to mention their dedication for the cause that was so dear to Délia Tétreault, our Foundress. From east to west, throughout our country, they participate in the international missionary work by promoting the magazine *MIC Mission News* and its French version *Le Précurseur*.

This apostolate is not so easy, it requires Saint Paul's audacity: calling people, soliciting them to subscribe, then passing by their homes to collect.

I want to sincerely thank you for your dedication. Using the words of Délia Tétreault it will be said how important you are in the work of the MIC Missionary Press. On a certain July 2, a day when the Sisters were preparing to leave for their door-to-door apostolate, Délia wished to encourage them as she said:

This morning I thought of you and said to myself that the Feast of the Visitation was the best to choose as the patron feast day of all the collaborators. Similar to Mary, you hold God in your heart and like her you reach out to others offering them words of comfort and smiles. By introducing good reading to families, you also spread sound information regarding the Mission. Let this be your first goal: spread joy and goodness in union with Mary, who gave us a perfect example as she went visiting her cousin Elizabeth when she was in need of help.

I would like to express the gratitude of the whole MIC community whose members know very well the time and energy you give to support our missionary endeavors. We know the patience and love you put into your apostolate, because we are all aware of the fact that people do not always respond upon the first call. For the past 25 years, Sr. Gemma de Grandpré has been a true leader in this apostolate; she knows you all very well and acknowledges the value of your apostolic action via the telephone. She is always delighted to communicate with you.

Over the phone you recognize her dynamic voice?

Hello Mr...Mrs.... This is Sr. Gemma de Grandpré. How are you doing these days? How is your health? Your children?... And what about the subscriptions?...

Today, the phone is ringing especially for you. We want to bring you our very best wishes for a Christmas filled with His Love, and a New Year graced with peace, joy, health and happiness.

In spirit, we are one with you and we express our wholehearted thank you for your generous collaboration! ☺

¹ Sr. Gemma De Grandpré, M.I.C.

Photo credit:

M.-P. Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

² A group of English speaking collaborators

Photo credit:

Huguette Turcotte, M.I.C.

³ A collaborator with MIC promoters

Photo credit: MIC



You would be interested in being a promoter of our magazine MIC MISSION NEWS?

Contact: Sr. Antoinette Castonguay, M.I.C.

Tel: 450-663-6460 ext. 5355

Being one with us in spreading the Good News is gratifying!

*June 2nd—City Hall of Montreal: with all the protocol and special guests invited to this official event; June 3rd—MIC residence in Pont-Viau: with all the warmth of a friendly reunion, the launch of the book: **WOMEN WITHOUT FRONTIERS** written by Chantal Gauthier, attracted many people. On such an occasion it seemed to me that a look at how this project came about and a review of the content would be interesting.*



WOMEN WITHOUT FRONTIERS —MIC SISTERS

By Lorraine Pagé



¹ Sr. Louise Denis, Superior General, signing the golden book—City Hall, Montreal.

² Sr Louise gives a book to each Sister.

Photo credit:

M.-P. Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

A LARGE SCALE PROJECT

It all began about 10 years ago! It was a challenging adventure: convincing the Sisters that their contribution was necessary; synchronizing the energies of each one already mobilized with their work; beginning an extensive research mainly from the MICs central archives. Sr. Mireille Morin, M.I.C., responsible for the development of this project with Sr. Georgette Barrette, M.I.C., recalls the immense task they had to tackle. *Before beginning the project, many specialists in the field of religious history had warned us of the preliminary work that needed to be done before writing. The scope of the task was enormous—luckily, we did not give up when we met resistance or were frustrated with the slow process. We managed to convince one person at a time, until gradually one by one they accepted to participate in a well documented mini-project.* For Sr. Mireille, this project not only allowed her to publish the history of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, but also to

receive a wealth of knowledge which was well stored in the Community's archives. She adds: *As memories of yesteryears resurfaced, we experienced moments of grace, of pride and astonishment. We were in awe before the invincible resiliency of our missionaries who worked with all their might for those often deprived of their fundamental rights.*

A FASCINATING STORY

If you wish to travel in time and around the world, *WOMEN WITHOUT FRONTIERS* is the book to read. The first chapter is the life journey of the Foundress, Délia Tétreault; the second and third chapters give an historical account of the Institute as of 1902-2004; chapter four presents a socio-historical survey of the personnel. The following chapters are about the MICs mission works in education and health care, their involvement in some countries' remotest areas, where they reached out to the poorest, voiceless and most forgotten ones.



Sr. Mireille Morin underlines a coincidence: *While WOMEN WITHOUT FRONTIERS is being made public, young athletes are on their way to China for the Olympic games. So much has happened since the time the Missionary Sisters first arrived in that country in 1909. Of course, this volume reveals but a portion of the many achievements in the realm of human development, social justice and equity.* Convinced, she continues: *We are all heirs of this earth—which is to be shared equitably. To be a missionary is to look at the world with a vision that goes beyond the immediate. It is not only to reveal God, but also the values that guide us. Injustices take on many shapes and people’s fundamental rights need to be protected. For these reasons the Mission will always be relevant.*

MEMORY, GRATITUDE, COMMITMENT

In the early 1880s, Quebec had approximately thirty religious communities of women; twenty years later, forty of them appeared on Quebec soil and by 1940 there were eighty seven. Without any

doubt, this phenomenon showed the importance of religion in the social fabric of the time. It also illustrates to what point religious life represented for millions of women a way to ascend personally, socially, intellectually, artistically, which would have been impossible had they remained “in the world”.

As such the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception are entitled to be qualified as women without frontiers. In the early XXth century, while Quebec was withdrawn into itself, they emerged and set out to unknown and far away countries. While prejudices against ethnic groups were spreading, shaping our values, our attitudes and behavior, the MIC Sisters crossed the oceans, reaching out to nations with an open mind and welcoming attitude. While women of that era were limited in their activities, they innovated and initiated projects with audacity and determination. They worked for the fundamental rights of all human beings and promoted the status of women. Much before the development of international cooperation, these religious women were already fash-

ioning the concept and contributing to its realization.

As I was reading *WOMEN WITHOUT FRONTIERS*, newspapers were making us aware of the Anglican Church crisis, which was questioning the women’s place and role within their Church. Knowing how women have been able to go beyond frontiers, I wondered if time had not come to knock down all the barriers that prevent them from stepping forward.

We are all well aware, as historian Micheline Dumont states, that *the thousands of actions and deeds discreetly performed by women have not been revealed in history*; yet they have been determinant factors in the development of societies and the evolution of persons. In order to achieve Peace we must first and foremost work for Justice. Our world is a broken one, the rich are becoming wealthier, and the poor are becoming poorer; our societies more than ever need people who are committed to building a better world. ♪

A Lifetime TREASURE



If you are between the ages 18 to 30 and you desire to serve abroad, contact:

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A Joint Mission in Solidarity
64 Somerville Street
Montreal, QC
H3L 1A2

Tel: (514) 387-0881

E-mail:
patsymorencymic@yahoo.ca

¹These young adults share their mission experiences.

Photo credit:

M.-P. Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

By Jeannine Bélair, M.I.C.

It was a special moment—rallying a group of young women who had gone on a joint mission in solidarity with the MIC Sisters. Ten, twelve, thirteen years had elapsed since we had trained and been on the mission trail together. What joy it was to meet once again. There were many Ohs, and Ahs... You have not changed!... What are you doing?... I'm so glad to see you!...

They were either college or university students. Approximately one hundred of them had received training for a five week mission experience in either Bolivia, Peru, Haiti or Taiwan. Their goal was to go and share the best of themselves with orphans and troubled adolescents, and learn to overcome their own difficulties, to acculturate and be part of a fraternity in another country. The mission dream they had harbored for many years was about to be fulfilled.

Each group received an intense preparation for their mission. Setting aside ten Saturdays, the participants courageously and enthusiastically attended the sessions. They shared their aspirations, their hopes, they learned about the culture of the people where they would be serving, they got acquainted with the local language and experienced fraternal life. They invested time in dialogue,

sharing, solidarity, showing respect and interiorizing the Word of God.

During the gathering, each participant expressed the aspect of her mission experience that still remains engraved in her heart, even after so many years. For some, their professional orientation has changed for the better. —*A month in my life... a lifetime treasure... I have received more than I actually gave. —I saw poor people living in great difficulties, but who remain positive, simple, welcoming, joyful, courageous and generous. —The experience has changed me: I now see things differently no matter how big or small the problem is. —Living in a group has its difficulties: accepting the other persons as they are and being in another culture, these are not easy challenges; I lived it and it helps me today... a better knowledge of my own self, of my strengths and limits is a tremendous asset. —Living in a fraternity is very demanding, but it tested my capacity to love and give, this is very precious for me. Such an experience enriches a life. My vision of the world has broadened.*

The sharing which took place during the day brought back precious memories. During the meal, each one opted to organize another get-together so as to keep the mission flame burning. ☺

Little Emile

By Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

Is God really accessible? Where and how can we meet Him? Is He present on our roads?

There is a French hymn that speaks to us about these questions:

*Who is God, who loves us so much,
sons of the earth?*

*Who is God, who is so small,
so great, so vulnerable?*

Who is God, to be one with us?

*Who is God, if we need a humble
heart to find Him?*

WHO IS GOD? A humble heart, a child's soul can discover God ...Is that possible? It is up to you to judge!

Little Emile, age 6, had heard his grandmother tell the story of Moses who encountered God on Mount Sinai. This historical account amazed the child; one morning his creative imagination moves him to ask his mother to prepare a lunch bag for him.

- Mother, I want to go see God on the mountain.

Actually, in the park nearby, there is a little hill—since the boy is small the hill seems like a mountain to him.

Happily and excitedly he helps his mother prepare the lunch and then leaves with his backpack walking toward the park. The mother watches him with loving tenderness.

As he arrives at the park, he notices an elderly lady sitting on a bench, feeding the birds. He sits close-by... he smiles... she smiles back!

Emile opens his backpack, takes a juice and offers it to the lady. Surprised and amused, she gives him a broad smile and with her shaky hand accepts the beverage which is being offered to her with such gentleness.

Then the boy separates in half his sandwich and gives it to the woman; a conversation begins and a certain complicity takes place.

The pick-nick over, little Emile returns home... very happy! As he enters the house, he tells his mother:

- Mother, I have seen God! And He smiled all the time...

As for the elderly lady, she returns home radiant to the point that her son asks her:

- Mama, what has happened to you? You look so happy!

She responds:

- My son, today I met God, but I did not think He was so young...

So we can ask...

*Who is God,
if He walks by our side?*

*Who is God,
if He comes to our table
without losing heart?*

*Who is God,
who no one can love
if we do not love humanity?*

*Who is God,
who can be so deeply hurt
when human beings are harmed?*

Be Attentive! Little Emile is perhaps walking on your road...or perhaps the elderly lady with the white hair is there...Who knows?

God does not reside in the extraordinary; He is simply present and very close to us. ☺



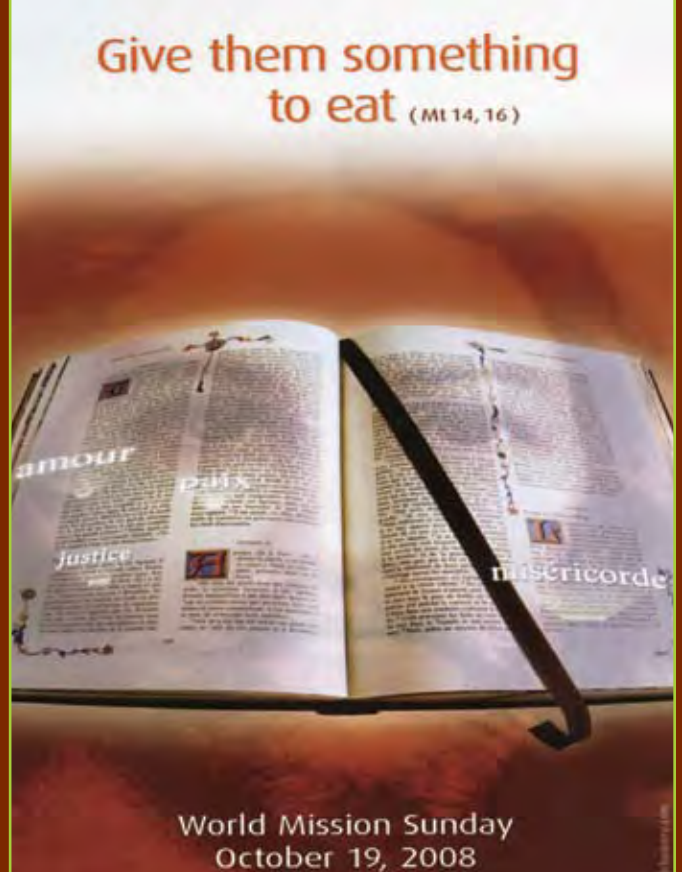
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Geneviève Dick

<http://creincarnation.googlepages.com/>

BEING HUNGRY?

Still imbued of the Spirit of the International Eucharistic Congress, World Mission Sunday offers us a reflection on the necessity to own the Word of God: *YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT* (Mt 14:16). What does that mean? In today's world, more than 300 million human beings are hungry! Hungry for love, for peace, for justice, for mercy but above all for bread... Francis, age 21, studies Theology at the seminary of Montreal; he shows how eating at the Source of the Eucharist opens us to sharing. However, are we hungry for this bread?



Missio Canada Poster

By Francis Ducharme

JESUS INVITES US

In the Eucharist, the Lord offers humanity the bread that satisfies, the Kingdom's inexhaustible food. *Lord, from now on give us this bread* (Jn 6:34). Such was the cry of the crowd after the multiplication of the loaves. Jesus gave the Bread of Life, a food *that endures eternally* (Jn 6:27). Jesus' audience had a voracious appetite: that of an intimate communion with Him in the Eucharist that incites commitment. When we open our hearts and accept to be in the other person's shoes as he cries out for help—to respect his words, his silence, his life, these are Christ-like virtues that necessarily lead to commitment.

BEING HUNGRY

We are all invited to the banquet of the Kingdom, to take place at the wedding feast anticipated by the Eucharist. However, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not coerce His entrance into our hearts. We must desire Him and be famished for His sacred bread. How could the Pharisee receive the gift of God? He was filled with selfishness and pride of his knowledge of the laws and command-

ments, his heart was shut tight to the Love of God. Every time I come to the table of the Lord, I recognize my littleness before Him—He the Almighty who became flesh so as to give me His most precious gift: the gift of HIMSELF.

A VERY SPECIAL GIFT

Bread broken and shared reminds me of Jesus Christ who offered His life and renews it every time the Eucharist is celebrated. As baptized Christians and members of Christ's Body, we are called to come and receive from the Eucharist, Jesus Himself, the Bread who gives us the strength and courage to go forth to serve our brothers and sisters whose physical and moral sufferings overwhelm them.

A GIFT TO HUMANITY

It is our duty to be MISSIONARIES OF CHRIST for each other, to appease the hungers that torment the hearts of our contemporaries. Sent by the Father and strengthened by the Holy Manna, we will be faithful to the mission given us by the Lord: *YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT* (Mt 14:16). ☪

IN FOCUS

ARE WE LEAVING TRACES BEHIND?



*Hong Kong to the rhythm of the African Sanctus
—Good Hope School celebrates its Golden Jubilee.*

David...

At the Center of the Kyrie

By Brigitte Bédard

David was not a shepherd, nor a Jew and certainly not an amateur in slingshots. His passion was music! He had studied in England, his native country where he was a filmmaker. In 1966, he was at the heart of the City of Jerusalem. One day, he attended Mass. *There I was, in prayer and I was listening to the Kyrie that had just begun: Kyyyyyyrieeeeeee, eleiiiiiiiison. Then half way through the Chriiiiiisteeee..., I heard a scream coming from outside the church: Aaaaaallaaahuuuu akbar! I was completely stunned. I understood that it was the call to prayer that came from the Mosque across the street. I heard the Kyrie, indoors... and the CALL TO PRAYER, outdoors.*

It was a cacophony of sounds! But I could hear a harmony... A call to God... Man who calls God, who pleads Him... This is where David had the inspiration of creating a great musical piece: a baroque, cacophonic Mass.

The following year, he decided to visit the Nile; he recorded the chants and filmed the dances of the peoples in Sudan, Uganda, and Kenya. His adventure ended in 1973. That precious collection became the AFRICAN SANCTUS. Thirty-five years later, it still bears the same message: faith in a music and in a unique God.

AFRICAN SANCTUS tells us of humanity's thirst for God. It's a Latin Mass to which Muslim prayers are incorporated; traditional African music is heard in the background. It is not African music with a Western flavor, far from it. It's a unique piece of music from which resounds rain and wind, etc. all captured out in the field, against storms and tides...and at times, with a feeling of yearning...

Good Hope School celebrates its Golden Jubilee! A high school in Hong Kong with an enrollment of 1300 students; the MIC Sisters have the direction of the school since its foundation. To celebrate this special event, the school year focuses its attention on multiculturalism. Then, David Fanshawe enters onto the scene by way of a musician. Correspondence, telephone calls and finally a contract! A challenge to be taken-up by the two parties... David before Goliath! An extraordinary adventure for these young Chinese: to be one for all and all for one, even adapting one's self to the African rhythm.

During my journey, I received enormous help from the Christian Churches. East Africa is mostly Catholic and myself, I am a Protestant. In Uganda, without money and hungry, I was welcomed by the Canadian French speaking Brothers of the Sacred Heart. It was unbelievable! I was helped by dozens of Catholic missions. Thanks to my misfortunes, I was led by these religious who knew very well where I could locate the dancers and musicians.

FIRST INSPIRATION: THE PRISON

David ignored the great dangers...His exploration began in Egypt. He wanted to reach Cairo with the intention of recording an authentic CALL TO PRAYER. Warning signs of the 'six day war' were everywhere in the country: *Egypt wanted to guard itself against the Israeli attacks. Authorities followed me, because they feared the spies. One day, they stopped me and threw me in prison. All my material was confiscated*, says David.

He finds himself in a cell, alone, scared and without recourse. Feeling as small as David before Goliath, I imagine... How will David handle this situation? He begins to pray! He screams his prayer to the jailer while knocking on his cell bars... In Latin, he cries out: GLORY TO GOD!

A short time later, the jailer comes to him. *This man begins telling me that he is of the Coptic Church and he recognized the holy words*, says David. The jailer takes the keys and lets David walk out, he gives him back his material. It was perhaps Saint Peter's angel...

The jailer tells him that his brother is a Muslim and imam of the Mohammed Ali Mosque in Cairo. He calls a taxi for David and sends him there. Our composer records his first authentic piece. It is this CALL TO PRAYER that we hear on the AFRICAN SANCTUS.

We say that God draws good out of evil. David confirms that: *If I had not been stopped and put in prison... If I had not shouted out my faith, I would most probably be dead. In any case, I would not have*

had the extraordinary privilege of recording this CALL TO PRAYER.

AFRICAN SANCTUS IN HONG KONG

Since that day, AFRICAN SANCTUS has been traveling the world over. In Hong Kong, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Good Hope School, 400 Chinese students from different schools were asked to present this uncommon mass to an audience composed of: the Primate of the Church of China, Cardinal Zen, dignitaries, invited guests, MIC Sisters from Canada—the latter being at the origin of this educational establishment.

This is the way I travel now, points out David. *In 2007, I worked on this performance in Hong Kong and I harvested great pride out of this spectacular show. The students were very well disciplined even though it was not easy for them to sing in a different language and dance to a rhythm unknown to them.* The girls from Good Hope remember very well... Indeed, to sing in Latin! They recall how difficult it was to pronounce Latin words and then to dance like the Africans—knees bent, and posterior rounded...Some students admitted feeling wrecked after difficult practices.

In 1994, David Fanshawe produced a new version of the AFRICAN SANCTUS. An historical year for Africa: a peaceful transition toward democracy in South Africa and horror in Rwanda. It just goes to show that humans always need music and faith – A CALL TO PRAYER and of a profound KYRIE... 

If I had not shouted out my faith... 

¹ Sr. Mary Olga Lam (left), Directress of Good Hope School for 37 years and Mrs. Corina Chen, newly appointed Directress.

² African Sanctus (Photo credit: Hong Kong)

³ Students of Good Hope

⁴ David Fanshawe

⁵ (left to right) Srs. Pauline Yuen, Marie-Thérèse Beaudette, Cecilia Hong, alumnae of Good Hope, invited to the celebration

⁶ Sr. Jacintha Henry and her students
Photos-credit:
M.-P. Sanfaçon, M.I.C.



A Radiant *Apostolic Field*



This painting, which comes from an inspired student of ICA (Immaculate Conception Academy) represents the school with its 3,800 Chinese Filipino students—primary and high school levels; the vision of an educational system which has left its traces for more than 70 years. Today, the ICA complex continues to enlarge its horizons under the leadership of two determined personalities: Sr. Dina Ang, M.I.C. and Sr. Teresita Canivel, M.I.C.



By Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

This story is closely linked with the transformation of the Chinese community in Manila.

In 1936, when the MIC Sisters arrived in Manila, the Chinese population was mainly male. These young merchants would acquire a fortune and then return to China to get married and begin a family; they traveled to the Philippines only for business purposes.

When the Sino-Japanese war was declared in 1937, many Chinese men decided to come back to the Philippines with their families. That year, the country counted some 2,000 refugees, Chinese men, women and children.

The MICs reached out to this newly arrived and vulnerable population. Though many were non-believers or of other faiths, the children found their place at ICACA (Immaculate Conception Anglo-Chinese Academy) located above a hardware store. However, the school hardly had time to develop and take root before the 2nd World War was declared.

The school closed its doors and the Sisters were interned at Los Banos, 63 kilometers southeast of Manila.

After the war, the Chinese reopened their businesses and their children came back to ICACA which had relocated in a small apartment on Narra Street. Though cramped in limited space, the school offered all the high school courses. In the afternoon, the missionaries would visit the Chinese families and would come to their assistance whenever needed. Occasionally, the Sisters would ask the population if building a more spacious high school would be feasible. Impressed by the patience and determination of the MICs the Chinese community of Manila helped build the first high school in Intramuros—in 1956.

Later, Father Jean Desautels, S.J. the first director of Xavier School, told the MIC Sisters that the Jesuits were planning to build a catholic school exclusively for Chinese-Filipino boys in San Juan, Manila. He invited the Sisters to start a similar school for girls the neighbouring area. After consideration, the MICs opted



for the construction of this new school. ICACA became the first catholic school exclusively for Chinese-Filipina girls.

From 1936-1950 the MICs focused on two objectives: Evangelizing the students who attended ICACA and preparing the girls for a possible reintegration in their Chinese society.

The increasing prosperity of the Chinese urged the missionaries to awaken their students to the fact that many blessings were upon them and their families; therefore, they were called to reach out to the less fortunate. Today, ICACA now known as ICA (Immaculate Conception Academy) offers the students an excellent education providing them ample opportunities to assist the poor.

ICA has come a long way since its humble beginnings; it was built in a spirit of faith by its peers and by a religious missionary congregation. What was once a little room above a hardware store is now a vast complex in a suburban area of San Juan. Formerly isolated, the Chinese-Filipino community has integrated itself in the Philippino society and actively participates in its development. ICA played a major role in creating conditions that facilitated this integration.

TWO OUTSTANDING PERSONALITIES

The current Directress of this important school, Sr. Dina Ang, has been working at ICA since 1970; throughout the years she endorsed various services. Her major preoccupation is to keep the educational vision alive in the school: *Train young girls in becoming women of faith and of service.* She continuously seeks new programs that will adequately respond to the changing needs of the society. Thus, to keep the students up to par with global

trends, the study of spoken Chinese has become of utmost importance.

Well aware of her responsibilities which entail great challenges, Sr. Dina states: *I see the students realizing Délia's dream—"God has given us everything, even His own Son. What better way to repay Him than to give Him children, chosen ones, who will also sing His goodness for centuries to come."*

As for Sr. Teresita Canivel, the school's Finance Administrator since 1993, she works hand-in-hand with Sr. Dina. She organized a parents council—a group of people who collaborate with the administration and the faculty. With the help of parents and former ICA students, new constructions have sprung up—the Felicidad Tan Sy building, the Délia Tétrault Arts and Sports center, and the high school activities center. Improving the services, renovating and maintaining the existing buildings, are tasks undertaken on a regular basis. The chapel has recently been renovated for the celebration of the school's 70th anniversary.

PAVING THE WAY INTO THE FUTURE

With ardor and enthusiasm, ICA continues implementing its vision and mission: *Providing a well-rounded, integrated, Christian education to these young students that they may become radiant women of faith and of service in the realization of a society where God reigns.* The main objective of the school is to raise the students' awareness to Christian values and educate them to be socially committed. When the potential of 'BECOMING' is the vision and belief of an educational system, then the utmost is done to make it come true. Long life to ICA—a brilliant apostolic field for the young Chinese Filipina girls! 

What was once a small room above a hardware store, is now a vast complex. 

¹ Sr. Dina Ang, M.I.C., and Sr. Terisita Canivel, M.I.C.

² Kindergarten children are learning about multiculturalism.

Photos-credit:

M.-P. Sanfaçon, M.I.C.



By Murielle Dubé, M.I.C.

FOR THE PAST, WE ARE THANKFUL

Our calling to serve in Bolivia has led us to share the life of our brothers and sisters in rural and mining areas. We lived in small fraternities located in distant zoning regions, in villages and in cities. Teachers, doctor, nurses, social workers, animators of Christian communities, administrators, catechists, we all learned tremendously from our daily contacts with the local folks:

- Enduring patience of the villagers who trustingly hope for a good harvest;
- Invincible courage of mining families who struggle for more justice;
- Strength of the women who commit themselves to a formation of some kind, so as to better serve their family, their community, their country;
- Capacity of the young people to pave the way towards newness notwithstanding an uncertain future;
- Valiant children who keep smiling, even though they must work to economically sustain the family.

The gap between the rich and poor, and especially the women's condition, marginalized three times because they are: women, indigenous, and poor as stated in the *PUEBLA* document, had us take a good look at our action. Suffering with those who suffer, rejoicing with those who rejoice, we walked among them and our hearts reached out with compassion; this is how we remained MISSIONARIES ON THE MOVE.

THE PRESENT BEING TRANSFORMED

Today, we have two communities in the region of Cochabamba, the place that welcomed us in 1957. We are less numerous and with the years we have matured as individuals and as a Congregation. Our intercultural MIC group has welcomed the collaboration of lay missionaries. Our option for the poor is an opportunity for life which expresses itself within projects initiated by the local Church:

Missionaries ON THE MOVE

On September 30, 2007, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, their Associates (ASMIC), the younger Associates (JASMIC), and Lay Missionaries, celebrated together the Golden Jubilee of the MICs presence in Bolivia. Numerous people from the local regions joined us—they joyfully expressed their affection, gratitude and friendship. We were one great family, happy to sing our thankfulness to God for all those years that allowed us to be well interwoven and strong together. In homage to all the MIC Sisters and Lay Missionaries who, at one time or another, shared our mission, and in gratitude to all our benefactors who supported our work here, this short article presents our souvenir album.

• Rural Education Institute (IER):

It belongs to the Archdiocese and was founded in 1958 by Fr. Alberto Quizada, a diocesan priest. We collaborate in the works of this Institute since 1976. In 2007, more than 70 young girls from the countryside have taken part in the educational alternative courses—vocational training, veterinary techniques, nursing skills. They receive a formation that prepares them to respond to the challenges of a society in evolution. IER also works in rural areas, promoting the human and Christian aspect of peoples' lives. There are Pastoral oriented projects with the youth, and people who have physical or intellectual limitations are accompanied by well prepared staff members.

• A Welcoming Fraternity:

In solidarity with the poor, our commitments are many and varied. Besides journeying with individuals on a psycho-spiritual level, members of our local fraternity collaborate with other groups: they are involved at the Ignatian Spirituality Center, they bring their experience and knowledge in the formation of religious, priests and sisters, they support the KHUSPA PURISPA for countryside youth who study at the university. Some do pastoral work in prisons and others are involved in the programs AMENECER NUESTRA CASA, CASA AZUL, MARIANNE FROSTIG for street children who live in difficult conditions or have learning disabilities. Our fraternity also welcomes persons from Quebec who come to Bolivia as volunteers for a short period of time.

Our Foundress, Délia Tétrault wrote: *The future is not ours, we have but the present moment.* For us 'the present' signifies inter-community networking, in deep communion with the Bolivian people and lay volunteers and being opened to the challenges of a democratic country which is experiencing a time of intense changes.

CREATING THE FUTURE

What will our future be? During the 50 years of mission work here in Bolivia, we have tried to be attentive and have

formed people who would continue the good work that has been started: training promoters in health care and teaching nursing skills for the people in rural areas; formation of future catechists and the initiation of Christian communities; promoting the status of women: secretaries, veterinary technicians, mothers capable of managing a sound domestic economy by way of sewing, knitting, crocheting, initiating women in taking leadership roles. Today, shaping the future is up to us:

- Create new spaces for the participation of our Associates and young Associates (ASMIC and JASMIC).
- Foster the missionary vocation, lay as well as religious, whether from Bolivia or elsewhere.
- Wherever we are, work and collaborate with the lay personnel who is gradually taking over leadership roles.

KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE

Today like yesterday, our Foundress tells us: *Following Mary's example, you must climb mountains and cross valleys to help your neighbor—from then on, your life will become a long Magnificat.* With Mary of the Visitation, who proclaims her Magnificat, we continue our journey and acknowledge God's divine action in His people, the Bolivians, whom we cherish and who have been welcoming us for the past 50 years. ♡

¹ Bolivian dance

² MIC Sisters in Bolivia and 2 lay missionaries

Photos-credit: MIC



Actualizing *the MIC mission*

Throughout the years, a great number of teachers, catechists, nurses, doctors have worked with the MIC Sisters in countries whey they have served. These people have witnessed the arduous work of the pioneers and up to this day they acknowledge the heritage that the Sisters have left them; the course once traced by the MICs continues to develop and take shape.



By Dominique Lee

I joined Good Hope School 32 years ago, in 1976. Back then, I knew very little about that school and the MIC Sisters. However, I had always been impressed by the way the Good Hope girls lined up waiting for the school bus down in Choi Hung Estate, the place where I spent my adolescent years. Today, I am not only impressed by their good conduct but by their assertiveness and the joyful spirit that characterize them.

It must be providence that brought me to Good Hope. This school enriches me and in return I try to enrich the life of all Good Hopers. At first, I taught literature, a subject which invites students to reflect on their own lives and enter into the lives of other people, where they discover the values of authentic love and joy. Discussions and tutorial classes help the students to appreciate life at a deeper level.

I felt I had a strong bond with the MIC spirituality. If literature is a song of praise for human life, then this blends very well with what Mother Délia said: *Let every day be a song of perpetual praise and thanksgiving.* When the students learn to sing the song of praise, they themselves become songs of praise.

When I served as counselor, I shared life with the students who had difficulties,

with those who were spiritually poor or deprived. There they realized they could choose to become young women of hope and thankfulness. When a student wanted to do away with life, my heart ached. At one point, I thought of giving up when one young woman did not progress in counselling; she showed very little signs of improvement. I began questioning my competence in this field. It was during such doubtful moments that the MIC mission came to my mind. My inner voice told me that I had to carry the cross. Prayers helped me greatly. Eventually, the student changed and came to terms with all her difficulties. Now she has her family and is doing her PhD.

Another time, Sr. Mary Olga Lam and I combed the hill to save the life of a girl who was suicidal. That moment, I felt I was not alone; there was a feeling of togetherness with God and with the MIC spirit. This experience has strengthened my faith: we are miracle co-workers.

As Activity Coordinator, I facilitate the development of the students' talents. This not only builds up their self-esteem and confidence but it also brings joy to school life. It thrills me to witness the changes and the growth of young people; their maturity marvels me.

I have taken on many different responsibilities at Good Hope School, but there has been only one goal: responding to the call—that of forming young ladies who will celebrate life with personal dreams.



Founded in 1902, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception number nearly 700 members from 17 nationalities working in 13 countries. In their service to the Church, the Sisters and their lay associates (ASMIC) work in many capacities: promotion of women, education, health care, parish and diocesan pastoral assistance, social services, etc.

Their Foundress, Délia Tétreault, has marked her time and left an imprint from which pathways have been drawn. Her vision was broad and far-reaching. Her influence contributed to the marvellous development of the missionary awakening in Canada. A mystic and a woman of action imbued of a Spirit of Thanksgiving, her apostolic perspective went beyond all boundaries and cultures.

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DÉLIA 2008

By Georgette Barrette, M.I.C.

Indeed, many of us remembered—70 years ago, in 1938, Délia Tétreault, our Foundress, came to live the last three years of her life at the newly built Mother House. Then in 1958, the Délia Tétreault School opened its doors to hundreds of students. In 1970, the University of Montreal began renting the school quarters; gradually, other areas of the large Mother House were rented and over the years the University bought the building.

The Faculty of Architecture and Design now occupies all the space. To highlight the 40th anniversary of this Faculty, the graduates, having been inspired by the mother of a student who had attended the Délia Tétreault School, opted to recall the memory of the Foundress and her mission in the field of education. Thus, their 15th Annual Exposition was entitled: DÉLIA 2008.

Mr. Alexandre Giroux, a graduate and representative of the organizing committee, contacted the MIC Sisters for more information about Délia Tétreault. To prepare the preview, he collected photos

An unexpected event for the MIC Sisters! May 1, 2008—an exhibition entitled DÉLIA 2008 took place at our former Mother House, 2900 Côte Ste Catherine Road, Montreal. Questions abounded...

and anecdotes. Twelve MICs attended the event; they were astonished to see at the entrance the large thematic poster with Délia Tétreault's photo and notes describing the exposition and the personality of our Foundress. Projected on a large screen were pictures of the building's construction in 1937-1938; this was of great interest to the people present.

Following a few words of welcome by the students, the dean of the Faculty, Mr. Giovanni De Paoli, mentioned the theme of the event, its meaning and the presence of the MIC Sisters. He gave a resume of the history of the Faculty and pointed out that other departments of the University were also celebrating their anniversaries this year. Mr. De Paoli ended his speech saying that the building is pursuing Délia Tétreault's work in education; we greatly rejoiced upon hearing this.

After the wine of honor, we toured the four floors of the building where we admired the mock-up models and achievements of the graduates. It was an occasion for us to discover the preoccupations and challenges this new generation of creators have to cope with. We marveled before their labor, ingenuity, originality and the beauty of their creations.

For us, who had lived in this building for so many years, walking through the hallways was very emotional and brought back many memories. To the organizers of this special event, DÉLIA 2008, we are most thankful and we will long remember the honor given to our Foundress, Délia. ♡



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TREADING A NEW PATH

March 1947—The MIC Sisters arrived in Mati, Philippines. From the outset, they have offered the population their services in the fields of education and spirituality. A special attention has always been given to the less fortunate, the deprived and non-Christians. In 1993, Sr. Justina Villagrancia, M.I.C., Directress of IHMA (Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy) had a desire to bring aid to the Marayag population by introducing concrete development projects. With the school personnel, she decided to commit herself.

¹A former student of Mati, now a medical doctor, is serving as a volunteer.

²Other volunteers with the local youth

Photos-credit: MIC

By Justina Villagrancia, M.I.C.

Marayag is a small village above sea level, 36 kilometers from Mati; the population—500 families. Surrounded by mountains and green forests, the climate is cool and pleasant year round. The village is without paved roads; however, orchards and gardens are plentiful, with a variety of fruits and vegetables; coconuts grow in abundance. Among the population there are farmers, small merchants, and a few professionals.

THE MARAYAG MISSION

At first, reaching Marayag was quite an adventure: narrow, rocky, dusty roads, muddy (ankle high) during the rainy season. Along the years, the local authorities have made some improvements and transportation has become easier.

September 1993—the school personnel of Mati inaugurates an altruistic project in the line of development. These pioneers, progressively approach the population of the region. Keeping in mind the spiritual needs of the people and the importance of protecting the environment, they begin dredging brooks and rivers. Men and women are encouraged to clean and embellish their environment and to fight against illegal exploitation of the forests. Naturally, this arouses opposing reactions. The pioneers of the cause are courageously persistent in their mission and convince the local population to be vigilant.

A priority among others is improving the housing conditions. With the residents, the team helps in repairing, renovating and solidifying the structures. Every week, members of the school of Mati meet the

local people to know their needs. Former students who are now professionals, (dentists, doctors, nurses, teachers), have kept the spirit of their Alma Mater and turn their attention to their brothers and sisters who are deprived. On a volunteer basis, they travel to Marayag. They offer their professional services without any charges. Going from house to house, they treat the sick and the children are taught the basics that could help them in the future. To show their gratitude, the beneficiaries give the volunteers the best of what they have: fruits, vegetables and other farm products.

While the medical personnel goes around treating the patients, teachers offer basic courses, and students prepare the lunch. At break time they serve coconuts; at noon time there are noodles, rice, and fish,—a local dish is prepared with cucumbers and radishes; fruit usually ends the meal. Everything is prepared with enthusiasm, competence and love.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

In December, it's time to celebrate! At 5 a.m. the pioneers leave for Marayag. With much joy, the team brings all kinds of surprises: clothing, medicine, rice, canned foods, toys for the children. The day begins with religious education classes followed by a Christmas program and distribution of gifts—a moment eagerly anticipated and celebrated with songs, dances, and shouts of joy. At the end of the day, the 'love givers' return home tired but happy; their day was full of meaning—life and love was generously shared with their brothers and sisters, God's children.

Good news—by word of mouth, this humanitarian and ecological commitment in Marayag reached Japan. A group of Japanese students, their teachers and some nurses came to the Philippines to meet the MIC Sisters in Mati and they visited Marayag. Notwithstanding linguistic differences, the experience was beneficial and developed into friendship. This went on for a period of five years; it has been temporarily interrupted because of the Island's (Mindanao) precarious situation.

Educating the youth of that local region is a priority—that they may understand their role in society and as Christians. The MIC Sisters have already helped two young adults of Marayag to obtain their college degrees. Arduous work, common effort, the will to commit one's self to the environment and enabling the poor to 'become' a voice that is heard—all these efforts have not been in vain. The residents of Marayag respond favorably and cooperate whole heartedly. With gratitude they bring their support to all the projects.

Arduous work, common effort,
the will to commit one's self to
the environment and the poor
has not been in vain. ∞

Marayag is now considered to be a lively community, built on solidarity and where people breathe fresh air. The environment is clean, green and most beautiful. The population exhibits a true consciousness of its role and responsibilities toward Mother Earth. All families work diligently to be productive, autonomous, and they are concerned for the well-being of all their brothers and sisters in gratitude for God's goodness in His creation. ∞





To help build a new society focused on Christian values, the critical mind of a population must be developed and auto-management programs must be created. After an absence of 15 years, Sr. Agnes Bouchard returned to Peru. With thankfulness, she collected precious golden nuggets left behind by the MICs presence...What a splendid gift she received for her golden jubilee of religious life!

GOLDEN NUGGETS

By Agnès Bouchard, M.I.C.

The title GOLDEN NUGGETS illustrates very well my experience in Espinar, Cusco, Peru, where I worked for many years with the traditional miners and the craft miners (those who search for gold).

My return to Espinar, 15 years after we left the mission, was for me my first GOLDEN NUGGET. As MICs, we wanted to evaluate the impact our presence had left behind, targeting the population's new ways of doing and then asking ourselves: *Was it worth working at 4,000 metres of altitude, in a cold climate, immersed in a cultural milieu so different from ours?*

We lived unforgettable moments! Being once again with the Quechua natives, their mining families, and the people of Espinar, we experienced a lasting friendship and loving fraternity. During a period of 19 years the MIC Sisters gave the best of themselves in journeying and working with the local natives hoping for a better future. The process was a long

one. The indigenous culture has particular characteristics which demand a prolonged and stable presence before having access to it. Oppressed for centuries, trust is not given at first sight, it must be earned... Thus, the Andes people remember with great affection and emotion the MIC Sisters who worked in Espinar. For me, this is another GOLDEN NUGGET.

What a joy it was to meet the mining families at Atalaya! For two years, the MICs supported their rights. Today, 300 ex-miners of Atalaya come together each Sunday to complete a legal process demanding from the Ministry of Mining and Energy acknowledgement of their acquired rights obtained at the time when the whole mining sector was nationalized under the military regime (1968-1980). Twice, the people of Espinar joined forces to claim from Xstrata, a powerful global Swiss Mining Co.: the respect of their environment, equitable salaries proportioned to the benefits of the enterprise, development projects for Espinar to help stabilize the economy. Espinar obtained a *convenio marco*, a social contract. —We



supported the miners and raised the people's awareness: is this not a splendid GOLDEN NUGGET!

Over the years, people have become more sensitized and aware of their potentialities. Native women have discovered their rights. The rally of women on March 8 (International Day of Women) greatly impressed me. Approximately 200 women walked the streets demanding respect, equality, work and protection of the environment... This is the result of the MICs at work within women's clubs, family and community gardening, promoting women's status; these projects allowed the missionaries to unite all the peasant women of small villages and in the surrounding areas. Today, the Federation of Women in Espinar counts 26 associations: a magnificent GOLDEN NUGGET!

In the rural community of Apachacco, a very poor and isolated village, a drinking water project improved the living conditions. Villagers are now able to irrigate their plot of land, increase the production of potatoes and enrich their grazing land. Today, Apachacco has its own agricultural training centre and a production committee; it has a high school and a health-care centre: another splendid GOLDEN NUGGET which I considered most precious for my golden jubilee.

With the help of the parish and the MIC Sisters, the Technological Institute of Espinar, once a dream, has become a reality; it responds to the needs of young people from Espinar and the surrounding provinces. More than 650 students are trained in one or other of the following: practical nursing, agriculture, technical mining, mechanics, computer science. It's a leading institute which offers specialized courses; young people receive an adequate preparation and then serve in

their respective regions. What a radiant GOLDEN NUGGET!

The Co-op Awaq K'ana helped by the MICs of yesteryears is another GOLDEN NUGGET. It has greatly contributed in developing the local crafts in Espinar. During 20 years, craft workers weaved a gigantic web extending their contacts locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. This Co-op developed and instilled an entrepreneurial mentality in Espinar. More than ever, we see a variety of small family or community businesses; some day these will surely supply the regional and national markets.

In March 2007, our participation at the parish's pastoral assembly was an intense emotional moment where another GOLDEN NUGGET was found. More than 80 people (catechists and pastoral agents involved in various ministries of the parish) took time to reflect on the mission and the vision of the Church in Espinar. I grasped how mature the Christian community had become in its ways of doing and in its self-expression. I realized that the seeds sown in the soil by the MIC Sisters have germinated and grown in the quiet rhythm of the Andes; the results are fruitful—families, rural communities and the people are the beneficiaries.

All these GOLDEN NUGGETS can be summed up in this touching testimony addressed by the rural community of Apachacco on April 3, 2007, sixteen years after the missionaries left the mission of Yauri: **QANKUNAQA KAUSAYTA QOWARKANKICHIS. YOU HAVE GIVEN US LIFE.** Spontaneously came the response from the MIC Sisters who had worked in Espinar: **YOU ALSO HAVE GIVEN US...LIFE!** ☺

¹ Young people prepare themselves for the task.

² Awaq K'ana Co-op

³ Sr. Agnès participates in the Walk for Women.

Photos-credit: MIC

Supporting the miners, raising people's awareness, is this not a splendid GOLDEN NUGGET.



Letters from here and abroad

TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Collaborating fraternally and spiritually with China

Trust and patience bear fruit. Since three years, a friend of an ASMIC wished Sr. Marthe Lai, M.I.C. would direct individual retreats for the religious in China. Finally, three MIC sisters joyfully responded to the call: Srs. Marthe, Nancy Vy-So and Agnes Mao. They went to Szechuan Seminary in the town of Hung Guang where 14 Chinese nuns were waiting for them.

After two days of workshops, the Sisters began their retreat in a silent atmosphere. Guided by our three companions, they reflected, prayed and met God deep within themselves. In their early 30s these Chinese Sisters truly appreciated their experience—it was their first individual guided retreat. Sharing their personal and sacred life stories was enriching for the group and also for the three MIC animators.

Once the retreat ended, a priest took the MIC Sisters on a tour to interesting sites and places where they met young priests, ages 20-40. The Chinese people deeply touched the hearts of the three Sisters, particularly because of their simplicity, generosity and warm hospitality.

At the request of the President of the Patriotic Church Association, Sr. Marthe Lai and two other religious have been training spiritual guides capable of directing individual retreats. This year fifteen persons participated in the formation. Some months ago, the MIC Sisters went to Beijing to supervise some religious who were actually directing an eight-day retreat on an individual basis. Another group of spiritual guides gave retreats to parishioners and students in theology.

We acknowledge that the Spirit of God is present, inspiring and moving His people.

Taipei Chronicles

JAPAN

10th Anniversary of our Associates (ASMIC)

The MIC Associates in Koriyama, Japan, generously collaborate with our mission work. This year they are celebrating their 10th Anniversary in the name of their faith. The week prior to Mission Sunday, they asked me to speak about the missionary life “ad extra”, and explain to the Sunday School children the calling to the missionary vocation.

In our chapel, 30 Associates renewed their commitment during the Eucharistic celebration and three new recruits were welcomed in the group. Sr. Chieko Uchimura, Provincial Superior, took this opportunity to deliver her message in terms of the Associates’ mission and responsibilities as daughters of Délia. The event came to a close with testimonies from each ASMIC—sharing the way in which the MIC spirituality enriches their daily life.

On that same day, at Aizu Wakamatsu, Japan, seven ASMIC renewed their commitment. An exhibition portraying Délia and describing the Associates’ involvements in various areas of their parish communities revealed their dedication: Sunday school, prayer groups, bazaar, retreat days, volunteer work at Alpha, pastoral work, visiting the sick, liturgy, choir, sharing the faith, etc. To highlight their 10th Anniversary, a commemorative flyer was prepared and distributed. Sr. Yoko Moriyama is currently the one journeying spiritually with five other persons interested in becoming ASMIC. Quite encouraging isn’t it?

*Sr. Monique Cloutier, M.I.C.
Koriyama, Japan*

YOU ARE MY WITNESSES

May the Spirit

dwell in you

and give you

a heart as vast

as the world,

ever joyful

in hope!

May He

inspire you

to bring the light

of Christ to

the world with

the apostles'

eagerness!



After a brief stay in her native country, the Philippines, Sr. Elizabeth comes back to Canada to work with the Canadian youth and collaborate in promoting our magazine MIC Mission News.

Elizabeth Relacion, M.I.C., (1st left)
—Malalag, Davao del Sur, Philippines



Sr. Françoise acquired a wealth of experiences during her 44 years of work in Madagascar. She is returning to Antsirabe where her precious collaboration will be appreciated in the formation of the MIC novices.

Françoise De Varennes, M.I.C.,
— Quebec City, Quebec



As a psychological aid, Sr. Huguette worked with psychiatric patients at St-Jean-de-Dieu—Mzuzu, Malawi. She is returning to Africa where she will now train local mediators.

Huguette Ostiguy, M.I.C., (1st left)
— Granby, Quebec



With 48 years of service in Japan, Sr. Monique has a great love for the Japanese people. She is returning with joy and will continue assisting the MIC Associates in their spiritual journey and will give catechetical sessions to those who desire deepening their Christian faith.

Monique Cloutier, M.I.C.,
— Ottawa, Ontario

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for your solidarity!*

Dawn of a New Life



Lucille Adam, M.I.C.
(Sr. Sainte-Octavie)
1923-2008
Auburn, Maine, U.S.A.

Lucille had seven siblings and lived a happy childhood. At 16, her father died; unfortunately, she had to quit school to help the family financially. In her heart, Lucille yearned to consecrate her life to God. The articles she read in *Le Précurseur/MIC Mission News* inspired her; in 1946, she left all to follow her dream. As an MIC she worked 24 years in Japan; she taught English and established the first Girl Guide Movement in Fukushima. God, Mary and the people of Japan were Sr. Lucille's main spiritual focus.



Aline Létourneau, M.I.C.
(Sr. Laurent-Marie)
1915-2008
Saint-Casimir, Quebec

The youngest of the family, Aline was the joy of the household. She attended schools run by the Ursuline Sisters in Trois Rivières. Touched by the articles she read in our mission magazine, she felt a desire to serve in missions abroad. At 20, she entered the MIC Institute; though enthused and joyful, Aline always had a desire for solitude and prayer. It is through a long illness that her desire became a reality. Though she never experienced the mission abroad, her prayerful spirit reached out to all those in need.



A Foun Wong, M.I.C.
(Sr. Marie-Pauline)
1909-2008
Loung Kong, Kwang Tung, China

A Foun had a difficult childhood. Her father died when she was one, the mother had to give up her last born. At the age of 10, she escaped from her life of servitude; she asked to be admitted at the MIC orphanage in Canton. In 1920 she came to Canada. Famous for her dexterity in embroidery, she produced priceless liturgical vestments. In 2002 A Foun asked to be an MIC, a dream she had long been nourishing. Her wish was granted! Sr. Marie Pauline's joy and gratitude resounded throughout the Institute.



Suzanne Dériger, M.I.C.
(Sr. Paul de Jésus)
1927-2008
Hull, Quebec

As a student, Suzanne was deeply impressed by the religious who taught her; she enjoyed being around them. She also took pleasure in being a Girl Guide; recreational parks were places where Suzanne gave much of her time to children. In 1949, she entered the MIC novitiate. Her experience with youngsters and her artistic talents were beneficial in teaching kindergarten children. In 1971, Suzanne arrived in Haiti where she taught Psychology. Later in her life, Suzanne's contemplative soul sought comfort in prayer as she struggled through a long illness.

*Partings here on
earth are a promise
of meeting again
for all eternity.*

Délia Tétreault

An emotional scene

By Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

Two special guests came to visit our elderly and sick Sisters residing at Délia Tétreault's Pavillion in Pont-Viau. A gentleman, the trainer of dogs for people who have visual, motor or other types of disabilities, and Cari, the beautiful black 'Labernois' dog. They were from the MIRA Foundation (Spanish word meaning: to look) which was started in 1981 to help handicapped individuals; it is supported and financed by generous donors. While with us, not only did the trainer speak about MIRA but concretely demonstrated the fitness and sharpness of Cari, his guide-dog.

Having arrived early, Cari and his trainer patiently waited in a hall. As the Sisters entered the room they were allowed to pat the dog. Cari did not mind and seemed to know everyone. Suddenly, from the crowd, that smart dog spotted Sr. Noëlla Brisson. She was just about to sit down when he came to her and after a pat he gently placed his head on her knees, then sat close to her feet. Incredible! How did he know that she was the only one in the crowd who was visually impaired? Would animals have a sense of compassion?

The visit of Cari and his trainer allowed us to become better acquainted with the MIRA Foundation and acknowledge the precious services it offers to all those who are visually impaired. Long-life to MIRA...and to Cari! 🐾



Sr. Noëlla Brisson (1st right)



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A time to prepare...

A time to be open...

A time to welcome...

A time to be with Him.

C.L.B.

Italian painting—artist unknown

