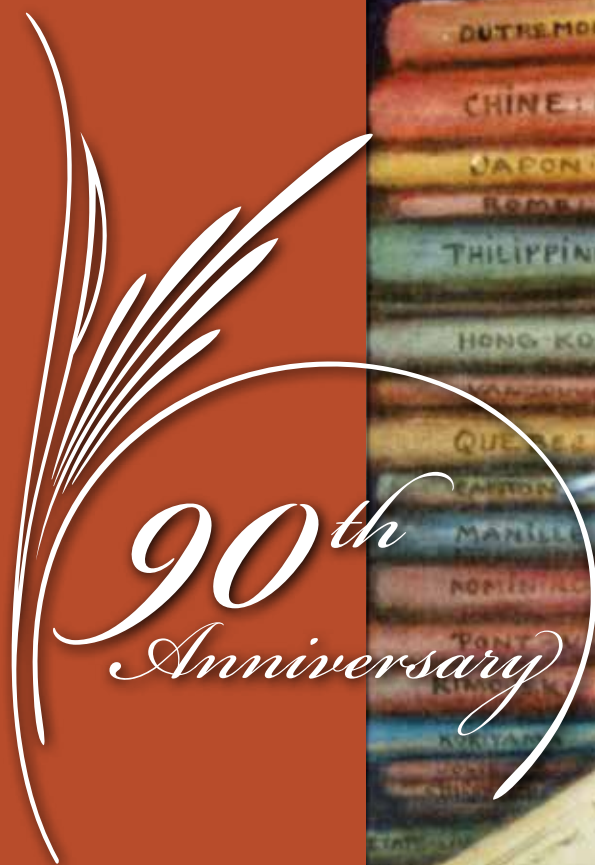


MIC MISSION NEWS

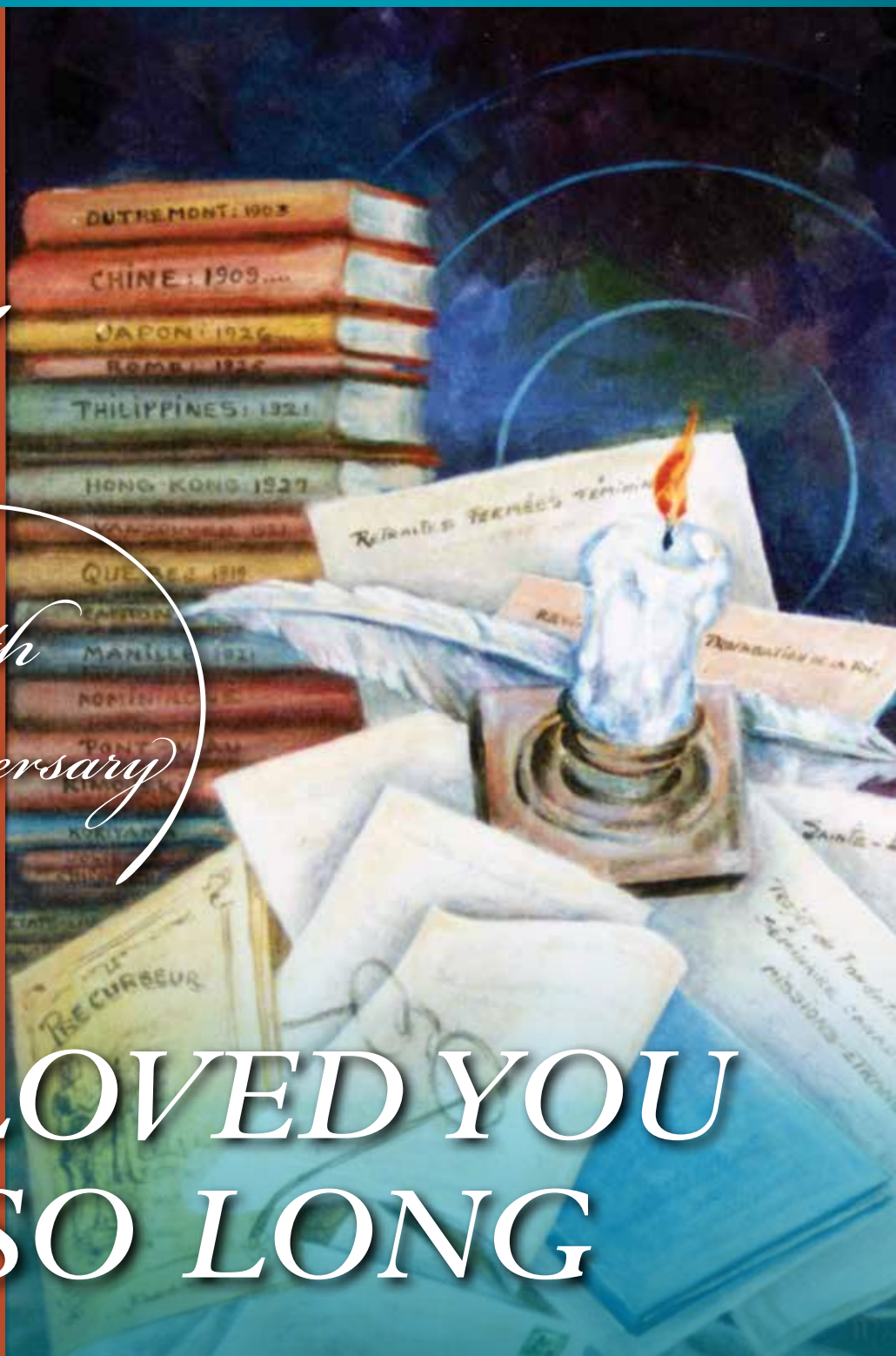
VOL. 37, N° 2 | APRIL • MAY • JUNE 2010 | \$3.00



To sow seeds of joy and hope



I'VE LOVED YOU FOR SO LONG



MISSIONARY PRAYER INTENTIONS

APRIL

FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

*May Christians who are persecuted for
the Gospel's sake persevere and faithfully
witness the love of God to everyone.*

MAY

FOR PRIESTS, RELIGIOUS AND
COMMITTED LAY PEOPLE

*May all priests, religious men and women
and lay ministers instill the missionary
enthusiasm into the communities
entrusted to their care.*

JUNE

FOR THE CHURCHES IN ASIA

*May the emerging Church in Asia
effectively communicate the Gospel and
be joyful witness to Christ.*

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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micmissionnews@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.

EDITORIAL

Joy Is in the Air!

I've Loved You For So Long... This is the song I want to hum with you today. Also why not dance a Canadian jig? It would be quite the proper thing to do—why? Our publication *Le Précurseur/MIC Mission News* is celebrating its 90 years of existence; what a feat for a mission magazine! It's fantastic and worth highlighting. We therefore invite you to celebrate this anniversary with us.

In 1920, when Délia Tétreault nourished in her apostolic heart the desire to launch a new project—the publication of a mission magazine, she had some goals in mind: awaken the people's missionary consciousness, support the missions where the young Canadian sisters were working, foster vocations to the missionary life, inform the public of the works entrusted to our care.

Throughout the years, the magazine has always aimed to accomplish those goals. So many priests and sisters have discovered their vocation while reading *Le Précurseur/MIC Mission News*. Even today, young adults are inspired to commit themselves as lay missionaries—bringing humanitarian aid to the poor. Vocations have become rare but altruism and the gift of self remain.

Over time and throughout its history, Le Précurseur/MIC Mission News has evolved and followed the trends, adapting its language and its artistic design according to the mentality of the time. With the collaboration of many lay people, the magazine saw the dawn of a new horizon. The message conveyed remains focused on the mission of Christ; but it is expressed in a simple style, easily understood by the reader.

These 90 years of *Le Précurseur/MIC Mission News* is a call to renew our enthusiasm and to continue Délia's dream. But to do so, we need you. In what way do we need you? We invite you—to ***find one new subscriber...*** Finding a new subscriber means you participate in our mission and you help another person become part of our great MIC family, where the communion of hearts brings about joy, peace and fraternity.

I thank each one of you for your constant fidelity; our mission magazine of 90 years has reached readers of many generations. We deeply hope that with you, we will be able to continue communicating the Good News of Christ's love for the world. ***I've Loved You For So Long... I will never forget you!***

Marie-Paule Sanjean, m.i.c.

Rose Bourque, Bécancour, QC

MIC Mission News/Le Précurseur is my best friend. Each page captivates my interest; each page is attractive.

The written style is consistent. Your message is clear, evangelical, comprehensible. Unique to your magazine are the high-spirited subjects presented with finesse.

The calendar is super beautiful. What I greatly appreciate is that all along the year, the subscription associates us to the masses which are said to our intentions, in the missions where the MIC Sisters are working. I have been a subscriber for many years.

Angèle Bruckert, Drummondville, QC

I take much pleasure in reading your magazine MIC Mission News/Le Précurseur. You are doing a great job, thank you.

Gilles Deschênes, Montreal, Qc

I want to congratulate you for your magnificent magazine which I find very interesting. I have been a subscriber for a long time; I appreciate the articles that help us reflect, especially those of André Gadbois. The magazine is well presented with beautiful colors and great composition. Reading it opens the mind to other horizons.

**Draw—HANDCRAFTED FIGURINE
IN EBONY WOOD FROM MALAWI,
AFRICA**

*The lucky winner: Mr. Gratien Pépin,
St-David d'Yamaska, QC*

Congratulations!

A LEGACY OF LOVE

From the time of John the Baptist who announced a new beginning up to the time of Délia Tétreault and her Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, a chain of loving energy has kept the Fire of the passionate Spirit of Love burning so that Humanity might not perish. For the past ninety years, the magazine Le Précurseur/MIC Mission News has kept our hope alive; while telling their life-giving and faith stories, the missionaries have kept our minds and hearts awake and alert.

By André Gadbois



I heard of a man who was troubled and angry by what he saw everyday in his country. His people had become unaware of their extravagant consumption; many had

become like wayward children, superficial and thoughtless. This man's name was John; his clothing was strange, different from the others. I heard that when his fiery voice reached people in the alleys, the public squares, the lake shores, they came to him and wanted to follow him, wishing to be cleansed and baptized in the water. And he would tell the people: *Do not be of the illusion that everything will take care of itself. Change your ways, change your way of thinking, begin by reflecting on your own life and the needs of others. The One I am proclaiming will inspire that passionate Spirit of Love within you.* John would repeat the words of the prophets who throughout the centuries had spoken to the people about the promised Light—a Light that would dispel darkness—and about a Messiah who would liberate the oppressed, the downtrodden.

KINDLING A PASSIONATE FIRE OF LOVE

The awaited One came and He kindled the new Passionate Fire as declared by John, known as the Precursor—the forerunner. However, the newness which Jesus revealed left John somewhat perplexed; therefore, he sent some messengers ahead to check the status of this Messiah: *Are you the one who was to come...?* (Lk 7:20) Of course there was something to verify because this Messiah spoke with strangers as equals; He healed the heathens as well as his own people; He excluded no one; He questioned age-old traditions and religious laws; He was simple and discreet; He forgave His enemies; called Yahweh His “Father”; He chose love and justice above rituals and hypocritical cant. Had I been in John's place, I too would have checked out my Messiah, because He had gone beyond normal boundaries.

WATCH FOR DAYBREAK

To the messengers investigating Him, the Messiah named Jesus of Nazareth replied: *Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor* (Lk 7:22). Quoting the words of the prophet Malachi (3:1) Jesus addressed the crowd and took the opportunity to underscore that John was truly the one chosen by God to prepare the way for this new passionate Fire of Love. The love that Jesus revealed and manifested was out-of-bounds and beyond the limits instilled in the minds of John and the twelve apostles. Authorities did all in their power to confine this passionate Fire of Love and even to extinguish it because it was becoming contagious and dangerous. However, a sudden, strong, astonishing wind, never experienced before, vigorously kindled that passionate Fire of Love. A vigor that has motivated millions of hearts throughout the centuries—to be Fire-guardians and shepherds of love, to be daybreak watchers, so that the world might not die of hopelessness.

When the Spirit of Love seems to be extinguished and all hope lost, there are people like Vincent de Paul, Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day, Doctor Julien who rise up and rekindle the flames of love. They bring that passionate Fire of Love to those who suffer from the cold, from hunger; to those who are sick, abandoned and despised. These are well-known watchers, but there are many others, perhaps less known, who accomplish similar works. Délia Tétreault often repeated to her Sisters: *Be souls of fire!* Ninety years ago, she foresaw the importance of making known the works of her Fire-guardians abroad. Thus was born the magazine *Le Précurseur / The Precursor* later known as *MIC Mission News*. After so many years, this magazine continues to inspire its readers. Witnesses speak about their experiences in mission; they reveal how the Christian faith needs more help-

ing hands. They reveal the courage and determination needed to confront the problems they come across in developing countries so as to keep the Fire burning. Readers become more aware of how to develop links of solidarity with those who work in impoverished countries; they learn about the spirituality of Délia Tétreault and how they can become involved in some of the MIC mission projects. Reading through the pages of such a magazine awakens our awareness and gratitude for God's benevolent love which is revealed through the works of the missionaries.

¹ Poster Produced by:

T. Lortie, M.I.C.

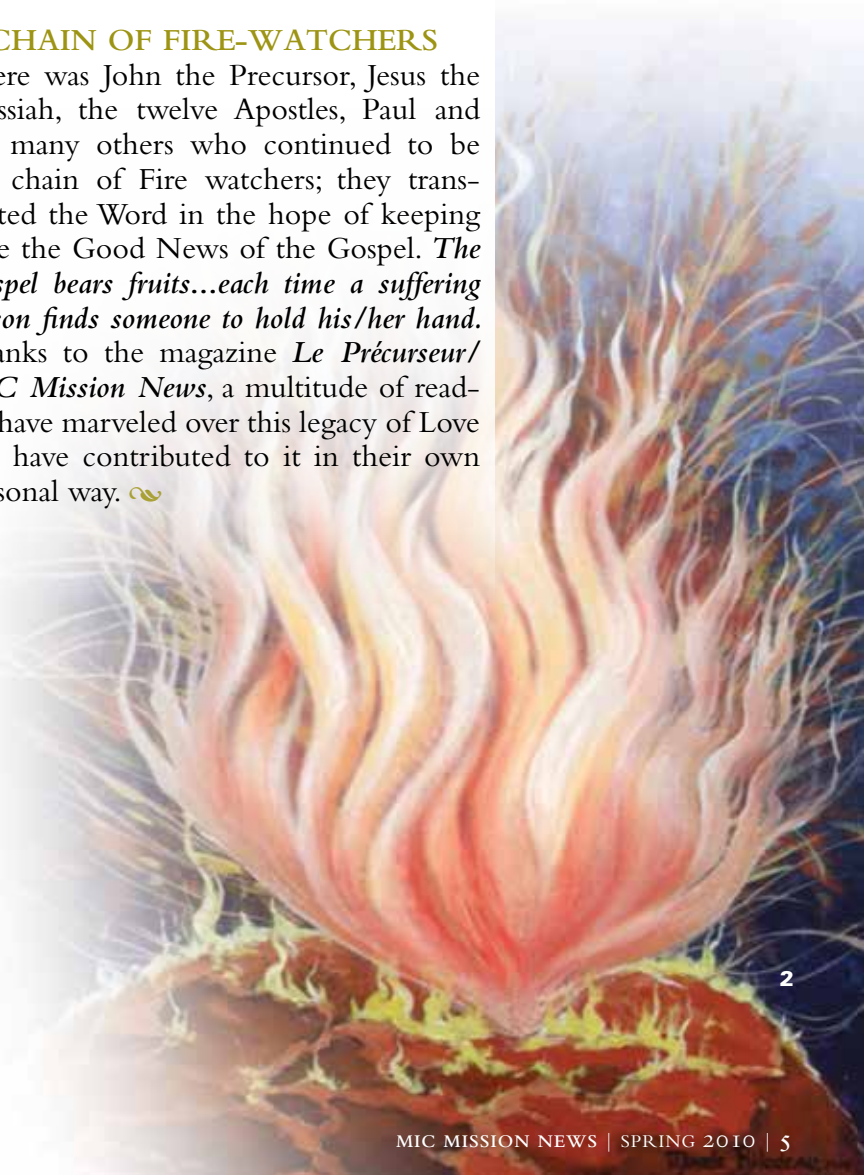
² MIC Art Gallery

Artist: M. Bilodeau, M.I.C.

Be daybreak watchers, so that the world might not die of hopelessness. 

A CHAIN OF FIRE-WATCHERS

There was John the Precursor, Jesus the Messiah, the twelve Apostles, Paul and the many others who continued to be the chain of Fire watchers; they transmitted the Word in the hope of keeping alive the Good News of the Gospel. *The Gospel bears fruits...each time a suffering person finds someone to hold his/her hand.* Thanks to the magazine *Le Précurseur / MIC Mission News*, a multitude of readers have marveled over this legacy of Love and have contributed to it in their own personal way. 



The Amazing Thing About a Magazine

The morning mail sometimes brings us surprises from various countries. It's fantastic and exciting! A magazine is like a small paper plane which glides over an area and finally lands where unexpected. A magazine travels and crosses multiple borders. It arrives at unsuspected places, it is found in the hands of unknown readers. More than we can imagine, a magazine has the power to bring its message around the world...



Photos credit: L. Gagné, M.I.C.

By Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

Yesterday morning, I received a letter from Italy from an unknown person who wrote how touched he had been by one of the articles which appeared in the last issue of our magazine *Le Précurseur/MIC Mission News*. How did our magazine reach him? This *surprise* letter invites me to go further in my reflection regarding the pertinence of a publication, of the printed paper whose survival is so much in question nowadays.

DO PEOPLE READ LESS THAN BEFORE?

Whether it be newspapers or magazines, much is said about the difficulties

in maintaining the written press. True, times have changed: today, it's the era of rapid computing, the internet, the Ipod or Twitter. Communication is extensive and almost immediate. On the other hand, we see a surge of magazine stands, book stores, book fairs, where countless new books proliferate. In Montreal, on Saint-Catherine Street near Saint Denis Street, *La Maison de la Presse Internationale* has such a wide-range of magazines covering all interests, all fields, that the stands go on as far as the eye can see. Is it right to say that it is the end of the written press?! *Le Précurseur/MIC Mission News* has kept a steady course; we have reached the 90th year and our gaze keeps looking ahead into the future.

THE CHALLENGES

Certainly, such a publication as ours has the merit of having survived and prospered throughout the decades. We do not have the support of pilgrims who subscribe to a sanctuary's magazine or newsletter; we need to always draw from our own resources. Our MIC promoters are aged but they have succeeded in gathering a large family of collaborators who, on our behalf and that of the mission, relentlessly work in their milieu. They are the driving force behind the success and we are deeply grateful to all these women and men who willingly give their time and energy.

We must admit that the missionary dimension is no longer what it was in the nineteen forties and fifties. Besides de-Christianization, our cultural and social identity is somewhat blurred; there is the loss of our proper values; pluralism, multiculturalism bring about changes in mentalities. The planet has become accessible to many, thanks to the Internet but also because travelling is possible for many people: today *the other* is right here at our door and can even be our neighbor. Nowadays, there is hardly any room left for the exotic which, in its own way, opened us to the marvelous discovery of *the other*. Let's think of those missionaries who left for China in the early 20th century... at that time little was known about that country. Today, the world is commonplace: the extraordinary is no longer there. To find the sensational, we have to go to the extreme limit. We think we know it all and have seen it all. Finally, because of an abundance of pictures and too many words, we have become over saturated with information.

A 90TH FULL OF HOPE

The many changes require that we constantly revise, adapt and find ways of reaching our readers. Notwithstanding the public's indifference, our unabated enthusiasm lives on; we strive to improve the quality of our communication. Attentive to the signs of the times, we wish to transmit a meaningful, comprehensible message. Ouf... it is quite a feat! In our magazine

Le Précurseur/MIC Mission News, we take up the challenge. True communication begins with people, with real issues and events that touch their lives. True communication transcends the ordinary, the trivialities and leads to an outburst of peace, joy and hope. The reader is enriched by the content. Is this not the correct route to take? I am convinced that it is.

However, grass grows in the middle of this route because there are less and less individuals taking this road; they are too much in a hurry, therefore they travel on highways at 120 km/h. They are oblivious to beauty, to peoples' inner strengths and accomplishments. For us, the important element is to reach the source, to reveal the vigor of the source which maintains the MIC life: a passion for the Mission, here and abroad.

We have reached the 90th year
and our gaze keeps looking ahead
into the future. 

Is this not the challenge that Délia Tétreault took up in 1920 when she launched the French edition of the MIC Mission News, *Le Précurseur*? Today, the team of the MIC Missionary Press continues taking up the challenge and believes in its mission—radiating it in various ways, even in the written form. Somewhat like a fragile paper plane, our magazine transports on all the continents, the marvelous message of Jesus' love and weaves links of solidarity among the nations. *To spread joy and hope* is our leitmotif; it is what we wish to transmit to our readers and to the peoples whom we are serving. We continue hoping that the Message will be heard from one pole to the other. These are the sentiments that dwell in our hearts as we approach the ultimate decade of the magazine's centennial anniversary. 

A TEAM *IN ACTION*

The MIC Missionary Press has a dynamic team of twenty people. The daily work is assured by the directress who supervises the overall production. Occasionally, free-lance writers are called upon to write articles and revise some texts. Artists are also chosen for their paintings, water-color drawings, sculptures, or other artistic presentations.



EDITORIAL BOARD



EDITING / REVISING



GRAPHIC ARTS

By Carole Guévin

The Editorial team comprised of four Sisters and three laity, meet four to five times a year to brainstorm, reflect and choose themes appropriate for the 'In Focus' section of the magazine. They develop the content of each issue and analyze its pertinence. Each publication is examined thoroughly to certify that it reflects its specific mission.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH PROMOTION TEAMS

The role of the promoters is to introduce the magazines *Le Précurseur/MIC Mission News* as a means of communication with the mission world. The team members also bring about the missionary dynamism and charism of the MIC Institute. The promoters contact the parish priests, and pastoral agents; they coordinate the schedules to assure their presence in the assigned parishes. They strive in finding new subscribers and collaborators. Regularly, they submit a written report of their activities to the directress.

SERVICE TO THE SUBSCRIBERS

The person responsible for this service registers the subscribers and updates the lists. She prepares daily reports, tax receipts and responds to the needs of the

personnel and the subscribers. She coordinates the mailing, sends lists to the printing press. The person in charge also sends the renewal notices, supervises various projects and the work of the personnel. She assumes the general administration of the circulating department and is responsible of the Post-Canada file.

ACCOUNTANT

The Accountant prepares the budget, the monthly financial and statistical reports; reconciles and balances accounts; keeps records of financial transactions, assists with audits and prepares audit paper work.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Editor-in-chief ensures the quality of content and photography. She presides over the editorial team and selects the appropriate themes for each publication. She participates in writing reports, inviting people for interviews, and sees that the articles are well illustrated (photos, paintings, water color designs). There is a close collaboration between her and the graphic designer—together they determine the most adequate colors and pictures. Occasionally, for certain topics, she selects free-lance writers and collaborators. The Editor-in-chief is vigilant and respects the production deadlines. She also assumes public and cultural relations.



ACCOUNTING / MAIL CORRESPONDENCE



DISPATCHING / CIRCULATION



PROMOTION — FRENCH PUBLICATION



PROMOTION — ENGLISH PUBLICATION

TRANSLATOR FOR THE ENGLISH VERSION —MIC MISSION NEWS

This person is responsible for translating the French version *Le Précurseur* into the English version *MIC Mission News*. Capturing the core message of each article, she translates the content so that it may be understood by the Anglophone population whose culture and expressions differ from those of Francophones. It is more than a word for word translation but rather a comprehensive presentation of the subject.

PROOF-READERS

They read each typescript carefully to detect any grammatical, typographical or compositional errors. They indicate and correct errors in type arrangement, grammar, punctuation or spelling. The corrected copies are then re-read in order to ensure that all corrections have been made.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Assistant prepares agendas and makes arrangements for committee, board and other meetings; she edits reports for Board Members and writes the quarterly and annual reports for the Corporation. She contacts sponsors, coordinates and follows-up with them; seeks out and considers estimates from various contributors. The Assistant also researches information and documents pertaining to government assisted programs

and analyzes the content. She prepares what is necessary for special events; performs general clerical duties: documents, correspondence, E-mails, and presentations. She provides technical and administrative support.

MAIL SERVICE

The person in charge of receiving all the mail addressed to the Missionary Press: *Le Précurseur*/*MIC Mission News* distributes the envelopes to the respective departments.

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

The work of the Computer Technician involves installing, updating and troubleshooting applications. He can diagnose problems, repair, replace parts and test the programs. This person is also familiar with the network operating system; provides individual training and support upon request. He makes recommendations about the purchase of technology resources.

As you can see, the team of the MIC Missionary Press is not idle. Work urges us forward and we need to respond efficiently and professionally. Every day, good humor and enthusiasm fill the atmosphere. Together, we take up the challenges inherent to the task...why? We deeply believe in the mission that is ours through the written media and in the relevance of our magazines for our post-modern times. ∞

YOUTH AND THEIR LONGING

Everywhere the MIC Sisters are sent they organize and animate youth movements. In the Diocese of Pucallpa, Peru, Sr. Ederlina Torres, M.I.C. focuses on World Mission Sunday to gather hundreds of young people for a very specific purpose—that of leading them to discover their longing, their thirst for life.

Ederlina Torres, M.I.C.

THE GREAT WALK

Every year, in the Diocese of Pucallpa, we organize a missionary walk. The aim is to awaken the young people to the needs of others. Many parishes take part and a bond of solidarity is created; the youngsters become aware of the universal dimension of the Church—they are not alone. The rallying theme: *We are missionaries, right where we are!* Bonds of friendship are created among the participants and they discover they are no longer alone to tackle their difficulties.

The youngsters share who they are and what they have with other children from their country and from elsewhere. They speak about their knowledge of Christ and their conversations lead them to a better understanding of a reality—that of universality. Coming from all the surrounding parishes, there are more than three thousand young people who participate in this annual Great Walk. The seed is being sown in the soil; the Master of the harvest will make it grow in those hearts full of enthusiasm as they tackle the endless challenges of life.

For more than thirty years, it has been an important tradition for us, the MIC Sisters in Pucallpa, to educate the chil-

dren in their responsibilities as Christians, to teach them to be actively involved in the universal mission of the Church. To be alive, a Christian community must endorse the missionary dimension of its faith.

A REVITALIZING SPIRIT

To instill the missionary dynamism, members of the team working for the Pontifical Missionary Works (PMW) visit all the schools annually and present to the students an overall picture of the mission world. Thanks to God, we are wholeheartedly welcomed. Catechists are very active and their generous cooperation is greatly appreciated. For the first time this year, seven universities have opened their doors to us. As diocesan directress of the PMW, I took up the challenge and personally went to each university; fortunately, I had some dynamic animators with me. It was a pleasure to dialogue with so many young adults. The challenge was worthwhile and rewarding.

In a single university, I visited fifty-two classes located in four different pavilions. Many students expressed the desire to be part of the pastoral team. All the directors expressed openness to the Church's presence among the students. It is here that I became aware of the deep thirst for God that exists in the hearts of the young

The students eagerly asked questions about the missionary call and the religious life.



1



2



3



4



5

population. A ripe apostolic field has been discovered and in the very near future we will respond.

¹⁻⁵ Youth Activities
with Sr. Ederlina
Photos credit: MIC

INTRIGUED BY WHAT THEY SAW AND HEARD

The missionary spirit is taking root and to further its growth a second project was initiated. With the help and cooperation of all the religious communities who work in the diocese, a mission exhibition was planned. The goal: to present each religious community describing its charism, its world-wide apostolic commitments. Seventy high schools were invited and responded. What an extraordinary experience! The theme of the exhibition was: *With faith, live the Mission today!* The students eagerly asked questions about the missionary call and the religious life. They listened intently and they heard of God's universal loving care. They understood that Jesus' Mission concerns all believers and that everyone is called to witness the Good News and respond to Jesus' invitation.

Coming from different parts of the world: Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Haiti, Brazil, Italy, Puerto-Rico, Peru, Spain, Panama, the missionaries attracted the youngsters' attention; this representation was an eye opener. The Diocese of Pucallpa opens its doors to all the missionaries and welcomes each one with its giftedness.

Thanks to everyone's participation including the lay missionaries, the exhibition became a ground of discovery where young people found answers to their quest. It ended in beauty with the celebration of World Mission Sunday. *Happy are the steps of those who sow the Word of God in the heart of all peoples.* ☺

She was innovative, avant-garde and believed in the use of the media. Délia had a special interest in the written press; in 1920 she launched the mission magazine *Le Précurseur*. Three years later the English version *The Precursor* was produced—today known as the *MIC Mission News*. Without hesitation, Délia encouraged her close collaborators to use the mass media of the time to spread the Good News.

She understood the role of the media as a channel for Evangelization and mission awareness. Through her involvement and concern for social communications, she has left us a family heritage. From the 'magic lantern' to the digital camera, hundreds of MIC Sisters of all ages and of several nationalities have used these precious tools in their apostolic activities.

Our predecessors blazed the trail and we are happy to pursue it. Today, the video and the internet have also taken their place among the channels through which Christ's message of love and the signs of the Kingdom are transmitted.

ALBUM: SOUVENIR OF THE
CENTENNIAL, 14-15



Across Time and History

Researcher: Marie-Paule Sanfaçon, M.I.C.



1920

*The unforgettable year when Délia Tétreault inaugurated the French magazine *Le Précurseur*. Her goal was to inform the public of the Sisters' works in the missions and to promote interest in mission oriented activities. The MIC Sisters had been in China since 1909 and their heartfelt stories depicted the language of that era.*

CHINA, CANTON

—THE ZEAL OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS

On a torrid summer day, Sr. Marie-Louise Chevette, a Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception, arrived at the foundling home of Saï Koan. Streaming with sweat, the guardian asked her why she had walked such a long distance. Her reply: it was the only way she could travel through the city because the Sisters were too poor to take other means of transportation; she added that she was willing to accept the heat and fatigue for those little ones whose souls were waiting for their baptism that would guarantee them eternal happiness. A woman stood out, approached Sister and said: *Please, follow me!* The lady led her through dark alleys and finally to a dark room where a dying baby was lying on an infected pallet. *This is my child, said the pagan woman, he has been ill for a long time and now he does not smile and refuses to eat. Please pour your holy water on his forehead that he may find happiness; if you have come such a long distance on foot in the heat of the day, there is something about what you do that is superhuman.* After the child was baptized a radiant smile appeared on the infant's lips and the mother rejoicing knew very well that the special water did give happiness, and she thanked the Sister.

LE PRÉCURSEUR, VOL. I, MAY 1920 : 11-12





The MIC Sisters arrived in Japan in 1926. They had to adapt to new customs and in winter the houses were not heated.

JAPAN, NAZE, NOVEMBER 10, 1930

—LETTER FROM SR. MADELINE MAILLET

Ours is a real Japanese dwelling with its straw mats and paper doors. It contains 81 mats, each measuring 3x6 feet. It is perhaps no larger than your work-room, but the Japanese regard it as a good size house. In winter, as there is no heating system here, the houses are very cold. It

begins to freeze in the month of November and a thaw does not come until the middle of April. Last winter our dear Sister Superior suffered much from chilblain and spent many sleepless nights. In September we began to give “koshukwai” that is language courses which last about three weeks to a month as announced by the papers. A course in French began on September 15th and lasted until October 4th. We are currently teaching knitting. We hope that the young girls who follow these courses will soon form a circle, the aim would be to help the poor.

THE PRECURSOR, VOL. 5, MARCH-APRIL 1931: 105

1940

The Second World War had deep implications for the international community. Millions of lives were lost during the war. The missionaries throughout the world also suffered from the brutality.

CHINA, SHEK LUNG LEPROSARIUM

—THE SCOURGE OF THE WAR, BY ALFRED FABRE, M.E.P. OF PARIS

Bombs were dropped on November 21, 1938; dead and wounded abounded. The Sisters of Shek Lung devoted themselves unreservedly to the rescue work. The defenders of the refuge, chosen from among the lepers, could not withstand the assault of the machine-guns; and the pillage continued for several days, several hours daily. The Sisters also had revolvers aimed at their hearts and heads. They were stripped of their veils and guimpes, their beads, crucifixes, medals and rings. Nothing could have grieved them more than to be thus divested of their insignia of spouses of Christ. Their house too was despoiled of all its contents: sewing machines, garments, bed-clothes; their library was emptied into the bandits' baskets. Even their most intimate letters and retreat note-books became the prey of the pillagers.

THE PRECURSOR, VOL. XII, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1940: 686





In 1921, the MIC Sisters arrived in the Philippines. Specialists in the field of education, they recognized in their students attitudes that stemmed from the wartime atmosphere.

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY

In the beginning of June, our pupils returned to us light-hearted and cheerful. We registered three hundred and fifty; this means that three hundred and fifty are prepared to receive the seed of truth. On watching these noisy children at play and elsewhere, we can almost tell what they will be tomorrow. Some have a characterized aptitude for war and handle with dexterity pocket knives or toy guns. Others more peaceful command respect and awe their comrades. The latter are for us precious auxiliaries in the maintenance of discipline.

THE PRECURSOR, VOL. XIII,
MARCH-APRIL 1941: 110



1950

In September 1943, our mission work in Asia was interrupted due to the war. Therefore, upon the request of Msgr. Jean-Louis Collignon, O.M.I., the MIC Sisters took another direction and began working in Haiti.

LES CAYES, HAITI

—CHRISTMAS AT THE REFUGE FOR THE ELDERLY LA CHARITÉ, S'IL VOUS PLAÎT, BY SR. JEANNE GUINOIS

With the generous donation of Bishop Collignon, Sr. Marie Rachel went on a shopping spree a few days before Christmas. Never before, in the history of the Refuge, had there been such an abundance of good things. Each male patient received a sizable chunk of tobacco, a ten-cent pipe, a fat orange and a handful of sweets, the whole tied up in a blue kerchief topped with a red bow. The ladies had their share wrapped up in pretty cellophane envelopes each containing a comb, a wash cloth, a wad of tobacco, fruits and sweets; for the young ones, a toy or a pencil case was given to them besides their share of candies. Mine was the privilege of making the individual gift packages.



THE PRECURSOR, VOL. XVIII, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1951: 7



Each time a new country opened its doors to them, the MIC Sisters had to adapt to new customs to a new way of life and learn the language; thus they gradually discovered the soul of the people.

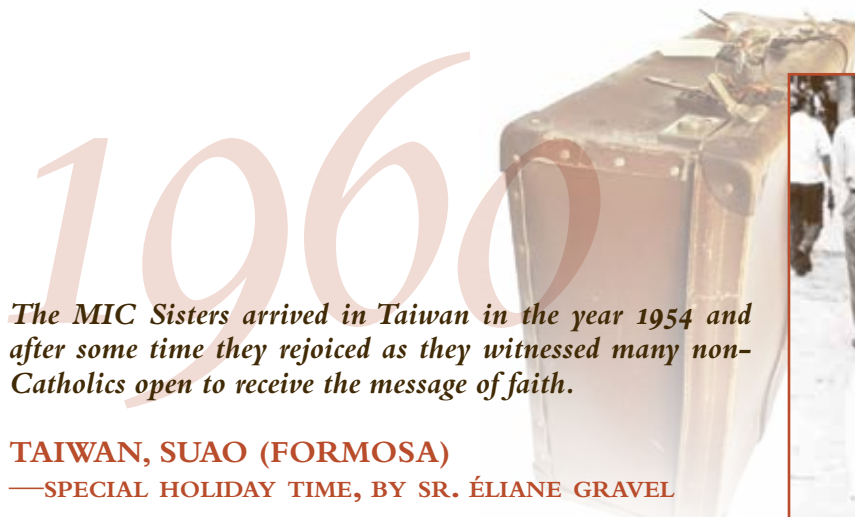
MADAGASCAR

—LETTER FROM MORONDAVA

My first impression upon arriving in Morondava was that I had stumbled into topsy-turvydom. Here, summer corresponds to winter back home, the noonday sun glares down from the north, the quarters of the moon tilt upward. Doors open on the right and close on the left, while hinges and doorknobs are screwed on upside down. Family names are unknown in these parts and many among the Malagasy have no idea of the date on which they were born. (...) The most lovable trait of the Malagasy character is bighearted

generosity. The people may be poor, but you will always find them ready to share with someone poorer than themselves. Is anyone in trouble, all gather around to give practical help or at least to show some sympathetic interest. Yes, theirs is a golden heart.

THE PRECURSOR, VOL. XX, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1955: 369-370



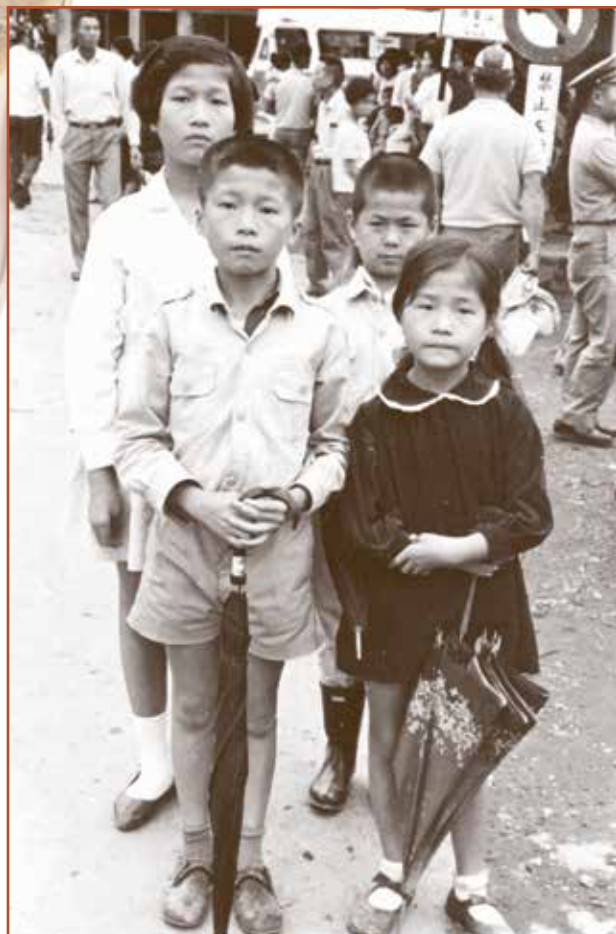
The MIC Sisters arrived in Taiwan in the year 1954 and after some time they rejoiced as they witnessed many non-Catholics open to receive the message of faith.

TAIWAN, SUAO (FORMOSA)

—SPECIAL HOLIDAY TIME, BY SR. ÉLIANE GRAVEL

We, newcomers to Suao, feel stirred to the depths of our soul as we witness the birth of a fervent Christian community among a population that up to seven or eight years back had never even heard of the blessed name of Christ or of His Immaculate Mother. Before the midnight mass, at 10:30 p.m. in the modest mission church, Reverend Joseph Courchesne, S.J., received thirty-five catechumens, nearly all adults, into the bosom of Holy Mother Church. Present were several groups of non-Catholics intent on making the most of this opportunity for instruction in our holy Faith. Throughout the ceremony, a Formosan catechist explained step-by-step the rites of Baptism in the Amoy dialect with which most people in these remote regions are familiar.

THE PRECURSOR, VOL. XXIV, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1960: 12





In Quebec, the Ministry of Education revolutionized the educational system; the parents were dismayed. We must deal with this change...

CANADA, GRANBY
—IMBUING ADOLESCENTS
WITH THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT,
BY SR. ELIETTE GAGNON

Girls of the movies, the television, and the sputnik, fascinated by the kaleidoscopic world all around them, eager for the sensational, the adventurous; superficial perhaps, yet nonetheless sociable, bighearted, alert, such appear the

senior students of our High School. There are those who, persistently clinging to the pedagogical methods of the “good old days”, wag their heads over these same girls and make dire predictions in regard to the calamitous future for which they are supposedly heading. As illogical as it is negative, this policy is unacceptable to conscientious, clear-sighted Catholic educators.

There can be only one solution to the problem; look at it straight into the eye in the light of the Holy Spirit, then effect the necessary readjustments.

THE PRECURSOR, VOL. XXIV, MARCH-APRIL 1960: 52



1970

With the wind in their sails, the MIC Sisters opened more missions abroad. In 1957 they arrived in Bolivia where the ecclesial situation was precarious.

BOLIVIA
—LA CHOLA, BY SR. CÉLINE TRUDEAU

In order to respond to a deep religious need, the Bolivian bishops have launched an appeal to missionaries the world over. In the year 1969, numerous Canadian missionaries have left to lend a hand to those already hard at work in Latin America or to replace those who have become incapacitated. At present 2,103 Canadian missionaries are at the service of the Latin American Church. In Bolivia alone there are 98. This number is imposing but, alas, it is still far below what it should be; it is really imposing if we take into account the decrease in Canadian religious vocations; it remains far below the crying needs of our Latin American brothers. More should be done in line with the directives of the Church, the problem of evangelization, and human fraternity.

The harvest indeed is great...

THE PRECURSOR, VOL. XXIX, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1970: 147





Established on the African continent since 1948, the MIC Sisters brought their collaboration in training and assisting a local religious community in becoming autonomous.

AFRICA, MALAWI

—THE ROSARIAN SISTERS

BECOMING AUTONOMOUS,

BY SR. JEANNE D'ARC CORRIVEAU

In 1969 Msgr. J.L. Jobidon, w.f., Bishop of Mzuzu, Malawi, accepted the proposal of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception; he gave the Rosarian Sisters their autonomy enabling them to integrate the values of their Bantu culture into their religious life. *Charity must*

be each missionary's characteristic, but his/her charity must not be limited to helping the people; he/she must teach them how to help themselves. This is the highest point of charity. The Africanization of the Church in Malawi is progressing. To a certain extent it has reached its full flowering.

THE PRECURSOR, VOL. XXIX, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1970: 157



CUBA, YESTERDAY AND TODAY

—MIC TEAM

From 1958 to 1961, the troubled state of the country brought worry and difficulties. Finally, with the nationalization of all private schools, in May 1961, twenty-seven Sisters were repatriated, only ten remained behind. Left with only one convent in the Diocese of Matanzas, they radiated into neighboring towns and villages. Confronted with a totally different situation within a society rapidly being transformed and a Church looking ahead into a not too bright future, they resolved to keep the fires of faith and hope burning at any cost.



MIC MISSION NEWS, SERIES 5, No. 3, MAY-JUNE 1978



Throughout our history, the MIC Sisters have been able to rely on the collaboration and support of numerous lay people. Drawn by the charism of the Foundress, many wished to become associated with the Institute, others wanted to be involved in the missions abroad, or accepted as promoters of the mission magazine.

LAY MISSIONARIES

THE ROAD TO A LIVING FAITH, BY LISE DESROSIER

Four years ago, the charismatic movement touched my heart. The Lord blessed me with a beautiful gift: He changed my way of seeing and doing things. Gradually there was a desire in my heart to be more committed and I had a craving to experience the mission life. I knocked at the door of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. For months, we dialogued and looked over some possible mission projects. Finally, the puzzle pieces were all in place and I could leave for South America, namely Bolivia.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH EDITION

LE PRÉCURSEUR, VOL. XXXI, MARCH-APRIL 1980: 433

SOME LAITY DISCOVER THE SPIRITUALITY OF MOTHER DÉLIA

After a long preparation, thirteen lay persons made their pledge as Associates of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (ASMIC). These Associates were the first members of an autonomous group having the same spirituality as the MIC family. This Association was a response to the wish of the Church who advised religious communities to initiate the laity into their respective spiritualities.

MIC MISSION NEWS, SERIES 13, NO. 5,
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1986: 7



IMMIGRANTS

MONTREAL, QC – PROMIS

We were three! A Canadian, a Bolivian, and a Haitian—we had one dream; to form a multicultural and multi-denominational group that would help refugees and immigrants to integrate in their new milieu; to help promote justice and human rights in the Notre Dame des Neiges area/Snowdon. Within a community framework, develop the aspect of sharing which would gradually evolve in building a new society.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH EDITION

LE PRÉCURSEUR, VOL. XXXV, JULY-AUGUST 1989: 299

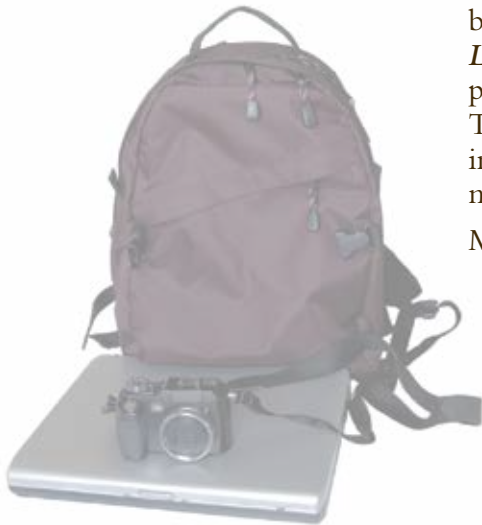


1990

COLLABORATORS PROMOTING OUR MISSION MAGAZINE

For years, the MIC Sisters, missionaries in “white and blue”, travelled through cities and villages, visited parishes, schools, and thousands of families in Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Eastern U.S.A. to offer the magazine *Le Précurseur* and its English version *The Precursor*. Today, hundreds of people collaborate with the MICs and devote themselves to the same work. These men and women, conscious of their own responsibility in the spreading of the Gospel, help to promote the missionary press in their families, neighborhoods and parishes.

MIC MISSION NEWS, VOL. XXII, No. 3, MAY-JUNE 1995: 19



2000

Trips, humanitarian aid, cooperative ventures, encounters with peoples of other countries—it is in these terms that young people speak about the mission.

SOLIDARITÉ-MONDE PROJECT

For the past few years, Sisters of our Community have intensified their presence among the youth, offering them the places and privileged occasions to prepare for a missionary experience. Since six years, we welcomed them in the project: *Solidarité Monde*. What enriching and memorable experiences are lived by these young people who carry deep within themselves a bright flame, desiring to communicate it, to kindle it wherever they go during their missionary adventure.

MIC MISSION NEWS, VOL. XXVII, No. 2, APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2000: 14



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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in trying to
spread happiness
around us.

Délia Tétreault

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THE DÉLIA TÉTREAUULT EMBANKMENT



By Huguette Turcotte, M.I.C.

A new site has been chosen and named in honor of Délia Tétreault, Foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. The inauguration took place on November 30, 2009, in Laval by the riverbank of Rivière-des-Prairies at Place Juge-Desnoyers; the commemorative plaque faces the MIC complex. The chosen date was for us historical—it was on November 30, 1904 that Pope Pius X told Msgr. Paul Bruchési, then Archbishop of Montreal: *Found, found, Monsignor, and all the blessings of heaven will descend on this new foundation; it will be given the name—Society of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.* Since then, this date has been for us a day of thanksgiving.

At 14:30, guests and Sisters were gathered around the commemorative plaque. Sister Marie-Thérèse Beaudette, M.I.C., Provincial Superior, welcomed the dignitaries and the representatives of the civil authorities. She then gave a brief historical account of the 'lieu'. *Built in 1924, the convent was to become the Novitiate of the Institute. It welcomed hundreds of young women until 1970. During their training years for the missions, the postulants and novices admired the beauty of this river. Today's ceremony highlights our gratitude.* The unveiling of the plaque then took place.

Shortly after, we gathered at the convent's chapel. Sister Louise Denis, M.I.C. General Superior, thanked the members

of the Municipal Council and the Mayor of Laval who gave us the Délia Tétreault Embankment, as an homage to our Foundress. This is a place where we will be able to talk about and pass-on an interesting page of our cultural and religious heritage. Sister Denis then spoke about the bond that exists between us and the Society of Foreign Missions who shared their property with us. She thanked all the religious communities who have supported our mission projects; our parents, benefactors, collaborators and employees who have always been there to help us pursue the mission that was entrusted to us by Mother Délia.

In her speech, Mrs. Michèle des Trois Maisons, representative of the City of Laval, reminded us that *Délia Tétreault was a woman who marked the French Canadian history. (...) The inauguration of this new commemorative site is of utmost significance in a society where mobility is constant.* She hopes that the people of Laval will come visit this site which is conducive to reflection as is the one in Outremont which was erected on September 8, 2009 (ref: *MIC Mission News*, Oct.-Dec. 2009, 21).

Father Guy Charbonneau, P.M.E. General Superior, underscored the importance of Délia Tétreault's role in the foundation of the Society of Foreign Missions. *This commemorative plaque represents very well the presence of our two Missionary Societies in the world of Laval, a presence of love that opens to the universal.* ∞

MAHEREZA!

My Sister... Mahereza!

In the Madagascan language, mahereza means “courage”. In Tsaramasay, the social center is called “Mahereza” because in this small area of the capital city Antananarivo, Madagascar, the Missionary Sisters have been the “Sisters of courage”. Without their strength of character, how could this center have operated for so many years...

By Brigitte Bédard

From the moment it opened its doors, almost twenty years ago, the needs are just as pressing now as they were back then. From one week to another, services are given thanks to generous donors and the Divine Providence who always arrive on time. Sr. Yolaine Lavoie, M.I.C. once said: *Mission begins when the heart is wounded*. From one wound to another, this Center was built and enlarged—once an old dilapidated, abandoned house, it now has many rooms and helps more than three hundred persons who come from surrounding areas.

TOUCHED BY THE PRESSING NEEDS

It all began in 1993 when a parish priest, a committee of parishioners and Sr. Therese Leblanc, M.I.C., visited a few families who were suffering from illness and who could not receive treatments for lack of money. From the countryside they had come to the city in the hope of making a fortune; but such was not the case and how could they be left unattended?

With donations and the creation of multiple projects, the construction of a small dispensary was made possible. The doctor knew very well that the source of the problem had to be dealt with: Malnutrition.

Most of the children did not eat a meal a day. The Sisters and the doctor decided to open a Center for Nutritional Recovery, in association with the Distress Call of Nantes. Since then, every child receives one meal a day. This allows the doctor to follow the children's weight and to give the mothers some advice regarding education and hygiene.

AN ADDED WOUND

One morning, Sr. Yolaine who had been observing the great number of children hanging around in the streets, searching through the rubbish or begging, decided to go out and count them. At 98, she stopped counting and asked them why they did not go to



school. The answers were deeply moving. *"We don't have the money to pay the fees. Our parents are separated. We are orphans. My father abandoned my mother so she has to work and I help her. I have to work to help buy food for the family. At four o'clock in the morning, I have to come and sell what my mother has baked. We don't have birth certificates so the schools don't accept us. I am too old..."* Once again, Sr. Yolaine's heart was wounded.

The MIC Sisters decided to solve the problem. In the year 1999, they opened a center where a literacy program was introduced. The aim was to give the children a primary education—the first three years: reading, writing, counting and teaching them some notions in etiquette. This center would take children off the streets while offering them a better future. After the three years they could then be integrated in a regular school and pursue their studies.

To concentrate and work well, food is necessary. In a nearby canteen established for school children, hundreds of students came from the MIC primary school, public schools and the literacy center. Only the poorer ones were admitted. The time these children would spend on the street begging for a meal, it was now being spent in class.

Besides the children, there were also the young girls who were left on their own and could not find jobs. The Sisters felt they had to do something to help them earn an honest living. They organized another Center for the Promotion of Women. It is here that twenty young girls learn sewing and are given instructions in first-aid and pediatrics. At the end of their two years, they receive a diploma which entitles them to find work proper to their qualifications.

LIFE AT THE CENTER... AND ITS DAILY BREAD

With time the Mahereza Center had to open its doors wider to the illiterate children, the sick, the young girls and mothers with their babies suffering from malnutrition, they all needed immediate attention. Lacking in adequate nourishment, the mothers can scarcely provide



for their little ones. Every day, the dispensary and pharmacy are opened to approximately fifty/sixty women with their babies; they are referred by the doctor and receive their nourishment from the *Nutritional Center Distress Call*.

¹The dispensary

²A literacy class

Photos credit: MIC

The mission begins
when the heart is wounded. 

Notwithstanding all these efforts, the Center has difficulty responding to the urgent needs of the children. We try to be self-financing; therefore, we rent a parking lot during night hours, we rent dishes and space for week-ends, we receive subsidies and ask families a certain contribution according to their income. All this to pay for the food, the employees, the electricity, the water, the medication... The pharmacy and first-aid room need to be enlarged, as they no longer respond to the norms. At the nutritional center, a ventilation system needs to be installed because of the smoke and the kitchen needs to be revamped because of its insalubrious condition.

Up till now, we had been receiving financial aid from Distress Call of Nantes, which helped us pay the teachers and books. But we have received news recently that this aid will no longer be coming. What to do when the needs are still increasing and begging to be met—for example, there is an urgent need for a dentist. And the list goes on and on and on... Mahereza! My Sister... Mahereza! 

THE GREATEST SCHOOL

It is 7:40 A.M. Early on this sunny morning, a tiny woman of 83 years leaves home, walks briskly to the bus stop ready to go to her greatest school.



By Évangéline Plamondon, M.I.C.

Who is she? Sr. Lucille Métivier, a Missionary of the Immaculate Conception. Her profile? She has a heart on fire, she is discreet and efficient, she has a warm timid smile, she has her arms always loaded with parcels.

What about her past? During a period of fifty years she taught and directed schools in Quebec and in Haiti; at the language school directed by the MIC Sisters on Parc Avenue in the old capital city of Quebec, she taught French to the immigrants.

What motivates this tiny woman to leave early in the morning no matter the weather? Her answer is simple yet most noble: her love of the poor. With sparkling eyes, Sr. Lucille one day told me that her love for the little ones went way back to her early childhood years. She loved visiting people who were lonely and to hear their stories.

Sr. Lucille was also inspired by our Foundress, Délia Tétrault who, as a young woman, visited the immigrants and the poor residents in the Old Montreal area. In Haiti, she had multiple occasions to work with the little ones of the Kingdom; she always tried to create beauty, to favor the dignity of each human person and to educate people regarding justice.

Teaching French to immigrants was another experience of poverty for our friend; not knowing the new comers' language/s made communication difficult.

One day, the language school had to close; Sr. Lucille still felt called to continue working with the little ones of Quebec City. Where were the poor here at home? What were their needs? Her age was not an obstacle, in her heart she knew that the twenty-first century nun must go out to the streets. She would be a street missionary!

But with whom would she work? She prayed, reflected and with the approval of the authorities she began searching. One day, from the window of a funeral home, she saw *a little man, with a huge backpack, walking briskly down the street... who was he?*

It was Gilles Kègle, the street nurse. Sr. Lucille does not know him but in Quebec he is popular; he is famous for his service to the poor, he is a model and example for so many people. Sister is determined to find him; she searched here and there to finally arrive at the Center where he works. Unfortunately, he is not there...and she is told: *For now, we have enough people!* These words do not discourage her; she wishes to meet Gilles and she knows that having seen him is a call from the Lord.

A week later... she finally has an interview with the street nurse. He immediately invited Sister to go with him visit a sick person. She is only the second person to whom he has asked such a service. She is delighted and accepts. Her dream finally comes true and for the past ten years it is with all her heart that she lives this human and spiritual adventure.

She has become a street missionary! Who would have thought she would end her years as such, in her own Diocese of Quebec. She has no time to lose! Three days a week she goes from street to street responding to the needs of the economically weak and disadvantaged, the remaining two days, she is at the Lower City's "Service d'Entraide" where she sews for those in need, the poor.

When she is asked what exactly is her work, she smiles and replies: *It consists in many things. Visiting the lonely is very important. So many folks are alone and suffer from solitude. There are the sick, those who suffer physically but also mentally; they live in utter destitution. Our presence brings them comfort and joy. We help them in their house-cleaning and laundry. We accompany them when they must go out for various reasons. We visit them in the hospitals. We help them to die with dignity.*

Sr. Lucille considers Gilles Kègle as an extraordinary person. Hundreds of persons work with him; in a day as many as twelve volunteers can crisscross each other as they perform various duties. She appreciates Gilles approach; he himself introduces each new volunteer who will visit a beneficiary. Certain realities are respected: *We never question the faith of the individuals;*



we never speak directly about God unless they themselves begin the conversation. All the services are free; the good actions speak for themselves and reveal the love of the Lord for each person.

High school students also participate in this charitable movement: they prepare the meals at the center or at their respective schools; then they go distribute the food to those who are in need, and if that is not possible they leave the meals at the center. For these students, this is part of their social training. Sr. Lucille not only marvels to see these young people dedicated to such service but she also gives thanks.

With conviction, our street missionary affirms that she is at the greatest school... that of the poor! She who has been a teacher almost all her life, how can she say that she is at the greatest school?

Her reply: *The truly poor do not criticize. They suffer from their lot but they keep hoping. With the poor we learn to be serene, we learn about the true value of personhood, the value of the Kingdom. I have discovered the true face of the Lord God in the poor... he looks, he invites, he waits, he is grateful.*

I always say thank you. I give thanks for my work, I give thanks for the people I meet and for the good words they tell me. When I will be unable to work, I will then live with these good memories, with this beautiful experience. I hope there will always be someone to take over this commitment for the less fortunate ones.

When I arrive at the door of the poor, my joy begins...and that joy never ends. ☺

We never question the faith of the individuals; we never speak directly about God unless they themselves begin the conversation.

¹ & ³ Sr. Lucille visiting the sick

² Gilles Kègle and Sr. Lucille

Photos credit:

É. Plamondon, M.I.C.

Letters from here and abroad

Alep, Syria

The Holiday Atmosphere in Syria



Almost a year has elapsed since Sr. Françoise Jean, M.I.C. has been in Syria. Upon the request of the local Catholic Bishop, she teaches French in Aleppo, a city in northern Syria.

Christians in Aleppo celebrate Christmas Day together with the Moslems who respect that day. On December twenty-sixth, classes and work resume up till December thirtieth. However, my students are in their respective fields for their practicum and those who are in nursing will return only on January twelfth. On New Year's Day all the stores are open in the afternoon.

The Melkite Greek-Catholic Church which is a branch of the ancient Church of Antioch with roots in both the Greek and Syriac traditions has its own particularities. Here, we do not speak of the Advent season but there is fasting and prayers throughout December twenty-third and twenty-fourth. The liturgies are rich in meaning and symbols. We pray and sing in the Arabic language; once in a while, there is a Mass in French.

On January first, the Catholic Bishops of the various rites: Chaldean, Melkite, Maronite, Latin, Armenian and Syriac come together to celebrate a Mass for peace. Every Saturday morning, these Bishops gather to discuss their hopes and worries. Being in a Moslem country, this coming together is their strength.

Apart from the religious ceremonies, the midnight fireworks highlight the New Year. Concerts are also popular during the holiday season; I had the opportunity of attending two of them. One was performed by the students of Amal School which is the mission school—primary and high-school levels; it is run by the Sisters of Jesus-Marie of Sillery, Quebec. The other concert was performed by four hundred choristers, internationally known for its beautiful music and songs; I was delighted to hear them.

When time permits, I listen to Christmas music which I had brought from Canada; I take pleasure in hearing Canadian voices and songs as I look over the slide shows which I have received from friends and family. At this time of the year the temperature during the day is about 18 degree Celsius; at night time it goes down between 8 to 10 degrees.

*Easter will mark my first year here at Aleppo. Monsignor told me last week: **"I am happy with you and your work here."** It's encouraging, isn't it? When I received my appointment to come to Syria, my **"yes"** was sincere and every day I renew my **"yes"**. The joys and inconveniences are all included in this **'fiat'**. I try to witness the Good News in my being active and happy. It is not through the use of language that I can best communicate with the people—I must say that I feel my limitations language-wise and my memory is not always as docile as I would want it to be...*

Affectionately,

Françoise Jean, M.I.C.
Alep, Syria – January 3, 2010



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!*



With her competence in accounting and her experience in the accounting department of our Mati School, south of the Philippines, Sister Violeta comes to Canada to give a helping hand at the general administration of our Institute.

Sister Violeta B. Tutanés, M.I.C. (center)
Davao City, Philippines



After a long and fruitful career in teaching and accounting in Morondava, Sister Noella returns to Madagascar where she will work at the secretariat of our Provincial House in Antananarivo.

Sister Noella Bernard, M.I.C.
Sainte-Madeleine, Quebec



Qualified in education and counseling, Sister Pierrette worked in Peru and Bolivia. Since 2004 she has been in Cochabamba; after a short stay in Canada, Sister is returning and will resume her work in counseling.

Sister Pierrette Bernier, M.I.C. (center)
Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec



Sister has had a long and vast experience as a missionary in Madagascar. She has recently been appointed to another country—Cameroon; there, she will collaborate with others in the pastoral works of the Diocese of Bafoussam.

Sister Yolaine Lavoie, M.I.C. (right)
La Baie, Quebec

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for your solidarity!*

Dawn of a New Life

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

Délia Tétreault



Jeanne Roy, M.I.C.
(Sr. Anna-Marie)
1918-2009
Pain Court, Ontario

You are precious and honoured in my sight and I love you (Is.4:4). This sums up the life of Sr. Jeanne. The fifth born in a family of ten and blessed with good Catholic parents, Jeanne soon began to experience God's gentle whispers. Having met the MIC Sisters, she opted to enter our Institute at eighteen. After some years of service at our Mother House, she was sent to Japan where she taught English and then served as a regional superior. Upon her return to Canada she was entrusted various responsibilities, until the day she was taken aback by a fatal medical diagnosis. Sr. Jeanne accepted the Will of God with serenity.



Laurence Tourigny, M.I.C.
(Sr. St-Jean-Népomucène)
1917-2009
Saint-Eulalie, Quebec

There was joy in the household when Laurence was born; she was the thirteenth child out of eighteen. From her early childhood years she dreamt of becoming a missionary. As an MIC she went to Haiti where she taught catechesis and domestic science at our school in Cap-Haitien. In 1979, she received her BA in Theology at the University of Ottawa and returned to Cap-Haitien to train leaders in forming basic Christian communities. Some years later at Les Cayes, she received from Msgr Verrier a Certificate of Merit for the fifty years of dedication to the Church of Haiti. Struck by illness, Sr. Laurence lived her last years intimately with her Lord. Serenely, she left us...



Louise Bussièrès, M.I.C.
(Sr. Marie-du-Rosaire)
1926-2009
Montreal, Quebec

Of fourteen children, Louise was the sixth born. At the age of fifteen she lost her father. Five years later, she entered the MIC novitiate. In 1958, Sr. Louise was appointed to Hong Kong where she worked forty-four years. Besides being an excellent secretary and bursar, she had a friendly rapport with the employees who were under her leadership in the maintenance of Good Hope School. She always welcomed with compassion the students, the poor, the disabled. Because of illness, Sr. Louise came back to Canada but always stayed in contact with her students; in turn they expressed much gratitude toward her. At the end of her days, Sr. Louise abandoned herself to God.



Délia Philippe, M.I.C.
(Sr. St-Philippe-de-Neri)
1906-2009
Saint-Cecile-de-Masham, Quebec

As a young child, Délia lost her parents and was taken care of by an aunt who lived in a rectory. Separated from her brothers she felt lonely but soon learned to be independent; maturity and simplicity were her charm. After her training years in religious life she was sent to Rome. During war time she risked hiding Jews and German fugitives at the convent. In 1952 she was appointed to Cuba and worked there twenty years; she was then transferred to Bolivia. At the age of eighty she came to Pont-Viau where she remained until the Master called her to her eternal rest.

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I Will Never Forget You

*Words, letters, images
Between lines and pages
So many hearts, so many faces
Along the roads, along the ages.*

*The years have come and gone
And I continue writing on
To keep one and all informed
That they may sing along
His Praise, His Love, His Song.*

*Whether here or there
No matter the where
I'll always remember
I've loved you for so long
I've cared for you all along.*

M.I.C.

