

MIC

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MISSION NEWS



To sow seeds of joy and hope

Since 1923

CANADA

TO SEE THE INVISIBLE

ZAMBIA

DO YOU KNOW
KANYANGA?

IN FOCUS

*IN CRISIS WITH
OUR SOURCES*



PUBLICATION OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

MISSIONARY PRAYER INTENTIONS

JANUARY

WE PRAY FOR UNITY AMONG CHRISTIANS

— *That Christians may attain full unity, witnessing to all the universal fatherhood of God.*

FEBRUARY

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM DISEASE

— *May Christian communities witness to the presence of Christ in serving those who suffer from illnesses in those mission territories where the fight against deadly diseases is most urgent.*

MARCH

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE

PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF THE GOSPEL

— *May the Holy Spirit give light and strength to those in many regions of the world who are persecuted and discriminated against because of the Gospel.*

MASSES FOR READERS' INTENTIONS OFFERED IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

January: *Canada*

February: *Cuba*

March: *Philippines*

April: *Haiti*

May: *Canada*

June: *Bolivia*

July: *Malawi and Zambia*

August: *Hong Kong and Taiwan*

September: *Madagascar*

October: *Peru*

November: *Japan*

December: *Canada*



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Thirsting for More!

Some time ago, I went to a shopping mall with a friend and her four year old son. At the entrance of a store they were selling huge multicolor balloons. *Mama, I want a balloon!* My friend acquiesced and bought him one. Shortly after returning home, he went outside to show his friend his new possession. A few minutes later, he came back in...very disappointed. His little neighborhood friend had two balloons. Oh, what a drama!

How many times this happens in our life? Seeing what the other has creates a desire for more of 'whatever'. This thirst for more inhibits our happiness. Why long for a liter of water when a glass would be sufficient to quench our thirst? In the long run such unquenchable cravings become a contributing factor to a world-wide disequilibrium. Are we in crisis with our universe? Every day, the mass media present us with facts about our environment that are disturbing.

However, we have become more aware of the situation and steps are being taken to safeguard our natural resources. The United Nations Environment Program declared: Earth Day, World Water Day, Zero Emissions Day and in 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity; this year, 2011, has been declared the International Year of the Forest. Environmental ethics proposes guidelines that create a thirst for taking actions that will preserve our planet's ecosystem. This is a sacred cause!

At the MIC General Chapter, the participants broached this subject: *Citizens of the world and more so as religious, the situation of our world calls for our participation. We feel invited to accomplish concrete tasks which will change our models of consumption, question our ways of thinking and of acting...*¹

Thirsting for more? Yes, thirsty for making responsible decisions and taking actions to preserve Creation, a masterpiece of love and beauty. We must dare to follow the guidelines, to go to the Source that dwells within us, to be in relationship with the Creator who wants the greatest good for humanity. Are we in crisis with the sources that were given to us as gifts? Perhaps! It is up to each one of us to delve into the matter and rediscover the blessings.

Maria-Paula Sanjacon, m.i.c.

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.

Louise Paillé, Saint Hyacinthe, QC

Always very inspiring—the authors of the mission-oriented articles promote the evangelical virtues of faith, hope and charity. Your magazine is a catechesis written in a spirit of brotherhood and universality. It rallies all the nations of the world. Your approach is both dynamic and missionary.

Yolande Trottier, Val des Monts, QC

The mission work you accomplish in so many countries is tremendous. Writing about it motivates the reader to be thankful.

Adelaida A.D. Mercado, Ottawa, ON

I enjoy reading your mission magazine. Sometimes, my heart aches over the situation of the developing countries. However, I am pleased that I can help them through you, however little I do or give. In spite of my difficulties, I am happy as I can overcome them through your prayers and mine. My friends who are subscribers enjoy reading it too.

P.S. Following a remark, please note that the flags which appear in our 2010-2011 calendar represent the countries where the MIC Sisters have missions.

DRAW: SOUVENIR FROM SHANGHAI

The happy winner is: Mrs. Françoise Genest Schmidt, Montreal, Quebec

CONGRATULATIONS!

¹ Report of the General Superior, 2010, 6



André Gadbois

CONDEMNED TO DECAY IN THE SUN

Pollution and large quantities of wastes disposed by giant industries are a menace to the fertility of the earth and to humans. Is there a link between the millions of deformed red peppers abandoned in the fields and the millions of poor people whom we have abandoned?

¹ STAMMER, Larry B., Los Angeles Times – *Harming the Environment is Sinful*

There are three large farms behind our house. For the past fifteen years, the owners have been producing on a large scale: this year, broccoli as far as the eye can see; the previous year, cucumbers and before that, red peppers, sometimes even corn for cows is grown. This is called crop rotation. Such a practice seeks to balance the fertility demands of various crops and avoids depletion of soil nutrients. Then, there is cover cropping—crops imprisoned in their furrows grow through holes in thin plastic sheeting where they are methodically, meticulously sprayed with commercial fertilizers. The young plants can begin growing without the weeds suffocating them. This method is innovative, productive and profitable. What progress for the industry! At harvest time, from 6:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., fifty Mexican migrant workers pick the aesthetically perfect red peppers. Those that are deformed, blemished, those that are not beautiful, the ugly ones that are not classified in the perfect category by the industry are left to the ground. *Millions of red peppers “unworthy and ugly” will decay in the sun.* During the fall season, farm machinery will mercilessly eliminate all those unwanted red peppers similar to the way we displaced the poor in large cities before the Olympic games. Then the snow will cover everything up. Away from reality, the white blanket will

make us dream. Christmas will come and we will consume what we have produced.

INSENSITIVE, DEAF AND BLIND

Evidently, these three large pieces of land behind our house are not the only ones to be mistreated and depleted, because to consume peacefully and effortlessly we are ready to do whatever is needed. To live means to consume, no matter the price. In the name of comfort and progress, forests are disappearing, wetlands are vanishing, fish species are being threatened to the brink of extinction. In addition, shale gas has been discovered and as urbanization spreads, miles of asphalt unfold before her majesty the automobile. Heavy air pollution hovers in almost all major cities. Because of the giant industries that promise happiness, safe drinking water is becoming scarce, noise pollution is increasing, the sun rays are becoming more dangerous. The tons of garbage that are discarded from our homes and communities have become a problem—waste disposal is now more costly, more challenging. And who pays the price? The poorer class of people, the voiceless, the less educated, and their numbers are increasing. These are the ones who lose their land, their jobs, their health, their dignity. The more we are insensitive, deaf and blind to these issues, the more we resemble the priest and Levite we read

It is time for us to come out of our “comfort zone of indifference”; to become aware and change our lukewarm, indifferent hearts. ~

about in the parable (Lk 10: 25.37). We leave behind us, in the ditch, the children who are victims of abuse, the women who suffer from multiple difficulties, the elderly who are neglected, lonely and lined-up in rest homes, the overcrowded hospital emergency rooms, the hungry populations, the homeless. *Very much like the red peppers, “unworthy and ugly” they are abandoned to their lot.*

Author, Marie-Andrée Chouinard recently wrote in a French newspaper, *Le Devoir*, that it is time for us to come out of our “comfort zone of indifference”; to become aware and change our lukewarm, indifferent hearts. When John saw Jesus coming to him, he said: *Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world* (Jn 1:29). How did the Lamb of God take away the sin of the world? Is it not by reaching out to “the ugly ones”, restoring them to health, liberating them from their burdens, re-connecting them to faith in Life, to the Source of Living Waters dwelling within them. He touched “the ugly ones”, giving them back their freedom and dignity. What is the Kingdom of God as revealed by Jesus? Is it not to create communion, to be close to each other, to help each other? Being indifferent to others, omitting their cries of desperation, is this not the opposite of Jesus’ Message?

INTO A DEEP CRISIS

Environmental degradation is a result of our socio-economical, technological, and institutional activities; we are trashing our planet and using up the social tissue of humanity. At a symposium on religion,

science and environment, the Orthodox Christian Leader, Bartholomew I, clearly stated: *For humans to cause species to become extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God’s creation, for humans to degrade the integrity of the Earth by causing changes in its climate, stripping the Earth of its natural forests, or destroying its wetlands... for humans to contaminate the Earth’s waters, its land, its air, and its life with poisonous substances... these are sinful activities.*”

In December 1989, the late Pope John Paul II, argued that answers to environmental destruction cannot rely solely on better management or a more rational use of the Earth’s resources. The environmental crisis, he said, is a symptom of a deeper moral crisis. In a paper entitled: “The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility” the pontiff wrote: *The dramatic threat of ecological breakdown is teaching us the extent to which greed and selfishness, both individual and collective, are contrary to the order of creation, an order which is characterized by mutual interdependence.*

Expressed in other words, the “green patriarch” Bartholomew I stated that excessive consumption may be understood from a world view of estrangement from self, from land, from life and from God... Excessive consumption leaves us emptied, out of touch with our deepest self.¹ Christians are invited to be attentive and to take action—to be the good Samaritan like in the Gospel. I have hope and believe that the Spirit of the Risen Christ will inspire a new generation to take the lead in renewing mother earth, putting humankind in its proper place. ~



RECIPROCITY AT ITS BEST

Our understanding of Mission always needs to be updated. By her very nature, the Church is missionary and this concerns every believer. Jesus' mission continues in the hearts of people, both lay and religious, who receive a particular calling and are sent in the world to serve the universal Church.

In Collaboration

Being a religious Institute whose specificity is missionary, we learn to share this aspect of our charism with lay people who also have a calling to reach-out. Today, alongside the Catholic faith there are, more than ever, the world-wide religions. In a humanity saturated with materialism there is a deep quest for spirituality; there is an inner thirst for the refreshing waters of the faith. Well prepared faith-filled laity can also live the Mission abroad; they too can be sent in the name of Jesus Christ. Lay missionaries have a special vocation and we, as religious missionaries, are challenged to initiate new ways of living the

Mission. By walking the path of faith and making discoveries together, wonder and gratitude conquer our hesitations.

THIERRY¹ TELLS US HIS STORY

For a long time, my wife Christine and I had the desire to live a mission project together as a family. After three years of preparation and determination the wish became a reality. Indeed, determination was needed because many doors would close to us when we explained that we were a couple with three teenagers.

The MIC Sisters opened their door wide to us. We had an outstanding welcome: at the PIFM² Center in Montreal where we received our train-

ing; at the mission send-off, where we felt we were not alone; in Bolivia at the Cochabamba airport where someone was there to receive us and then finally at the Institute of Rural Education (IER) where the MIC Sisters and the local people had prepared a small cozy house for us which allowed for family privacy.

However, we were on the MIC Sisters' grounds; we shared our meals with them and truly lived as members of an extended family. We always felt total trust, mutual respect and a complementary dimension between lay and religious missionaries.

We came to Bolivia with our expertise: Christine as a social worker and I as a computer technician. Among the many projects we had, the main one was to set up a room for computers and teach basic computer skills. Though the subsidy we were supposed to receive never materialized, we nevertheless were able to furnish tables and install ten computers for a group of twenty students. All were able to use the internet safely, thanks to a central communications server.

For every financial, administrative or technical difficulty a solution was found. Since February, the technician computer training program functions very well; twenty-one students from all parts of Bolivia take part in this program. Their skills and competencies in knowledge management now need to be further developed so that they can return to their rural milieu with a solid background.

A NEW OUTLOOK

Immersed in another culture has been beneficial in many ways. We hope that our children realize how blessed they are to receive an education and to have been in a context where things are not taken for granted by everyone. Working with religious women has been eye opening for us; it gave us the opportunity to demystify the prejudices and stereotypes that we could have about austere communities that live in their own little world. The MIC Sisters have given us an all together different picture of who they are: openness, humor, celebration, tolerance, gratefulness, love of the poor and reject; these are characteristics that define them well. They have inspired us by their spirit of thanksgiving, of sharing and trust in Divine Providence.

A CONSTRUCTIVE RECIPROCITY

The presence of a family in the midst of a community has shown the young women/students that a person is not obliged to choose between a religious commitment or a family commitment. They have been able to observe that both can be lived according to one's aspirations and that a lay person can practice his/her religious beliefs beyond one hour a week at Church. Some of the students have had very negative impressions of man-woman relationships. We hope to have given them another model of the "couple"—the male spouse does not need to be machismo for the relationship to work well.

We must say that the young women who come to IER have given us great lessons of courage, resourcefulness, generosity and concern for the other. They have touched our hearts.

They have been able to observe
that both ways can be lived according
to one's aspirations. 

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Our small family stayed eight months in Bolivia; then, as planned earlier, Christine came back to Canada with the children for the beginning of their school year. I completed the twelve months with my extended family. One year goes by very quickly. I would have loved to stay longer; however, between not enough and not at all, I am content and happy that we have chosen to accomplish such a beautiful mission project at this time instead of postponing it until later.

I am most grateful to the Sisters who allowed us to live this magnificent adventure: it has instilled in our hearts a special affection for the MICs; it has given us the drive to pursue the Mission and help others who wish to get involved.

The Mission has long been understood as the explicit proclaiming of the Good News and establishing the Church where sent. Like Jesus who, in His time, proclaimed the Kingdom of God everywhere He went, today's missionaries are invited to enter into a conversation which leads to greater knowledge of the ways in which a people express their faith in God. It is in the midst of differences that the missionaries commit themselves and manifest the goodness of God. 

PHOTOS

¹ The Husson family with friends and Sr. Murielle Dubé (2nd r., 2nd l.)
Photo Credit: T. Husson

NOTES

¹ Christine and Thierry Husson, lay missionaries in Bolivia 2009

² Intercommunity Program of Missionary Training



DO YOU KNOW KANYANGA?

You don't know Kanyanga? Then follow the author on a bumpy dirt road, 100 km long, in a rural region of Zambia, Central Africa. At the end of this dusty road, there is a surprising discovery... the Rural Hospital of Kanyanga.

By *Huguette Turcotte, M.I.C.*

I made this discovery in 1983 when I visited Kanyanga, a mission under the direction of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. It was a short stay, but a memorable one; I have kept a lasting souvenir of what I saw. This village is isolated; yet notwithstanding its seclusion, it is a surprise to see the multitude of health care services that are offered to the district's population of approximately 18,000 people.

Last summer, before her departure for Zambia, I met with Sr. Jacqueline Vachet, M.I.C., a nurse and director of the hospital. For the past twenty-five years, she has been serving the population of that area. Therefore, this was the perfect opportunity to update my data on this mission which had impressed me so vividly. And why not share my enthusiasm with the readers of MIC Mission News? Could it be that by telling this story someone may be motivated to collaborate in the maintenance of Kanyanga's Hospital? The

future will tell... It's my hope. *From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.* This adage has proven to be true when I invited Sr. Jacqueline to tell us about the mission work she holds dear to her heart. Let us listen to what she has to say:

Yes, giving to our center the title "hospital" is pompous because it is a hospital without a doctor. It all started in the '50s when the Sisters arrived in Kanyanga; they set up a small dispensary. It expanded to the point of being recognized as a hospital. In Zambia, life expectancy is 45 years for men and 50 for women. At the Health Care Centre, the other name for hospital, treatments are provided by a team of clinical officers, qualified nurses, auxiliaries, technicians, administrators and support personnel. A lay volunteer sees to the maintenance of the buildings. Devoted and competent MIC Sisters namely, Sr. Suzanne Leclair, and Sr. Virginia Guerrero assist me in my tasks.

The monthly grant given by the Zambian Government covers the current expenses including medication. The Government pays the salary of all our qualified staff, including those we have trained ourselves. Our staff is limited to twenty-five. If we go beyond that quota, we must pay the salaries from our own resources. Currently, there are forty-six employees. How do we provide for their salaries? We finance that part of the budget with donations we receive from Canada. Financial aid funds from organizations, groups of people and benefactors help us maintain the health care programs and activities which take place at the Centre. One example: A lady left her legacy to our Mission Procure for the well-being of children; with this inheritance we were able



to buy our ambulance. Malaria hits hard here and children quickly become anemic. Without blood transfusions, they are gone the next day. Luckily, with our Toyota Land Cruiser, we can transport those children as well as the patients who need medical surgeries to the Lundazi Hospital located 36 km away. We now manage to save many children's lives and also reduce the infant mortality rate. To keep the ambulance on the road, the Government contributes a certain sum of money for the gasoline. At the Center we have a mechanic who maintains the vehicles. He sometimes performs miracles with my thirteen year old car, which often chokes and seems ready to expire as I travel miles to reach some remote villages.

A brief survey: In a large rectangular compound of Kanyanga, a cluster of red brick buildings are at the center of the village. The outpatient clinic receives 80-100 patients daily which is opened 7 days a week with limited hours on Saturdays and Sundays. To keep up with the demands, we have a good number of staff members. At the hospital there are 76 beds and the patients are admitted free of charge.

The **Maternity Ward** operates full-time with at least one hundred births a month. To provide the mothers with the best possible assistance, we encourage them to come to the Center for their delivery. Since there is no public transportation in the region, they often take the advantage of a truck passing by to reach the Center, so they arrive days ahead of time. This causes a lodging problem because space is limited; in the near future another house may need to be built.

During the months of weaning, mothers come with their babies to the **Nutrition Cen-**

ter. Here, they learn how to prepare nutritional meals that will assure the proper growth of the infants. On a regular basis, we go to villages to vaccinate the population. In the past, sick people would go to sorcerers; the latter prepared natural medicine which would be beneficial. We have kept a good relationship with them particularly in regards to the AIDS programs.

These past years, we have greatly invested in the **Prevention Program**; we travel from one village to another to help the AIDS victims who are often rejected by their families and isolated because they are considered contagious. Though this illness is now better understood, we must look over their medication and observe the changes that occur at different stages of the illness. After they have begun taking medication they are no longer contagious. Today, they can marry and have children, as long as they follow a protocol. At the Center we also have departments for those who suffer from tuberculosis and malaria.

ENDING OUR CONVERSATION

Sr. Jacqueline has to end speaking about her favorite mission. Tomorrow, she is once again departing for Africa. I ask her: *What is awaiting you upon your arrival in Kanyanga?* Her reply: *The construction of an annex to the women's quarters. I have so many projects in mind. And who knows, I might find my old car dead and buried... What to do? A fervent novena to Mother Délia or perhaps to Brother André ? We'll see!* With assurance and a smile she walks away, radiating joy. Providence always comes to the rescue via friends of the missionaries, and so as she says: *We'll see!* ☞

¹ The laboratory

² The maternity

³ Sr. Jacqueline Vachet inspecting the construction of the annex

⁴ The hospital

Photos Credit: J. Vachet, M.I.C.

HEROES Were Very ORDINARY People

Young people of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy (IHMA) in Mati, Davao Oriental, Philippines, have observed the woundedness of Mother Earth and they have not remained insensitive. Aware of their responsibility, they have decided to tackle the problems of ecology by creating hundreds of little projects which, to their great joy, have had a great impact.

By Reyna Libres, Roselle Maduay, High School Students, 3rd year

In this place where negligence was born and responsibility is in the guise of 'all peoples', where murky waters and mountains of garbage are common, a few heroes have risen to save Mother Earth.

We have seen Mother Earth's wounds,
we have heard her cry, and we have
even seen her wrath. ~

Some say to save mother earth is hopeless—it is even too late. But within this hopeless nightmare, a little light flickered through a door left ajar. And that light has become a beacon for IHMAcians to take one step forward to promote ecological consciousness and to fulfill stewardship over Mother Earth. (And whoever said that IHMAcians are good for nothing, slothful and passive people will have to swallow their words...) IHMAcians don't wait for dreams to come true. They act.

We took the challenge. We pledged. We made a change.

We have seen Mother Earth's wounds, we have heard her cry, and we have even seen her wrath. But we were still confused about the true picture of these ecological problems. For a long time

we have been waiting for a change to come—a miracle to happen—that may heal Mother Earth. Years went by, still no miracle, no change. So how are we going to deal with these ecological problems? Will Mother Earth be able to survive for the generations to come?

It took some time for us to realize the problem but it was worth the wait. More and more IHMAcians faced the fact that all of the problems pointed to the one and only root—GREED. Yes, greed has led to deforestation, illegal logging and mining plus all the evil deeds in this town, or should we say, in the world. Greed has metastasized into every fabric of the society. Negligence and irresponsibility spell out the greed. It can be found in you, in me, in every one of us. It is like a parasite that we keep fighting against, though we really have not tried hard enough.

Several organizations here in Mati—IHMA for one—answered the call to everyone's prayers. Hundreds of projects have been planned and put into action. Thousands of people have joined and participated. Thousands have come to understand the true meaning of responsibility. A hundred thousand more have felt the change.

The outreach program of IHMA has provided a venue for us students to

do our share in a concrete way. After the teaching of catechism to the children and participating in the feeding program, the cleanliness drive of the whole area has become a priority. Collecting garbage, shoreline cleaning in some areas, and de-clogging waterways have become common occurrences.

It is now a policy of the Department of Education that candidates for high school leaving must agree to plant at least 5 trees in their respective communities. This is recognized by local authorities as part of their graduation requirement.

The government together with the people has also taken the final and decisive step. Message-bearing posters have been put up to remind the passers-by: *"Make Mati a cleaner and greener place."* Clean-up drives have been organized to encourage citizens.

The provincial government launched a project—"PLANT A MILLION TREES" along the coast-line of the whole province of Davao Oriental. This one-day activity was made possible by all government and private offices as well as public and private schools of Davao Oriental. IHMA was represented by some Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, CAT officers and trainees, faculty and staff and quite a number of alumni. These tree planting activities that have taken place not only bring everyone closer to nature but also nurture hearts and minds as well.

With the increasing ecological issues and problems, the road taken by IHMA students has indeed been a big break. It may have partly solved the current ecological issues of the town, but we're still miles away from the finish line. This will not be the end of our problems, but it is the beginning of change.

Just like in Og Mandino's lines:

Choose to create... rather than destroy

Choose to heal... rather than wound

Choose to act... rather than procrastinate

Choose to love... rather than hate

Choose to live... rather than die ☺



1-2-3-4 IHMA students
in contact with nature
Photos Credit: IHMA





A Memorable Day

¹ Mr. Laurie Dotto, a campus friend, Sr. Teresa Mfune, H.R.S., Sr. Colette Leclerc, M.I.C., Mrs. Romaine Chappell
Photo Credit: Anonymous

By Colette Leclerc, M.I.C.

EXPERIENCING A PROFOUND JOY

The final step of a beautiful, courageous and successful story took place on May 21, 2010, at the Georgian Court University, in New Jersey, U.S.A. After five years of intensive studies, Sr. Teresa Mfune, H.R.S. originally from Malawi, received her Bachelor's Degree in Education with specialty in Biology. Three religious communities namely—the Medical Missionaries of Mary, the Sisters of Mercy, and the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception helped her with grants thus paying the school and boarding expenses.

Outdoors, on a large campus, hundreds of students marched in for the graduation ceremony. The deep joy of these BA graduates and their families was tangible. Sr. Teresa lived this great moment of her life with two MIC Sisters, Sr. Suzanne Labelle and myself, who came from Montreal for the occasion. Also present were Mr. Laurie Dotto, a benefactor who supports the mission in Malawi and his mother Mrs. Romaine Chappell. By her side, we stood on behalf of her family who were unable to come from so far.

RECEIVED A SOLID FORMATION

Sister Teresa is a member of the local and Diocesan Congregation named: *Holy Rosary Sisters (H.R.S.)*. It was founded in Malawi in 1951 by Msgr. Marcel Saint-Denis, M. AFR., then Apostolic Prefect of North-Nyassa. Soon after its foundation, the Bishop and his successor, Msgr. Jean-Louis

One of our priorities as missionaries is to work toward the rise of the local Churches. We have at heart the autonomy of the local religious congregations. The Holy Rosary Sisters in Malawi, Africa are an example. In the early years of their foundation many MIC Sisters were involved and today rejoice over their success.

Jobidon, M. AFR., paid much attention to the religious and academic training of the young Sisters. In the early years, their initial formation was entrusted to the *Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate-Conception*.

In 1969, the Holy Rosary Sisters became autonomous. Gradually, they took over the MICs schools, dispensaries and home economics centers. Their solid formation has prepared them to take on important responsibilities, thus keeping alive the Mission of Christ. They now count seventy-two professed Sisters, seven novices, six postulants. Is it not said: *To educate a woman is to educate a nation?* Malawi has proved it.

AS A GREAT FAMILY

Our two Congregations have remained united as a great family. Our historical links are strong. In the summer of 2008, Sr. Gisèle Leduc, M.I.C., invited Sr. Teresa to come to meet her MIC Sisters in Montreal—this unforgettable reunion brought back many memories. Sr. Teresa could never have imagined that for her graduation people from Canada would have come to be by her side. For her, this was the most precious gift that she will never forget. It was a memorable day.

During her last years of studies, Sr. Teresa lived with the *Sisters of Mercy*. They were witnesses of her joy, dedication, courage, and studiousness. Her well deserved BA Degree will be a door opener for a fruitful mission within her Community as well as within the educational field. *Our sincere Congratulations, dear Sister Teresa!* 🌸

IN CRISIS WITH OUR SOURCES



Painting: *The Children Are Asking*, Artist: Sr. Mary Southard, c.s.j., www.ministryofhearts.org

On this earth there is room for everyone: here the entire human family must find the resources to live with dignity, through the help of nature itself—God’s gift to his children—and through hard work and creativity. At the same time we must recognize our grave duty to hand the earth on to future generations in such a condition that they too can worthily inhabit it and continue to cultivate it. This means that after pondering responsibly the road to be taken, we commit to making joint decisions; decisions that aim at strengthening that *covenant between human beings and the environment*, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and towards whom we are journeying.

Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter “*Caritas in Veritate*” 2009, No. 50



Renaude Grégoire

About the author:

Renaude Grégoire is committed to Social Justice Issues and to an International Solidarity Organization; she is also a facilitator at Radio Ville-Marie.

To find out more:

www.greenchurchproject.org

¹ Vietnam

Photo Credit: R. Grégoire

SOCIAL JUSTICE in the World Market

The world has become an enormous marketplace where profits prevail over equitable sharing. In the Book of Genesis, God established the human being as guardian of creation. To guard creation goes hand in hand with equitable sharing of the fruits of the land and its natural resources. This is an important dimension of our mission as Christians of the 21st century. It is also a necessary response to the environmental crisis and the existing social injustices.

In fact, in September, 2007, at a youth gathering in Loretto, Northern Italy, Pope Benedict XVI told the youngsters that one important area that needs urgent tending is the protection of creation.

Helen goes to the super market every Saturday morning. She needs to buy coffee; what will her choice be? She chooses the brand from Guatemala which comes from the Fairtrade system. In her own way, she poses a missionary gesture: by buying certain products which come from equitable trading, she helps alleviate poverty in countries such as Peru, Kenya, Zambia and other places. She gives the local people a chance to earn their living with dignity while respecting the land and its production. Helen also avoids buying overwrapped goods because the excessive packaging uses up a great amount of energy.

Yves who has three children enjoys buying from the public markets. The produce is fresh and there is a wide variety. He is also motivated for another reason: he chooses fruits and vegetables that have not travelled more than 200 km. between the farm and his house. Did you know

that the foods we consume have travelled in average some 2,500 km? Imagine the air pollution caused by those trucks that transport heads of lettuce from California, bananas from Costa Rica, zucchinis from Mexico.

Did you realize that buying your food either in a super market or at a public market has important consequences for the producers as well as for the land which needs to be respected and protected?

Helen works for an International Solidarity Organization. One of its goals is to educate people like you and me about food sovereignty. Food sovereignty for people in the South is threatened by industrial agriculture and the production of biofuels that monopolizes arable land and thus reduces the cultivation of food. Will the lands in the Cameroon, Malawi, and the Philippines, be able to produce foods for their populations or will they serve to fill our cars and trucks?

Yves travels regularly to the United Nations Headquarters in New York City which is located in the Turtle Bay neighborhood of Manhattan. There he can also buy food produced nearby, some 200 km. from that great city. Yves is a journalist and he follows closely the countries' discussions and forums on climate change affecting our planet.

THE EARTH AND SPIRITUALITY

In His time, Jesus spoke about social justice and the fruits of the earth. He explained that rules and regulations cannot be maintained by God His Father if they do not keep in mind the true needs of people. In Matthew's gospel (12:1.8) we



read that on a Sabbath day, a day of rest with many interdictions, rules and regulations, Jesus and His disciples walked through the grain fields. Hungry, the disciples began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. The Pharisees caught them in the act and said to Jesus: *Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.* Jesus' reply takes into account an incident in King David's life and ends the discussion by saying: *If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent.* In fact, God has given us a bountiful earth, the fruits of which are intended for all God's children; unfortunately they have been reserved for a few. Biblical prophets have denounced these social injustices.

When Jesus discussed with the Pharisees, what spirituality did He illustrate? He continued incarnating the great tradition of the Jubilee—a year which had special impact on the ownership and management of land in the territory of the Kingdoms of Israel and of Judah. The Jubilee was a time to eliminate social crisis and to consider just solutions. Thus, according to biblical tradition it is said: *During the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the poor among your people may get the food from it...* (Exodus 23:10.11). Every three years, the tithe on food products served to feed the Levites (they had no land) as well as the immigrants, the

orphans, and the widows. *May they come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands* (Dt 14:29).

Jesus took the example of King David who ate the consecrated bread when he and his companions were hungry. It is this same King David who is the author of the Book of Psalms which has been read, prayed and sung throughout the generations up to this very day. Many psalms are poems of praise to God the Creator. In Psalm 104:27 we read: *All your creatures look to You to give them their food at the proper time. When You give it to them, they gather it up; when You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good things.*

In the Book of Deuteronomy there is mention of respect: *Do not move your neighbor's property line, established long ago in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess* (Dt 19:14). Such a disposition remains an ethical requirement. In this era of globalization many organizations watch closely those companies and industries that do not respect land rights and ownership of the local populations, particularly those of the natives.

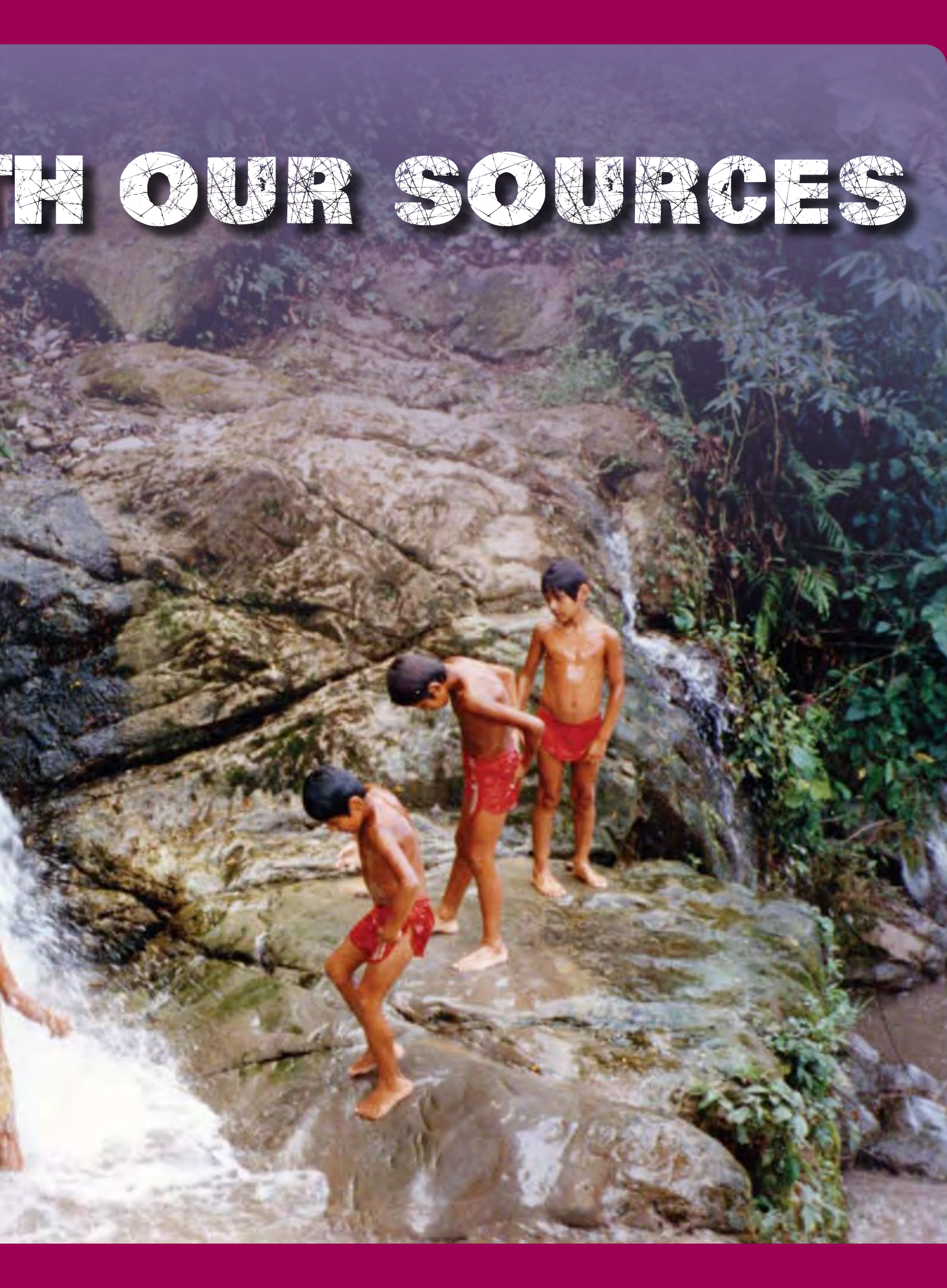
It is up to each and every one of us to take action. Save water, buy local products, support equitable trading, use public transportation, recycle, think re-usable, etc. These are simple gestures...to help our planet and the life of other peoples living in our world. ☺

IN CRISIS WITH

**Drinking water and
sanitary conditions
should be available
to all human beings;
these are essential
in relieving poverty
and enhancing
development.**

**Water concerns each
and everyone!**

TH OUR SOURCES





Marie-Paule
Sanfaçon, M.I.C.

TO SEE THE INVISIBLE

Are we not all fascinated by what we suspect exists but cannot see? Some people who are keenly sensitive to the invisible will express their perception of mystery in poetry, writing, art or spirituality. Are they mystics? We could ask: who can be a mystic?

Recently, I saw the beautiful deeply moving film entitled *Séraphine*. It is the story of an artist who could see beyond the everyday. One day, as she was being photographed, the photographer insisted that she look at him. *No!* She exclaimed. *I must look upward; it's from there that I draw my inspiration!* The source of her creativity came from her inner spiritual life.

So many artists are great mystics without knowing it. As they look at others, events, nature, they see what the majority of people do not see... they have a gaze that penetrates the soul of beings and the nature of things.

SOUL OF THE FOREST

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests. Every wooded area plays an important part in our ecosystem; forests also contain a mystical aspect. Walking through a forest can be an unforgettable experience: the majestic towering tree tops, shafts of silver sunlight streaming down between the gaps, the awe-inspiring silent Presence. Under the tree canopy there is a deep sense of harmony and peace, the enchanting breeze of the forest, the gentle chirping of the birds, the bubbling brooks, call forth our admiration. For those who are attentive to the mystery, the soul of the forest reaches them, permeates them of God's Beauty. It is a profound mystical experience, it is a contact with the Invisible.

In his book, *Follow Jesus Today*, Albert Nolan states: *One of the characteristics of a mystical union with God always implies an experience of unity with all human beings*

and with the whole of the universe. He adds: Mystics are not extraordinary people... they are persons who take God seriously. They don't only believe in the existence of God or of a divinity but affirm having the experience of God's Presence in their life and in the world.

SEEING WITH THE EYES OF THE HEART

The art pieces represented here depict the Lord as The Good Shepherd. The three artists express in their own way how they understood this Gospel Message.



1. This American artist (unable to find the name) illustrates the reunion of the Good Shepherd with His lost sheep (Lk 15). A true love relationship is depicted: the body of the Shepherd is completely transformed into a large red heart and His stretched finger shows the value of an experienced "heart to heart" relationship. Holding it

tight against His Heart, the Shepherd's attitude is both humble and comforting, showing the importance He gives to His sheep; the Shepherd and the sheep are one in a mutual rapport. *I know My sheep and My sheep know Me* (Jn 10.14).



2. Sieger Koder, a German artist represents the same love relationship within a festive mode. *When He finds His sheep, He joyfully puts it on His shoulders and goes home* (Lk 15.5). The face of the Good Shepherd merges with that of the sheep. They are one. Jesus is touched and expresses His deep joy because He has found His sheep. There is jubilation, there is celebration; flowers, smiles, and laughter are all part of the scene. Everyone is moved as they perceive the profound and sincere love that encompasses this sacred moment.



3. The third painting is the work of Katherine F. Brown; it illustrates *He carries His lamb close to His heart* (Isaiah 40:11). Imagine for a moment that you are that lamb. To be so loved by your God! How incredible, yet, it is the reality. His hand bears the stigmata of that love—the Lord gave His life for the one He loves. We don't dare believe, but the artist has seen it with the eyes of her heart; she shares with us her insight and in her own way communicates a page of the Gospel that reminds us how much God loves each one personally.

On their canvas, these three artists reveal how they have seen the Invisible. Only he or she who has experienced the concrete love of God can paint such inspiring masterpieces.

THE WORD TODAY

The image of a lamb does not correspond very well with our urban way of life. However, taking a trip to the countryside, or listening to certain television documentaries, we can still see shepherds tending their flock with care and attention. The most important is the love that exists in the relationship. Do we not see in the current events of our vast world *the many broken spirits?* True love of the other has been delayed for too long; it is not only a question of economy, but also a question of spiritual depth.

Every time a Gospel passage speaks to us about the Shepherd, there is one characteristic that is well defined: tenderness! God who is the Almighty is also the God of Tenderness who takes care of us like a shepherd. In this analogy, Jesus goes even further: God is not only the Shepherd of Israel, but is *my Shepherd; He loves me personally!* Knowing that He loves me and will love me forever, I can live my life joyfully with confidence. ∞

Photos Credit: MIC

General Chapter 2010



MAJOR ORIENTATION

*In creative fidelity to our heritage,
we draw from the wellspring
of the spirituality of thanksgiving,
the dynamism to live in the world today
our missionary religious life,
Marian in character.*

MISSION

—A DRIVING FORCE

NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE MIC GENERAL COUNCIL 2010



Sr. Louise Denis,
General Superior



Sr. Delia Regidor,
General Vicar



Sr. Jeanne Marthe
Razanadrasoa,
Assistant



Sr. Gaétane Perron,
Assistant



Sr. Emmanuela Vincent,
Assistant

A dynamic and creative vision of the future is an essential element needed to keep alive the gifts of our consecrated life, of our intercultural community life and of our mission to evangelize.



*Thank you to our former
General Council:*

Sr. Maria Anthea Raso
Sr. Lucie Gagné
Sr. Louise Denis
Sr. Sara Olga Perez

Participants at the 2010 General Chapter



Symbols from various parts of the world—participants who had brought these cultural objects spoke about the reality of their mission country. They expressed their desire to draw from the deep Source that unites all MIC Sisters throughout the world. Following are brief excerpts from their provincial report.

AFRICA

We look into the future with hope and joy. At this point, the formation of the younger generation of Sisters is urgent and we need to invest considerably both financially and personnel-wise. Our ministries are diversified, responding to the personal talents and charism of the Institute. We hope that the international character of our local fraternities will be maintained.

CANADA

There is a major shift at the level of our mission, personnel, housing and finances. With steadfast hope we must continue building a partnership with the laity in our mission commitments. We must also support the creation of intercultural local communities for the purpose of Evangelization in Quebec.

CUBA

Our times are times of change. Which changes are we willing to undertake? Even if we are a small group, there is still life, dynamism and commitment. We must be creative and find ministries that will give greater visibility to our charism; we are contemplating the possibility of constituting an ASMIC group drawn from the former students of our schools. It is also an absolute necessity that we find ways to journey with the younger generation.

HAITI

The devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010 was a wake-up call. More than ever we are aware that we must unite our efforts to change our ways of seeing and doing things. It is urgent for us to plan for a better future and collaborate with those who want to help us. We must eagerly participate in the missionary activity of the Church for an in-depth evangelization of cultures here and elsewhere.

HONG KONG

The mission work before us is immense. With time, much has changed and we must be flexible, capable of adapting creatively and with joy. We must be realistic and prepare “workers” for the mission. Hand in hand with our collaborators they must also be imbued with our charism and radiate it, in particular to our school ministry.

JAPAN

On the world stage, Japan is acknowledged for its power and prestige. However, the country is confronted with leadership problems as well as recession, unemployment, bankruptcies, corruption, and scandals. Social ills are on the rise. Therefore, our vision for the future is threefold: 1) uphold the Christian values in our Catholic schools; 2) collaborate in future projects such as the current one in Vietnam; and 3) pursue our pastoral ministry with the immigrants. It is to be noted that in Japan the number of Catholics have reached more than one million for the first time in history because of the presence of Catholic migrants.

MADAGASCAR

We are united with the Madagascan people who are experiencing the mystery of suffering, the mystery of evilness, the mystery of death and resurrection. However, the MIC Province is progressing beautifully in maturity. Currently, the Sisters in their formation years outnumber the professed Sisters; they take on many responsibilities and are vibrant apostles within our ministries.

PHILIPPINES

Living in a culture that persists in violence, poverty and moral degradation, we are challenged to be signs of hope. Although our MIC personnel is ageing we are nevertheless involved in many ministries; and though we are concerned about the prospects of the life and mission of our Province, we strive to make visible in our society the values of the Kingdom: peace, justice and love.

SOUTH AMERICA (BOLIVIA – PERU)

Conflicts and violence, lack of impartiality and social justice continue being very present in our countries. Within the Church, there are two tendencies: one is moralistic; the other, fully aware of the reality, seeks evangelical solutions. We, as MICs, strive to revitalize our local fraternities and our ministries; we are attentive to the needs of the time and try to respond adequately so as to be witnesses of the Kingdom according to our spirituality of Thanksgiving.

TAIWAN

Reopening a mission in China and closing the Kindergarten in Guanshi, a fifty-six year old mission, was for us an experience of death and resurrection. We consider our Province to be a bridge between China and the rest of the world. Though we are few MICs in Taiwan, we keep moving forward, committing ourselves to various ministries and looking into the future with hope.

Conclusion

The MIC Provinces are currently experiencing a time of grace—searching for the essential. We are called to the Source of Life in order to maintain our dynamism and creative spirit. The many challenges that confront us, the various needs of the local Churches and the peoples we work with are multiple. Considering the lack of personnel, we have to opt for those missions that are more aligned with our charism. Such a choice is not always easy... 



AN ASSOCIATION THAT SHINES FORTH – ALMOST THIRTY YEARS!

By Paulette Gagné, M.I.C.

¹ MIC Mission News,
July-September 2010, 14

A song from the French Canadian singer, Robert Lebel, reads as follows: *Let us be what we should be and we will see emerging future buds.* Could we not say that the future buds in our Church are the lay associates who have been flocking to religious congregations? These associates link themselves intentionally to the specific spirituality of their particular

religious community. It is a spirituality that has fashioned many saints among the vowed members of the congregation.

The MIC international family has been welcoming in its midst men and women who have expressed a desire to learn and know more about the charism of our Foundress, Délia Tétreault, who was declared Venerable by the late Pope John Paul II in December 1997. Thirty years ago, in Canada, the AsMIC (Associates-Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception) took shape.¹ Since then, the Association has spread in nine other countries, namely: Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Haiti, Japan, Madagascar, Philippines, Taiwan and Malawi. A total of 511 lay persons are committed to live their lives in a spirit of Thanksgiving. Inspired and encouraged by the local MIC Sisters, these men and women from various cultures discover, question, share and are enriched by the Marian, Missionary Spirituality of Thanksgiving which our Foundress left us as a legacy. This spirit is a treasure from which we can draw to proclaim the Good News—the Associates also have a calling to be missionaries. Like Mary of the Visitation, they tell the Good News to their brothers and sisters. Interaction among the AsMIC groups here and abroad has led to enriching experiences. Between Quebec and Madagascar, Quebec and Haiti, kinship is developing. What joy to become acquainted with other members of the Association and to realize that they all have a common point—the spirituality of Thanksgiving unites them. *Emerging future buds!*

Let us be what we should be, let us be a large spiritual family, committed Nuns and Associates here and everywhere in the world. Let us be missionaries who, like their Foundress, are continuously in wonderment: *When I stop to think how much the good Lord has loved me divinely notwithstanding my deep misery, I feel I am the happiest creature in the world!* (Délia Tétreault). ☺



The Green Rule

Faith Traditions
Respect the
Environment



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN

Grant that I may lift up the earth.

Book of the Dead 124:9-10



BAHÁ'Í

Be the embodiments of justice and fairness amid all creation.

Kitáb-i-Aqdas 187



BUDDHISM

Cut down the forest of desire, not the forest of trees.

Dhammapada 283



CHRISTIANITY

Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees.

Revelations 7:3



CLASSIC PHILOSOPHY

We should return the equivalent of what we have received.

Aristotle 8:13



CONFUCIANISM

All things are nourished together without their injuring one another.

Doctrine of the Mean 30:3



HINDUISM

The Earth said, "It behoves you, O hero, to regard me as your daughter."

7 Mahabharata 69:3



ISLAM

The world is green and beautiful and God has appointed you his stewards over it.

Sahih Muslim Hadith 6606



JAINISM

No living thing should be destroyed, treated with violence, abused, tormented or driven away.

1 Acaranga Sutra 4:1



JUDAISM

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to serve it and preserve it.

Genesis 2:15



NATIVE SPIRITUALITY

We are as much alive as we keep the Earth alive.

Chief Dan George



SHINTOISM

Return to its original place that which was given to humans as a gift of nature.

Ancient Japanese Saying



SIKH

Air is the Guru, Water is the Father, and Earth is the Great Mother of all.

Guru Granth Sahib p.146



TAOISM

Do not let man destroy Nature. Do not let cleverness destroy the natural order.

Chuang Tzu 17:7



TENRIKO

The earth and heaven of this world is your real Parent.

Ofudesaki 10:54



UNITARIANISM

Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Sources of Faith



WICCAN

Live an' let live - Fairly take an' fairly give.

Rede of The Wicca 2



ZORASTRIANISM

Undertake to nourish, to rule, and to watch over my world.

Fargard 2:4

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Letters from here and abroad

MORONDAVA, MADAGASCAR

AN EXCEPTIONAL WELCOME!



For more than a year, the Church in Madagascar has been going through a rejuvenating cure. Pope Benedict XVI recently appointed Fr. Marie Fabien Raharilamboniaina as Bishop of Morondava. He was born in 1968. Until his recent nomination, Fr. Marie Fabien was Provincial Superior of the Carmelite Fathers located in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean; his residence was on the Island of *La Réunion*. Like his colleagues who have been newly appointed, he is young. Such a choice is bound to bring about a refreshing breeze to the Catholic Church, particularly at this time when sects are multiplying. Newness will be well received, it will encourage the Christians to move forward.

The Catholics of the Morondava Diocese did their best to welcome their new Bishop. The celebration lasted three days. On Thursday, delegates from the remotest villages began travelling and they multiplied in number as they moved from village to village. Crowds of people were gathered for the welcome; motorcycles, bicycles, cars were decorated for the event and they joined in with music and horn blowing. That day was specifically for the great *veloma* (welcome). On Friday, guests from all the districts and surrounding Islands were officially welcomed. The following day, a delegation went to the airport to welcome the Apostolic Nuncio, Msgr. Eugene Martin Nugent of Dutch origin.

The Episcopal Ordination was scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 16, 2010—an unforgettable day for all the Catholics of the Diocese. During the ceremony, the anointing of the Bishop with the sacred chrism, the blessing of the Episcopal ring, and the pastoral staff, and the presentation of the Gospel book were rites that captured everyone's attention. Then according to a Madagascan tradition, such an important event included the blessing of the elect by his parents. Many welcoming speeches were addressed to the new Bishop; in addition to presenting him the *lambahoar*¹; the *lamba*² was placed over his shoulder.

We had waited a long time for that day and what a splendid ceremony it was. The Apostolic Nuncio presided over the Eucharist and 120 priests were around the altar with him. We had never seen this before in Madagascar. It was very impressive while being very prayerful. At the Offertory, each district was represented; products characterizing the regions were brought to the altar: clusters of bananas, cassava, large fish, baskets of rice, eggs, chickens, turkeys, goats, lamb and *kitoza*³. The wine and hosts were then presented to the celebrant. The liturgy lasted two hours.

A simple family meal followed the Eucharist. The MIC Sisters of Morondova and the postulants participated in organizing the arrival of the new Bishop and lodging the guests in the school classrooms. The feast was a success and we celebrated it with thankful hearts.

Marie-Charline Zafisoa, M.I.C.

¹ Large piece of cloth printed and used on the Island; it conveys wishes of happiness.

² A multicolor shawl worn over the shoulder

³ Smoked meat



YOU ARE *MY WITNESSES*



Nancy Campos, M.I.C. (left)
Ancud, Chile

A woman of wisdom and experience, Sr. Nancy left for Cap-Haitien, Haiti. She will teach Spanish and take part in the training of the postulants.



Patsy Morency, M.I.C.
Edmundston, New-Brunswick

The mission in Peru was waiting for her. Well qualified in social services, Sister Patsy's attentiveness and loving care will bring support at Colegio Maria de la Provincia at Lima, Peru.



Marcelle Paquet, M.I.C. (center)
Saint-Prosper, Quebec

It is not the first time Sr. Marcelle goes to Taiwan, she has been there for almost fifty years. She is returning to be of service as provincial accountant in Taipei .



Maria Goretty Garcia, M.I.C. (front row, 1st right)
Pucallpa, Peru

As a nurse, Sr. Maria Goretty worked diligently in her country; she is now happy to offer her services in a dispensary at Charpentier, in the southern part of Haiti.

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Dawn of a New Life

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



Mary Victoria Chirwa, M.I.C.
1942-2010
Ciyuzga, Lundazi, Zambia

Mary Victoria and her family were members of the Presbyterian Church; however, she went to a Catholic school run by the Missionaries of Africa and she met the MIC Sisters at Kanyanga. Impressed by the generous dedication of the Sisters, she felt called to give her life to God. In 1959 she asked to be baptized and in 1964 she entered our Institute. Sr. Mary Victoria was the first MIC African Sister. She taught and was Headmistress at Marymount Girls' Secondary School in Malawi. She also experienced mission work in the Philippines, Cuba, Peru. Excellent animator and leader, Sister Mary Victoria was elected Provincial Superior and later General Assistant. She passed away in her homeland after a long struggle with health problems.



Denise Bourgeois, M.I.C.
(*Sr. Marguerite-de-l'Immaculée*)
1935-2010
Saint-Ours, Quebec

Sr. Denise was a passionate woman, she loved life and her God. Having twelve siblings she had the opportunity of developing her many talents, particularly in song and music. In her family there were many religious but Denise chose to be a missionary. The Catholic Action motto: *To see, to judge, to act* characterized her well in all her commitments. Educator, animator, unifier, Sr. Denise went to Granby and Rimouski. Her mission field was Madagascar where she worked eighteen years and was Provincial Superior. In 1998 she left for Cuba and served three years there. Upon her return she went to Quebec where she accompanied the Latin American catechists. Sr. Denise loved the Virgin Mary and lived her life in a spirit of thanksgiving.



Marguerite-M. Legendre, M.I.C.
(*Sr. Marguerite-d'Écosse*)
1922-2010
Saint-Sébastien, Quebec

As a student, the Young Christian Students Movement was Marguerite's interest. After she entered the MIC Institute, she visited schools promoting the missions and the Propagation of the Faith. Years later, Sr. Marguerite was given the direction of our Granby High School. She was remarkable for her discipline, welcoming attitude and great concern for the students' scholarly achievements. In Madagascar, she guided the Province with sound judgment, particularly when the Socialist Revolution rose in 1972. Elected on the General Council in 1976, she served as Councilor and General Vicar until 1988. Sister Marguerite was then in Rome and Canada working for the Cause of Délia Tétreault's Beatification. Notwithstanding her ill health she remained a woman of wisdom and hope until the very end.



Claire Fontaine, M.I.C.
(*Sr. Claire-de-l'Eucharistie*)
1913-2010
Quebec City, Quebec

The Girl Guides was a dynamic movement that attracted Claire's exuberant personality. To her delight, she became Captain of the Senior Guides. Claire's desire to become a missionary nun had been in her heart since the age of eight. With determination she entered our Institute and soon took on many responsibilities. In 1947, Sr. Claire was assigned to the Philippines; she devoted her time to the students in Manila, Mati, and Padada. During her thirty-nine years in the Philippines, she assumed various functions—Provincial Assistant, Local Superior, Bursar and in charge of the young Sisters' formation. Though very active Sr. Claire was also a woman of prayer; she shared her faith and spiritual life simply, up to her last days.

Could this be for you?

Every year, there are couples or individuals who dream to go abroad to participate in a Mission Project with the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception



(Intercommunity Missionary Formation Program)

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OF GODS & MEN

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WINTER

A time of stillness

A time of presence

A time of intimate communion

*Lord God, in the quiet darkness
Of our winter nights,
We search for the sacred Light
That shines in our inner
darkness.*

*Help us to discover that deep
In the recesses of our souls,
We hold a precious Treasure
That dwells and shines.*

*May we witness the Light
In all its beauty and splendor,
Let it be our mission
Let it be our joy.*

Amen!