

# echo

FROM AFRICA & OTHER CONTINENTS JAN-FEB 2020



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JAN-FEB 2020 | Vol 109 No. 1

## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

### EVANGELIZATION:

We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

## BLESSED MARY THERESA LEDOCHOWSKA

foundress of the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver and of the mission publication 'Echo'.

**THE ECHO** is a voice, a friend of the missions, which speaks out loudly and unceasingly about the needs of missionaries and asks help for them. The more subscribers there are, the greater hope of generous offerings for the missions.

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### OUR COVER

Sr. Teofila Tudryn CSS, working for many years in Burundi where there is great poverty due to years of war and civil unrest.

**DEAR SISTERS,** I enclose.....for a gift subscription and/or sample copies of Echo to be sent to:

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# My Day, Lord

What does a New Year mean to You, O Lord?  
You are past and future, all is present for You to see.  
You are daylight and dawn as each new day is born  
for my sisters and brothers as also for me.

I would like to bring my day to You, kind Lord,  
with its hours seemingly crammed with so many things to do.  
Isn't there much more embodied in the daily life  
You gave, when so lovingly You created me?

Surely, it is to bless and praise your holy Name,  
to spend time in your real Presence, O Spirit Flame.  
But I seem to hear there is more that You want?  
Please enlighten and set me free to follow your path of gain.

“My people, My beautiful people I have so lovingly made:  
the refugees, the sick, the homeless, the poor, I have redeemed and paid.  
All are knocking at My Heart's door. I need you My other self to be,  
will you let yourself be formed, for Me to set You free?”

Yes, Lord, I long to be just what You have designed for me.  
Please take my hand, my heart and mind, and lead me on.  
Form and mould me as only You can do; allowing You to  
comfort, console, and draw many others to knowledge and love of You.



# Contemplation and mission



The Chapter members took a day off for a pilgrimage to a Marian Shrine, with other members of the Rome Community.

**In September 2019, the 17th General Chapter of the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver was held in the Motherhouse in Rome, guided by the theme: Strong in contemplation, passionate in mission.**

**T**he Chapter was celebrated at a very memorable time for our religious family, taking place on the 125th anniversary of our Congregation. The theme brought us back to the roots of our Trinitarian spirituality, and the ideals which had inspired Blessed Mary Theresa Ledóchowska to found our Congregation, so that amidst the challenges of the present time we can draw strength and motivation for renewed apostolic activity in dynamic and creative fidelity to our

specific charism: *The love of God contemplated and adored, inflames our hearts and commissions us to serve the missionary Church.*

During the course of the Chapter, a new Superior General and her Council were elected for the next six years. Sr. Selin Karikkattil of Indian origin is the new Mother General, and her Councilors are Sr. Lambertine Philipsen of the Netherlands, Sr. Agata Mech and Sr. Assunta Giertych both of Polish origin, and Sr. Jacinta Chan Wong from Samoa Islands. We recommend Mother General and her Council in prayer to Our Lady, Mother of Good Counsel, asking for them the graces needed from God.

## Meeting with Pope Francis

On September 25th the Sisters participating in the Chapter had the



Meeting with Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square.

The new Mother-General and her Council, left to right: Sr. Jacinta, Sr. Lambertine, Mother Selin, Sr. Assunta and Sr. Agatha Mech.

opportunity to meet Pope Francis. During the general audience, the Pope encouraged everyone to witness their faith and be faithful to Christ and his Gospel daily: "The history of the Church from the beginning is linked to evangelisation through the proclamation of the Word, the care of the poor and fidelity to Christ. We ask the Lord that we too may live a full life, bearing witness to Christ and accepting the martyrdom of daily fidelity to the Gospel. I urge you to open yourselves, be docile to the Holy Spirit, discern new ways to live the founding charisms."

### Missionary enthusiasm

The conclusion of our 17th General Chapter coincided with the beginning of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. Cardinal Filoni, prefect of the *Congregation for the Evangelisation of*

*Peoples*, reminded us of the words of Pope Francis: "Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary enthusiasm. Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature," Mk 16:15. Obedience to this command of the Lord is not an option, it is the Church's irreplaceable task as recalled by the Second Vatican Council: the Church is missionary by its very nature. The duty to evangelise should be considered a grace and a call proper to the Church. Encouraged by these words, we wish to continue the work begun 125 years ago by Blessed Mary Theresa Ledóchowska; imitating her poverty, obedience, service and self-sacrifice, convinced that the mission of Christ entrusted to the Church is not yet completed. ☉

**Sr. Agata Wójcik SSPC**



Xaverian Missionary Fathers Ottorino Maule and Aldo Marchiol are pictured in a composite photo with lay volunteer Catina Gubert. CNS photos/courtesy Xaverian Missionaries.

## Burundian testimony

**The Church in Burundi wants to celebrate a group of people who, in the name of Jesus, offered their lives to show that fraternity in Christ is more important than belonging to an ethnic group.**

**I**t is a great testimony, a message that we believe is truly necessary for all Christians and we want to celebrate Christian fraternity”, say the Bishops of Burundi at the opening of the diocesan phase of the Canonisation Process, celebrated June 21st 2019 in Bururi Cathedral of two Italian Xaverian missionaries and one volunteer killed in Buyngero in 1995; a Burundian priest killed in Gitega in 1972 and 40 seminarians from the minor seminary in Buta killed in 1997.

“These brothers and this sister in Christ are the heroes that we Bishops of Burundi present to you as a single model that inspires love of fraternity”, continues the statement sent to Fides. “They represent the first group of probable martyrs that

we present to the universal Church, to be officially declared martyrs, and are for us models of fraternity in Christian life and also for the whole of Burundi. We invite you to follow in prayer and joy the different phases of the Process. We know many other brothers and sisters of Burundi who offered their lives in the name of inter-ethnic fraternity, and we are sure there will be other processes of canonisation after the diocesan Process we are beginning”.

The beatification super martirio cause was promoted by Xaverian missionaries, a Pious Society of St. Francis Xavier for foreign Missions founded by San Guido M. Conforti to which Fr. Ottorino Maule and Fr. Aldo Marchiol belonged, as also lay volunteer Catina Gubert who was killed. The Bishops’ Conference of



Burundi gave its full support.

Meanwhile, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints suggested to include in the process, Abbé Michel Kayoya who was killed in Gitega May 17th 1972, and the forty seminarians killed on April 30th 1997 in the seminary in Buta. Abbé Michel Kayoya 38, priest, poet, and philosopher, through his publications always emphasised the fact that ethnic differences more than being a threat are a wealth, a mutual gift. Charismatic figure, lover of truth, preached love without ever

**They represent the first group of probable martyrs ...and are for us models of fraternity in Christian life.**

separating it from justice. He was arrested by an armed gang and imprisoned along with some fifty priests and lay people.

At 5am, 30th April 1997 a gang of rebels attacked the minor seminary of Buta, diocese of Bururi. Faced with the refusal of the seminarians to separate according to ethnicity, the bandits opened fire, killing 40 young people who belonged to the dioceses of Bururi, Bujumbura, Ruyigi and Gitega. The rebels fled after having sacked the Seminary and the Pastoral Centre- see Fides 2nd May 1997. On the spot where they are buried the Sanctuary of the Fraternity was born, and is known internationally.

Father Ottorino Maule and Father Aldo Marchiol together with lay volunteer Catina Gubert, were killed in the parish of Buyengero at 7 pm Saturday 30th September 1995. The Sisters who lived not far from the parish heard shots from the mission area, but did not give too much importance. On Sunday morning, since they had not seen the Fathers

come for Holy Mass decided to go to the mission where they found the three bodies in the living room. It was a real execution: the Missionaries had been killed with a blow to the head. Only Catina had been killed with a blow to the chest. Nothing in the house had been touched or stolen.

**FATHER OTTORINO** Maule was born in Gambellara, Italy, on 7.4.1942, and was ordained a priest on 10.15.1967, leaving for Burundi 3rd September 1970. Back to Italy in 1979, he was then a teacher and superior of the Xaverian Seminary of Zelarino, Venice, and from 1984 to 1990 was Regional Superior of the Xaverians in Italy. After a brief period spent in Paris to prepare again for the Mission, he left for Burundi in September 1991. Since then he was parish priest in the parish of Buyengero where he was killed.

**FATHER ALDO MARCHIOL** was born in Udine 19.3.1930. Ordained a priest 9.11.1958, after a long period dedicated to the formation of young missionaries in Italy he left for Burundi 15th September 1978, remaining in that land until the end, except for a short period 1987/88 spent in Italy. He had been in the parish of Buyengero for about a year.

**CATINA GUBERT** 74 was born in Fiera di Primiero, Trento, and went to Burundi as a lay volunteer. She had been in Burundi in the years 76/79, until the first expulsions of Missionaries. She then moved to Tanzania to continue her work of assistance and promotion but had always remained linked to the Xaverian missionaries in Burundi. She then provided her service for the promotion of women in the Mission of Buyengero where she was murdered. ☉

## Our parishes must be **Missionary & Samaritan**

**“The missionary enthusiasm in our hearts these days commits us to actively participate in the transformation of our parishes.”**

**L**et us go from here with the firm resolution of carrying out, in communion with all the living forces of our parishes, pastoral processes that are faithful to the Gospel, inserted in the multicultural reality of our country and open to what the Spirit of the Lord Jesus says to our Churches”, taken from the final Message addressed to parish communities of Guatemala at the end of the *5th National Missionary Congress of Guatemala, COMGUA V*, from 16th to 18th November in Huehuetenango City. More than a thousand people mostly laity, took part with bishops, priests, men and women religious, from all the Ecclesiastical circumscriptions of Guatemala.

Marked by joyful celebration, prayer, thanksgiving to God, and human and Christian commitment, the Congress aimed at “celebrating and strengthening the missionary pastoral of the Churches in Guatemala, through personal and ecclesial conversion to Jesus Christ, so that parishes may be merciful



communities at the service of the Kingdom”.

Bishop Gonzalo de Villa of Solola Chimaltenango opened the Missionary Congress in the name of the entire Episcopate, and presided the concluding Mass. Bishop Julio Cabrera of Jalapa, President of the Episcopal Commission for the Missions, said that Guatemalan Martyrs are missionaries and were present at the event; both those already beatified and those who causes of beatification and canonization are advancing, including Brother Santiago Miller. The Congress took place at La Salle College of Huehuetenango which witnessed the martyrdom of Lasallian Brother, Santiago Miller.

The Congress then analysed the reality of thousands of Guatemalans living in extreme poverty and social exclusion. These people live largely in the outskirts of our parishes so we must engage in the Missionary and Samaritan transformation of our parishes.

In this Missionary Congress we are committed to opening new paths for life in Christ, starting from the multicultural reality of our Country. Parishes must change according to the concrete realities in which they are embodied. ☺



## Sisters at the forefront of women's education

**“We have become what we are thanks to them. Until they arrived in our country, education for girls was very complicated”, said one of the first students of the Catholic College of Transua in eastern Ivory Coast, founded by the Sisters of Providence in Portieux.**

**O**n the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the presence of the Religious Congregation in the area there have been many testimonies on the contribution that the Sisters have made in education, in particular that of girls.

“High impact schools, hospitals, and health centres established by the Sisters so far have been excellent. We must thank God for the gift of their life to their brothers and sisters of Ivory Coast”, said Bishop

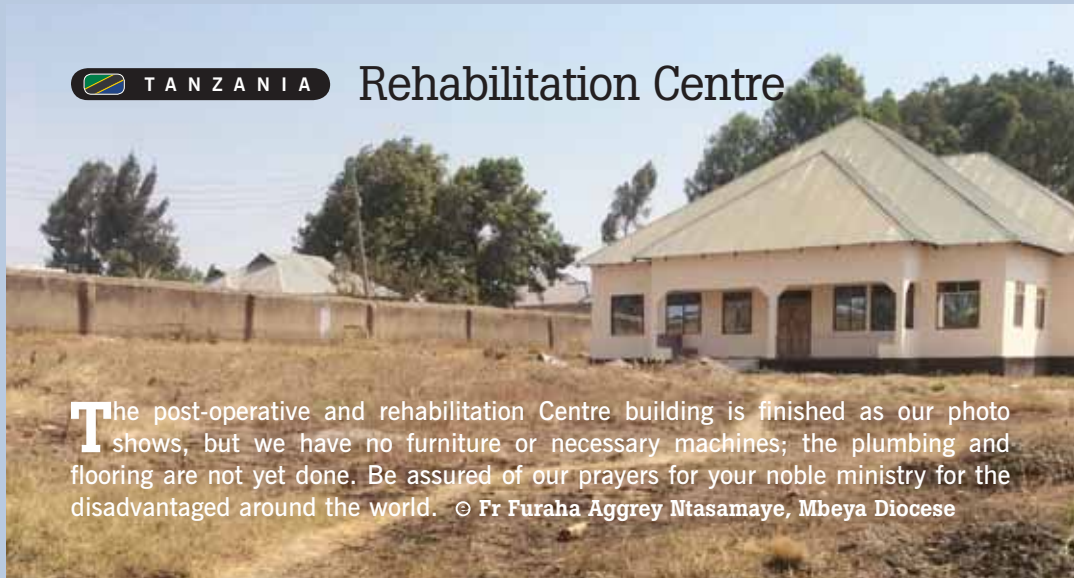


Bruno Essoh Yedo of Bondoukou during the Eucharist celebrated in the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption of Transua. In his homily, Bishop Yedo thanked God for the missionary work of

the Sisters and called on them to continue their commitment to evangelisation in the challenges of modern times. The celebration was attended by numerous administrative and political authorities of the city, as well as priests and women religious of this Congregation.

Present in eleven countries around the world, the Sisters of Providence in Portieux were founded January 14th 1762 in Saint-Hubert, by Blessed Jean-Martin Moye. His spirituality is based on four pillars: abandonment to Providence, charity, poverty and simplicity. They are a Religious Congregation of Pontifical Rite dedicated mainly to teaching, but also to assistance in hospitals and social works. The first Sisters of Providence de Portieux Congregation arrived in November 1959 in Ivory Coast. © Fides

## Rehabilitation Centre



**T**he post-operative and rehabilitation Centre building is finished as our photo shows, but we have no furniture or necessary machines; the plumbing and flooring are not yet done. Be assured of our prayers for your noble ministry for the disadvantaged around the world. © Fr Furaha Aggrey Ntasamaye, Mbeya Diocese



## Praying for peace

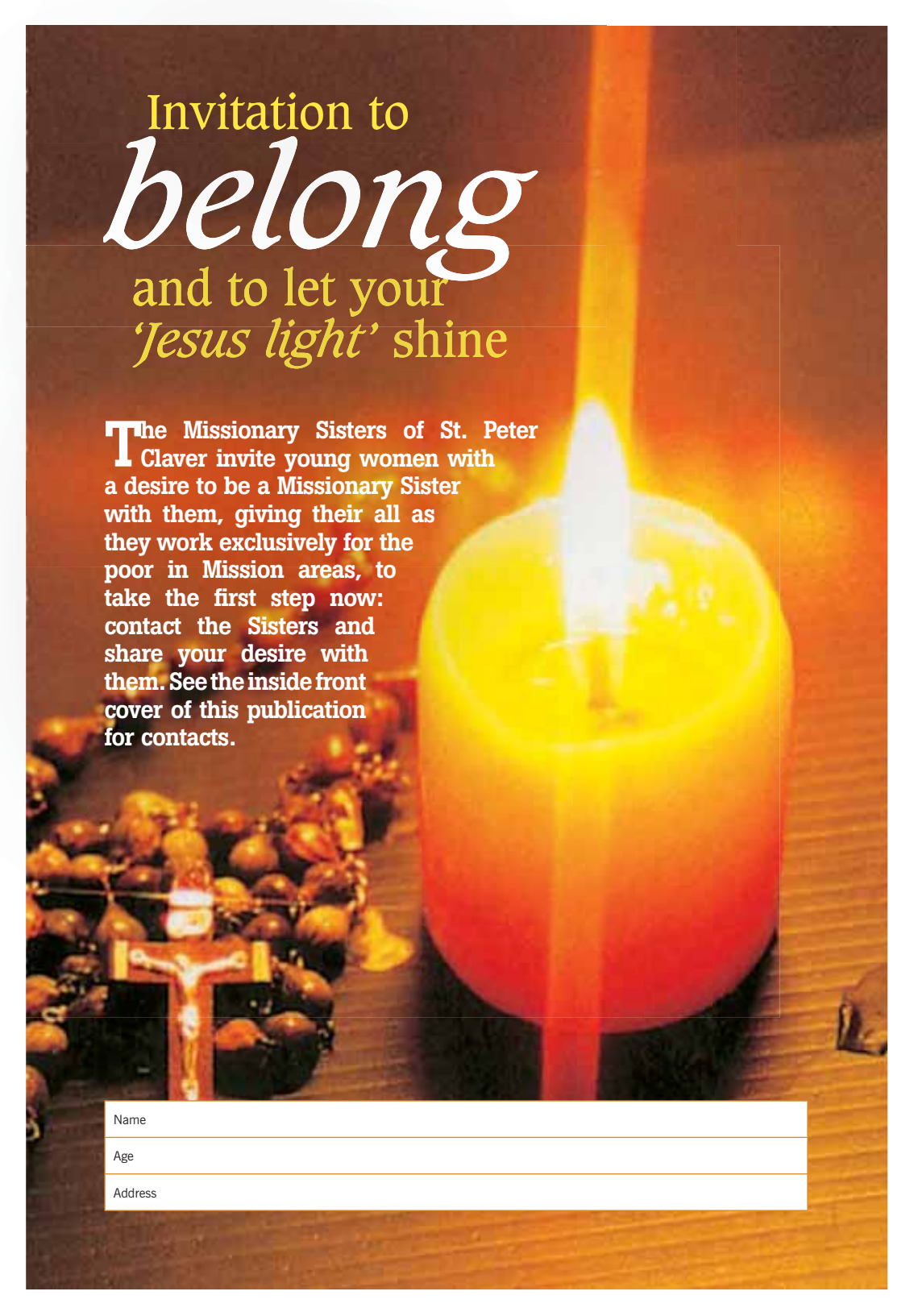
The Sisters start with the very small ones, opening their minds and hearts to receive God's love and goodness. Let us pray with them for peace and goodwill among all mankind.

**“The world needs leaders, men and women, peace-makers,” said Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Polycarp Pengo, Archdiocese of Dar-es-Salaam on the occasion of 75th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity of St. Francis of Assisi in Mahenge.**

**A**ddressing the Sisters, the Cardinal recalled St. Francis example of humility and simplicity, urging them to help redeem the world with prayer. “We must do everything within our capacity so that God's peace reigns among His people. St. Francis preached peace and lived peace. Now it is up to you Sisters, to pray and work for peace in Africa and in the world. We must be willing to sacrifice our lives for the security and peace of our nation and the whole world,” said the Cardinal.

“If only among us there were leaders

who live and preach peace the entire human race would have a better world. We can do it and achieve this goal with prayers, Sisters, and this is your task,” added Mgr. Gervas Nyaisonga president of the Bishops' Conference of Tanzania. “You are a gift for the Church as it continues to grow. Your presence, wherever you are, enriches the community. Today the world needs humble and prudent servants, lovers of peace,” said Mgr. Nyaisonga, congratulating the Sisters on behalf of the Bishops. The congregation of Sisters of Charity of St Francis of Assisi in Mahenge was founded in 1941 by Capuchin Friar Edgar Arstides Maranta, in the Archdiocese of Dar-es- Salaam. At that time the area of Mahenge, which later became a diocese, was part of the Archdiocese of Dar-es-Salaam. Initially, five girls joined the Congregation and made their first religious profession January 1st 1944. The Congregation currently has 334 Sisters. ☺



Invitation to  
*belong*  
and to let your  
*'Jesus light'* shine

**T**he Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver invite young women with a desire to be a Missionary Sister with them, giving their all as they work exclusively for the poor in Mission areas, to take the first step now: contact the Sisters and share your desire with them. See the inside front cover of this publication for contacts.

Name

Age

Address





Sharing with the poor.

## Sisters of St. Paul

**It was on 25th May, 1990 that Bishop Charles Bo SDB, founded a Religious Congregation known as ‘The Missionary Congregation Sisters of St. Paul.’ It had a rather modest beginning – just a handful of dedicated youth, 7 young women.**

**T**heir Motto is: I Thirst and the dynamic Charism is *Ad Gentes*, in the manner of St. Paul whose main aim was to bring the Gospel to places where Christ has not yet been made known and to those who do not know Christ well enough. For the sake of the Gospel our style of relating to others is open and cordial: always ready to make the first advance; and to receive people with kindness, respect and love. As St. Paul the tent-maker, while preaching and catechising, we try to earn our own living with the skills we have acquired – nursing, teaching,

sewing and any other skills we have.

At present most of the Missionary Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul do direct evangelisation among those who believe in Animism and Buddhism, by teaching academic subjects such as nursing the sick, teaching hygiene in rural areas. We also work at parishes for we are invited by the diocesan bishops. We look after boarding students, nursery, teach catechism, organise and lead groups of children, youth and parents, touring especially in Easter season, in November praying for souls, and about the Christmas festival.



Sister with her Class for the day.



Children at play.



Sisters out for fresh air and inspiration.

After 29 years of our foundation we are 110 professed sisters, 8 novices, 5 postulants, 8 aspirants and 40 students attending high school. In spite of having so many difficulties, we have made great success. We are spread out in 24 Communities in seven dioceses. In collaboration with the local Church, answering the needs of the people of God on small scale and in solidarity with them, we share the compassionate love of Christ by our simple life witness.

We are very grateful to the Congregation of Sisters of St. Peter Claver for supporting us to be able to continue our formation. Without your support we could not stand. You and all our benefactors are in our daily prayers. ☺

**Sr. Rita Cinq Don Niang, MSP**



Physical and spiritual exercise are good for everyone.



The parents turn for catechesis.



## Untie the knots

Celebration Day in Mongolia Mission is a divine action witnessed to by men and women.

**“Without hesitation let us ask the Lord that the Baptism we have received bears all its fruits in fullness, without calculation, without fear. The missionary nature of our baptism will thus be translated into a testimony of holiness that gives life and beauty to the world”, said Fr. Ernesto Viscardi a Consolata missionary and Vicar of the Apostolic Prefecture of Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia, in an interview with Agenzia Fides.**

**‘W**here does Jesus send us? There are no boundaries, there are no limits,” explains Fr. Viscardi. “The Gospel is for everyone and mission has its roots in Baptism, so all men and women are called to live as missionaries.

“In fact, all the faithful are invited to reflect on the announcement of joy and sharing of the Gospel. The missionary dimension is not delegated only to some, but it belongs to every Christian. We must respond to our own baptismal vocation with great humility. The mission is hospitality, it is important to foster a mutual exchange of knowledge with and towards each other and to establish a dialogue made of understanding and respect, as we do in Mongolia.”

“The relationship with God is to untie the knots that we carry within, and which prevents us from relating to Him and to others. Therefore, before learning to speak we need to educate ourselves to listen: Listening is the privileged channel of the relationship of man with God, faith always comes from listening.

Here is the double dimension of the missionary spirit: On the one hand we must give ourselves as a gift through witness of the Gospel. On the other hand we must be ready to receive healing of our closures, our isolation, opening ourselves to others and eliminating all barriers. In this way we learn that the Gospel is the Good News and the ultimate secret of the Story animated by the love of the Father.” ☉



# Grail Sisters' Good News

**I am very happy to send you a financial report, plus some photos of the project. The grant received from you came to 13,628,000 in our currency, and the local contribution was 6,000,000.**

**O**n behalf of The Grail Sisters, with thanks and gratitude I would like to let you know that the project is complete. The Sisters are enjoying clean water, people around us also get clean water close to their houses. The Sisters are trying to plant trees to make the environment return to its original nature. They also have a garden for vegetables and fruits and are using the water.

The project was completed in June 2019, and the evaluation had been done by the Grail Sisters and stakeholders - The Kisekibaha Village Leaders. A preliminary consultation and discussion with local leaders on how to work together, was the first step. The community were invited and given an explanation on how we would work

together and all joined in our efforts by making trenches for the pipes.

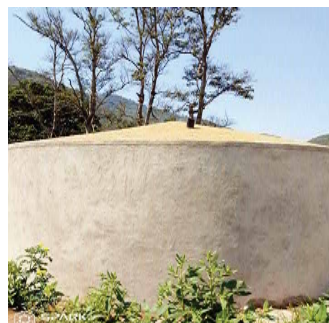
## **Distribution of water to the village**

The Grail Sisters paid for fixing the pipes and water supply to the community around. The villagers had been given the opportunity of having clean water, they are the beneficiaries of the clean water. They will contribute by providing maintenance whenever it is needed. Due to the scarcity of rain, the tank did not get to full water capacity. Therefore we had to look for an alternative source, by connecting pipes to the stream that originates from the nearby forest.

The tank is full and now we have enough water for gardening, clean water for people's consumption, and for the nursery trees. On behalf of the Grail Sisters may God bless you, always, in whatever you are doing for the betterment of the community. ☺

**Sr. Justina Karama, Grail Sisters, Same Diocese**

Construction of the water tank.





The beautifully completed Church in Xa Doai Parish.

## We have space to worship God

**The church construction was started in October 2014. In the last 5 years and 2 months, local Catholics have contributed very much labour, materials and money. They have faced difficulties. Available funding at the beginning was very small, as Ngoc Thanh is a small community.**

**T**hanks be to God local Catholics are responsible, united, and generous in constructing this church. Moreover, this construction received some support from benefactors, including Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver. With mentioned contributions, the church construction of Ngoc Thanh was well completed by

December 2019. Total area of completed church is 2400m<sup>2</sup>. It provides worthy place for Holy Mass celebration, prayer and other religious rites. It also provides for Catechism classes, music practice, and various community activities in the basement. Local Catholics are very happy at having this church completed and they are hoping for a day when, being separated from the mother parish of Xa Doai, to become an independent parish.

On behalf of Ngoc Thanh Catholics, I want to express my deep appreciation for your generous support of this church and I pray that God will continue to bless you and your good work for churches in need of your help. ☺

**Fr. Peter Nguyen van Vinh, Xa Doai Parish,  
Vinh Diocese**

# Centre for disabled children

## Maria says: no worries now if it rains or is hot...

In March 2019, I received a grant from Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver for our construction of a Centre for disabled and orphans. Thanks to this grant, support from other benefactors, and the contribution of our community, our construction was well completed by September 2019. On behalf of Tan Huong Religious Group, I would like to submit to you this final report:

Our construction started in October 2017. After 23 months it was well completed by September 2019 with a total area of 480m2. The new Centre is designed with kitchen, dining room, living room, storage, chapel, classroom, bedrooms, and toilet/bathroom section. We now have enough rooms for 45 disabled and orphaned, and 10 members of our community. Total cost of this project is 2,328,068,682vnd. We received your grant which was used for completing parts. Sources of contribution are as follows:

Received from	Local Currency
Sisters of St. Peter Claver:	232,154,000
Tan Huong Community	
Benefactors:	1,250,000,000
Tan Huong Community:	795,914,682
Parish:	50,000,000



I assure you the above information is a true implementation and completion of the project funded by the above-mentioned friends of God's mission, and a correct statement relating to the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver. I am delighted to tell you that our community members are very happy having this Centre completed.

We care for people with different symptoms such as downs, mental conditions, disabled, and orphans. We also care for single Moms who got pregnant unwantedly. The new Centre provides available rooms for us to care for them appropriately and easily. Now we do not worry if it is raining, or lacking playing space for them when it is too hot. On behalf of the disabled and orphans, and our community members, I sincerely thank you for your kind support with this construction. We remember your kindness in our prayer. May God bless and reward you for us. ☺

**Maria Dang Thi Phuc, Tan Huong Religious Group, Vinh Diocese**







SIR photo during the Pope's visit to Peru of youth in Trujillo area.

## Young protagonists of change

**“The turning point in the training of young people has been quite positive and we firmly believe that volunteers can carry out very interesting projects for the benefit of their communities”, says the coordinator of ‘Young Caritas Ayavin’ who explained to Agenzia Fides his experience in the training of the coordinators of the event ‘Imp! Act Young Caritas’, held in Lima early 2018.**

**M**ore than a hundred young volunteers from twenty places in the country participated in the meeting. Their aim was improving their skills, developing ideas and transforming them into projects of social innovation; becoming operators of change in their respective communities.

“We have developed different methodologies on social innovation”, continues the coordinator, “and this will be fundamental so that young people can give life to creative and specific projects for the benefit of the communities in which they want to provide their service. Young people have identified the most important challenges



A beautiful view of Hogar-Principito youth joining hands to pray with the Holy Father during his visit.

of their communities, to promote solutions that bring about positive change”.

“For me, *Young Caritas* is love in action. It is something that allows me to share my knowledge with others and to engage in common social work. Volunteering and participation in all this, helps us to strengthen our capacities and reach more people”, says Gabriela a volunteer of Young Caritas Abancay, who attended the meeting.

This event is part of the ‘*Young Caritas: impactando en tu comunidad*’ project, a platform in many countries and in Peru since 2017, that promotes social engagement and offers change to young people between 18 and 29 years of age, through various actions at the service of the most needy. Young Caritas seeks to solve the problems of each community by working on

specific projects such as environment, education, health, the elderly, equality between men and women, and social inclusion. Between April and December 2018, twelve training sessions and various projects, campaigns and innovative dynamics organised to help improve the quality of life of many people. It is expected that at the end of last year 300 operators of change will have been trained. These will be able to carry out their projects of aid in society, and will pioneer in promoting a greater number of voluntary initiatives in all the cities of Peru.

“I firmly believe that experiences like this should be replicated everywhere, because it is very important to count on the strength of young volunteers, who can really commit themselves to change and the social transformation of the country”. ☺



# Youth and new evangelisation

**“Youcat is our tool to enlighten the young to the beauty of our faith and the truth of the Gospel.”**



Youcat is cementing friendships among youth through the internet, especially friendships in Christ.

**“Evangelisation in today’s world: new roads, new forms, new potentials were the motives of hundreds of young missionaries from different countries who attended the 2nd International YOUCAT Congress at Iloilo Convention Centre. Organised by YOUCAT Philippines and the Archdiocese of Jaro, the Congress was a response to the Church’s call for evangelisation in the Year of the Youth, marked this year in the Philippines,” said Mathew B. Loteyro a participant.**

**Y**oucat is an ecclesial youth movement started after the launch of *Youcat Catechism of the Catholic Church*, published in several languages in 2011.

“Today Youcat is not just a book, we are a community. Youcat is our tool to enlighten the young to the beauty of our faith and the truth of the Gospel. Using this tool, we shall go together with them, we shall make Youcat more than just a book but rather a way of life,” explains Marian Castro a member of *Youcat in the Philippines*.

The Congress theme ‘Arise’ recalled the episode in the Gospel of Luke 7: 11-17 when Jesus raised to life the





young son of the widow of Naim. Guided by the words of Jesus, the Congress was an occasion for rediscovering Christ's particular love for the young and his challenge for them to arise from their present conditions and become enthusiastic servant leaders, with the help of Youcat.

Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, Apostolic Nuncio in the Philippines, presided the opening Mass 7th November last, inviting the young delegates to witness the Gospel to others and be missionaries in the nations. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, invited ecclesial organisations, youth group leaders, and our pastoral delegates to attend the event. The Philippine Bishops' Episcopal Commission on Youth endorsed the Congress as part of its many youthful ecclesial activities of the *Year of the Youth*, celebrated in 2019 as part of the multi-year programme in preparation for the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines 1521–2021.

Inspired by Mary, Star of New Evangelisation, St. Pedro Calungsod and St. Lorenzo Ruiz, *Youcat Philippines* is a provider of tools and integral faith formation for Christian discipleship of young people. The Youcat movement in the Philippines provides assistance to parishes to create and develop resources and materials for evangelisation; creating networks, and collaboration also with tools of new technologies.

“Given its appealing graphic format, made up of questions and answers, sometimes difficult but always direct, and with simple and pertinent answers, Youcat will soon become a reference point for young people, a useful tool to learn the truth about the Catholic faith and to share the message of Christ,” Teresa Punzo, a member of Youcat in the Philippines, told Fides. ☺

## OUR MISSION SERVICE

Includes forwarding donations to missionaries, and our addresses are on the inside front cover of *Echo*.

Dear Sisters, the enclosed gift of:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ is for:

- General Mission Fund**
- Refugees**
- Food**
- Liturgical vestments / Mass kits**
- Transport**
- Specific**

Name
Address
P/Code

## FORM OF BEQUEST

I hereby bequeath to the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver, a religious and charitable Congregation, the sum of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ free of legacy duty, to be used for:

- The needs of the Missions**
- The Sister's Congregation**

The receipt of the Superior for the time being, will be sufficient discharge of the legacy.

Name
Address
P/Code

# Almost two million pilgrims

**The Catholic faith of Mexicans expresses itself publicly through the traditional pilgrimage of the Virgin of Zapopan. Nearly two million faithful accompanied ‘La Generala’ as she is called, on her return to the Basilica. This transfer has been carried out for almost 300 years without interruption.**

**T**he pilgrimage covers just over nine kilometres during which the faithful pray the Rosary, sing, and praise the Virgin. Cardinal Francisco Robles Ortega, Archbishop of Guadalajara, and Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez, Archbishop emeritus of the same ecclesiastical district, accompanied the faithful.

At the beginning and at the end of the pilgrimage the Cardinals commented on the reality of the Mexican people, which shows their rejection of abortion and its support for life from the moment of conception. Cardinal Sandoval Iniguez pointed out that when Catholics are not coherent with their faith, then the federal authorities act in a certain way



against freedom and the family.

During the welcoming Mass of the Virgin of Zapopan, Cardinal Francisco Robles said the fundamental right of every person is the right to life. “Ideologies want to impose their programme on society and slowly they are undermining consciences, to the point that they make something that is not good seem good,” he said.

Finally the Archbishop of Guadalajara spoke of the Mission and its relationship with Mary, since ‘the image of the Virgin of Zapopan is a bearer of God’. He then highlighted the close relationship of the Virgin Mary with the Church, “model of virtue for the whole community of the elect”. The Bishop of Aparecida reminded us: “In the mystery of Mary, like her and following her example, the Church finds its identity and its mission as mother, disciple, missionary and servant.” ☉

**“If Christ deemed us worthy to live in these times at this hour, the only hour we have, we cannot let ourselves be overcome by fear. We cannot allow this time to pass without living it fully with joyful fidelity,”**

**Pope Francis**



## 2020 claverian mission events

### MELBOURNE

**Mission Concert** : April 26th Sunday @ 2pm

**Mission Lunch** : June 28th Sunday @ 1pm

**Mission Fair** : October 10th, Saturday @ 9am – 3pm

**Venue** for all functions: St. Peter Claver Hall, 154 Cotham Road, Kew 3101  
 Contact Sisters if required : 03 9817 3715

### TOOWOOMBA

#### **Cent Sales:**

February 8th, Saturday @ 1.30pm

April 22nd, Wednesday @ 9.30am

June 24th, Wednesday @ 9.30am

August 19th, Wednesday @ 9.30am

November 28th, Saturday @ 1.30pm

**Venue:** All Seasons Function Centre, cnr Tor & North Streets.  
 Contact Sisters if required : 07 4632 1818

### WISDOM

The spirit of humility is sweeter than honey, and those who nourish themselves with this honey produce sweet fruit. - St. Anthony of Padua



### LET US PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Fr. Kazimierz Wojno, Anne Brosnahan, Fr. Anthony Lovis OSB., Carmel O'Dempsey, Fr. Jhony Rams, Cathy Dol, Zofia Wolk, Norman Paton, Rose Mary Tuohey, Archbishop Dominic Jala, Mrs. R. Ninnes, Fr. Michael Maingi Kyengo, Maurice Zammit, Mary J. Colghan, Mary Rita Emily Wain, Eileen Magee, Fr. Hovsep Bedoyan, Abraham Bedoyan, and for all our deceased benefactors and promoters.



# LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Who can harm us if we love one another? We could today, perhaps, become a victim of fire, we could be without a crust of bread, but as long as we help one another and each think of the other, everything will go well.



Blessed Mary Theresa Ledochowska – July 1908



Sisters of St. Paul serving the children in Myanmar.