

**Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli – CEP
Pontificie Opere Missionarie – POM**

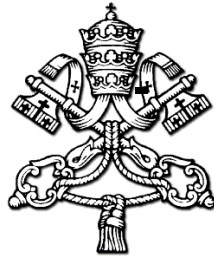
**EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH
OCTOBER 2019**

Final Report



October
2019

**Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples – CEP
Pontifical Mission Societies – PMS**



**Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
Pontifical Mission Societies**

**EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH
OCTOBER 2019**

Final Report

Fr. Fabrizio Meroni
PMU Secretary General
CIAM and Fides Director



**Baptised
and sent**

October
2019

**BOOK EMM OCT 2019
FINAL REPORT**

*Vatican City
February 2020*

EMM OCT2019

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LETTERA DEL SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO

IN OCCASIONE DEL CENTENARIO DELLA PROMULGAZIONE DELLA LETTERA APOSTOLICA “MAXIMUM ILLUD” SULL’ATTIVITÀ SVOLTA DAI MISSIONARI NEL MONDO

Al Venerato Fratello

Cardinale Fernando FILONI

Prefetto della Congregazione per l’Evangelizzazione dei Popoli

Il 30 novembre 2019 ricorrerà il centenario dalla promulgazione della Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud*, con la quale Benedetto XV desiderò dare nuovo slancio alla responsabilità missionaria di annunciare il Vangelo. Era il 1919: al termine di un tremendo conflitto mondiale, che egli stesso definì «inutile strage»¹, il Papa avvertì la necessità di riqualificare evangelicamente la missione nel mondo, perché fosse purificata da qualsiasi incrostazione coloniale e si tenesse lontana da quelle mire nazionalistiche ed espansionistiche che tanti disastri avevano causato. «La Chiesa di Dio è universale, per nulla straniera presso nessun popolo»², scrisse, esortando anche a rifiutare qualsiasi forma di interesse, in quanto solo l’annuncio e la carità del Signore Gesù, diffusi con la santità della vita e con le buone opere, sono la ragione della missione. Benedetto XV diede così speciale impulso alla *missio ad gentes*, adoperandosi, con lo strumentario concettuale e comunicativo in uso all’epoca, per risvegliare, in particolare presso il clero, la consapevolezza del dovere missionario.

Esso risponde al perenne invito di Gesù: «Andate in tutto il mondo e proclamate il Vangelo a ogni creatura» (Mc 16,15). Aderire a questo comando del Signore non è un’opzione per la Chiesa: è suo «compito imprescindibile», come ha ricordato il Concilio Vaticano II,³ in quanto la Chiesa «è per sua natura missionaria»⁴. «Evangelizzare, infatti, è la grazia e la vocazione propria della Chiesa, la sua identità più profonda. Essa esiste per evangelizzare»⁵. Per corrispondere a tale identità e proclamare Gesù crocifisso e risorto per tutti, il Salvatore vivente, la Misericordia che salva, «è necessario – afferma ancora il Concilio – che la Chiesa, sempre sotto l’influsso dello Spirito di Cristo, segua la stessa strada seguita da questi, la strada cioè della povertà, dell’obbedienza, del servizio e del sacrificio di se stesso»⁶, cosicché comunichi realmente il Signore, «modello dell’umanità nuova,

¹ *Lettera ai capi dei popoli belligeranti*, 1 agosto 1917: AAS IX (1917), 421-423.

² Benedetto XV, Lett. ap. *Maximum Illud*, 30 novembre 1919: AAS 11 (1919), 445.

³ Decreto sull’attività missionaria della Chiesa *Ad Gentes*, 7 dicembre 1965, 7: AAS 58 (1966), 955.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 2: AAS 58 (1966), 948.

⁵ Paolo VI, Esort. ap. *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 8 dicembre 1975, 14: AAS 68 (1976), 13.

⁶ Decr. *Ad Gentes*, 5: AAS 58 (1966), 952.

cioè di quell'umanità permeata di amore fraterno, di sincerità, di spirito di pace, che tutti vivamente desiderano»⁷.

Quanto stava a cuore a Benedetto XV quasi cent'anni fa e quanto il Documento conciliare ci ricorda da più di cinquant'anni permane pienamente attuale. Oggi come allora «la Chiesa, che da Cristo è stata inviata a rivelare e a comunicare la carità di Dio a tutti gli uomini e a tutti i popoli, comprende che le resta ancora da svolgere un'opera missionaria ingente»⁸. A questo proposito, San Giovanni Paolo II ha osservato che «la missione di Cristo redentore, affidata alla Chiesa, è ancora ben lontana dal suo compimento» e che «uno sguardo d'insieme all'umanità dimostra che tale missione è ancora agli inizi e che dobbiamo impegnarci con tutte le forze al suo servizio»⁹. Perciò egli, con parole che vorrei ora riproporre all'attenzione di tutti, ha esortato la Chiesa a un «*rinnovato impegno missionario*», nella convinzione che la missione «rinova la Chiesa, rinvigorisce la fede e l'identità cristiana, dà nuovo entusiasmo e nuove motivazioni. *La fede si rafforza donandola!* La nuova evangelizzazione dei popoli cristiani troverà ispirazione e sostegno nell'impegno per la missione universale»¹⁰.

Nell'Esortazione apostolica *Evangelii Gaudium*, raccogliendo i frutti della XIII Assemblea Generale Ordinaria del Sinodo dei Vescovi, convocata per riflettere sulla *nuova evangelizzazione per la trasmissione della fede cristiana*, ho desiderato ripresentare a tutta la Chiesa tale urgente vocazione: «Giovanni Paolo II ci ha invitato a riconoscere che “bisogna [...] non perdere la tensione per l'annuncio” a coloro che stanno lontani da Cristo, “perché questo è *il compito primo* della Chiesa”. L'attività missionaria “rappresenta, ancor oggi, *la massima sfida* per la Chiesa” e “la causa missionaria deve essere la prima”. Che cosa succederebbe se prendessimo realmente sul serio queste parole? Semplicemente riconosceremmo che l'azione missionaria è *il paradigma di ogni opera della Chiesa*»¹¹.

Quanto intendevo esprimere mi pare ancora una volta improrogabile: «Ha un significato programmatico e dalle conseguenze importanti. Spero che tutte le comunità facciano in modo di porre in atto i mezzi necessari per avanzare nel cammino di una conversione pastorale e missionaria, che non può lasciare le cose come stanno. Ora non ci serve una “semplice amministrazione”. Costituiamoci in tutte le regioni della terra in uno “stato permanente di missione”»¹². Non temiamo di intraprendere, con fiducia in Dio e tanto coraggio, «una scelta missionaria capace di trasformare ogni cosa, perché le consuetudini, gli stili, gli orari, il linguaggio e ogni struttura ecclesiale diventino

⁷ *Ibid.*, 8: AAS 58 (1966), 956-957.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 10: AAS 58 (1966), 959.

⁹ Lett. enc. *Redemptoris Missio*, 7 dicembre 1990, 1: AAS 83 (1991), 249.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 2: AAS 83 (1991), 250-251.

¹¹ N. 15: AAS 105 (2013), 1026.

¹² *Ibid.*, 25: AAS 105 (2013), 1030.

un canale adeguato per l'evangelizzazione del mondo attuale, più che per l'autopreservazione. La riforma delle strutture, che esige la conversione pastorale, si può intendere solo in questo senso: fare in modo che esse diventino tutte più missionarie, che la pastorale ordinaria in tutte le sue istanze sia più espansiva e aperta, che ponga gli agenti pastorali in costante atteggiamento di *uscita* e favorisca così la risposta positiva di tutti coloro ai quali Gesù offre la sua amicizia. Come diceva Giovanni Paolo II ai Vescovi dell'Oceania, "ogni rinnovamento nella Chiesa deve avere la missione come suo scopo per non cadere preda di una specie d'introversione ecclesiale"»¹³.

La Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* aveva esortato, con spirito profetico e franchezza evangelica, a uscire dai confini delle nazioni, per testimoniare la volontà salvifica di Dio attraverso la missione universale della Chiesa. L'approssimarsi del suo centenario sia di stimolo a superare la tentazione ricorrente che si nasconde dietro ad ogni introversione ecclesiale, ad ogni chiusura autoreferenziale nei propri confini sicuri, ad ogni forma di pessimismo pastorale, ad ogni sterile nostalgia del passato, per aprirci invece alla novità gioiosa del Vangelo. Anche in questi nostri tempi, dilaniati dalle tragedie della guerra e insidiati dalla triste volontà di accentuare le differenze e fomentare gli scontri, la Buona Notizia che in Gesù il perdono vince il peccato, la vita sconfigge la morte e l'amore vince il timore, sia portata a tutti con rinnovato ardore e infonda fiducia e speranza.

È con questi sentimenti che, accogliendo la proposta della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli, indico un *Mese missionario straordinario* nell'ottobre 2019, al fine di risvegliare maggiormente la consapevolezza della *missio ad gentes* e di riprendere con nuovo slancio la trasformazione missionaria della vita e della pastorale. Ci si potrà ben disporre ad esso, anche attraverso il mese missionario di ottobre del prossimo anno, affinché tutti i fedeli abbiano veramente a cuore l'annuncio del Vangelo e la conversione delle loro comunità in realtà missionarie ed evangelizzatrici, affinché si accresca l'amore per la missione, che «è una passione per Gesù ma, al tempo stesso, è una passione per il suo popolo»¹⁴.

A Lei, venerato Fratello, al Dicastero che presiede e alle Pontificie Opere Missionarie affido il compito di avviare la preparazione di questo avvenimento, in particolare attraverso un'ampia sensibilizzazione delle Chiese particolari, degli Istituti di vita consacrata e delle Società di vita apostolica, così come delle associazioni, dei movimenti, delle comunità e delle altre realtà ecclesiali. Il Mese Missionario Straordinario sia occasione di grazia intensa e feconda per promuovere iniziative e intensificare in modo particolare la preghiera – anima di ogni missione – l'annuncio del Vangelo, la riflessione biblica e teologica sulla missione, le opere di carità cristiana e le azioni concrete di

¹³ *Ibid.*, 27: AAS 105 (2013), 1031.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 268: AAS 105 (2013), 1128.

collaborazione e di solidarietà tra le Chiese, così che si risvegli e mai ci venga sottratto l'entusiasmo missionario¹⁵.

Dal Vaticano, 22 ottobre 2017

*XXIX Domenica del Tempo Ordinario
Memoria di San Giovanni Paolo II
Giornata Missionaria Mondiale*

Francesco

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 80: AAS 105 (2013), 1053.

LETTER OF HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE PROMULGATION OF THE APOSTOLIC LETTER *MAXIMUM ILLUD* ON THE ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT BY THE MISSIONARIES IN THE WORLD

*To my Venerable Brother
Cardinal Fernando FILONI
Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples*

On 30 November 2019, we will celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the promulgation of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, with which Pope Benedict XV sought to give new impetus to the missionary task of proclaiming the Gospel. In 1919, in the wake of a tragic global conflict that he himself called a “useless slaughter,”¹⁶ the Pope recognized the need for a more evangelical approach to missionary work in the world, so that it would be purified of any colonial overtones and kept far away from the nationalistic and expansionistic aims that had proved so disastrous. “The Church of God is universal; she is not alien to any people,”¹⁷ he wrote, firmly calling for the rejection of any form of particular interest, inasmuch as the proclamation and the love of the Lord Jesus, spread by holiness of one’s life and good works, are the sole purpose of missionary activity. Benedict XV thus laid special emphasis on the *missio ad gentes*, employing the concepts and language of the time, in an effort to revive, particularly among the clergy, a sense of duty towards the missions.

That duty is a response to Jesus’ perennial command to “go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature” (Mk16:15). Obeying this mandate of the Lord is not an option for the Church: in the words of the Second Vatican Council, it is her “essential task,”¹⁸ for the Church is “missionary by nature.”¹⁹ “Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity; she exists in order to evangelize.”²⁰ The Council went on to say that, if the Church is to remain faithful to herself and to preach Jesus crucified and risen for all, the living and merciful Saviour, then “prompted by the Holy Spirit, she must walk the same path Christ walked: a path of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice.”²¹ In this way, she will effectively proclaim the Lord, “model of that redeemed humanity, imbued with brotherly love, sincerity and a peaceful spirit, to which all aspire.”²²

¹⁶ *Letter to the Leaders of the Warring Peoples*, 1 August 1917: AAS IX (1917), 421-423.

¹⁷ Benedict XV, Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, 30 November 1919: AAS 11 (1919), 445.

¹⁸ Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church *Ad Gentes*, 7 December 1965, 7: AAS 58 (1966), 955.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 2: AAS 58 (1966), 948.

²⁰ Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 8 December 1975, 14: AAS 68 (1976), 13.

²¹ Decree *Ad Gentes*, 5: AAS 58 (1966), 952.

²² *Ibid.*, 8: AAS 58 (1966), 956-957.

What Pope Benedict XV so greatly desired almost a century ago, and the Council reiterated some fifty years ago, remains timely. Even now, as in the past, “the Church, sent by Christ to reveal and to communicate the love of God to all men and nations, is aware that there still remains an enormous missionary task for her to accomplish.”²³ In this regard, Saint John Paul II noted that “the mission of Christ the Redeemer, which is entrusted to the Church, is still very far from completion,” and indeed, “an overall view of the human race shows that this mission is still only beginning and that we must commit ourselves wholeheartedly to its service.”²⁴ As a result, in words that I would now draw once more to everyone’s attention, Saint John Paul exhorted the Church to undertake a “*renewed missionary commitment*”, in the conviction that missionary activity “renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. *Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!* It is in commitment to the Church’s universal mission that the new evangelization of Christian peoples will find inspiration and support.”²⁵

In my Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, drawing from the proceedings of the Thirteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which met to reflect on the *new evangelization for the transmission of the Christian faith*, I once more set this urgent summons before the whole Church. There I wrote, “John Paul II asked us to recognize that ‘there must be no lessening of the impetus to preach the Gospel’ to those who are far from Christ, ‘because this is the *first task* of the Church.’ Indeed, ‘today missionary activity still represents the *greatest challenge* for the Church’ and ‘the missionary task must remain foremost.’ What would happen if we were to take these words seriously? We would realize that missionary outreach is *paradigmatic for all the Church’s activity*.”²⁶

I am convinced that this challenge remains as urgent as ever. “[It] has a programmatic significance and important consequences. I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion that cannot leave things as they presently are. ‘Mere administration’ can no longer be enough. Throughout the world, let us be ‘permanently in a state of mission.’”²⁷ Let us not fear to undertake, with trust in God and great courage, “a missionary option capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation. The renewal of structures, demanded by pastoral conversion, can only be understood in this light: as part of an effort to make them more mission-oriented, to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open, to inspire in pastoral workers a constant desire to *go forth* and in this way to elicit a positive

²³ *Ibid.*, 10: AAS 58 (1966), 959.

²⁴ Encyclical Letter *Redemptoris Missio*, 7 December 1990, 1: AAS 83 (1991), 249.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 2: AAS 83 (1991), 250-251.

²⁶ Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* 15: AAS 105 (2013), 1026.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 25: AAS 105 (2013), 1030.

response from all those whom Jesus summons to friendship with himself. As John Paul II told the Bishops of Oceania, ‘All renewal in the Church must have mission as its goal if it is not to fall prey to a kind of ecclesial introversion.’”²⁸

The Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* called for transcending national boundaries and bearing witness, with prophetic spirit and evangelical boldness, to God’s saving will through the Church’s universal mission. May the approaching centenary of that Letter serve as an incentive to combat the recurring temptation lurking beneath every form of ecclesial introversion, self-referential retreat into comfort zones, pastoral pessimism and sterile nostalgia for the past. Instead, may we be open to the joyful newness of the Gospel. In these, our troubled times, rent by the tragedies of war and menaced by the baneful tendency to accentuate differences and to incite conflict, may the Good News that in Jesus forgiveness triumphs over sin, life defeats death and love conquers fear, be proclaimed to the world with renewed fervour, and instil trust and hope in everyone.

In the light of this, accepting the proposal of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, I hereby call for an Extraordinary Missionary Month to be celebrated in October 2019, with the aim of fostering an increased awareness of the *missio ad gentes* and taking up again with renewed fervour the missionary transformation of the Church’s life and pastoral activity. The Missionary Month of October 2019 can serve as a good preparation for this celebration by enabling all the faithful to take to heart the proclamation of the Gospel and to help their communities grow in missionary and evangelizing zeal. May the love for the Church’s mission, which is “a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people,”²⁹ grow ever stronger!

I entrust you, venerable Brother, the Congregation which you head, and the Pontifical Missionary Societies with the work of preparing for this event, especially by raising awareness among the particular Churches, the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and among associations, movements, communities and other ecclesial bodies. May the Extraordinary Missionary Month prove an intense and fruitful occasion of grace, and promote initiatives and above all prayer, the soul of all missionary activity. May it likewise advance the preaching of the Gospel, biblical and theological reflection on the Church’s mission, works of Christian charity, and practical works of cooperation and solidarity between Churches, so that missionary zeal may revive and never be wanting among us.³⁰

From the Vatican, 22 October 2017
XXIX Sunday of Ordinary Time
Memorial of Saint John Paul II
World Mission Sunday

Francis

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 27: AAS 105 (2013), 1031.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 268: AAS 105 (2013), 1128.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 80: AAS 105 (2013), 1053.

MESSAGGIO DEL SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO
PER LA GIORNATA MISSIONARIA MONDIALE 2017

La missione al cuore della fede cristiana

Cari fratelli e sorelle,

anche quest'anno la Giornata Missionaria Mondiale ci convoca attorno alla persona di Gesù, «il primo e il più grande evangelizzatore» (Paolo VI, Esort. ap. *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 7), che continuamente ci invia ad annunciare il Vangelo dell'amore di Dio Padre nella forza dello Spirito Santo. Questa Giornata ci invita a riflettere nuovamente sulla *missione al cuore della fede cristiana*. Infatti, la Chiesa è missionaria per natura; se non lo fosse, non sarebbe più la Chiesa di Cristo, ma un'associazione tra molte altre, che ben presto finirebbe con l'esaurire il proprio scopo e scomparire. Perciò, siamo invitati a porci alcune domande che toccano la nostra stessa identità cristiana e le nostre responsabilità di credenti, in un mondo confuso da tante illusioni, ferito da grandi frustrazioni e lacerato da numerose guerre fratricide che ingiustamente colpiscono specialmente gli innocenti. Qual è il *fondamento* della missione? Qual è il *cuore* della missione? Quali sono gli *atteggiamenti vitali* della missione?

La missione e il potere trasformante del Vangelo di Cristo, Via, Verità e Vita

1. La missione della Chiesa, destinata a tutti gli uomini di buona volontà, è fondata sul potere trasformante del Vangelo. Il Vangelo è una Buona Notizia che porta in sé una gioia contagiosa perché contiene e offre una vita nuova: quella di Cristo risorto, il quale, comunicando il suo Spirito vivificante, diventa Via, Verità e Vita per noi (cfr. Gv 14,6). È *Via* che ci invita a seguirlo con fiducia e coraggio. Nel seguire Gesù come nostra *Via*, ne sperimentiamo la *Verità* e riceviamo la sua *Vita*, che è piena comunione con Dio Padre nella forza dello Spirito Santo, ci rende liberi da ogni forma di egoismo ed è fonte di creatività nell'amore.

2. Dio Padre vuole tale trasformazione esistenziale dei suoi figli e figlie; trasformazione che si esprime come culto in spirito e verità (cfr. Gv 4,23-24), in una vita animata dallo Spirito Santo nell'imitazione del Figlio Gesù a gloria di Dio Padre. «La gloria di Dio è l'uomo vivente» (Ireneo, *Adversus haereses* IV, 20, 7). In questo modo, l'annuncio del Vangelo diventa parola viva ed efficace che attua ciò che proclama (cfr. Is 55,10-11), cioè Gesù Cristo, il quale continuamente si fa carne in ogni situazione umana (cfr. Gv 1,14).

La missione e il *kairos* di Cristo

3. La missione della Chiesa non è, quindi, la diffusione di una ideologia religiosa e nemmeno la proposta di un'etica sublime. Molti movimenti nel mondo sanno produrre ideali elevati o espressioni etiche notevoli. Mediante la missione della Chiesa, è Gesù Cristo che continua ad evangelizzare e agire, e perciò essa rappresenta il *kairos*, il tempo propizio della salvezza nella storia. Mediante la proclamazione del Vangelo, Gesù diventa sempre nuovamente nostro contemporaneo, affinché chi lo accoglie con fede e amore sperimenti la forza trasformatrice del suo Spirito di Risorto che feconda l'umano e il creato come fa la pioggia con la terra. «La sua risurrezione non è una cosa del passato; contiene una forza di vita che ha penetrato il mondo. Dove sembra che tutto sia morto, da ogni parte tornano ad apparire i germogli della risurrezione. È una forza senza uguali» (Esort. ap. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 276).

4. Ricordiamo sempre che «all'inizio dell'essere cristiano non c'è una decisione etica o una grande idea, bensì l'incontro con un avvenimento, con una Persona, che dà alla vita un nuovo orizzonte e con ciò la direzione decisiva» (Benedetto XVI, Lett. enc. *Deus caritas est*, 1). Il Vangelo è una Persona, la quale continuamente si offre e continuamente invita chi la accoglie con fede umile e operosa a condividere la sua vita attraverso una partecipazione effettiva al suo mistero pasquale di morte e risurrezione. Il Vangelo diventa così, mediante il *Battesimo*, fonte di vita nuova, libera dal dominio del peccato, illuminata e trasformata dallo Spirito Santo; mediante la *Cresima*, diventa unzione fortificante che, grazie allo stesso Spirito, indica cammini e strategie nuove di testimonianza e prossimità; e mediante l'*Eucaristia* diventa cibo dell'uomo nuovo, «medicina di immortalità» (Ignazio di Antiochia, *Epistula ad Ephesios*, 20, 2).

5. Il mondo ha essenzialmente bisogno del Vangelo di Gesù Cristo. Egli, attraverso la Chiesa, continua la sua missione di *Buon Samaritano*, curando le ferite sanguinanti dell'umanità, e di *Buon Pastore*, cercando senza sosta chi si è smarrito per sentieri contorti e senza meta. E grazie a Dio non mancano esperienze significative che testimoniano la forza trasformatrice del Vangelo. Penso al gesto di quello studente Dinka che, a costo della propria vita, protegge uno studente della tribù Nuer destinato ad essere ucciso. Penso a quella celebrazione eucaristica a Kitgum, nel Nord Uganda, allora insanguinato dalla ferocia di un gruppo di ribelli, quando un missionario fece ripetere alla gente le parole di Gesù sulla croce: «Dio mio, Dio mio, perché mi hai abbandonato?», come espressione del grido disperato dei fratelli e delle sorelle del Signore crocifisso. Quella celebrazione fu per la gente fonte di grande consolazione e tanto coraggio. E possiamo pensare a tante, innumerevoli testimonianze di come il Vangelo aiuta a superare le chiusure, i conflitti, il razzismo, il tribalismo, promuovendo dovunque e tra tutti la riconciliazione, la fraternità e la condivisione.

La missione ispira una spiritualità di continuo esodo, pellegrinaggio ed esilio

6. La missione della Chiesa è animata da una spiritualità di *continuo esodo*. Si tratta di «uscire dalla propria comodità e avere il coraggio di raggiungere tutte le periferie che hanno bisogno della luce del Vangelo» (Esort. ap. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 20). La missione della Chiesa stimola un atteggiamento di *continuo pellegrinaggio* attraverso i vari deserti della vita, attraverso le varie esperienze di fame e sete di verità e di giustizia. La missione della Chiesa ispira una esperienza di *continuo esilio*, per fare sentire all'uomo assetato di infinito la sua condizione di esule in cammino verso la patria finale, proteso tra il “già” e il “non ancora” del Regno dei Cieli.

7. La missione dice alla Chiesa che essa non è fine a sé stessa, ma è umile strumento e mediazione del Regno. Una Chiesa autoreferenziale, che si compiace di successi terreni, non è la Chiesa di Cristo, suo corpo crocifisso e glorioso. Ecco allora perché dobbiamo preferire «una Chiesa accidentata, ferita e sporca per essere uscita per le strade, piuttosto che una Chiesa malata per la chiusura e la comodità di aggrapparsi alle proprie sicurezze» (ibid., 49).

I giovani, speranza della missione

8. I giovani sono la speranza della missione. La persona di Gesù e la Buona Notizia da Lui proclamata continuano ad affascinare molti giovani. Essi cercano percorsi in cui realizzare il coraggio e gli slanci del cuore a servizio dell'umanità. «Sono molti i giovani che offrono il loro aiuto solidale di fronte ai mali del mondo e intraprendono varie forme di militanza e di volontariato [...]. Che bello che i giovani siano “viandanti della fede”, felici di portare Gesù in ogni strada, in ogni piazza, in ogni angolo della terra!» (ibid., 106). La prossima Assemblea Generale Ordinaria del Sinodo dei Vescovi, che si celebrerà nel 2018 sul tema “*I giovani, la fede e il discernimento vocazionale*”, si presenta come occasione provvidenziale per coinvolgere i giovani nella comune responsabilità missionaria che ha bisogno della loro ricca immaginazione e creatività.

Il servizio delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie

9. Le Pontificie Opere Missionarie sono strumento prezioso per suscitare in ogni comunità cristiana il desiderio di uscire dai propri confini e dalle proprie sicurezze e prendere il largo per annunciare il Vangelo a tutti. Attraverso una profonda spiritualità missionaria da vivere quotidianamente, un impegno costante di formazione ed animazione missionaria, ragazzi, giovani, adulti, famiglie, sacerdoti, religiosi e religiose, Vescovi sono coinvolti perché cresca in ciascuno un cuore missionario. La Giornata Missionaria Mondiale, promossa dall'Opera della Propagazione della Fede, è l'occasione propizia perché il cuore missionario delle comunità cristiane partecipi con la preghiera, con la

testimonianza della vita e con la comunione dei beni per rispondere alle gravi e vaste necessità dell'evangelizzazione.

Fare missione con Maria, Madre dell'evangelizzazione

10. Cari fratelli e sorelle, facciamo missione ispirandoci a Maria, Madre dell'evangelizzazione. Ella, mossa dallo Spirito, accolse il Verbo della vita nella profondità della sua umile fede. Ci aiuti la Vergine a dire il nostro "sì" nell'urgenza di far risuonare la Buona Notizia di Gesù nel nostro tempo; ci ottenga un nuovo ardore di risorti per portare a tutti il Vangelo della vita che vince la morte; interceda per noi affinché possiamo acquistare la santa audacia di cercare nuove strade perché giunga a tutti il dono della salvezza.

*Dal Vaticano, 4 giugno 2017
Solennità di Pentecoste*

Francesco

MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS
FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2017

Mission at the heart of Christian faith

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once again this year, World Mission Day gathers us around the person of Jesus, “the very first and greatest evangelizer” (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 7), who continually sends us forth to proclaim the Gospel of the love of God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. This Day invites us to reflect anew on the *mission at the heart of the Christian faith*. The Church is missionary by nature; otherwise, she would no longer be the Church of Christ, but one group among many others that soon end up serving their purpose and passing away. So it is important to ask ourselves certain questions about our Christian identity and our responsibility as believers in a world marked by confusion, disappointment and frustration, and torn by numerous fratricidal wars that unjustly target the innocent. What is the *basis* of our mission? What is the *heart* of our mission? What are the *essential approaches* we need to take in carrying out our mission?

Mission and the transformative power of the Gospel of Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life

1. The Church’s mission, directed to all men and women of good will, is based on the transformative power of the Gospel. The Gospel is Good News filled with contagious joy, for it contains and offers new life: the life of the Risen Christ who, by bestowing his life-giving Spirit, becomes for us the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. Jn 14:6). He is the *Way* who invites us to follow him with confidence and courage. In following Jesus as our *Way*, we experience *Truth* and receive his *Life*, which is fullness of communion with God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. That life sets us free from every kind of selfishness, and is a source of creativity in love.

2. God the Father desires this existential transformation of his sons and daughters, a transformation that finds expression in worship in spirit and truth (cf. Jn 4:23-24), through a life guided by the Holy Spirit in imitation of Jesus the Son to the glory of God the Father. “The glory of God is the living man” (Irenaeus, *Adversus Haereses* IV, 20, 7). The preaching of the Gospel thus becomes a vital and effective word that accomplishes what it proclaims (cf. Is 55:10-11): Jesus Christ, who constantly takes flesh in every human situation (cf. Jn 1:14).

Mission and the *kairos* of Christ

3. The Church's mission, then, is not to spread a religious ideology, much less to propose a lofty ethical teaching. Many movements throughout the world inspire high ideals or ways to live a meaningful life. Through the mission of the Church, Jesus Christ himself continues to evangelize and act; her mission thus makes present in history the *kairos*, the favourable time of salvation. Through the proclamation of the Gospel, the risen Jesus becomes our contemporary, so that those who welcome him with faith and love can experience the transforming power of his Spirit, who makes humanity and creation fruitful, even as the rain does with the earth. "His resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 276).

4. Let us never forget that "being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a Person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction" (Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, 1). The Gospel is a Person who continually offers himself and constantly invites those who receive him with humble and religious faith to share his life by an effective participation in the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection. Through *Baptism*, the Gospel becomes a source of new life, freed of the dominion of sin, enlightened and transformed by the Holy Spirit. Through *Confirmation*, it becomes a fortifying anointing that, through the same Spirit, points out new ways and strategies for witness and accompaniment. Through the *Eucharist*, it becomes food for new life, a "medicine of immortality" (Ignatius of Antioch, *Ad Ephesios*, 20, 2).

5. The world vitally needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the Church, Christ continues his mission as the *Good Samaritan*, caring for the bleeding wounds of humanity, and as *Good Shepherd*, constantly seeking out those who wander along winding paths that lead nowhere. Thank God, many significant experiences continue to testify to the transformative power of the Gospel. I think of the gesture of the Dinka student who, at the cost of his own life, protected a student from the enemy Nuer tribe who was about to be killed. I think of that Eucharistic celebration in Kitgum, in northern Uganda, where, after brutal massacres by a rebel group, a missionary made the people repeat the words of Jesus on the cross: "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?" as an expression of the desperate cry of the brothers and sisters of the crucified Lord. For the people, that celebration was an immense source of consolation and courage. We can think too of countless testimonies to how the Gospel helps to overcome narrowness, conflict, racism, tribalism, and to promote everywhere, and among all, reconciliation, fraternity, and sharing.

Mission inspires a spirituality of constant exodus, pilgrimage, and exile

6. The Church's mission is enlivened by a spirituality of *constant exodus*. We are challenged "to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the peripheries in need of the light of the Gospel" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 20). The Church's mission impels us to undertake a *constant pilgrimage* across the various deserts of life, through the different experiences of hunger and thirst for truth and justice. The Church's mission inspires a sense of constant exile, to make us aware, in our thirst for the infinite, that we are exiles journeying towards our final home, poised between the "already" and "not yet" of the Kingdom of Heaven.

7. Mission reminds the Church that she is not an end unto herself, but a humble instrument and mediation of the Kingdom. A self-referential Church, one content with earthly success, is not the Church of Christ, his crucified and glorious Body. That is why we should prefer "a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security" (*ibid.*, 49).

Young people, the hope of mission

8. Young people are the hope of mission. The person of Jesus Christ and the Good News he proclaimed continue to attract many young people. They seek ways to put themselves with courage and enthusiasm at the service of humanity. "There are many young people who offer their solidarity in the face of the evils of the world and engage in various forms of militancy and volunteering... How beautiful it is to see that young people are 'street preachers', joyfully bringing Jesus to every street, every town square and every corner of the earth!" (*ibid.*, 106). The next Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, to be held in 2018 on the theme *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*, represents a providential opportunity to involve young people in the shared missionary responsibility that needs their rich imagination and creativity.

The service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

9. The Pontifical Mission Societies are a precious means of awakening in every Christian community a desire to reach beyond its own confines and security in order to proclaim the Gospel to all. In them, thanks to a profound missionary spirituality, nurtured daily, and a constant commitment to raising missionary awareness and enthusiasm, young people, adults, families, priests, bishops and men and women religious work to develop a missionary heart in everyone. World Mission Day, promoted by the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, is a good opportunity for enabling the missionary heart of Christian communities to join in prayer, testimony of life and communion of goods, in responding to the vast and pressing needs of evangelization.

Carrying out our mission with Mary, Mother of Evangelization

10. Dear brothers and sisters, in carrying out our mission, let us draw inspiration from Mary, Mother of Evangelization. Moved by the Spirit, she welcomed the Word of life in the depths of her humble faith. May the Virgin Mother help us to say our own “yes”, conscious of the urgent need to make the Good News of Jesus resound in our time. May she obtain for us renewed zeal in bringing to everyone the Good News of the life that is victorious over death. May she intercede for us so that we can acquire the holy audacity needed to discover new ways to bring the gift of salvation to every man and woman.

*From the Vatican, 4 June 2017
Solemnity of Pentecost*

Francis

MESSAGGIO DEL SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO
PER LA GIORNATA MISSIONARIA MONDIALE 2018

Insieme ai giovani, portiamo il Vangelo a tutti

Cari giovani, insieme a voi desidero riflettere sulla missione che Gesù ci ha affidato. Rivolgendomi a voi intendo includere tutti i cristiani, che vivono nella Chiesa l'avventura della loro esistenza come figli di Dio. Ciò che mi spinge a parlare a tutti, dialogando con voi, è la certezza che la fede cristiana resta sempre giovane quando si apre alla missione che Cristo ci consegna. «La missione rinvigorisce la fede» (Lett. enc. *Redemptoris missio*, 2), scriveva san Giovanni Paolo II, un Papa che tanto amava i giovani e a loro si è molto dedicato.

L'occasione del Sinodo che celebreremo a Roma nel prossimo mese di ottobre, mese missionario, ci offre l'opportunità di comprendere meglio, alla luce della fede, ciò che il Signore Gesù vuole dire a voi giovani e, attraverso di voi, alle comunità cristiane.

La vita è una missione

Ogni uomo e donna è una missione, e questa è la ragione per cui si trova a vivere sulla terra. Essere *attratti* ed essere *inviati* sono i due movimenti che il nostro cuore, soprattutto quando è giovane in età, sente come forze interiori dell'amore che promettono futuro e spingono in avanti la nostra esistenza. Nessuno come i giovani sente quanto la vita irrompa e attragga. Vivere con gioia la propria responsabilità per il mondo è una grande sfida. Conosco bene le luci e le ombre dell'essere giovani, e se penso alla mia giovinezza e alla mia famiglia, ricordo l'intensità della speranza per un futuro migliore. Il fatto di trovarci in questo mondo non per nostra decisione, ci fa intuire che c'è un'iniziativa che ci precede e ci fa esistere. Ognuno di noi è chiamato a riflettere su questa realtà: «Io sono una missione in questa terra, e per questo mi trovo in questo mondo» (Esort. ap. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 273).

Vi annunciamo Gesù Cristo

La Chiesa, annunciando ciò che ha gratuitamente ricevuto (cfr. Mt 10,8; At 3,6), può condividere con voi giovani la via e la verità che conducono al senso del vivere su questa terra. Gesù Cristo, morto e risorto per noi, si offre alla nostra libertà e la provoca a cercare, scoprire e annunciare questo senso vero e pieno. Cari giovani, non abbiate paura di Cristo e della sua Chiesa! In essi si trova il tesoro che riempie di gioia la vita. Ve lo dico per esperienza: grazie alla fede ho trovato il fondamento dei miei sogni e la forza di realizzarli. Ho visto molte sofferenze, molte povertà sfigurare i volti di tanti fratelli e sorelle. Eppure, per chi sta con Gesù, il male è provocazione ad amare sempre di più. Molti uomini

e donne, molti giovani hanno generosamente donato sé stessi, a volte fino al martirio, per amore del Vangelo a servizio dei fratelli. Dalla croce di Gesù impariamo la logica divina dell'offerta di noi stessi (cfr. 1 Cor 1,17-25) come annuncio del Vangelo per la vita del mondo (cfr. Gv 3,16). Essere infiammati dall'amore di Cristo consuma chi arde e fa crescere, illumina e riscalda chi si ama (cfr. 2 Cor 5,14). Alla scuola dei santi, che ci aprono agli orizzonti vasti di Dio, vi invito a domandarvi in ogni circostanza: «Che cosa farebbe Cristo al mio posto?».

Trasmettere la fede fino agli estremi confini della terra

Anche voi, giovani, per il Battesimo siete membra vive della Chiesa, e insieme abbiamo la missione di portare il Vangelo a tutti. Voi state sbocciando alla vita. Crescere nella grazia della fede a noi trasmessa dai Sacramenti della Chiesa ci coinvolge in un flusso di generazioni di testimoni, dove la saggezza di chi ha esperienza diventa testimonianza e incoraggiamento per chi si apre al futuro. E la novità dei giovani diventa, a sua volta, sostegno e speranza per chi è vicino alla meta del suo cammino. Nella convivenza delle diverse età della vita, la missione della Chiesa costruisce ponti inter-generazionali, nei quali la fede in Dio e l'amore per il prossimo costituiscono fattori di unione profonda.

Questa trasmissione della fede, cuore della missione della Chiesa, avviene dunque per il "contagio" dell'amore, dove la gioia e l'entusiasmo esprimono il ritrovato senso e la pienezza della vita. La propagazione della fede per attrazione esige cuori aperti, dilatati dall'amore. All'amore non è possibile porre limiti: forte come la morte è l'amore (cfr. Ct 8,6). E tale espansione genera l'incontro, la testimonianza, l'annuncio; genera la condivisione nella carità con tutti coloro che, lontani dalla fede, si dimostrano ad essa indifferenti, a volte avversi e contrari. Ambienti umani, culturali e religiosi ancora estranei al Vangelo di Gesù e alla presenza sacramentale della Chiesa rappresentano le estreme periferie, gli "estremi confini della terra", verso cui, fin dalla Pasqua di Gesù, i suoi discepoli missionari sono inviati, nella certezza di avere il loro Signore sempre con sé (cfr. Mt 28,20; At 1,8). In questo consiste ciò che chiamiamo *missio ad gentes*. La periferia più desolata dell'umanità bisognosa di Cristo è l'indifferenza verso la fede o addirittura l'odio contro la pienezza divina della vita. Ogni povertà materiale e spirituale, ogni discriminazione di fratelli e sorelle è sempre conseguenza del rifiuto di Dio e del suo amore.

Gli estremi confini della terra, cari giovani, sono per voi oggi molto relativi e sempre facilmente "navigabili". Il mondo digitale, le reti sociali che ci pervadono e attraversano, stemperano confini, cancellano margini e distanze, riducono le differenze. Sembra tutto a portata di mano, tutto così vicino ed immediato. Eppure senza il dono coinvolgente delle nostre vite, potremo avere miriadi di contatti ma non saremo mai immersi in una vera comunione di vita. La missione fino agli estremi confini della terra esige il dono di sé stessi nella vocazione donataci da Colui che ci ha posti su questa

terra (cfr. Lc 9,23-25). Oserei dire che, per un giovane che vuole seguire Cristo, l'essenziale è la ricerca e l'adesione alla propria vocazione.

Testimoniare l'amore

Ringrazio tutte le realtà ecclesiali che vi permettono di incontrare personalmente Cristo vivo nella sua Chiesa: le parrocchie, le associazioni, i movimenti, le comunità religiose, le svariate espressioni di servizio missionario. Tanti giovani trovano, nel volontariato missionario, una forma per servire i "più piccoli" (cfr. Mt 25,40), promuovendo la dignità umana e testimoniando la gioia di amare e di essere cristiani. Queste esperienze ecclesiali fanno sì che la formazione di ognuno non sia soltanto preparazione per il proprio successo professionale, ma sviluppi e curi un dono del Signore per meglio servire gli altri. Queste forme lodevoli di servizio missionario temporaneo sono un inizio fecondo e, nel discernimento vocazionale, possono aiutarvi a decidere per il dono totale di voi stessi come missionari.

Da cuori giovani sono nate le Pontificie Opere Missionarie, per sostenere l'annuncio del Vangelo a tutte le genti, contribuendo alla crescita umana e culturale di tante popolazioni assetate di Verità. Le preghiere e gli aiuti materiali, che generosamente sono donati e distribuiti attraverso le POM, aiutano la Santa Sede a far sì che quanti ricevono per il proprio bisogno possano, a loro volta, essere capaci di dare testimonianza nel proprio ambiente. Nessuno è così povero da non poter dare ciò che ha, ma prima ancora ciò che è. Mi piace ripetere l'esortazione che ho rivolto ai giovani cileni: «Non pensare mai che non hai niente da dare o che non hai bisogno di nessuno. Molta gente ha bisogno di te, pensaci. Ognuno di voi pensi nel suo cuore: molta gente ha bisogno di me» (*Incontro con i giovani*, Santuario di Maipu, 17 gennaio 2018).

Cari giovani, il prossimo Ottobre missionario, in cui si svolgerà il Sinodo a voi dedicato, sarà un'ulteriore occasione per renderci discepoli missionari sempre più appassionati per Gesù e la sua missione, fino agli estremi confini della terra. A Maria Regina degli Apostoli, ai santi Francesco Saverio e Teresa di Gesù Bambino, al beato Paolo Manna, chiedo di intercedere per tutti noi e di accompagnarci sempre.

Dal Vaticano, 20 maggio 2018
Solennità di Pentecoste

Francesco

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS FRANCIS
FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2018

Together with young people, let us bring the Gospel to all

Dear young people, I would like to reflect with you on the mission that we have received from Christ. In speaking to you, I also address all Christians who live out in the Church the adventure of their life as children of God. What leads me to speak to everyone through this conversation with you is the certainty that the Christian faith remains ever young when it is open to the mission that Christ entrusts to us. “Mission revitalizes faith” (*Redemptoris Missio*, 2), in the words of Saint John Paul II, a Pope who showed such great love and concern for young people.

The Synod to be held in Rome this coming October, the month of the missions, offers us an opportunity to understand more fully, in the light of faith, what the Lord Jesus wants to say to you young people, and, through you, to all Christian communities.

Life is a mission

Every man and woman *is* a mission; that is the reason for our life on this earth. To be *attracted* and to be *sent* are two movements that our hearts, especially when we are young, feel as interior forces of love; they hold out promise for our future and they give direction to our lives. More than anyone else, young people feel the power of life breaking in upon us and attracting us. To live out joyfully our responsibility for the world is a great challenge. I am well aware of lights and shadows of youth; when I think back to my youth and my family, I remember the strength of my hope for a better future. The fact that we are not in this world by our own choice makes us sense that there is an initiative that precedes us and makes us exist. Each one of us is called to reflect on this fact: “*I am a mission* on this Earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273).

We proclaim Jesus Christ

The Church, by proclaiming what she freely received (cf. Mt 10:8; Acts 3:6), can share with you young people the way and truth which give meaning to our life on this earth. Jesus Christ, who died and rose for us, appeals to our freedom and challenges us to seek, discover and proclaim this message of truth and fulfilment. Dear young people, do not be afraid of Christ and his Church! For there we find the treasure that fills life with joy. I can tell you this from my own experience: thanks to faith, I found the sure foundation of my dreams and the strength to realize them. I have seen great suffering and poverty mar the faces of so many of our brothers and sisters. And yet, for those who stand by Jesus, evil is an incentive to ever greater love. Many men and women, and many young people, have

generously sacrificed themselves, even at times to martyrdom, out of love for the Gospel and service to their brothers and sisters. From the cross of Jesus we learn the divine logic of self-sacrifice (cf. 1 Cor 1:17-25) as a proclamation of the Gospel for the life of the world (cf. Jn 3:16). To be set afire by the love of Christ is to be consumed by that fire, to grow in understanding by its light and to be warmed by its love (cf. 2 Cor 5:14). At the school of the saints, who open us to the vast horizons of God, I invite you never to stop wondering: “What would Christ do if he were in my place?”

Transmitting the faith to the ends of the earth

You too, young friends, by your baptism have become living members of the Church; together we have received the mission to bring the Gospel to everyone. You are at the threshold of life. To grow in the grace of the faith bestowed on us by the Church’s sacraments plunges us into that great stream of witnesses who, generation after generation, enable the wisdom and experience of older persons to become testimony and encouragement for those looking to the future. And the freshness and enthusiasm of the young makes them a source of support and hope for those nearing the end of their journey. In this blend of different stages in life, the mission of the Church bridges the generations; our faith in God and our love of neighbor are a source of profound unity.

This transmission of the faith, the heart of the Church’s mission, comes about by the infectiousness of love, where joy and enthusiasm become the expression of a newfound meaning and fulfilment in life. The spread of the faith “by attraction” calls for hearts that are open and expanded by love. It is not possible to place limits on love, for love is strong as death (cf. Song 8:6). And that expansion generates encounter, witness, proclamation; it generates sharing in charity with all those far from the faith, indifferent to it and perhaps even hostile and opposed to it. Human, cultural and religious settings still foreign to the Gospel of Jesus and to the sacramental presence of the Church represent the extreme peripheries, the “ends of the earth”, to which, ever since the first Easter, Jesus’ missionary disciples have been sent, with the certainty that their Lord is always with them (cf. Mt 28:20; Acts 1:8). This is what we call the *missio ad gentes*. The most desolate periphery of all is where mankind, in need of Christ, remains indifferent to the faith or shows hatred for the fullness of life in God. All material and spiritual poverty, every form of discrimination against our brothers and sisters, is always a consequence of the rejection of God and his love.

The ends of the earth, dear young people, nowadays are quite relative and always easily “navigable”. The digital world – the social networks that are so pervasive and readily available – dissolves borders, eliminates distances and reduces differences. Everything appears within reach, so close and immediate. And yet lacking the sincere gift of our lives, we could well have countless contacts but never share in a true communion of life. To share in the mission to the ends of the earth demands the gift of oneself in the vocation that God, who has placed us on this earth, chooses to give

us (cf. Lk 9:23-25). I dare say that, for a young man or woman who wants to follow Christ, what is most essential is to seek, to discover and to persevere in his or her vocation.

Bearing witness to love

I am grateful to all those ecclesial groups that make it possible for you to have a personal encounter with Christ living in his Church: parishes, associations, movements, religious communities, and the varied expressions of missionary service. How many young people find in missionary volunteer work a way of serving the “least” of our brothers and sisters (cf. Mt 25:40), promoting human dignity and witnessing to the joy of love and of being Christians! These ecclesial experiences educate and train young people not only for professional success, but also for developing and fostering their God-given gifts in order better to serve others. These praiseworthy forms of temporary missionary service are a fruitful beginning and, through vocational discernment, they can help you to decide to make a complete gift of yourselves as missionaries.

The Pontifical Mission Societies were born of young hearts as a means of supporting the preaching of the Gospel to every nation and thus contributing to the human and cultural growth of all those who thirst for knowledge of the truth. The prayers and the material aid generously given and distributed through the Pontifical Mission Societies enable the Holy See to ensure that those who are helped in their personal needs can in turn bear witness to the Gospel in the circumstances of their daily lives. No one is so poor as to be unable to give what they have, but first and foremost what they are. Let me repeat the words of encouragement that I addressed to the young people of Chile: “Never think that you have nothing to offer, or that nobody needs you. Many people need you. Think about it! Each of you, think in your heart: many people need me” (*Meeting with Young People*, Maipu Shrine, 17 January 2018).

Dear young people, this coming October, the month of the missions, we will hold the Synod devoted to you. It will prove to be one more occasion to help us become missionary disciples, ever more passionately devoted to Jesus and his mission, to the ends of the earth. I ask Mary, Queen of the Apostles, Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and Blessed Paolo Manna to intercede for all of us and to accompany us always.

From the Vatican, 20 May 2018
Solemnity of Pentecost

Francis

MESSAGGIO DEL SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO
PER LA GIORNATA MISSIONARIA MONDIALE 2019

Battezzati e inviati: la Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo

Cari fratelli e sorelle,

per il mese di ottobre del 2019 ho chiesto a tutta la Chiesa di vivere un tempo straordinario di missionarietà per commemorare il centenario della promulgazione della Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* del Papa Benedetto XV (30 novembre 1919). La profetica lungimiranza della sua proposta apostolica mi ha confermato su quanto sia ancora oggi importante rinnovare l'impegno missionario della Chiesa, riqualificare in senso evangelico la sua missione di annunciare e di portare al mondo la salvezza di Gesù Cristo, morto e risorto.

Il titolo del presente messaggio è uguale al tema dell'Ottobre missionario: *Battezzati e inviati: la Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo*. Celebrare questo mese ci aiuterà in primo luogo a ritrovare il senso missionario della nostra adesione di fede a Gesù Cristo, fede gratuitamente ricevuta come dono nel Battesimo. La nostra appartenenza filiale a Dio non è mai un atto individuale ma sempre ecclesiale: dalla comunione con Dio, Padre e Figlio e Spirito Santo, nasce una vita nuova insieme a tanti altri fratelli e sorelle. E questa vita divina non è un prodotto da vendere – noi non facciamo proselitismo – ma una ricchezza da donare, da comunicare, da annunciare: ecco il senso della missione. Gratuitamente abbiamo ricevuto questo dono e gratuitamente lo condividiamo (cfr. Mt 10,8), senza escludere nessuno. Dio vuole che tutti gli uomini siano salvati arrivando alla conoscenza della verità e all'esperienza della sua misericordia grazie alla Chiesa, sacramento universale della salvezza (cfr. 1 Tm 2,4; 3,15; Conc. Ecum. Vat. II, Cost. dogm. *Lumen gentium*, 48).

La Chiesa è in missione nel mondo: la fede in Gesù Cristo ci dona la giusta dimensione di tutte le cose facendoci vedere il mondo con gli occhi e il cuore di Dio; la speranza ci apre agli orizzonti eterni della vita divina di cui veramente partecipiamo; la carità, che pregustiamo nei Sacramenti e nell'amore fraterno, ci spinge sino ai confini della terra (cfr. Mi 5,3; Mt 28,19; At 1,8; Rm 10,18). Una Chiesa in uscita fino agli estremi confini richiede conversione missionaria costante e permanente. Quanti santi, quante donne e uomini di fede ci testimoniano, ci mostrano possibile e praticabile questa apertura illimitata, questa uscita misericordiosa come spinta urgente dell'amore e della sua logica intrinseca di dono, di sacrificio e di gratuità (cfr. 2 Cor 5,14-21)! Sia uomo di Dio chi predica Dio (cfr. Lett. ap. *Maximum Illud*).

È un mandato che ci tocca da vicino: io sono sempre una missione; tu sei sempre una missione; ogni battezzata e battezzato è una missione. Chi ama si mette in movimento, è spinto fuori da sé

stesso, è attratto e attrae, si dona all'altro e tesse relazioni che generano vita. Nessuno è inutile e insignificante per l'amore di Dio. Ciascuno di noi è una missione nel mondo perché frutto dell'amore di Dio. Anche se mio padre e mia madre tradissero l'amore con la menzogna, l'odio e l'infedeltà, Dio non si sottrae mai al dono della vita, destinando ogni suo figlio, da sempre, alla sua vita divina ed eterna (cfr. Ef 1,3-6).

Questa vita ci viene comunicata nel Battesimo, che ci dona la fede in Gesù Cristo vincitore del peccato e della morte, ci rigenera ad immagine e somiglianza di Dio e ci inserisce nel corpo di Cristo che è la Chiesa. In questo senso, il Battesimo è dunque veramente necessario per la salvezza perché ci garantisce che siamo figli e figlie, sempre e dovunque, mai orfani, stranieri o schiavi, nella casa del Padre. Ciò che nel cristiano è realtà sacramentale – il cui compimento è l'Eucaristia –, rimane vocazione e destino per ogni uomo e donna in attesa di conversione e di salvezza. Il Battesimo infatti è promessa realizzata del dono divino che rende l'essere umano figlio nel Figlio. Siamo figli dei nostri genitori naturali, ma nel Battesimo ci è data l'originaria paternità e la vera maternità: non può avere Dio come Padre chi non ha la Chiesa come madre (cfr. San Cipriano, *L'unità della Chiesa*, 4).

Così, nella paternità di Dio e nella maternità della Chiesa si radica la nostra missione, perché nel Battesimo è insito l'invio espresso da Gesù nel mandato pasquale: come il Padre ha mandato me, anche io mando voi pieni di Spirito Santo per la riconciliazione del mondo (cfr. Gv 20,19-23; Mt 28,16-20). Al cristiano compete questo invio, affinché a nessuno manchi l'annuncio della sua vocazione a figlio adottivo, la certezza della sua dignità personale e dell'intrinseco valore di ogni vita umana dal suo concepimento fino alla sua morte naturale. Il dilagante secolarismo, quando si fa rifiuto positivo e culturale dell'attiva paternità di Dio nella nostra storia, impedisce ogni autentica fraternità universale che si esprime nel reciproco rispetto della vita di ciascuno. Senza il Dio di Gesù Cristo, ogni differenza si riduce ad infernale minaccia rendendo impossibile qualsiasi fraterna accoglienza e feconda unità del genere umano.

L'universale destinazione della salvezza offerta da Dio in Gesù Cristo condusse Benedetto XV ad esigere il superamento di ogni chiusura nazionalistica ed etnocentrica, di ogni commistione dell'annuncio del Vangelo con le potenze coloniali, con i loro interessi economici e militari. Nella sua Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* il Papa ricordava che l'universalità divina della missione della Chiesa esige l'uscita da un'appartenenza esclusivistica alla propria patria e alla propria etnia. L'apertura della cultura e della comunità alla novità salvifica di Gesù Cristo richiede il superamento di ogni indebita introversione etnica ed ecclesiale. Anche oggi la Chiesa continua ad avere bisogno di uomini e donne che, in virtù del loro Battesimo, rispondono generosamente alla chiamata ad uscire dalla propria casa, dalla propria famiglia, dalla propria patria, dalla propria lingua, dalla propria Chiesa locale. Essi sono inviati alle genti, nel mondo non ancora trasfigurato dai Sacramenti di Gesù

Cristo e della sua santa Chiesa. Annunciando la Parola di Dio, testimoniando il Vangelo e celebrando la vita dello Spirito chiamano a conversione, battezzano e offrono la salvezza cristiana nel rispetto della libertà personale di ognuno, in dialogo con le culture e le religioni dei popoli a cui sono inviati. La *missio ad gentes*, sempre necessaria alla Chiesa, contribuisce così in maniera fondamentale al processo permanente di conversione di tutti i cristiani. La fede nella Pasqua di Gesù, l'invio ecclesiale battesimale, l'uscita geografica e culturale da sé e dalla propria casa, il bisogno di salvezza dal peccato e la liberazione dal male personale e sociale esigono la missione fino agli estremi confini della terra.

La provvidenziale coincidenza con la celebrazione del Sinodo Speciale sulle Chiese in Amazzonia mi porta a sottolineare come la missione affidataci da Gesù con il dono del suo Spirito sia ancora attuale e necessaria anche per quelle terre e per i loro abitanti. Una rinnovata Pentecoste spalanca le porte della Chiesa affinché nessuna cultura rimanga chiusa in sé stessa e nessun popolo sia isolato ma aperto alla comunione universale della fede. Nessuno rimanga chiuso nel proprio io, nell'autoreferenzialità della propria appartenenza etnica e religiosa. La Pasqua di Gesù rompe gli angusti limiti di mondi, religioni e culture, chiamandoli a crescere nel rispetto per la dignità dell'uomo e della donna, verso una conversione sempre più piena alla Verità del Signore Risorto che dona la vera vita a tutti.

Mi sovengono a tale proposito le parole di Papa Benedetto XVI all'inizio del nostro incontro di Vescovi latinoamericani ad Aparecida, in Brasile, nel 2007, parole che qui desidero riportare e fare mie: «Che cosa ha significato l'accettazione della fede cristiana per i Paesi dell'America Latina e dei Caraibi? Per essi ha significato conoscere e accogliere Cristo, il Dio sconosciuto che i loro antenati, senza saperlo, cercavano nelle loro ricche tradizioni religiose. Cristo era il Salvatore a cui anelavano silenziosamente. Ha significato anche avere ricevuto, con le acque del Battesimo, la vita divina che li ha fatti figli di Dio per adozione; avere ricevuto, inoltre, lo Spirito Santo che è venuto a fecondare le loro culture, purificandole e sviluppando i numerosi germi e semi che il Verbo incarnato aveva messo in esse, orientandole così verso le strade del Vangelo. [...] Il Verbo di Dio, facendosi carne in Gesù Cristo, si fece anche storia e cultura. L'utopia di tornare a dare vita alle religioni precolombiane, separandole da Cristo e dalla Chiesa universale, non sarebbe un progresso, bensì un regresso. In realtà, sarebbe un'involuzione verso un momento storico ancorato nel passato» (*Discorso nella Sessione inaugurale*, 13 maggio 2007: *Insegnamenti* III,1 [2007], 855-856).

A Maria nostra Madre affidiamo la missione della Chiesa. Unita al suo Figlio, fin dall'Incarnazione la Vergine si è messa in movimento, si è lasciata totalmente coinvolgere nella missione di Gesù, missione che ai piedi della croce divenne anche la sua propria missione: collaborare come Madre della Chiesa a generare nello Spirito e nella fede nuovi figli e figlie di Dio.

Vorrei concludere con una breve parola sulle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, già proposte nella *Maximum Illud* come strumento missionario. Le POM esprimono il loro servizio all'universalità ecclesiale come una rete globale che sostiene il Papa nel suo impegno missionario con la preghiera, anima della missione, e la carità dei cristiani sparsi per il mondo intero. La loro offerta aiuta il Papa nell'evangelizzazione delle Chiese particolari (Opera della Propagazione della Fede), nella formazione del clero locale (Opera di San Pietro Apostolo), nell'educazione di una coscienza missionaria dei bambini di tutto il mondo (Opera della Santa Infanzia) e nella formazione missionaria della fede dei cristiani (Pontifica Unione Missionaria). Nel rinnovare il mio appoggio a tali Opere, auguro che il Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'Ottobre 2019 contribuisca al rinnovamento del loro servizio missionario al mio ministero.

Ai missionari e alle missionarie e a tutti coloro che in qualsiasi modo partecipano, in forza del proprio Battesimo, alla missione della Chiesa invio di cuore la mia benedizione.

Dal Vaticano, 9 giugno 2019
Solennità di Pentecoste

Francesco

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS FRANCIS
FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2019

Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For the month of October 2019, I have asked that the whole Church revive her missionary awareness and commitment as we commemorate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919). Its farsighted and prophetic vision of the apostolate has made me realize once again the importance of renewing the Church's missionary commitment and giving fresh evangelical impulse to her work of preaching and bringing to the world the salvation of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again.

The title of the present Message is the same as that of October's Missionary Month: *Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World*. Celebrating this month will help us first to rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ, a faith graciously bestowed on us in baptism. Our filial relationship with God is not something simply private, but always in relation to the Church. Through our communion with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we, together with so many of our other brothers and sisters, are born to new life. This divine life is not a product for sale – we do not practise proselytism – but a treasure to be given, communicated and proclaimed: that is the meaning of mission. We received this gift freely and we share it freely (cf. Mt 10:8), without excluding anyone. God wills that all people be saved by coming to know the truth and experiencing his mercy through the ministry of the Church, the universal sacrament of salvation (cf. 1 Tim 2:4; *Lumen Gentium*, 48).

The Church is on mission in the world. Faith in Jesus Christ enables us to see all things in their proper perspective, as we view the world with God's own eyes and heart. Hope opens us up to the eternal horizons of the divine life that we share. Charity, of which we have a foretaste in the sacraments and in fraternal love, impels us to go forth to the ends of the earth (cf. Mic 5:4; Mt 28:19; Acts 1:8; Rom 10:18). A Church that presses forward to the farthest frontiers requires a constant and ongoing missionary conversion. How many saints, how many men and women of faith, witness to the fact that this unlimited openness, this going forth in mercy, is indeed possible and realistic, for it is driven by love and its deepest meaning as gift, sacrifice and gratuitousness (cf. 2 Cor 5:14-21)! The man who preaches God must be a man of God (cf. *Maximum Illud*).

This missionary mandate touches us personally: I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptized man and woman is a mission. People in love never stand still: they are drawn

out of themselves; they are attracted and attract others in turn; they give themselves to others and build relationships that are life-giving. As far as God's love is concerned, no one is useless or insignificant. Each of us is a mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God's love. Even if parents can betray their love by lies, hatred and infidelity, God never takes back his gift of life. From eternity he has destined each of his children to share in his divine and eternal life (cf. Eph 1:3-6).

This life is bestowed on us in baptism, which grants us the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, the conqueror of sin and death. Baptism gives us rebirth in God's own image and likeness, and makes us members of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. In this sense, baptism is truly necessary for salvation for it ensures that we are always and everywhere sons and daughters in the house of the Father, and never orphans, strangers or slaves. What in the Christian is a sacramental reality – whose fulfillment is found in the Eucharist – remains the vocation and destiny of every man and woman in search of conversion and salvation. For baptism fulfils the promise of the gift of God that makes everyone a son or daughter in the Son. We are children of our natural parents, but in baptism we receive the origin of all fatherhood and true motherhood: no one can have God for a Father who does not have the Church for a mother (cf. Saint Cyprian, *De Cath. Eccl.*, 6).

Our mission, then, is rooted in the fatherhood of God and the motherhood of the Church. The mandate given by the Risen Jesus at Easter is inherent in Baptism: as the Father has sent me, so I send you, filled with the Holy Spirit, for the reconciliation of the world (cf. Jn 20:19-23; Mt 28:16-20). This mission is part of our identity as Christians; it makes us responsible for enabling all men and women to realize their vocation to be adoptive children of the Father, to recognize their personal dignity and to appreciate the intrinsic worth of every human life, from conception until natural death. Today's rampant secularism, when it becomes an aggressive cultural rejection of God's active fatherhood in our history, is an obstacle to authentic human fraternity, which finds expression in reciprocal respect for the life of each person. Without the God of Jesus Christ, every difference is reduced to a baneful threat, making impossible any real fraternal acceptance and fruitful unity within the human race.

The universality of the salvation offered by God in Jesus Christ led Benedict XV to call for an end to all forms of nationalism and ethnocentrism, or the merging of the preaching of the Gospel with the economic and military interests of the colonial powers. In his Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, the Pope noted that the Church's universal mission requires setting aside exclusivist ideas of membership in one's own country and ethnic group. The opening of the culture and the community to the salvific newness of Jesus Christ requires leaving behind every kind of undue ethnic and ecclesial introversion. Today too, the Church needs men and women who, by virtue of their baptism, respond generously to the call to leave behind home, family, country, language and local Church, and

to be sent forth to the nations, to a world not yet transformed by the sacraments of Jesus Christ and his holy Church. By proclaiming God's word, bearing witness to the Gospel and celebrating the life of the Spirit, they summon to conversion, baptize and offer Christian salvation, with respect for the freedom of each person and in dialogue with the cultures and religions of the peoples to whom they are sent. The *missio ad gentes*, which is always necessary for the Church, thus contributes in a fundamental way to the process of ongoing conversion in all Christians. Faith in the Easter event of Jesus; the ecclesial mission received in baptism; the geographic and cultural detachment from oneself and one's own home; the need for salvation from sin and liberation from personal and social evil: all these demand the mission that reaches to the very ends of the earth.

The providential coincidence of this centenary year with the celebration of the Special Synod on the Churches in the Amazon allows me to emphasize how the mission entrusted to us by Jesus with the gift of his Spirit is also timely and necessary for those lands and their peoples. A renewed Pentecost opens wide the doors of the Church, in order that no culture remain closed in on itself and no people cut off from the universal communion of the faith. No one ought to remain closed in self-absorption, in the self-referentiality of his or her own ethnic and religious affiliation. The Easter event of Jesus breaks through the narrow limits of worlds, religions and cultures, calling them to grow in respect for the dignity of men and women, and towards a deeper conversion to the truth of the Risen Lord who gives authentic life to all.

Here I am reminded of the words of Pope Benedict XVI at the beginning of the meeting of Latin American Bishops at Aparecida, Brazil, in 2007. I would like to repeat these words and make them my own: "Yet what did the acceptance of the Christian faith mean for the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean? For them, it meant knowing and welcoming Christ, the unknown God whom their ancestors were seeking, without realizing it, in their rich religious traditions. Christ is the Saviour for whom they were silently longing. It also meant that they received, in the waters of Baptism, the divine life that made them children of God by adoption; moreover, they received the Holy Spirit who came to make their cultures fruitful, purifying them and developing the numerous seeds that the incarnate Word had planted in them, thereby guiding them along the paths of the Gospel... The Word of God, in becoming flesh in Jesus Christ, also became history and culture. The utopia of going back to breathe life into the pre-Columbian religions, separating them from Christ and from the universal Church, would not be a step forward: indeed, it would be a step back. In reality, it would be a retreat towards a stage in history anchored in the past" (*Address at the Inaugural Session*, 13 May 2007: *Insegnamenti* III, 1 [2007], 855-856).

We entrust the Church's mission to Mary our Mother. In union with her Son, from the moment of the Incarnation the Blessed Virgin set out on her pilgrim way. She was fully involved in the mission

of Jesus, a mission that became her own at the foot of the Cross: the mission of cooperating, as Mother of the Church, in bringing new sons and daughters of God to birth in the Spirit and in faith.

I would like to conclude with a brief word about the Pontifical Mission Societies, already proposed in *Maximum Illud* as a missionary resource. The Pontifical Mission Societies serve the Church's universality as a global network of support for the Pope in his missionary commitment by prayer, the soul of mission, and charitable offerings from Christians throughout the world. Their donations assist the Pope in the evangelization efforts of particular Churches (the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith), in the formation of local clergy (the Pontifical Society of Saint Peter the Apostle), in raising missionary awareness in children (Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood) and in encouraging the missionary dimension of Christian faith (Pontifical Missionary Union). In renewing my support for these Societies, I trust that the extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 will contribute to the renewal of their missionary service to my ministry.

To men and women missionaries, and to all those who, by virtue of their baptism, share in any way in the mission of the Church, I send my heartfelt blessing.

*From the Vatican, 9 June 2019
Solemnity of Pentecost*

Francis

DISCORSO DEL SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO
AI PARTECIPANTI ALL'ASSEMBLEA
DELLE PONTIFICIE OPERE MISSIONARIE

Sala Clementina
Sabato, 3 giugno 2017

Signor Cardinale,
cari fratelli e sorelle,

vi accolgo con gioia al termine della vostra Assemblea Generale e ringrazio il Cardinale Fernando Filoni per le sue parole. Con lui saluto tutti i Superiori, i Segretari Generali, i Direttori Nazionali e tutti voi qui presenti.

Conoscete bene la mia preoccupazione circa le Pontificie Opere Missionarie, molto spesso ridotte a un'organizzazione che raccoglie e distribuisce, a nome del Papa, aiuti economici per le Chiese più bisognose. So che state cercando vie nuove, modalità più adeguate, più ecclesiali per svolgere il vostro servizio alla missione universale della Chiesa. Lasciamoci sostenere, in questo processo di urgente riforma, anche dall'intercessione dei santi Carlo Lwanga e compagni, martiri dell'Uganda, la cui memoria liturgica ricorre oggi.

Per rinnovare l'ardore e la passione, motore spirituale dell'attività apostolica di innumerevoli santi e martiri missionari, ho accolto con molto favore la vostra proposta, elaborata assieme alla Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli, di indire un tempo straordinario di preghiera e riflessione sulla *missio ad gentes*. Chiederò a tutta la Chiesa di dedicare il mese di ottobre dell'anno 2019 a questa finalità, perché in quell'anno celebreremo il centenario della Lettera Apostolica *Maximum Illud*, del Papa Benedetto XV. In questo importantissimo documento del suo Magistero sulla missione, il Papa ricorda quanto sia necessaria, all'efficacia dell'apostolato, la santità della vita; raccomanda, pertanto, una sempre più forte unione con Cristo e un coinvolgimento più convinto e gioioso nella sua divina passione di annunciare il Vangelo a tutti, amando e usando misericordia verso tutti. Ciò risulta più che mai essenziale per la missione anche oggi. Uomini e donne "insigni per zelo e santità" sono sempre più necessari alla Chiesa e alla missione. "Chi predica Dio, sia uomo di Dio", esortava Benedetto XV (cfr Lett. ap. *Maximum Illud*, 30 novembre 1919: AAS XI [1919], 449).

Rinnovarsi richiede conversione, richiede di vivere la missione come opportunità permanente di annunciare Cristo, di farlo incontrare testimoniando e rendendo gli altri partecipi del nostro incontro personale con Lui. Auspico che la vostra assistenza spirituale e materiale alle Chiese le renda sempre più fondate sul Vangelo e sul coinvolgimento battesimale di tutti i fedeli, laici e chierici, nell'unica missione della Chiesa: rendere l'amore di Dio prossimo ad ogni uomo, specialmente ai più

bisognosi della sua misericordia. Il Mese straordinario di preghiera e riflessione sulla missione come prima evangelizzazione servirà a questo rinnovamento della fede ecclesiale, affinché al suo cuore stia e operi sempre la Pasqua di Gesù Cristo, unico Salvatore, Signore e Sposo della sua Chiesa.

La preparazione di questo tempo straordinario dedicato al primo annuncio del Vangelo ci aiuti ad essere sempre più Chiesa in missione, secondo le parole del Beato Paolo VI, nella sua Esortazione Apostolica *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, magna carta dell'impegno missionario post-conciliare. Scriveva Papa Montini: «Evangelizzatrice, la Chiesa comincia con l'evangelizzare se stessa. Comunità di credenti, comunità di speranza vissuta e partecipata, comunità di amore fraterno, essa ha bisogno di ascoltare di continuo ciò che deve credere, le ragioni della sua speranza, il comandamento nuovo dell'amore. Popolo di Dio immerso nel mondo, e spesso tentato dagli idoli, essa ha sempre bisogno di sentir proclamare le grandi opere di Dio (cfr. At 2,11; 1 Pt 2,9), che l'hanno convertita al Signore, e d'essere nuovamente convocata e riunita da Lui. Ciò vuol dire, in una parola, che essa ha sempre bisogno di essere evangelizzata, se vuol conservare la freschezza, lo slancio e la forza, per annunziare il Vangelo» (n. 15).

Nello spirito dell'insegnamento del Beato Paolo VI, desidero che la celebrazione dei 100 anni della *Maximum Illud*, nel mese di ottobre 2019, sia un tempo propizio affinché la preghiera, la testimonianza di tanti santi e martiri della missione, la riflessione biblica e teologica, la catechesi e la carità missionaria contribuiscano ad evangelizzare anzitutto la Chiesa, così che essa, ritrovata la freschezza e l'ardore del primo amore per il Signore crocifisso e risorto, possa evangelizzare il mondo con credibilità ed efficacia evangelica.

Vi benedico tutti in questo giorno antecedente la solennità della Pentecoste. Chiedo alla Vergine Maria, Regina degli Apostoli e Madre della Chiesa, di spronarci sempre con la testimonianza della sua fede e con la rassicurante garanzia della sua materna intercessione. I beati apostoli Pietro e Paolo, i santi martiri Carlo Lwanga e compagni, il beato Paolo Manna non smettano mai di pregare Dio per tutti noi, suoi missionari.

ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
**AUDIENCE WITH PARTICIPANTS IN THE ASSEMBLY
OF THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES**

Clementine Hall
Saturday, June 3, 2017

Dear Cardinal,
Dear brothers and sisters,

I welcome you with joy at the end of your General Assembly and I thank Cardinal Fernando Filoni for his words. With him I greet all the Superiors, the General Secretaries, the National Director and all of you present here.

You well know my concern about the Pontifical Mission Societies, very often reduced to an organization that collects and distributes, on behalf of the Pope, economic aid for the neediest Churches. I know that you are seeking new ways, more suitable and more ecclesial methods to carry out your service to the universal mission of the Church. Let us allow ourselves to be sustained, in this process of urgent reform, also by the intercession of the Saints Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs of Uganda, whose liturgical memory we celebrate today.

To renew ardor and passion, the spiritual motor of the apostolic action of countless missionary saints and martyrs, I have very favorably received your proposal, formulated together with the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, to announce an extraordinary time for prayer and reflection on the *missio ad gentes*. I will ask all the Church to dedicate the month of October of the year 2019 to this aim, as in that year we will celebrate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, of Pope Benedict XV. In this very important document of his Magisterium on the mission, the Pope recalls how necessary the holiness of life is to the efficacy of the apostolate, he recommends, therefore, an ever stronger union with Christ and a more convinced and joyful involvement in his divine passion for announcing the Gospel to all, loving and employing mercy towards everyone. Men and women, “distinguished by zeal and holiness”, are increasingly necessary to the Church and to the mission. “May he who preaches God be a man of God”, exhorted Benedict XV (cf. Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, 30 November 1919; AAS XI [1919], 449).

Renewing oneself requires conversion, and it requires living mission as an ongoing opportunity to proclaim Christ, to let Him be encountered by bearing witness and making others participants in our personal encounter with Him. I hope that your spiritual and material assistance to the Church makes it increasingly based upon the Gospel and the baptismal involvement of all the faithful, lay and clerical, in the single mission of the Church: bringing God’s love to every man,

especially those most in need of His mercy. The extraordinary month of prayer and reflection on the mission as first evangelization will serve for this renewal of ecclesial faith, so that the Easter of Jesus Christ, the only Saviour, Lord and bridegroom of His Church, always be and remain in her heart.

May the preparation for this extraordinary time dedicated to the first proclamation of the Gospel help us always to be a Church increasingly in mission, following the words of Blessed Paul VI, in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi, magna carta* of the post-Conciliar missionary effort. Pope Montini wrote: “The Church is an evangelizer, but she begins by being evangelized herself. She is the community of believers, the community of hope lived and communicated, the community of brotherly love, and she needs to listen unceasingly to what she must believe, to her reasons for hoping, to the new commandment of love. She is the People of God immersed in the world, and often tempted by idols, and she always needs to hear the proclamation of the ‘mighty works of God’ [41] which converted her to the Lord; she always needs to be called together afresh by Him and reunited. In brief, this means that she has a constant need of being evangelized, if she wishes to retain freshness, vigour and strength in order to proclaim the Gospel”.

In the spirit of the teaching of Blessed Paul VI, it is my wish that the celebration of the centenary of *Maximum Illud*, in the month of October 2019, be a favorable time for prayer, the witness of many saints and martyrs of the mission, biblical and theological reflection, catechesis and missionary charity to contribute to evangelizing, first and foremost, the Church, so that having rediscovered the freshness and zeal of the first love for the crucified and risen Lord, she may evangelize the world with credibility and evangelical efficacy.

I bless you all in this day before the Solemnity of Pentecost. I ask the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles and Mother of the Church, always to inspire us with the testimony of her faith and the reassuring guarantee of her motherly intercession. May the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, the holy martyrs Carlo Lwanga and his companions, and Blessed Paolo Manna never cease to pray to God for all of us, His missionaries.

DISCORSO DEL SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO
AI DIRETTORI NAZIONALI
DELLE PONTIFICIE OPERE MISSIONARIE

Sala Clementina
Venerdì, 1 giugno 2018

Signor Cardinale,
cari fratelli e sorelle,

vi accolgo con gioia in occasione della vostra Assemblea Generale e vi saluto tutti cordialmente. Ringrazio il Cardinale Filoni per le sue parole di introduzione, e saluto il nuovo Presidente delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso, che per la prima volta partecipa a questo vostro incontro annuale. A tutti esprimo un vivo senso di gratitudine per il lavoro di sensibilizzazione missionaria del Popolo di Dio e vi assicuro il mio ricordo nella preghiera.

Abbiamo davanti un interessante cammino: la preparazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019, che ho voluto indire nella scorsa Giornata Missionaria Mondiale dell'anno 2017. Vi incoraggio fortemente a vivere questa fase di preparazione come una grande opportunità per rinnovare l'impegno missionario della Chiesa intera. Ed è anche occasione provvidenziale per rinnovare le nostre Pontificie Opere Missionarie. Sempre si devono rinnovare le cose: rinnovare il cuore, rinnovare le opere, rinnovare le organizzazioni, perché, altrimenti, finiremmo tutti in un museo. Dobbiamo rinnovare per non finire nel museo. Conoscete bene la mia preoccupazione per il pericolo che il vostro operato si riduca alla mera dimensione monetaria dell'aiuto materiale – questa è una vera preoccupazione – trasformandovi in un'agenzia come tante, fosse anche cristianamente ispirata. Non è certo questo che i fondatori delle Pontificie Opere e il Papa Pio XI volevano quando le fecero nascere e le organizzarono al servizio del Successore di Pietro. Perciò ho riproposto come attuale e urgente per il rinnovo della consapevolezza missionaria di tutta la Chiesa oggi, una grande e coraggiosa intuizione del Papa Benedetto XV, contenuta nella sua Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud*: cioè la necessità di riqualificare evangelicamente la missione della Chiesa nel mondo.

Questo obiettivo comune può e deve aiutare le Pontificie Opere Missionarie a vivere una comunione di spirito, di collaborazione reciproca e di mutuo sostegno. Se il rinnovamento sarà autentico, creativo ed efficace, la riforma delle vostre Opere consisterà in una rifondazione, una riqualificazione secondo le esigenze del Vangelo. Non si tratta semplicemente di ripensare le motivazioni per fare meglio ciò che già fate. La conversione missionaria delle strutture della Chiesa (cfr. Esort. ap. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 27) richiede santità personale e creatività spirituale. Dunque non

solo di rinnovare il vecchio, ma di permettere che lo Spirito Santo crei il nuovo. Non noi: lo Spirito Santo. Fare spazio allo Spirito Santo, permettere che lo Spirito Santo crei il nuovo, faccia nuove tutte le cose (cfr. Sal 104,30; Mt 9,17; 2 Pt 3,13; Ap 21,5). Lui è il protagonista della missione: è Lui il “capoufficio” delle Opere Missionarie Pontificie. È Lui, non noi. Non abbiate paura delle novità che vengono dal Signore Crocifisso e Risorto: queste novità sono belle. Abbiate paura delle altre novità: queste non vanno! Quelle che non vengono di là. Siate audaci e coraggiosi nella missione, collaborando con lo Spirito Santo sempre in comunione con la Chiesa di Cristo (cfr. Esort. ap. *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 131). E questa audacia significa andare col coraggio, col fervore dei primi che annunciarono il Vangelo. Il vostro libro abituale di preghiera e di meditazione siano gli Atti degli Apostoli. Andare lì a trovare l’ispirazione. E il protagonista di quel libro è lo Spirito Santo.

Che cosa può significare per voi Pontificie Opere, che insieme alla Congregazione per l’Evangelizzazione dei Popoli state preparando il Mese Missionario Straordinario, riqualificarvi evangelicamente? Credo significhi semplicemente una *conversione missionaria*. Abbiamo bisogno di riqualificarci – l’intuizione di Benedetto XV –, di riqualificarci a partire dalla missione di Gesù, riqualificare lo sforzo di raccolta e distribuzione degli aiuti materiali alla luce della missione e della formazione che questa richiede, affinché coscienza, consapevolezza e responsabilità missionaria ritornino a far parte del vissuto ordinario di tutto il santo Popolo fedele di Dio.

“*Battezzati e inviati: la Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo*”. Questo è il tema che abbiamo scelto per il Mese Missionario dell’ottobre 2019. Esso sottolinea che l’invio per la missione è una chiamata insita nel Battesimo ed è di tutti i battezzati. Così la missione è invio per la salvezza che opera la conversione dell’inviato e del destinatario: la nostra vita è, in Cristo, una missione! Noi stessi *siamo* missione perché siamo amore di Dio comunicato, siamo santità di Dio creata a sua immagine. La missione è dunque santificazione nostra e del mondo intero, fin dalla creazione (cfr. Ef 1,3-6). La dimensione missionaria del nostro Battesimo si traduce così in testimonianza di santità che dona vita e bellezza al mondo.

Rinnovare le Pontificie Opere Missionarie significa perciò prendersi a cuore, con impegno serio e coraggioso, la santità di ciascuno e della Chiesa come famiglia e comunità. Vi chiedo di rinnovare con creatività la natura e l’azione delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, ponendole al servizio della missione, affinché al cuore delle nostre preoccupazioni vi sia la santità della vita dei discepoli missionari. Infatti, per poter collaborare alla salvezza del mondo, bisogna amarlo (cfr. Gv 3,16) ed essere disposti a dare la vita servendo Cristo, unico Salvatore del mondo. Noi non abbiamo un prodotto da vendere – non c’entra qui il proselitismo, non abbiamo un prodotto da vendere –, ma una vita da comunicare: Dio, la sua vita divina, il suo amore misericordioso, la sua santità! Ed è lo Spirito Santo che ci invia, ci accompagna, ci ispira: è Lui l’autore della missione. È Lui che porta avanti la

Chiesa, non noi. Neppure l'istituzione Opere Missionarie Pontificie. Lascio a Lui – possiamo domandarci – lascio a Lui di essere il protagonista? O voglio addomesticarlo, ingabbiarlo, nelle tante strutture mondane che, alla fine, ci portano a concepire le Opere Missionarie Pontificie come una ditta, un'impresa, una cosa nostra, ma con la benedizione di Dio? No, questo non va. Dobbiamo farci questa domanda: lascio che sia Lui o lo ingabbio? Lui, lo Spirito Santo, fa tutto; noi siamo soltanto servi suoi.

Come ben sapete, durante l'ottobre 2019, Mese Missionario Straordinario, celebriamo il Sinodo per l'Amazzonia. Accogliendo le preoccupazioni di molti fedeli, laici e pastori, ho voluto che ci si incontri per pregare e riflettere sulle sfide dell'evangelizzazione di queste terre dell'America Meridionale in cui vivono importanti Chiese particolari. Mi preme che questa coincidenza ci aiuti a tenere fisso il nostro sguardo su Gesù Cristo nell'affrontare problemi, sfide, ricchezze e povertà; ci aiuti a rinnovare l'impegno di servizio al Vangelo per la salvezza degli uomini e delle donne che vivono in quelle terre. Preghiamo affinché il Sinodo per l'Amazzonia possa riquilibrare evangelicamente la missione anche in questa regione del mondo tanto provata, ingiustamente sfruttata e bisognosa della salvezza di Gesù.

Maria, quando è andata da Elisabetta, non lo fece come un gesto proprio, come missionaria. È andata come una serva di quel Signore che portava in grembo: di se stessa non disse nulla, soltanto portò il Figlio e lodò Dio. È vera una cosa: andava di fretta. Lei ci insegna questa fedele *fretta*, questa spiritualità della fretta. La fretta della fedeltà e dell'adorazione. Non era la protagonista, ma la serva dell'unico protagonista della missione. E questa icona ci aiuti. Grazie!

ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO THE NATIONAL DIRECTORS
OF THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

Clementine Hall
Friday, June 1, 2018

Your Eminence,
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am happy to offer you a cordial greeting and warm welcome on the occasion of your General Assembly. I thank Cardinal Filoni for his kind words of introduction and I greet the new President of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Archbishop Giampietro Dal Toso, who is taking part in this annual meeting for the first time. To all of you I express my deep gratitude for your efforts to raise missionary awareness among the People of God, and I assure you of my closeness in prayer.

A fascinating journey lies ahead of us: the preparation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019, which I announced during last year's celebration of World Mission Day. I heartily encourage you to see this preparatory phase as a great opportunity to renew missionary commitment throughout the Church. It also represents a providential occasion for renewing our Pontifical Mission Societies. Things always need to be renewed: hearts, activities and organizations, because otherwise we end up turning into a museum. We have to renew things, lest we become a museum! You are well aware of my concern about the risk of your work being reduced to the merely financial aspect of material assistance (important as this is) so that the Societies – despite their Christian inspiration – become agencies just like so many others. This is certainly not what their founders and Pope Pius XI wanted when they instituted and structured the Pontifical Societies in the service of the Successor of Peter. For this reason, I have once again proposed as timely and urgent for renewing missionary awareness in today's Church a grand and courageous insight of Pope Benedict XV in his Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*: the importance of an evangelical approach to the Church's mission in the world.

This shared goal can and must help the Pontifical Mission Societies to grow in a sense of spiritual communion, reciprocal cooperation and mutual support. If the renewal is to be authentic, creative and effective, the reform of your Societies will entail a genuine re-founding and reshaping in accordance with the demands of the Gospel. This does not simply mean rethinking your motivations in order to do better what you already do. The missionary conversion of the structures of the Church (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 27) calls for personal holiness and spiritual creativity. It is not merely about renewing the old, but about letting the Holy Spirit create newness. It

is not about us, but the Holy Spirit. We need to make room for the Spirit and to allow the Spirit to create newness, to make all things new (cf. Ps 104:30, Mt 9:17, 2 Pet 3:13, Rev 21:5). He is the principal agent of mission: he is the “boss” of the Pontifical Mission Societies, not ourselves. Do not be afraid of the new things that come from the crucified and risen Lord: these are beautiful novelties. But be on guard against other novelties that are unacceptable. Novelties that do not come from him! Be bold and courageous in your mission, always cooperating with the Holy Spirit in communion with Christ’s Church (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 131). This boldness means pressing forward with courage, with the zeal of those who first proclaimed the Gospel. Your regular book for prayer and meditation should be the Acts of the Apostles. Go there to find your inspiration. And the protagonist of that book is the Holy Spirit.

What does it mean that you, the Pontifical Societies along with the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, are organizing the Extraordinary Missionary Month, to “recalibrate” yourselves evangelically? I believe it simply means *missionary conversion*. We need to recalibrate – this was the insight of Benedict XV – starting from the mission of Jesus. To reassess our efforts to collect and distribute material aid in the light of our mission and the formation that it requires, so that missionary integrity, awareness and responsibility can once again be part of the ordinary life of the entire holy and faithful People of God.

“*Baptized and sent: the Church of Christ on Mission in the World*”. This is the theme chosen for the Missionary Month of October 2019. It emphasizes that the call to mission is a call rooted in Baptism and addressed to all the baptized. Mission is a “being sent forth” that brings about conversion both in those who are sent and in those who receive their message: in Christ, our life is a mission! We *are* mission, because we are God’s love poured out, God’s holiness created in his own image. Mission, then, is our own growth in holiness and that of the whole world, beginning with creation (cf. Eph 1:3-6). The missionary dimension of our Baptism thus becomes a witness of holiness that bestows life and beauty on our world.

Renewing the Pontifical Mission Societies, then, means taking to heart, with a serious and courageous commitment, the holiness of each individual and of the entire Church, as family and community. I urge you to renew the nature and the activities of the Pontifical Mission Societies with genuine creativity, placing them at the service of the mission, so that our primary concern is the lived holiness of missionary disciples. Indeed, to cooperate in the salvation of the world, we need to love the world (cf. Jn 3:16) and to be ready to give up our lives to serve Christ, the one Saviour of the world. We do not have a product to sell. It has nothing to do with proselytizing; we are not selling a product. We have a life to communicate: God, his divine life, his merciful love, his holiness! It is the Holy Spirit who sends us, accompanies us and inspires us. He is the source of our mission. It is he

who guides the Church forward, not us. Not even the Pontifical Mission Societies! Let us ask ourselves: do I let him take the lead? Or do I want to domesticate him, put him in a cage, in all those worldly structures that, in the end, make us think of the Pontifical Mission Societies as a business firm, something we own, albeit with God's blessing? No, this must not be the case. We have to ask ourselves this question: Do I let him be the one, or do I put him in a cage? He, the Holy Spirit, does everything; we are simply his servants.

As you know, in October 2019, the Extraordinary Missionary Month, we will celebrate the Synod for the Amazon. In response to the concerns expressed by many of many faithful, laity and pastors alike, I wished to convoke this meeting in order to pray and reflect on the challenges faced in the evangelization of these South American lands that are home to important particular Churches. I hope that the conjuncture of these two events may help us fix our gaze on Jesus Christ while addressing problems and issues, resources and needs; may it also help us renew our commitment of service to the Gospel for the salvation of the men and women living in those lands. We pray that the Synod for the Amazon can help provide a more evangelical approach to missionary work in this area of the world that is so troubled, so unjustly exploited and so much in need of the salvation of Jesus Christ.

When Mary went to Elizabeth, she did not do so on her own, as a missionary. She went as a servant of that Lord whom she carried in her womb. She said nothing about herself; she simply brought the Son and sang the praises of God. One thing, though, is true; she went in haste. She teaches us this faithful *haste*, this spirituality of haste. The haste born of faithfulness and adoration. Mary was not the protagonist, but the handmaid of the sole protagonist of mission. May this image help us. Thank you!

LETTERA DEL SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO

**AL PRESIDENTE DELLE POM
IN OCCASIONE DELL'ASSEMBLEA GENERALE
DEI DIRETTORI NAZIONALI DELLE PONTIFICIE OPERE MISSIONARIE**

Al caro Fratello

Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso

Presidente delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie

In occasione dell'Assemblea Generale dei Direttori Nazionali delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, desidero rivolgere un cordiale saluto, auspicando che i lavori di questi giorni possano suscitare un rinnovato impegno in favore dell'azione missionaria della Chiesa, chiamata ad annunciare il Vangelo ad ogni creatura, risvegliando la consapevolezza della *missio ad gentes*.

In questa prospettiva, la celebrazione del *Mese Missionario Straordinario*, nel prossimo ottobre, rappresenta un tempo propizio per coinvolgere tutti i battezzati nell'assumere, con maggiore responsabilità e coraggio creativo, la sfida che la missione oggi ci pone: diventare il paradigma e la forma della vita ordinaria della Chiesa e di ogni sua attività pastorale (cfr *Evangelii Gaudium*,15).

Rinnovo la mia gratitudine a quanti fanno parte delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie: voi siete la rete mondiale di preghiera e di carità missionaria del Successore di Pietro. Continuate la vostra fervida attività, che realizza l'imprescindibile dovere universale della Chiesa di annunciare a tutti Gesù Cristo e di testimoniare, con ardore apostolico, fino agli estremi confini della terra.

Lo Spirito Santo vi sostenga. Da parte mia vi accompagno con l'affetto e la mia Benedizione.

Dal Vaticano, 29 maggio 2019

Francesco

CARTA DEL SANTO PADRE FRANCISCO
AL PRESIDENTE DE LAS OMP
CON OCASIÓN DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LOS DIRECTORES
NACIONALES DE LAS OBRAS MISIONALES PONTIFICIAS

Al querido hermano
Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso
Presidente de las Obras Misionales Pontificias.

Con motivo de la Asamblea General de los Directores Nacionales de las Obras Misionales Pontificias, deseo dirigir un saludo cordial, con el deseo de que los trabajos de estos días susciten un compromiso renovado en favor de la acción misionera de la Iglesia, llamada a anunciar el Evangelio a toda criatura despertando la conciencia de la *missio ad gentes*.

En esta perspectiva, la celebración del Mes Misionero Extraordinario, el próximo octubre, representa un momento propicio para involucrar a todos los bautizados en asumir, con mayor responsabilidad y coraje creativo, el desafío que nos presenta la misión de hoy: convertirnos en el paradigma y la forma de la vida ordinaria de la Iglesia y de toda su actividad pastoral (ver *Evangelii Gaudium*, 15).

Renuevo mi gratitud a todos aquellos que pertenecen a las Obras Misionales Pontificias: vosotros sois la red mundial de oración y caridad misionera del Sucesor de Pedro. Continúad vuestra ferviente actividad, que cumple el deber universal indispensable de la Iglesia de anunciar a Jesucristo a todos y de testimoniarlo con celo apostólico, hasta los confines de la tierra.

El Espíritu Santo os sostenga. Por mi parte, os acompaño con mi afecto y mi bendición.

En el Vaticano, 29 de mayo de 2019

Francisco

OMELIA DEL SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO

CELEBRAZIONE DEI VESPRI PER L'INIZIO DEL MESE MISSIONARIO

*Basilica Vaticana
Martedì, 1 ottobre 2019*

Nella parabola che abbiamo ascoltato, il Signore si presenta come un uomo che, prima di partire, *chiama* i servi per consegnare loro i suoi beni (cfr Mt 25,14). Dio ci ha affidato i suoi beni più grandi: la nostra vita, quella degli altri, tanti doni diversi per ciascuno. E questi beni, questi talenti, non rappresentano qualcosa da custodire in cassaforte, rappresenta una chiamata: il Signore ci chiama a far fruttare i talenti con audacia e creatività. Dio ci domanderà se ci saremo messi in gioco, rischiando, magari perdendoci la faccia. Questo Mese missionario straordinario vuole essere una scossa per provocarci a diventare *attivi nel bene*. Non notai della fede e guardiani della grazia, ma missionari.

Si diventa missionari vivendo da testimoni: testimoniando con la vita di conoscere Gesù. È la vita che parla. Testimone è la parola-chiave, una parola che ha la stessa radice di senso di martire. E i martiri sono i primi testimoni della fede: non a parole, ma con la vita. Sanno che la fede non è propaganda o proselitismo, è rispettoso dono di vita. Vivono diffondendo pace e gioia, amando tutti, anche i nemici per amore di Gesù. Così noi, che abbiamo scoperto di essere figli del Padre celeste, come possiamo tacere la gioia di essere amati, la certezza di essere sempre preziosi agli occhi di Dio? È l'annuncio che tanta gente attende. Ed è responsabilità nostra. Chiediamoci in questo mese: come va la mia testimonianza?

Alla fine della parabola il Signore dice «buono e fedele» chi è stato intraprendente; «malvagio e pigro» invece il servo che è stato sulla difensiva (cfr. vv. 21.23.26). Perché Dio è così severo con questo servo che ha avuto paura? Che male ha fatto? Il suo male è *non aver fatto del bene*, ha peccato di *omissione*. San Alberto Hurtado diceva: “E’ bene non fare del male. Ma è male non fare del bene”. Questo è il peccato di omissione. E questo può essere il peccato di una vita intera, perché abbiamo ricevuto la vita non per sotterrarla, ma per metterla in gioco; non per trattenerla, ma per donarla. Chi sta con Gesù sa che *si ha quello che si dà*, si possiede quello che si dona; e il segreto per possedere la vita è donarla. Vivere di omissioni è rinnegare la nostra vocazione: *l'omissione* è il contrario della *missione*.

Pecchiamo di omissione, cioè contro la missione, quando, anziché diffondere la gioia, ci chiudiamo in un triste vittimismo, pensando che nessuno ci ami e ci comprenda. Pecchiamo contro la missione quando cediamo alla rassegnazione: “Non ce la faccio, non sono capace”. Ma come? Dio ti ha dato dei talenti e tu ti credi così povero da non poter arricchire nessuno? Pecchiamo contro la

missione quando, lamentosi, continuiamo a dire che va tutto male, nel mondo come nella Chiesa. Pecchiamo contro la missione quando siamo schiavi delle paure che immobilizzano e ci lasciamo paralizzare dal “si è sempre fatto così”. E pecchiamo contro la missione quando viviamo la vita come un peso e non come un dono; quando al centro ci siamo noi con le nostre fatiche, non i fratelli e le sorelle che attendono di essere amati.

«Dio ama chi dona con gioia» (2 Cor 9,7). Ama una Chiesa in uscita. Ma stiamo attenti: se non è in uscita non è Chiesa. La Chiesa è per la strada, la Chiesa cammina. Una Chiesa in uscita, missionaria, è una Chiesa che non perde tempo a piangere le cose che non vanno, i fedeli che non ha più, i valori di un tempo che non ci sono più. Una Chiesa che non cerca oasi protette per stare tranquilla; desidera solo essere *sale della terra e lievito per il mondo*. Questa Chiesa sa che questa è la sua forza, la stessa di Gesù: non la rilevanza sociale o istituzionale, ma l'amore umile e gratuito.

Oggi entriamo nell'ottobre missionario accompagnati da tre “servi” che hanno portato molto frutto. Ci mostra la via Santa Teresa di Gesù Bambino, che fece della preghiera il combustibile dell'azione missionaria nel mondo. Questo è anche il mese del Rosario: quanto preghiamo per la diffusione del Vangelo, per convertirci dall'omissione alla missione? C'è poi San Francesco Saverio, uno dei grandi missionari della Chiesa. Anch'egli ci scuote: usciamo dai nostri gusci, siamo capaci di lasciare le nostre comodità per il Vangelo? E c'è la Venerabile Pauline Jaricot, un'operaia che sostenne le missioni col suo lavoro quotidiano: con le offerte che detraeva dal salario, fu agli inizi delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie. E noi, facciamo di ogni giorno un dono per superare la frattura tra Vangelo e vita? Per favore, non viviamo una fede “da sacrestia”.

Ci accompagnano una religiosa, un sacerdote e una laica. Ci dicono che nessuno è escluso dalla missione della Chiesa. Sì, in questo mese il Signore chiama anche te. Chiama te, padre e madre di famiglia; te, giovane che sogni grandi cose; te, che lavori in una fabbrica, in un negozio, in una banca, in un ristorante; te, che sei senza lavoro; te, che sei in un letto di ospedale... Il Signore ti chiede di farti dono lì dove sei, così come sei, con chi ti sta vicino; di non subire la vita, ma di donarla; di non piangerti addosso, ma di lasciarti scavare dalle lacrime di chi soffre. Coraggio, il Signore si aspetta tanto da te. Si aspetta anche che qualcuno abbia il coraggio di partire, di andare là dove più mancano speranza e dignità, là dove troppa gente vive ancora senza la gioia del Vangelo. “Ma devo andare da solo?”. No, questo non va. Se noi abbiamo in mente di fare la missione con organizzazioni imprenditoriali, con piani di lavoro, non va. Il protagonista della missione è lo Spirito Santo. È il protagonista della missione. Tu vai con lo Spirito Santo. Va', il Signore non ti lascerà solo; testimoniando, scoprirai che lo Spirito Santo è arrivato prima di te per prepararti la strada. Coraggio, fratelli e sorelle; coraggio, Madre Chiesa: ritrova la tua fecondità nella gioia della missione!

HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS

VESPERS FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE MISSIONARY MONTH

*Vatican Basilica
Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

In the parable we have heard, the Lord appears as a man who, before leaving on a journey, *calls* his servants and entrusts his property to them (cf. Mt 25:14). God has entrusted us with his greatest treasures: our own lives and the lives of others. He has entrusted any number of different gifts to each of us. These gifts, these talents, are not something to be stored in a safe; they are a true vocation: the Lord calls us to make our talents bear fruit, with boldness and creativity. God will ask us if we stepped forward and took risks, even losing face. This extraordinary Missionary Month should jolt us and motivate us to be *active in doing good*. Not notaries of faith and guardians of grace, but missionaries.

We become missionaries by living as witnesses: bearing witness by our lives that we have come to know Jesus. It is our lives that speak. Witness is the key word: a word with the same root as the word “martyr”. The martyrs are the primary witnesses of faith: not by their words but by their lives. They know that faith is not propaganda or proselytism: it is a respectful gift of one’s life. They live by spreading peace and joy, by loving everyone, even their enemies, out of love for Jesus. Can we, who have discovered that we are children of the heavenly Father, keep silent about the joy of being loved, the certainty of being ever precious in God’s eyes? That is a message that so many people are waiting to hear. And it is our responsibility. Let us ask ourselves this month: how good a witness am I?

At the end of the parable, the Lord describes the enterprising servant as “good and trustworthy”, and the fearful servant as “wicked and lazy” (cf. vv. 21.23.26). Why is God so harsh with the servant who was afraid? What evil did he do? His evil was *not having done good*; he sinned by *omission*. Saint Albert Hurtado once said: “It is good not to do evil, but it is evil not to do good”. This is the sin of omission. This could be the sin of an entire life, for we have been given life not to bury it, but to make something of it; not to keep it for ourselves, but to give it away. Whoever stands with Jesus knows that we keep what we give away; we possess what we give to others. The secret for possessing life is to give it away. To live by omission is to deny our vocation: *omission* is the opposite of *mission*.

We sin by omission, that is, against mission, whenever, rather than spreading joy, we think of ourselves as victims, or think that no one loves us or understands us. We sin against mission when we yield to resignation: “I can’t do this: I’m not up to it”. How can that be? God has given you talents,

yet you think yourself so poor that you cannot enrich a single person? We sin against mission when we complain and keep saying that everything is going from bad to worse, in the world and in the Church. We sin against mission when we become slaves to the fears that immobilize us, when we let ourselves be paralyzed by thinking that “things will never change”. We sin against mission when we live life as a burden and not as a gift, when we put ourselves and our concerns at the centre, and not our brothers and sisters who are waiting to be loved.

“God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7). He loves the Church on the go. But let us be attentive: if it is not on the go, it is not Church. The Church is meant for the road, meant to be on the move. A Church on the go, a missionary Church is a Church that does not waste time lamenting things that go wrong, the loss of faithful, the values of the time now in the past. A Church that does not seek safe oases to dwell in peace, but longs to be *salt of the earth and a leaven in the world*. For such a Church knows that this is her strength, that of Jesus himself: not social or institutional relevance, but humble and gratuitous love.

Today we begin the Missionary Month of October in the company of three “servants” who bore much fruit. Saint Therese of the Child Jesus shows us the way: she made prayer the fuel for missionary activity in the world. This is also the Month of the Rosary: how much are we praying for the spread of the Gospel and our conversion from omission to mission? Then there is Saint Francis Xavier, one of the great missionaries of the Church. He too gives us a jolt: can we emerge from our shell and renounce our comforts for the sake of the Gospel? Finally is the Venerable Pauline Jaricot, a labourer who supported the missions by her daily work: with the offerings that she made from her wages, she helped lay the foundations of the Pontifical Missionary Societies. Do we make a daily gift in order to overcome the separation between the Gospel and life? Please, let us not live a “sacristy” faith.

We are accompanied by a religious woman, a priest and a lay woman. They remind us that no one is excluded from the Church’s mission. Yes, in this month the Lord is also calling you, because you, fathers and mothers of families; you, young people who dream great things; you, who work in a factory, a store, a bank or a restaurant; you who are unemployed; you are in a hospital bed... The Lord is asking you to be a gift wherever you are, and just as you are, with everyone around you. He is asking you not simply to go through life, but to give life; not to complain about life, but to share in the tears of all who suffer. Courage! The Lord expects great things from you. He is also expecting some of you to have the courage to set out and to go wherever dignity and hope are most lacking, where all too many people still live without the joy of the Gospel. “But must I go alone?” No, that is wrong. If we think about doing missionary work like business organizations, with a business plan, that is wrong. The Holy Spirit is the protagonist of our mission. Go with the Holy Spirit. The Lord

will not leave you alone in bearing witness; you will discover that the Holy Spirit has gone before you and prepared the way for you. Courage, brothers and sisters! Courage, Mother Church! Rediscover your fruitfulness in the joy of mission!

OMELIA DEL SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO

SANTA MESSA PER LA GIORNATA MONDIALE MISSIONARIA

*Basilica Vaticana
XXIX Domenica del Tempo Ordinario
20 ottobre 2019*

Dalle Letture ascoltate vorrei cogliere tre parole: un sostantivo, un verbo e un aggettivo. Il sostantivo è *il monte*: ne parla Isaia, profetizzando di un monte del Signore, alto sopra i colli, a cui affluiranno tutte le genti (cfr. Is 2,2). Il monte ritorna nel Vangelo, dato che Gesù, dopo la sua risurrezione, indica ai discepoli come luogo di ritrovo un monte della Galilea, proprio quella Galilea popolata da molte genti diverse, la «Galilea delle genti» (cfr. Mt 4,15). Sembra, insomma, che il monte sia il luogo dove Dio ami dare appuntamento all'umanità intera. È il luogo dell'incontro con noi, come mostra la Bibbia dal Sinai al Carmelo fino a Gesù, che proclamò le Beatitudini sulla montagna, si trasfigurò sul monte Tabor, diede la vita sul Calvario e ascese al cielo dal Monte degli Ulivi. Il monte, luogo dei grandi incontri tra Dio e l'uomo, è anche il posto dove Gesù trascorse ore e ore in preghiera (cfr. Mc 6,46), a unire terra e Cielo, noi suoi fratelli al Padre.

Che cosa dice a noi il monte? Che siamo chiamati ad avvicinarci a Dio e agli altri: a Dio, l'Altissimo, nel silenzio, nella preghiera, prendendo le distanze dalle chiacchiere e dai pettegolezzi che inquinano. Ma anche agli altri, che dal monte si vedono in un'altra prospettiva, quella di Dio che chiama tutte le genti: dall'alto gli altri si vedono nell'insieme e si scopre che l'armonia della bellezza è data solo dall'insieme. Il monte ci ricorda che i fratelli e le sorelle non vanno selezionati, ma abbracciati, con lo sguardo e soprattutto con la vita. Il monte lega Dio e i fratelli in un unico abbraccio, quello della preghiera. Il monte ci porta in alto, lontano da tante cose materiali che passano; ci invita a riscoprire l'essenziale, ciò che rimane: Dio e i fratelli. La missione inizia sul monte: lì si scopre ciò che conta. Al cuore di questo mese missionario chiediamoci: che cosa conta per me nella vita? Quali sono le vette a cui punto?

Un verbo accompagna il sostantivo monte: *salire*. Isaia ci esorta: «Venite, *saliamo* sul monte del Signore» (2,3). Non siamo nati per stare a terra, per accontentarci di cose piatte, siamo nati per raggiungere le altezze, per incontrare Dio e i fratelli. Ma per questo bisogna salire: bisogna lasciare una vita orizzontale, lottare contro la forza di gravità dell'egoismo, compiere un esodo dal proprio io. Salire, perciò, costa fatica, ma è l'unico modo per vedere tutto meglio, come quando si va in montagna e solo in cima si scorge il panorama più bello e si capisce che non lo si poteva conquistare se non per quel sentiero sempre in salita.

E come in montagna non si può salire bene se si è appesantiti di cose, così nella vita bisogna alleggerirsi di ciò che non serve. È anche il segreto della missione: per partire bisogna lasciare, per

annunciare bisogna *rinunciare*. L'annuncio credibile non è fatto di belle parole, ma di vita buona: una vita di servizio, che sa rinunciare a tante cose materiali che rimpiccioliscono il cuore, rendono indifferenti e chiudono in sé stessi; una vita che si stacca dalle inutilità che ingolfano il cuore e trova tempo per Dio e per gli altri. Possiamo chiederci: come va la mia salita? So rinunciare ai bagagli pesanti e inutili delle mondanità per salire sul monte del Signore? La mia strada è in salita o in "arrampicamento"?

Se il monte ci ricorda ciò che conta – Dio e i fratelli –, e il verbo salire come arrivarci, una terza parola risuona oggi come la più forte. È l'aggettivo *tutti*, che prevale nelle Letture: «*tutte* le genti», diceva Isaia (2,2); «*tutti* i popoli», abbiamo ripetuto nel Salmo; Dio vuole «che *tutti* gli uomini siano salvati», scrive Paolo (1 Tm 2,4); «andate e fate discepoli *tutti* i popoli», chiede Gesù nel Vangelo (Mt 28,19). Il Signore è ostinato nel ripetere questo *tutti*. Sa che noi siamo testardi nel ripetere "mio" e "nostro": le mie cose, la nostra gente, la nostra comunità..., e Lui non si stanca di ripetere: "tutti". Tutti, perché nessuno è escluso dal suo cuore, dalla sua salvezza; tutti, perché il nostro cuore vada oltre le dogane umane, oltre i particolarismi fondati sugli egoismi che non piacciono a Dio. Tutti, perché ciascuno è un tesoro prezioso e il senso della vita è donare agli altri questo tesoro. Ecco la missione: salire sul monte a pregare per tutti e scendere dal monte per farsi dono a tutti.

Salire e scendere: il cristiano, dunque, è sempre in movimento, in uscita. *Andate* è infatti l'imperativo di Gesù nel Vangelo. Tutti i giorni incrociamo tante persone, ma – possiamo chiederci – andiamo incontro alle persone che troviamo? Facciamo nostro l'invito di Gesù o ce ne stiamo per i fatti nostri? Tutti si aspettano cose dagli altri, il cristiano *va* verso gli altri. Il testimone di Gesù non è mai in credito di riconoscimento dagli altri, ma in debito di amore verso chi non conosce il Signore. Il testimone di Gesù va incontro a tutti, non solo ai suoi, nel suo gruppetto. Gesù dice anche a te: "Va', non perdere l'occasione di testimoniare!". Fratello, sorella, il Signore si aspetta da te quella testimonianza che nessuno può donare al tuo posto. «Voglia il Cielo che tu possa riconoscere qual è quella parola, quel messaggio di Gesù che Dio desidera dire al mondo con la tua vita, [...] così la tua preziosa missione non andrà perduta» (Esort. ap. *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 24).

Quali istruzioni ci dà il Signore per andare verso tutti? Una sola, molto semplice: *fate discepoli*. Ma, attenzione: discepoli *suoi*, non nostri. La Chiesa annuncia bene solo se vive da discepola. E il discepolo segue ogni giorno il Maestro e condivide con gli altri la gioia del discepolato. Non conquistando, obbligando, facendo proseliti, ma *testimoniando*, mettendosi allo stesso livello, discepoli coi discepoli, offrendo con amore quell'amore che abbiamo ricevuto. Questa è la missione: donare aria pura, di alta quota, a chi vive immerso nell'inquinamento del mondo; portare in terra

quella pace che ci riempie di gioia ogni volta che incontriamo Gesù sul monte, nella preghiera; mostrare con la vita e persino a parole che Dio ama tutti e non si stanca mai di nessuno.

Cari fratelli e sorelle, ciascuno di noi ha, ciascuno di noi “è una missione su questa terra” (cfr. Esort. ap. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 273). Siamo qui per testimoniare, benedire, consolare, rialzare, trasmettere la bellezza di Gesù. Coraggio, Lui si aspetta tanto da te! Il Signore ha una sorta di ansia per quelli che non sanno ancora di essere figli amati dal Padre, fratelli per i quali ha dato la vita e lo Spirito Santo. Vuoi placare l’ansia di Gesù? Vai con amore verso tutti, perché la tua vita è una missione preziosa: non è un peso da subire, ma un dono da offrire. Coraggio, senza paura: andiamo verso tutti!

HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS
HOLY MASS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY

Vatican Basilica
XXIX Sunday of Ordinary Time,
October 20, 2019

I would like to reflect on three words taken from the readings we have just heard: a noun, a verb and an adjective. The noun is *the mountain*: Isaiah speaks of it when he prophesies about a mountain of the Lord, raised above the hills, to which all the nations will flow (cf. Is 2:2). We see the image of the mountain again in the Gospel when Jesus, after his resurrection, tells his disciples to meet him on the mount of Galilee; the Galilee inhabited by many different peoples: “Galilee of the Gentiles” (cf. Mt 4:15). It seems, then, that the mountain is God’s favourite place for encountering humanity. It is his meeting place with us, as we see in the Bible, beginning with Mount Sinai and Mount Carmel, all the way to Jesus, who proclaimed the Beatitudes on the mountain, was transfigured on Mount Tabor, gave his life on Mount Calvary and ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives. The mountain, the place of great encounters between God and humanity, is also the place where Jesus spent several hours in prayer (cf. Mk 6:46) to unite heaven and earth, and to unite us, his brothers and sisters, with the Father.

What does the mountain say to us? We are called to draw near to God and to others. To God, the Most High, in silence and prayer, avoiding the rumours and gossip that diminish us. And to others, who, from the mountain, can be seen in a different perspective: that of God who calls all peoples. From on high, others are seen as a community whose harmonious beauty is discovered only in viewing them as a whole. The mountain reminds us that our brothers and sisters should not be selected but embraced, not only with our gaze but also with our entire life. The mountain unites God and our brothers and sisters in a single embrace, that of prayer. The mountain draws us up and away from the many transient things, and summons us to rediscover what is essential, what is lasting: God and our brothers and sisters. Mission begins on the mountain: there, we discover what really counts. In the midst of this missionary month, let us ask ourselves: what really counts in my life? To what peaks do I want to ascend?

A verb accompanies the noun “mountain”: the verb *to go up*. Isaiah exhorts us: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord” (2:3). We were not born to remain on the ground, to be satisfied with ordinary things, we were born to reach the heights and there to meet God and our brothers and sisters. However, this means that we have to *go up*: to leave behind a horizontal life and to resist the force of gravity caused by our self-centredness, to make an exodus from our own ego. Going up requires great effort, but it is the only way to get a better view of everything. As mountain-climbers

know, only when you arrive at the top can you get the most beautiful view; only then do you realize that you would not have that view were it not for that uphill path.

And as in the mountains we cannot climb well if we are weighed down by our packs, so in life we must rid ourselves of things that are useless. This is also the secret of mission: to go, you have to leave something behind, to *proclaim*, you must first *renounce*. A credible proclamation is not made with beautiful words, but by an exemplary life: a life of service that is capable of rejecting all those material things that shrink the heart and make people indifferent and inward-looking; a life that renounces the useless things that entangle the heart in order to find time for God and others. We can ask ourselves: how am I doing in my efforts to *go up*? Am I able to reject the heavy and useless baggage of worldliness in order to climb the mountain of the Lord? Is mine a journey upwards or one of worldliness?

If the *mountain* reminds us of what matters – God and our brothers and sisters – and the verb *to go up* tells us how to get there, a third word is even more important for today's celebration. It is the adjective *all*, which constantly reappears in the readings we have heard: “*all* peoples”, says Isaiah (2:2); “*all* peoples”, we repeated in the Psalm; God desires “*all* to be saved”, writes Paul (1 Tim 2:4); “Go and make disciples of *all* nations”, says Jesus in the Gospel (Mt 28:19). The Lord is deliberate in repeating the word *all*. He knows that we are always using the words “my” and “our”: my things, our people, our community... But he constantly uses the word *all*. All, because no one is excluded from his heart, from his salvation; all, so that our heart can go beyond human boundaries and particularism based on a self-centredness that displeases God. All, because everyone is a precious treasure, and the meaning of life is found only in giving this treasure to others. Here is our mission: to go up the mountain to pray for everyone and to come down from the mountain to be a gift to all.

Going up and coming down: the Christian, therefore, is always on the move, outward-bound. *Go* is in fact the imperative of Jesus in the Gospel. We meet many people every day, but – we can ask – do we really encounter the people we meet? Do we accept the invitation of Jesus or simply go about our own business? Everyone expects things from others, but the Christian *goes* to others. Bearing witness to Jesus is never about getting accolades from others, but about loving those who do not even know the Lord. Those who bear witness to Jesus go out to all, not just to their own acquaintances or their little group. Jesus is also saying to you: “Go, don't miss a chance to bear me witness!” My brother, my sister, the Lord expects from you a testimony that no one can give in your place. “May you come to realize what that word is, the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life.... lest you fail in your precious mission.” (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 24).

What instructions does the Lord give us for going forth to others? Only one, and very simple: *make disciples*. But, be careful: *his* disciples, not our own. The Church proclaims the Gospel well

only if she lives the life of a disciple. And a disciple follows the Master daily and shares the joy of discipleship with others. Not by conquering, mandating, proselytizing, but by witnessing, humbling oneself alongside other disciples and offering with love the love that we ourselves received. This is our mission: to give pure and fresh air to those immersed in the pollution of our world; to bring to earth that peace which fills us with joy whenever we meet Jesus on the mountain in prayer; to show by our lives, and perhaps even by our words, that God loves everyone and never tires of anyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, each of us has and is “a mission on this earth” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273). We are here to witness, bless, console, raise up, and radiate the beauty of Jesus. Have courage! Jesus expects so much from you! We can say that the Lord is “concerned” about those who do not yet know that they are beloved children of the Father, brothers and sisters for whom he gave his life and sent the Holy Spirit. Do you want to quell Jesus’ concern? Go and show love to everyone, because your life is a precious mission: it is not a burden to be borne, but a gift to offer. Have courage, and let us fearlessly go forth to all!

LETTERA DEL CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI

AI VESCOVI ORDINARI

Agli Em.mi ed Ecc.mi Ordinari

Città del Vaticano, 3 dicembre 2017
San Francesco Saverio

Cari Fratelli nell'Episcopato

Raccogliendo l'invito rivoltomi dal Santo Padre nella lettera del 22 ottobre 2017, desidero condividere con voi e le Chiese a voi affidate alcune riflessioni e proposte circa la celebrazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019.

Al cuore di questa iniziativa, che coinvolge la Chiesa universale, ci sarà la *preghiera*, la *testimonianza* e la *riflessione* sulla centralità della *missio ad gentes* come stato permanente di invio per la prima evangelizzazione (Mt 28,19). L'impegno per la conversione personale e comunitaria a Gesù Cristo crocifisso, risorto e vivo nella sua Chiesa, rinnoverà l'ardore e la passione per testimoniare, con l'annuncio e con l'esistenza cristiana, il Vangelo della vita e della gioia pasquale (Lc 24,46-49). La missione della Chiesa in contesti umani, religiosi e culturali non ancora permeati dal Vangelo, implica che la trasmissione della fede possa generare stili di vita personali, culture e modalità di convivenza sociale, forgiate dalla gioia evangelica e dai valori cristiani. La fede cristiana si esprime come autentica missione quando è totalmente impegnata per la salvezza del mondo. La testimonianza della carità, l'impegno per la pace e la giustizia, il dialogo interculturale con le Tradizioni Religiose nel rispetto integrale della vita umana e della sua dignità, specialmente dei più poveri, strutturano la missione della Chiesa attorno all'annuncio della Pasqua di Gesù Cristo.

La *missio ad gentes*, indicata nell'*Evangelii Gaudium* come paradigma dell'azione pastorale ordinaria di tutta la Chiesa (EG 15), rappresenta ciò che Papa Francesco ci chiede di mettere al centro della commemorazione dei 100 anni della Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud*, del Suo Predecessore Papa Benedetto XV (30 novembre 1919). Si tratta di «porre la missione di Gesù nel cuore della Chiesa stessa, trasformandola in criterio per misurare l'efficacia delle strutture, i risultati del lavoro, la fecondità dei suoi ministri e la gioia che essi sono capaci di suscitare. Perché senza gioia non si attira nessuno»³¹.

³¹ Papa Francesco, Incontro con il Comitato Direttivo del CELAM, Nunziatura Apostolica a Bogotá, giovedì 7 settembre 2017.

Il Santo Padre ha indicato quattro dimensioni³² come modalità per prepararci e per vivere il Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019, affinché si possano superare separazioni e contrapposizioni tra pastorale ordinaria e missione, tra sfide per l'evangelizzazione in contesti anticamente cristiani oggi indifferenti e secolarizzati, e *missio ad gentes* dove culture e religioni si affermano ancora estranei al Vangelo (EG 14). Queste dimensioni sono:

1. L'incontro personale con Gesù Cristo vivo nella sua Chiesa: Eucaristia, Parola di Dio, preghiera personale e comunitaria.
2. La testimonianza: i santi, i martiri della missione e i confessori della fede, che sono espressione delle Chiese sparse nel mondo intero.
3. La formazione: biblica, catechetica, spirituale e teologica circa la *missio ad gentes*.
4. La carità missionaria: come sostegno materiale per l'immenso lavoro di evangelizzazione, di *missio ad gentes* e di formazione cristiana delle Chiese più bisognose.

Suggerisco che ciascuna Chiesa particolare e ciascuna Conferenza Episcopale possa determinare, nelle forme più adeguate e convenienti ai propri cristiani, come vivere e lasciarsi plasmare da queste dimensioni per una rinnovata conversione alla missione di Gesù. Inoltre, vi chiedo di comunicare e rendere partecipi di questa iniziativa missionaria del Santo Padre i membri degli Istituti di vita consacrata e delle Società di vita apostolica, così come delle associazioni e dei movimenti ecclesiali presenti nelle vostre Comunità diocesane.

In questo tempo di preparazione remota, propongo che ciascuna delle vostre Chiese particolari si impegni in una azione di preghiera e di riflessione coinvolgendo le comunità contemplative monastiche e claustrali. In mezzo al mondo, questi nostri fratelli e sorelle, grazie alla radicalità battesimale della loro vocazione contemplativa, sono segno efficace dell'appartenenza filiale di ciascun uomo a Dio. Vivono nell'ordinaria quotidianità dei loro monasteri e comunità, l'essenziale cristiano che rappresenta il cuore della missione, di ogni annuncio e testimonianza evangelica. A loro dobbiamo far riferimento affinché tutto, umanità e mondo, possano essere trasfigurati nella missione di Cristo e della sua Chiesa, a gloria di Dio Padre. Sono certo che ogni Chiesa particolare troverà i modi e i tempi, contestualmente adeguati, per coinvolgere monaci e claustrali in questa iniziativa del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019.

Le Pontificie Opere Missionarie (POM) insieme a questa Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli sono direttamente coinvolte nel lavoro di preparazione e di implementazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario. I direttori nazionali e diocesani delle POM,

³² Papa Francesco, Discorso ai Direttori Nazionali delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, riuniti in Assemblea Generale, Città del Vaticano, sabato 3 giugno 2017.

presenti e attivi nelle vostre Chiese particolari, sono chiamati a lavorare insieme a voi affinché questa iniziativa proposta dal Santo Padre possa servire a rinnovare la passione per il Vangelo, lo zelo e l'ardore missionario delle nostre Chiese. Mi è parso opportuno chiedere al Segretariato Internazionale della Pontificia Unione Missionaria (PUM) di coordinare le attività di preparazione, formazione e svolgimento del Mese Missionario Straordinario. Inoltre, in collaborazione con la nostra Pontificia Università Urbaniana si pensa a momenti di riflessione e formazione teologico-missionologica a livello internazionale e continentale.

In seguito, si offriranno alcuni suggerimenti e indicazioni con testi e riflessioni che, frutto di un'ampia consultazione di cristiani del mondo intero, serviranno come ispirazione, stimolo e suggerimento alla creatività delle Chiese particolari. A tempo debito, si informerà anche sui momenti celebrativi presieduti dal Santo Padre, proposti come eventi di Chiesa universale che coinvolgeranno direttamente la Chiesa che vive in Roma.

Da ultimo, vi chiedo di indicare figure di testimoni della missione, figli e figlie delle vostre Chiese, che si siano distinti per la loro testimonianza cristiana e godano fama di santità presso le vostre comunità cristiane. Sarebbe opportuno inviare alcune loro note biografiche. Vi sarei anche grato se potete indicare qualche membro delle vostre Chiese che possa aiutare nell'elaborazione di testi di meditazione spirituale missionaria a partire dalla Sacra Scrittura. Cortesemente, prego di far pervenire queste indicazioni ed altri suggerimenti e proposte al Segretariato Internazionale della PUM (october2019@ppoomm.va).

Allego copia della Lettera del Santo Padre a me inviata in data 22 ottobre 2017 e il testo del Suo Discorso ai Direttori Nazionali delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie del 3 giugno 2017.

In questo tempo di Avvento, affidiamo questa nostra preparazione alla Beata Vergine Maria, Regina degli Apostoli, ai santi Francesco Saverio e Teresa del Bambin Gesù, al Beato Paolo Manna. Auspicando frutti copiosi di conversione a Cristo a favore dell'opera missionaria della Chiesa, cordialmente vi saluto.

Cardinal Fernando Filoni
Prefetto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli
Presidente del Comitato Supremo delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie

LETTER OF CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI
TO BISHOPS

To the Eminent and Most Excellent Ordinaries

Vatican City State, 3 December 2017
Saint Francis Xavier

Dear Brothers in the Episcopacy,

In response to the personal invitation of the Holy Father in his letter dated 22 October 2017, I would like to share with you and with the Churches entrusted to your care some reflections and proposals regarding the celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019.

At the heart of this initiative, which involves the Universal Church, will be prayer, testimonies, and reflections on the centrality of the *missio ad gentes* as a permanent state of being sent out for the first evangelization (Mt 28:19). The obligation of personal and communal conversion to Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and alive in the Church, will renew the fervor and the passion for giving witness to the Gospel of life and the joy of Easter, through both words and actions (Lk 24:46-49). The mission of the Church in those human, religious, and cultural contexts not yet permeated by the Gospel requires that the transmission of the faith bring about a personal way of life, a culture, and a way of living in communion that are forged by the joy of the Gospel and Christian values. The Christian faith manifests its authentic mission when it is completely dedicated to the salvation of the world. The witness of charity, commitment to justice and peace, and intercultural dialogue with Religious Traditions in mutual respect for human life and its dignity, especially that of the poorest of society, all serve to orient the mission of the Church around the proclamation of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The *missio ad gentes*, identified in *Evangelii Gaudium* as the paradigm of the ordinary pastoral action of the Church (EG 15), represents that which Pope Francis asks us to place at the heart of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of his predecessor Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919). In other words, we are “to place the mission of Jesus at the heart of the Church, making it the criterion for measuring the effectiveness of her structures, the results of her labors, the fruitfulness of her ministers and the joy they awaken. For without joy, we attract no one.”³³

³³ Pope Francis, *Meeting with the Executive Committee of CELAM*, Apostolic Nunciature in Bogotá, 7 September 2017.

The Holy Father indicated four dimensions,³⁴ or ways to prepare for and live out the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019, in order to overcome divisions and opposing views between ordinary and missionary pastoral work, and between the challenges of evangelization in previously Christian areas that are now secularized and indifferent to religion and the *missio ad gentes* among cultures and religions to which the Gospel is still foreign (EG 14). These four dimensions are:

1. a personal encounter with Jesus Christ alive in His Church: Eucharist, Word of God, personal and communal prayer,
2. the witness of the Saints, the Missionary Martyrs, and the Confessors of the Faith, who are unique expressions of the Churches throughout the world,
3. biblical, catechetical, spiritual, and theological formation regarding the *missio ad gentes*,
4. missionary charity as a material support for the immense work of evangelization, especially the *missio ad gentes* and Christian formation in Churches that are most in need.

In a way appropriate and suited to the Christians of the area, I suggest that each particular Church and each Episcopal Conference determine how to live out and be molded by these dimensions, so as to bring about a renewed conversion to the mission of Jesus. Additionally, I ask you to inform and invite, as active participants in this missionary initiative of the Holy Father, any local members of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, as well as those of the associations and ecclesial movements present in your Dioceses.

In this time of remote preparation, I propose that each one of your particular Churches commits itself to prayerful reflection, engaging the local contemplative monastic and cloistered communities in this same spirit of prayer. In the midst of the world, these brothers and sisters of ours, thanks to the baptismal radicality of their contemplative vocation, are efficacious signs of the sonship of every man and woman of God. They live, in the ordinary, daily rhythm of their monasteries and communities, the essential elements of Christianity that represent the heart of the mission, the heart of every Gospel proclamation and witness. It is necessary to make reference to them, so that indeed all throughout the world may be transformed and conformed to the mission of Christ and of His Church, to the glory of God the Father. I am certain that every particular Church will be able to find the ways and times, properly suited to each unique context, to involve monks and cloistered Religious in this initiative of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019.

The Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) together with this Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples are directly involved in the work of preparing and implementing the

³⁴ Pope Francis, *Speech to the National Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies*, gathered in General Assembly, Vatican City State, 3 June 2017.

Extraordinary Missionary Month. The national and diocesan PMS Directors, present and active in your particular Churches, are asked to work together with you so that this initiative of the Holy Father may indeed bring about renewed passion for the Gospel, greater zeal, and missionary fervor within our Churches. I have asked the International Secretariat of the Pontifical Mission Union (PMU) to coordinate the preparation, formation, and implementation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. Collaborative efforts are also underway with our Pontifical Urban University to organize moments of reflection and theological-missiological formation at the international and continental level.

Furthermore, in order to assist the creative action of particular Churches, some suggestions and indications will be offered by way of texts and reflections, the fruit of a wide consultation of Christians from throughout the whole world. In due time you will also be informed about the celebrations over which the Holy Father will preside, proposed as events of the Universal Church that will directly involve the Church in Rome.

Finally, I kindly ask you to identify particular examples from among the sons and daughters of your particular Churches who have witnessed to the mission, who are known for their Christian example and enjoy the recognition of holiness in your Christian communities. It would be most helpful if their biographies could be forwarded to the email address noted below. I would also be grateful if you could identify some members of your Churches who might be able to compose spiritual and missionary reflections based on Sacred Scripture. I kindly ask you to forward these and other suggestions and proposals to the International Secretariat of the PMU (october2019@ppoomm.va).

Attached you will find a copy of the Holy Father's Letter to me, dated this past 22 October, as well as the text of his Speech given to the National Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies on 3 June 2017.

During this season of Advent, we entrust these preparations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles, to St. Francis Xavier and St. Thérèse, and to Blessed Paolo Manna. I extend to you my heartfelt greetings, with hopes of abundant fruits of conversion to Christ for the benefit of the missionary work of the Church.

Fernando Cardinal Filoni
Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
President of the Supreme Committee of the Pontifical Mission Societies

LETTERA DEL CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI
AI SUPERIORI E SUPERIORE GENERALI

Città del Vaticano, 3 dicembre 2017
San Francesco Saverio

Cari Fratelli e Sorelle
Superiori e Superiore Generali
Istituti di Vita Consacrata
Società di Vita Apostolica

Raccogliendo l'invito rivoltomi dal Santo Padre nella lettera del 22 ottobre 2017, desidero condividere con voi e le vostre comunità alcune riflessioni e proposte circa la celebrazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019.

Al cuore di questa iniziativa, che coinvolge la Chiesa universale, ci sarà la *preghiera*, la *testimonianza* e la *riflessione* sulla centralità della *missio ad gentes* come stato permanente di invio per la prima evangelizzazione (Mt 28,19). L'impegno per la conversione personale e comunitaria a Gesù Cristo crocifisso, risorto e vivo nella sua Chiesa, rinnoverà l'ardore e la passione per testimoniare, con l'annuncio e con l'esistenza cristiana, il Vangelo della vita e della gioia pasquale (Lc 24,46-49). La missione della Chiesa in contesti umani, religiosi e culturali non ancora permeati dal Vangelo, implica che la trasmissione della fede possa generare stili di vita personali, culture e modalità di convivenza sociale, forgiate dalla gioia evangelica e dai valori cristiani. La fede cristiana si esprime come autentica missione quando è totalmente impegnata per la salvezza del mondo. La testimonianza della carità, l'impegno per la pace e la giustizia, il dialogo interculturale con le Tradizioni Religiose nel rispetto integrale della vita umana e della sua dignità, specialmente dei più poveri, strutturano la missione della Chiesa attorno all'annuncio della Pasqua di Gesù Cristo.

La *missio ad gentes*, indicata nell'*Evangelii Gaudium* come paradigma dell'azione pastorale ordinaria di tutta la Chiesa (EG 15), rappresenta ciò che Papa Francesco ci chiede di mettere al centro della commemorazione dei 100 anni della Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud*, del Suo Predecessore Papa Benedetto XV (30 novembre 1919). Si tratta di «porre la missione di Gesù nel cuore della Chiesa stessa, trasformandola in criterio per misurare l'efficacia delle strutture, i risultati del lavoro, la fecondità dei suoi ministri e la gioia che essi sono capaci di suscitare. Perché senza gioia non si attira nessuno»³⁵.

³⁵ Papa Francesco, Incontro con il Comitato Direttivo del CELAM, Nunziatura Apostolica a Bogotá, giovedì 7 settembre 2017.

Il Santo Padre ha indicato quattro dimensioni³⁶ come modalità per prepararci e per vivere il Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019, affinché si possano superare separazioni e contrapposizioni tra pastorale ordinaria e missione, tra sfide per l'evangelizzazione in contesti anticamente cristiani oggi indifferenti e secolarizzati, e *missio ad gentes* dove culture e religioni si affermano ancora estranei al Vangelo (EG 14). Queste dimensioni sono:

1. L'incontro personale con Gesù Cristo vivo nella sua Chiesa: Eucaristia, Parola di Dio, preghiera personale e comunitaria.
2. La testimonianza: i santi, i martiri della missione e i confessori della fede, che sono espressione delle Chiese sparse nel mondo intero.
3. La formazione: biblica, catechetica, spirituale e teologica circa la *missio ad gentes*.
4. La carità missionaria: come sostegno materiale per l'immenso lavoro di evangelizzazione, di *missio ad gentes* e di formazione cristiana delle Chiese più bisognose.

Suggerisco che le vostre comunità, secondo il carisma proprio di ciascuna, possano determinare, nelle forme più adeguate e convenienti, le modalità per vivere e lasciarsi plasmare da queste dimensioni per una rinnovata conversione alla missione di Gesù.

In questo tempo di preparazione remota, propongo che le comunità contemplative monastiche e claustrali si dedichino ad una azione di preghiera e di riflessione che possa aiutare le Chiese particolari, fedeli e pastori, nel loro impegno di conversione e di missione. In mezzo al mondo, voi, fratelli e sorelle, grazie alla radicalità battesimale della vostra vocazione contemplativa, siete segno efficace dell'appartenenza filiale di ciascun uomo e donna a Dio. Vivendo, nell'ordinaria quotidianità dei monasteri e comunità, attuate l'essenziale cristiano, che rappresenta il cuore della missione, di ogni annuncio e testimonianza evangelica. Ai nostri fratelli monaci e alle nostre sorelle claustrali dobbiamo far riferimento affinché tutto, umanità e mondo, possano essere trasfigurati nella missione di Cristo e della sua Chiesa, a gloria di Dio Padre.

Le Pontificie Opere Missionarie (POM) insieme a questa Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli sono direttamente coinvolte nel lavoro di preparazione e di implementazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario. I direttori nazionali e diocesani delle POM, presenti e attivi nelle Chiese particolari, sono chiamati a lavorare insieme a voi affinché questa iniziativa proposta dal Santo Padre possa servire a rinnovare la passione per il Vangelo, lo zelo e l'ardore missionario delle nostre Chiese. Mi è parso opportuno chiedere al Segretariato Internazionale della Pontificia Unione Missionaria (PUM) di coordinare le attività di preparazione, formazione e

³⁶ Papa Francesco, Discorso ai Direttori Nazionali delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, riuniti in Assemblea Generale, Città del Vaticano, sabato 3 giugno 2017.

svolgimento del Mese Missionario Straordinario. Inoltre, in collaborazione con la nostra Pontificia Università Urbaniana si pensa a momenti di riflessione e formazione teologico-missionologica a livello internazionale e continentale.

In seguito, si offriranno alcuni suggerimenti e indicazioni con testi e riflessioni che, frutto di un'ampia consultazione di cristiani del mondo intero, serviranno come ispirazione, stimolo e suggerimento alla creatività delle Chiese particolari. A tempo debito, si informerà anche sui momenti celebrativi presieduti dal Santo Padre, proposti come eventi di Chiesa universale che coinvolgeranno direttamente la Chiesa che vive in Roma.

Da ultimo, vi chiedo di indicare figure di testimoni della missione, figli e figlie dei vostri Istituti, che si siano distinti per la loro testimonianza cristiana e godano fama di santità presso le vostre comunità e presso le Chiese che hanno esemplarmente servito. Sarebbe opportuno inviare alcune loro note biografiche. Vi sarei anche grato se potete indicare qualche vostro confratello o consorella che possa aiutare nell'elaborazione di testi di meditazione spirituale missionaria a partire dalla Sacra Scrittura. Cortesemente, prego di far pervenire queste indicazioni ed altri suggerimenti e proposte al Segretariato Internazionale della PUM (october2019@ppoomm.va).

Allego copia della Lettera del Santo Padre a me inviata in data 22 ottobre 2017 e il testo del Suo Discorso ai Direttori Nazionali delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie del 3 giugno 2017.

In questo tempo di Avvento, affidiamo questa nostra preparazione alla Beata Vergine Maria, Regina degli Apostoli, ai santi Francesco Saverio e Teresa del Bambin Gesù, al Beato Paolo Manna. Auspicando frutti copiosi di conversione a Cristo a favore dell'opera missionaria della Chiesa, cordialmente vi saluto.

Cardinal Fernando Filoni
Prefetto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli
Presidente del Comitato Supremo delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie

LETTER OF CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI
TO RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS

Vatican City State, 3 December 2017
Saint Francis Xavier

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Superiors General of Institutes
of Consecrated Life
and Societies of Apostolic Life,

In response to the personal invitation of the Holy Father in his letter dated 22 October 2017, I would like to share with you and your communities some reflections and proposals regarding the celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019.

At the heart of this initiative, which involves the Universal Church, will be *prayer, testimonies, and reflections* on the centrality of the *missio ad gentes* as a permanent state of being sent out for the first evangelization (Mt 28:19). The obligation of personal and communal conversion to Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and alive in the Church, will renew the fervor and the passion for giving witness to the Gospel of life and the joy of Easter, through both words and actions (Lk 24:46-49). The mission of the Church in those human, religious, and cultural contexts not yet permeated by the Gospel requires that the transmission of the faith bring about a personal way of life, a culture, and a way of living in communion that are forged by the joy of the Gospel and Christian values. The Christian faith manifests its authentic mission when it is completely dedicated to the salvation of the world. The witness of charity, commitment to justice and peace, and intercultural dialogue with Religious Traditions in mutual respect for human life and its dignity, especially that of the poorest of society, all serve to orient the mission of the Church around the proclamation of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The *missio ad gentes*, identified in *Evangelii Gaudium* as the paradigm of the ordinary pastoral action of the Church (EG 15), represents that which Pope Francis asks us to place at the heart of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of his predecessor Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919). In other words, we are “to place the mission of Jesus at the heart of the Church, making it the criterion for measuring the effectiveness of her structures, the results of her labors, the fruitfulness of her ministers and the joy they awaken. For without joy, we attract no one.”³⁷

³⁷ Pope Francis, Meeting with the Executive Committee of CELAM, Apostolic Nunciature in Bogotá, 7 September 2017.

The Holy Father indicated four dimensions,³⁸ or ways to prepare for and live out the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019, in order to overcome divisions and opposing views between ordinary and missionary pastoral work, and between the challenges of evangelization in previously Christian areas that are now secularized and indifferent to religion and the *missio ad gentes* among cultures and religions to which the Gospel is still foreign (EG 14). These four dimensions are:

1. a personal encounter with Jesus Christ alive in His Church: Eucharist, Word of God, personal and communal prayer,
2. the witness of the Saints, the Missionary Martyrs, and the Confessors of the Faith, who are unique expressions of the Churches throughout the world,
3. biblical, catechetical, spiritual, and theological formation regarding the *missio ad gentes*,
4. missionary charity as a material support for the immense work of evangelization, especially the *missio ad gentes* and Christian formation in Churches that are most in need.

With due respect for the charisms of your respective communities, I suggest that you determine suitable and appropriate ways to live out and be molded by these dimensions, so as to bring about a renewed conversion to the mission of Jesus.

In this time of remote preparation, I propose that contemplative monastic and cloistered communities commit themselves to prayerful reflection, which can be of help to particular Churches, the lay faithful and pastors in their work of conversion and mission. In the midst of the world, you, our brothers and sisters, thanks to the baptismal radicality of your contemplative vocation, are efficacious signs of the sonship of every man and woman of God. You live, in the ordinary, daily rhythm of your monasteries and communities, the essential elements of Christianity that represent the heart of the mission, the heart of every Gospel proclamation and witness. It is necessary to involve our brother monks and cloistered sisters in this initiative, so that indeed all throughout the world may be transformed and conformed to the mission of Christ and of His Church, to the glory of God the Father.

The Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) together with this Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples are directly involved in the work of preparing and implementing the Extraordinary Missionary Month. The national and diocesan PMS Directors, present and active in local Churches, are asked to work together with you so that this initiative of the Holy Father may indeed bring about renewed passion for the Gospel, greater zeal, and missionary fervor within our Churches. I have asked the International Secretariat of the Pontifical Missionary Union (PMU) to

³⁸ Pope Francis, Speech to the National Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies, gathered in General Assembly, Vatican City State, 3 June 2017.

coordinate the preparation, formation, and implementation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. Collaborative efforts are also underway with our Pontifical Urban University to organize moments of reflection and theological-missiological formation at the international and continental level.

Furthermore, in order to assist the creative action of particular Churches, some suggestions and indications will be offered by way of texts and reflections, the fruit of a wide consultation of Christians from throughout the whole world. In due time you will also be informed about the celebrations over which the Holy Father will preside, proposed as events of the Universal Church that will directly involve the Church in Rome.

Finally, I kindly ask you to identify particular examples from among the sons and daughters of your Institutes and Societies who have witnessed to the mission, who are known for their Christian example and enjoy the recognition of holiness in your communities and in the Churches where they provided their exemplary service. It would be most helpful if their biographies could be forwarded to the email address noted below. I would also be grateful if you could identify some members of your communities who might be able to compose spiritual and missionary reflections based on Sacred Scripture. I kindly ask you to forward these and other suggestions and proposals to the International Secretariat of the PMU (october2019@ppoomm.va).

Attached you will find a copy of the Holy Father's Letter to me, dated this past 22 October, as well as the text of his Speech given to the National Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies on 3 June 2017.

During this season of Advent, we entrust these preparations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles, to St. Francis Xavier and St. Thérèse, and to Blessed Paolo Manna. I extend to you my heartfelt greetings, with hopes of abundant fruits of conversion to Christ for the benefit of the missionary work of the Church.

Fernando Cardinal Filoni

*Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
President of the Supreme Committee of the Pontifical Mission Societies*

LETTERA DEL CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI

AI VESCOVI ORDINARI

Agli Em.mi ed Ecc.mi Ordinari

Città del Vaticano, 8 aprile 2018
Domenica nell'Ottava di Pasqua

Cari Fratelli nell'Episcopato,

la Pace del Signore Risorto sia la nostra speranza!

Facendo seguito alla mia lettera del 3 dicembre 2017, vi scrivo nuovamente a riguardo dell'iniziativa missionaria che il Santo Padre Francesco ha annunciato alla Chiesa intera domenica 22 ottobre 2017. Il Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019 rappresenta per tutti noi un'occasione unica: la celebrazione del centesimo anniversario della Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* di Papa Benedetto XV ci aiuta a riaccendere l'ardore e la passione per la missione di Gesù. Rinnovare evangelicamente la missione, come chiedeva Papa Benedetto XV nel lontano 30 novembre 1919, si rivela ancora oggi di grande attualità se guardiamo alla condizione del mondo e della Chiesa.

La finalità spirituale, pastorale e teologica di questo mese missionario straordinario consiste nel riconoscere, vivere e convincerci che la missione è e deve diventare sempre più il paradigma della vita e dell'opera di tutta la Chiesa, e quindi di ogni cristiano. Convertendo i nostri cuori e le nostre menti di discepoli missionari, lo Spirito ci spinge ad uscire verso il mondo per annunciare Cristo crocifisso e risorto. Rimettere la *missio ad gentes* nelle sue diverse declinazioni al centro della vita della Chiesa, riconoscere la missione di Gesù come cuore e identità della Chiesa, ci fa riscoprire il genuino e sfidante rapporto che Dio tesse con il mondo da lui amato, creato e redento (cfr. Gv 17; Ef 1).

Il Santo Padre Francesco ci ha comunicato il tema per l'ottobre 2019:

BATTEZZATI E INVIATI: LA CHIESA DI CRISTO IN MISSIONE NEL MONDO

La preghiera, la riflessione e l'azione ci aiuteranno a vivere il Mese Missionario Straordinario in questa dimensione. Infatti: «Noi, con il battesimo, veniamo immersi in quella sorgente inesauribile di vita che è la morte di Gesù, il più grande atto di amore di tutta la storia; e grazie a questo amore possiamo vivere una vita nuova, non più in balia del male, del peccato e della morte, ma nella

comunione con Dio e con i fratelli»³⁹. Siamo invitati a confermare la nostra identità battesimale come incontro personale con Gesù Cristo vivo: Lui ci invia ad essere suoi testimoni nel mondo.

La missione della Chiesa prolunga infatti la missione che Gesù riceve dal Padre nello Spirito. Annunciando Gesù Cristo nella Parola e nel Sacramento, la missione della Chiesa risponde alla sete di vita autentica e di senso, che alberga nel cuore di ogni donna e di ogni uomo. Offrire agli uomini di questo mondo il battesimo nel nome del Padre e del Figlio e dello Spirito Santo (cfr. Mt 28,19) e con loro spezzare il pane dell'Eucaristia significa dare la vita di Dio che ci salva dal male e dalla morte (cfr. Gv 6,48-51; 10,10). Nell'acqua e nello Spirito, il sangue di Cristo (cfr. 1Gv 5,1-13) ci redime, ci dona la fede e ci offre al mondo per la salvezza. Ai poveri, a noi prigionieri del peccato, è veramente annunciata la grazia che libera e salva (cfr. Lc 4,14-22). Niente e nessuno è escluso dall'amore misericordioso di Dio che ci invia in missione per attirarci tutti a sé.

Ringraziamo il Santo Padre Francesco per volerci guidare, con il tema affidatoci, nel cammino verso il Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019. In questa ottica, mi permetto, in uno spirito di comunione fraterna tra Chiese particolari servite dal Suo ministero di Pastore Universale, di suggerire alcune iniziative per la celebrazione di questo importante appuntamento ecclesiale. Sono cosciente di farlo con molto anticipo, ma credo sia il solo modo perché ogni Chiesa con i suoi Pastori possa già iniziare a riflettere su come vivere il Mese Missionario Straordinario. Ciò che come Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli e Pontificie Opere Missionarie proponiamo, desidera essere di ispirazione alla creatività delle Chiese locali a voi affidate. Non si tratta dunque di suggerimenti esaustivi, ma esemplificativi, per facilitare la celebrazione a livello locale, che si accompagna a quella a livello universale.

1. Organizzare una celebrazione diocesana o nazionale per l'Apertura del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019.
2. Celebrare la Veglia Missionaria con il tema proposto dal Santo Padre.
3. Proporre una Celebrazione Eucaristica a livello diocesano per la domenica della Giornata Mondiale Missionaria.
4. Proporre che piccoli gruppi di persone o famiglie si riuniscano in case per pregare il Santo Rosario con intenzione missionaria, ispirati dall'originale intuizione della Venerabile Pauline Jaricot, fondatrice della Pontificia Opera Missionaria della Propagazione della Fede.
5. Promuovere un pellegrinaggio mariano o verso un santuario memoria di santi o martiri della missione.
6. Promuovere raccolte di offerte e donazioni economiche per il sostegno del lavoro apostolico

³⁹ Papa Francesco, Udienza Generale, mercoledì 8 gennaio 2014.

riguardante la *missio ad gentes* e la formazione missionaria.

7. Proporre ai giovani un'attività pubblica di annuncio del Vangelo.
8. Organizzare una celebrazione diocesana o nazionale per la Chiusura del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019.

Le proposte qui suggerite, trovano nei Direttori Nazionali e Diocesani delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, presenti nelle vostre Chiese locali, un opportuno riferimento di collaborazione per pensare e lavorare insieme. Grazie a loro stiamo raccogliendo importanti riflessioni per la pubblicazione di un Sussidio che in forma elettronica sarà disponibile prima della fine di questo anno. Il Sussidio, unico nel suo genere, è frutto della fede di molti cristiani provenienti dalle Chiese locali del mondo intero. Ringrazio di vivo cuore tutti coloro che vi stanno contribuendo e ci stanno aiutando in questa importante opera di animazione missionaria.

Prego e auguro che tutto ciò che siamo chiamati a vivere, riflettere e pregare in vista del Mese Missionario Straordinario possa contribuire ad una genuina conversione missionaria a Gesù Cristo. Con Maria Regina degli Apostoli, uniti nel Cenacolo, invochiamo il dono dello Spirito Santo per il giorno di Pentecoste. Cordialmente vi ringrazio e vi saluto,

Cardinal Fernando Filoni

*Prefetto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli
Presidente del Comitato Supremo delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie*

LETTER OF CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI
TO BISHOPS

To the Most Eminent and Most Excellent Ordinaries

Vatican City State, 8 April 2018
2nd Sunday of Easter

Dear Brothers in the Episcopacy,

May the Peace of the Risen Lord be our hope!

Following my letter of 3 December 2017, I am once again writing with regard to the missionary initiative that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced to the entire Church on Sunday, 22 October 2017. The Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 is truly a unique opportunity for all of us; the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV helps us to reignite our ardor and passion for the mission of Jesus Christ. Renewing the mission of the Gospel, as Pope Benedict stressed many years ago, on 30 November 1919, is still relevant today if we consider the current state of the world and the Church.

The spiritual, pastoral, and theological goal of this extraordinary missionary month consists, above all, in recognizing that this mission is and must become more fully the paradigm of life and work for the whole Church, and thus of every Christian, so that we can then live it out with conviction. Converting our hearts and minds, as missionary disciples, the Spirit urges us to go out into the world and announce Christ, Crucified and Risen. Placing the *missio ad gentes*, with its various facets, at the center of the life of the Church and recognizing the mission of Jesus as Her heart and identity helps us to rediscover the genuine, yet challenging relationship that God establishes with the world that He created, redeemed, and loves (cf. Jn 17, Eph 1).

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has shared with us the theme for October 2019:

**BAPTIZED AND SENT:
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MISSION IN THE WORLD**

Prayer, reflection, and action will help us to live this dimension of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. In fact, “We, by Baptism, are immersed in that inexhaustible source of life which is the death of Jesus, the greatest act of love in all of history; and thanks to this love we can live a new life, no longer at the mercy of evil, of sin and of death, but in communion with God and with our

brothers and sisters.”⁴⁰ We are invited to confirm our baptismal identity in a personal encounter with the living person of Jesus Christ, who invites us to be his witnesses in the world.

The Church carries on the mission that Jesus received from the Father in the Spirit. By announcing Jesus Christ, in Word and Sacrament, the Church responds to the thirst for an authentic life and a sense of purpose that resides in the heart of every woman and man. By offering Baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (cf. Mt 28:19) to the inhabitants of this world and in breaking the bread of the Eucharist with them, the very life of God, which saves us from evil and death (cf. Jn 6:48-51, 10:10), is made manifest and communicated to the world. In water and Spirit, Jesus Christ, through his Blood (cf. 1 Jn 5:1-13), redeems us, gives us faith, and offers us to the world for the salvation of souls. The grace that frees and saves is truly announced to the poor and to those of us imprisoned by sin (cf. Lk 4:14-22). Nothing and no one is excluded from the merciful love of God, who invites us to go on mission, so that all may be drawn to the Lord.

We are grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for leading us and entrusting us with a fitting theme on this journey toward the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019. With this in mind and in a spirit of fraternal communion between the particular Churches served by the ministry of the Successor of Peter, the Universal Pastor, I would like to propose some initiatives for the celebration of this important ecclesial event. I am aware that I am writing over a year in advance, but I believe this will provide the necessary amount of time for each local Church to begin prayerfully reflecting on how to live out the Extraordinary Missionary Month. It is our hope, as the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Mission Societies, that the following proposals will help stimulate the creativity of the local Churches entrusted to your care. These suggestions are not meant to be exhaustive, but rather are some ideas and examples that are intended to facilitate local celebrations, which are to accompany those that will take place on a universal level.

1. Organize a Diocesan or national celebration for the Opening of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019.
2. Celebrate the Missionary Vigil, focusing on the theme given to us by the Holy Father.
3. Celebrate the Most Holy Eucharist at the Diocesan level on World Mission Sunday.
4. Propose that small groups of people or families gather in each other’s houses to pray the Holy Rosary for the missionary work of the Church, drawing inspiration from the original intuition of Venerable Pauline Jaricot, foundress of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith.
5. Promote a pilgrimage to a Marian shrine or to that of a missionary saint or martyr.
6. Promote the collection of funds to support the apostolic work of the *missio ad gentes* and

⁴⁰ Pope Francis, General Audience, Wednesday, 8 January 2014

missionary formation.

7. Propose a public activity by which young people are involved in proclaiming the Gospel.
8. Organize a Diocesan or national celebration for the Closing of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019.

With regard to these suggestions, you should find in the National and Diocesan Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies, present in your local Churches, helpful references for ideas and collaboration. In fact, with their help we are putting together important reflections to serve as an aid for local Churches. This Guide, which will be completed and distributed before the end of this year, is the fruit of the faith of many of our brothers and sisters from around the world. I am sincerely grateful to all those who are making generous and valuable contributions to help promote this important work of missionary animation.

I hope and pray that all we are called to live and prayerfully reflect upon in preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 will contribute to a genuine, missionary conversion to Christ. With Mary, Queen of the Apostles, united in the Upper Room, we remain united in prayer for a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Please know of my gratitude and fraternal best wishes for you and your ministry.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fernando Cardinal Filoni
Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
President of the Supreme Committee of the Pontifical Mission Societies

LETTERA DEL CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI

AI SUPERIORI E SUPERIORE GENERALI

Città del Vaticano, 8 aprile 2018
Domenica nell'Ottava di Pasqua

Cari Fratelli e Sorelle
Superiori e Superiore Generali
Istituti di Vita Consacrata
Istituti di Vita Apostolica

la Pace del Signore Risorto sia la nostra speranza!

Facendo seguito alla mia lettera del 3 dicembre 2017, vi scrivo nuovamente a riguardo dell'iniziativa missionaria che il Santo Padre Francesco ha annunciato alla Chiesa intera domenica 22 ottobre 2017. Il Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019 rappresenta per tutti noi un'occasione unica: la celebrazione del centesimo anniversario della Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* di Papa Benedetto XV ci aiuta a riaccendere l'ardore e la passione per la missione di Gesù. Rinnovare evangelicamente la missione, come chiedeva Papa Benedetto XV nel lontano 30 novembre 1919, si rivela ancora oggi di grande attualità se guardiamo alla condizione del mondo e della Chiesa.

La finalità spirituale, pastorale e teologica di questo mese missionario straordinario consiste nel riconoscere, vivere e convincerci che la missione è e deve diventare sempre più il paradigma della vita e dell'opera di tutta la Chiesa, e quindi di ogni cristiano. Convertendo i nostri cuori e le nostre menti di discepoli missionari, lo Spirito ci spinge ad uscire verso il mondo per annunciare Cristo crocifisso e risorto. Rimettere la *missio ad gentes* nelle sue diverse declinazioni al centro della vita della Chiesa, riconoscere la missione di Gesù come cuore e identità della Chiesa, ci fa riscoprire il genuino e sfidante rapporto che Dio tesse con il mondo da lui amato, creato e redento (cfr. Gv 17; Ef 1).

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La preghiera, la riflessione e l'azione ci aiuteranno a vivere il Mese Missionario Straordinario in questa dimensione. Infatti: «Noi, con il battesimo, veniamo immersi in quella sorgente inesauribile di vita che è la morte di Gesù, il più grande atto di amore di tutta la storia; e grazie a questo amore possiamo vivere una vita nuova, non più in balia del male, del peccato e della morte, ma nella

comunione con Dio e con i fratelli»⁴¹. Siamo invitati a confermare la nostra identità battesimale come incontro personale con Gesù Cristo vivo: Lui ci invia ad essere suoi testimoni nel mondo.

La missione della Chiesa prolunga infatti la missione che Gesù riceve dal Padre nello Spirito. Annunciando Gesù Cristo nella Parola e nel Sacramento, la missione della Chiesa risponde alla sete di vita autentica e di senso, che alberga nel cuore di ogni donna e di ogni uomo. Offrire agli uomini di questo mondo il battesimo nel nome del Padre e del Figlio e dello Spirito Santo (cfr. Mt 28,19) e con loro spezzare il pane dell'Eucaristia significa dare la vita di Dio che ci salva dal male e dalla morte (cfr. Gv 6,48-51; 10,10). Nell'acqua e nello Spirito, il sangue di Cristo (cfr. 1Gv 5,1-13) ci redime, ci dona la fede e ci offre al mondo per la salvezza. Ai poveri, a noi prigionieri del peccato, è veramente annunciata la grazia che libera e salva (cfr. Lc 4,14-22). Niente e nessuno è escluso dall'amore misericordioso di Dio che ci invia in missione per attirarci tutti a sé.

Ringraziamo il Santo Padre Francesco per volerci guidare, con il tema affidatoci, nel cammino verso il Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019. In questa ottica, mi permetto, in uno spirito di comunione, di farvi una proposta per crescere in una maggiore consapevolezza della nostra battesimale missionarietà. Oltre ai suggerimenti offerti ai Vescovi per iniziative da viverci nelle Chiese particolari di cui siete membri, vi propongo di iniziare un processo di reciproco ascolto affinché tutti possiamo cooperare a quella conversione missionaria della compagine ecclesiale, tanto insistentemente auspicata da Papa Francesco (EG 25, 27, 30, 32 e 33). Ascoltarci nello Spirito ci converte e ci fa crescere nella comunione a partire dalla missione e per la missione.

Essere più chiaramente consapevoli del dono del battesimo, del dono dell'eucarestia, del dono della Chiesa; essere più consapevolmente identificati con la specifica chiamata a vivere la *missio ad gentes*, la consacrazione verginale e il ministero ordinato per servire in forme carismatiche differenti Cristo e la sua Chiesa, potrebbero diventare fonte di comunicazione nello Spirito di esperienze di vita cristiana e di apostolato missionario da ascoltare e condividere. Alla luce del criterio battesimale datoci da Papa Francesco, potremmo insieme avviare una riflessione dal tema ANNUNCIO, SACRAMENTO E TESTIMONIANZA CRISTIANA NELLA *MISSIO AD GENTES*. Il tenore della riflessione, frutto della preghiera e della vita, potrebbe essere di tipo teologico-esperienziale. Si tratta di narrare, insieme, la propria esperienza missionaria con una robusta base teologica e spirituale. Gesù Cristo e la Chiesa nella Scrittura, nei Sacramenti, nella carità e nel dialogo con il mondo, le sue culture e religioni, rappresentano il cuore di ciò che vorremmo comunicarci ascoltandoci, discernendo e condividendo. Ogni vostro Istituto può organizzare secondo le proprie modalità, possibilità e necessità questo reciproco ascolto, preghiera e riflessione.

⁴¹ Papa Francesco, Udienza Generale, mercoledì 8 gennaio 2014.

Come Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli e Pontificie Opere Missionarie proponiamo che alcuni Membri scelti delle vostre comunità possano articolare questi processi di ascolto, discernimento spirituale e condivisione insieme alle nostre realtà di formazione missionaria, il Segretariato Internazionale della Pontificia Unione Missionaria (PUM) e il Centro Internazionale di Animazione Missionaria (CIAM). Una proposta concreta è l'incontro e la riflessione di Membri dello stesso Istituto oppure di Istituti diversi, secondo ciò che si ritiene più opportuno, presso il CIAM. Il frutto di questo impegno di fede e di discernimento circa la *missio ad gentes* può aiutare tutti noi a riqualificare evangelicamente la missione a partire da ciò che lo Spirito ci dona di vivere come cristiani, come famiglie di consacrati e consacrate, come istituti missionari, come ministri ordinati nell'unica Chiesa di Cristo. Ho chiesto al Segretario Generale della PUM e Direttore del CIAM, p. Fabrizio Meroni, di mettersi a disposizione per ricevere eventuali vostri riscontri positivi a questa nostra proposta (email: fabrizio.meroni@ppoomm.va; PUM 06-69880228; CIAM 06-69882484). Anche i nostri Direttori Nazionali e Diocesani delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, presenti nelle Chiese locali, possono essere un opportuno riferimento di collaborazione per pensare e lavorare insieme. Grazie a loro stiamo raccogliendo importanti riflessioni per la pubblicazione di un Sussidio che a suo tempo vi invieremo.

Prego e auguro che tutto ciò che siamo chiamati a vivere, riflettere e pregare in vista del Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019 possa contribuire ad una genuina conversione missionaria a Cristo. Con Maria Regina degli Apostoli, uniti nel Cenacolo, invociamo il dono dello Spirito Santo per il giorno di Pentecoste. Cordialmente vi ringrazio e vi saluto,

Cardinal Fernando Filoni
Prefetto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli
Presidente del Comitato Supremo delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie

LETTER OF CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI
TO RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS

Vatican City State, 8 April 2018
2nd Sunday of Easter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
General Superiors
of Institutes of Consecrated Life
and Societies of Apostolic Life,

May the Peace of the Risen Lord be our hope!

Following my letter of 3 December 2017, I am once again writing with regard to the missionary initiative that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced to the entire Church on Sunday, 22 October 2017. The Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 is truly a unique opportunity for all of us; the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV helps us to reignite our ardor and passion for the mission of Jesus Christ. As Pope Benedict stressed many years ago on 30 November 1919, renewing the mission of the Gospel is still relevant today if we consider the current state of the world and the Church.

The spiritual, pastoral, and theological goal of this extraordinary missionary month consists in recognizing, living, and convincing ourselves that this mission is and must become more fully the paradigm of life and work for the whole Church, and thus of every Christian. Converting our hearts and minds, as missionary disciples, the Spirit urges us to go out into the world and announce Christ, Crucified and Risen. Placing the *missio ad gentes*, with its various facets, at the center of the Church's life and recognizing the mission of Jesus as Her heart and identity helps us to rediscover the genuine, yet challenging relationship that God establishes with the world that He created, redeemed, and loves (cf. Jn 17, Eph 1).

Our Holy Father Francis has shared with us the theme for October 2019:

**BAPTIZED AND SENT:
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MISSION IN THE WORLD**

Prayer, reflection, and action will help us to live this dimension of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. In fact, "We, by Baptism, are immersed in that inexhaustible source of life which is the death of Jesus, the greatest act of love in all of history; and thanks to this love we can live a new life, no longer at the mercy of evil, of sin and of death, but in communion with God and with our

brothers and sisters.”⁴² We are invited to confirm our baptismal identity in a personal encounter with the living person of Jesus Christ. He invites us to be his witnesses in the world.

The Church carries on the mission that Jesus received from the Father in the Spirit. By announcing Jesus Christ, in Word and Sacrament, the Church responds to the thirst for an authentic life and a sense of purpose that resides in the heart of every woman and man. To offer Baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (cf. Mt 28:19) to the inhabitants of this world and to break the bread of the Eucharist with them signifies the giving of the very life of God that saves us from evil and death (cf. Jn 6:48-51, 10:10). In water and Spirit, the Blood of Christ (cf. 1 Jn 5:1-13) redeems us, gives us faith, and offers us to the world for the salvation of souls. The grace that frees and saves is truly announced to the poor and to those of us imprisoned by sin (cf. Lk 4:14-22). Nothing and no one is excluded from the merciful love of God, who invites us to go on mission, so that all may be drawn to Him.

We are grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for leading us and entrusting us with a fitting theme on this journey toward the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019. With this perspective and in a spirit of communion, I would like to propose a way to grow in greater awareness of our baptismal missionary vocation. In addition to any initiatives that may be implemented by the Bishops in the particular Churches of which you are members, I would like to propose that each of you initiate a process of reciprocal listening, in such a way that all may be able to cooperate in the missionary conversion of the entire ecclesial team so often insisted upon and hoped for by Pope Francis (cf. EG 25, 27, 30, 32 and 33). Listening to one another in the Spirit converts us and helps us grow in the very communion that comes from and is necessary for authentic missionary activity.

Through their different charismatic forms, consecrated virginity and ordained ministry in service to Christ and his Church can be sources of communication, through listening and sharing, which develop from your experiences of the Christian life and your missionary apostolate in the Spirit. Therefore, we are called to be more aware of the gifts of Baptism, the Eucharist, and the Church, while striving to better realize our specific call to live the *missio ad gentes*. In order to build toward the theme given to us by Pope Francis, I propose that we begin reflecting on the following: “Proclamation, Sacrament and Christian Witness in the *Missio Ad Gentes*.” The tenor of the reflection, which is both the fruit of prayer and lived experience, could be of a theological-experiential type. It would involve coming together to recount individual missionary experiences with a robust theological and spiritual base. Jesus Christ and the Church, in the Scriptures, in the Sacraments, in charity, and in dialogue with the world and its cultures and religions, represent the heart of that which

⁴² Pope Francis, General Audience, Wednesday, 8 January 2014.

we would like to communicate, listening to one another, discerning and sharing. It is our hope that each of your Institutes would organize this reciprocal listening, prayer, and reflection, according to your particular means, circumstances, and needs.

As the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Mission Societies, we propose that some members of your Community be designated to organize this process of listening, spiritual discernment, and sharing, together with our missionary formation organizations, the International Secretariat of the Pontifical Missionary Union (PMU) and the International Center for Missionary Animation (CIAM). One concrete proposal would be to arrange a meeting at the CIAM for shared reflection between members of the same or different Institutes, depending on what is most opportune. The fruit of this work of faith and discernment about the *missio ad gentes* will help all of us to breathe new life into the missions, starting with that which the Spirit provides for us according to our various roles within the one Church of Christ. I have asked Father Fabrizio Meroni, Secretary General of the PMU and Director of CIAM, to make himself available to receive any responses and inquiries about the aforementioned proposal (email: fabrizio.meroni@ppoomm.va; PMU +39 0669880228; CIAM +39 0669882484). Also, our National and Diocesan Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies present in your local Churches can be a possible reference for collaboration. Thanks to them, we are gathering important reflections for the publication of a Guide that will be sent to you upon completion.

I hope and pray that our preparation for the Extraordinary Mission Month of October 2019 will contribute to a genuine, missionary conversion to Christ. With Mary, Queen of the Apostles, united in the Upper Room, we pray for a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. I cordially greet you and thank you,

Fernando Cardinal Filoni
Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
President of the Supreme Committee of the Pontifical Mission Societies

LETTERA DEL CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI

AI RESPONSABILI INTERNAZIONALI DEI MOVIMENTI ECCLESIALI, NUOVE COMUNITÀ E DELLE ASSOCIAZIONI LAICALI

Città del Vaticano, 8 aprile 2018
Domenica nell'Ottava di Pasqua

Cari Fratelli e Sorelle Responsabili Internazionali
Movimenti Ecclesiali e Nuove Comunità Associazioni Laicali

la Pace del Signore Risorto sia la nostra speranza!

Facendo seguito alla mia lettera del 3 dicembre 2017, inviata ai Vescovi del mondo intero, scrivo ora a voi direttamente a riguardo dell'iniziativa missionaria che il Santo Padre Francesco ha annunciato alla Chiesa intera domenica 22 ottobre 2017. Il Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019 rappresenta per tutti noi un'occasione unica: la celebrazione del centesimo anniversario della Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* di Papa Benedetto XV ci aiuta a riaccendere l'ardore e la passione per la missione di Gesù. Rinnovare evangelicamente la missione, come chiedeva Papa Benedetto XV nel lontano 30 novembre 1919, si rivela ancora oggi di grande attualità se guardiamo alla condizione del mondo e della Chiesa. La finalità spirituale, pastorale e teologica di questo mese missionario straordinario consiste nel riconoscere, vivere e convincerci che la missione è e deve diventare sempre più il paradigma della vita e dell'opera di tutta la Chiesa, e quindi di ogni cristiano. Convertendo i nostri cuori e le nostre menti di discepoli missionari, lo Spirito ci spinge ad uscire verso il mondo per annunciare Cristo crocifisso e risorto. Rimettere la *missio ad gentes* nelle sue diverse declinazioni al centro della vita della Chiesa, riconoscere la missione di Gesù come cuore e identità della Chiesa, ci fa riscoprire il genuino e sfidante rapporto che Dio tesse con il mondo da lui amato, creato e redento (cfr. Gv 17; Ef 1).

Il Santo Padre Francesco ci ha comunicato il tema per l'ottobre 2019:

BATTEZZATI E INVIATI: LA CHIESA DI CRISTO IN MISSIONE NEL MONDO

La preghiera, la riflessione e l'azione ci aiuteranno a vivere il Mese Missionario Straordinario in questa dimensione. Infatti: «Noi, con il battesimo, veniamo immersi in quella sorgente inesauribile di vita che è la morte di Gesù, il più grande atto di amore di tutta la storia; e grazie a questo amore possiamo vivere una vita nuova, non più in balia del male, del peccato e della morte, ma nella

comunione con Dio e con i fratelli»⁴³. Siamo invitati a confermare la nostra identità battesimale come incontro personale con Gesù Cristo vivo: Lui ci invia ad essere suoi testimoni nel mondo.

La missione della Chiesa prolunga infatti la missione che Gesù riceve dal Padre nello Spirito. Annunciando Gesù Cristo nella Parola e nel Sacramento, la missione della Chiesa risponde alla sete di vita autentica e di senso, che alberga nel cuore di ogni donna e di ogni uomo. Offrire agli uomini di questo mondo il battesimo nel nome del Padre e del Figlio e dello Spirito Santo (cfr. Mt 28,19) e con loro spezzare il pane dell'Eucaristia significa dare la vita di Dio che ci salva dal male e dalla morte (cfr. Gv 6,48-51; 10,10). Nell'acqua e nello Spirito, il sangue di Cristo (cfr. 1Gv 5,1-13) ci redime, ci dona la fede e ci offre al mondo per la salvezza. Ai poveri, a noi prigionieri del peccato, è veramente annunciata la grazia che libera e salva (cfr. Lc 4,14-22). Niente e nessuno è escluso dall'amore misericordioso di Dio che ci invia in missione per attirarci tutti a sé.

Ringraziamo il Santo Padre Francesco per volerci guidare, con il tema affidatoci, nel cammino verso il Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019. Mi sembra particolarmente rilevante il fatto che il Santo Padre abbia voluto indicare nel battesimo il punto di partenza della missione. Molte esperienze di movimenti e nuove comunità ecclesiali nascono proprio come carismi suscitati per rinnovare la nostra appartenenza a Cristo tramite il Battesimo, sulla scia del Concilio Vaticano II. In questa ottica, mi permetto, in uno spirito di comunione, di chiedervi di fare vostra questa speciale istanza di Papa Francesco e di discernere le forme più adeguate per vivere e organizzare, dentro le vostre realtà ecclesiali, l'ottobre missionario 2019 come fonte di nuovo impulso missionario per i vostri stessi movimenti, a servizio della Chiesa intera.

Come Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli e Pontificie Opere Missionarie saremmo lieti se potreste condividere le vostre iniziative con noi. Ho chiesto al Segretario Generale della Pontificia Unione Missionaria (PUM) e Direttore del Centro Internazionale di Animazione Missionaria (CIAM), p. Fabrizio Meroni, di mettersi a disposizione per ricevere eventuali vostri riscontri positivi a questa nostra proposta (email: fabrizio.meroni@ppoomm.va; PUM 06-69880228; CIAM 06-69882484). Anche i nostri Direttori Nazionali e Diocesani delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, presenti nelle diverse Chiese locali, possono essere un opportuno riferimento di collaborazione per pensare e lavorare insieme. Grazie a loro stiamo raccogliendo importanti riflessioni per la pubblicazione di un Sussidio che a suo tempo vi invieremo.

Prego e auguro che tutto ciò che siamo chiamati a vivere, riflettere e pregare in vista del Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019 possa contribuire ad una genuina conversione missionaria a Cristo. Con Maria Regina degli Apostoli, uniti nel Cenacolo, invociamo il dono dello

⁴³ Papa Francesco, Udienza Generale, mercoledì 8 gennaio 2014.

Spirito Santo per il giorno di Pentecoste. Cordialmente vi ringrazio e vi saluto,

Cardinal Fernando Filoni

*Prefetto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli
Presidente del Comitato Supremo delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie*

LETTER OF CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI
**TO INTERNATIONAL LEADERS OF ECCLESIAL MOVEMENTS,
NEW COMMUNITIES, AND LAY ASSOCIATIONS**

Vatican City State, 8 April 2018
2nd Sunday of Easter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
International Leaders
of Ecclesial Movements, New Communities,
and Lay Associations,

May the Peace of the Risen Lord be our hope!

Following my letter of 3 December 2017, which was sent to all Bishops, I now write to each of you directly with regard to the missionary initiative that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced to the entire Church on Sunday, 22 October 2017. The Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 is truly a unique opportunity for all of us; the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV helps us to reignite our ardor and passion for the mission of Jesus Christ. As Pope Benedict XV stressed many years ago, on 30 November 1919, renewing the mission of the Gospel is still relevant today if we consider the current state of the world and the Church.

The spiritual, pastoral, and theological goal of this extraordinary missionary month consists in first recognizing that this mission is and must become more fully the paradigm of life and work for the whole Church, and thus of every Christian, so that we can then live it out with conviction and joy. Converting our hearts and minds, as missionary disciples, the Spirit urges us to go out into the world and announce Christ, Crucified and Risen. Placing the *missio ad gentes*, with its various facets, at the center of the Church's life and recognizing the mission of Jesus as Her heart and identity helps us to rediscover the genuine, yet challenging relationship that God establishes with the world that He created, redeemed, and loves (cf. Jn 17, Eph 1).

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has shared with us the theme for October 2019:

**BAPTIZED AND SENT:
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MISSION IN THE WORLD**

Prayer, reflection, and action will help us to live this dimension of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. In fact, "We, by Baptism, are immersed in that inexhaustible source of life which is the death of Jesus, the greatest act of love in all of history; and thanks to this love we can live a

new life, no longer at the mercy of evil, of sin and of death, but in communion with God and with our brothers and sisters.”⁴⁴ We are invited to confirm our baptismal identity in a personal encounter with the living person of Jesus Christ. He invites us to be his witnesses in the world.

The Church carries on the mission that Jesus received from the Father in the Spirit. By announcing Jesus Christ, in Word and Sacrament, the Church responds to the thirst for an authentic life and a sense of purpose that resides in the heart of every woman and man. By offering Baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (cf. Mt 28:19) to the inhabitants of this world and in breaking the bread of the Eucharist with them, the very life of God, which saves us from evil and death (cf. Jn 6:48-51, 10:10), is made manifest and communicated to the world. In water and Spirit, the Blood of Christ (cf. 1 Jn 5:1-13) redeems us, gives us faith, and offers us to the world for the salvation of souls. The grace that frees and saves is truly announced to the poor and to those of us imprisoned by sin (cf. Lk 4:14-22). Nothing and no one is excluded from the merciful love of God, who invites us to go on mission, so that all may be drawn to Him.

We are grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for leading us and entrusting us with a fitting theme on this journey toward the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019. It is particularly relevant that our Holy Father emphasized Baptism as the point of departure of our common mission. In the wake of the Second Vatican Council, many movements and new communities within the Church have emerged, with particular charisms, for the renewal of our unity with Christ through Baptism. With this perspective and in a spirit of communion, I invite each of you to take part in this initiative of Pope Francis by reflecting on the ways that you can live the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019, so that it may be a font of new missionary activity within your ecclesial realities and in service to the whole Church.

As the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Mission Societies, we would be delighted if you could share your thoughts and experiences with us. I have asked Father Fabrizio Meroni, Secretary General Secretary of the Pontifical Mission Union (PMU) and Director of the International Center for Missionary Animation (CIAM), to make himself available to receive any responses and inquiries about the aforementioned proposal (email: fabrizio.meroni@ppoomm.va; PMU +39 0669880228; CIAM +39 0669882484). Also, the National and Diocesan Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies, present in your local Churches, can be a possible reference for collaboration. Thanks to them, we are gathering important reflections for the publication of a Guide that will be sent to you upon completion.

I hope and pray that all we are called to live and prayerfully reflect upon in preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 will contribute to a genuine, missionary conversion

⁴⁴ Pope Francis, General Audience, Wednesday, 8 January 2014.

to Christ. With Mary, Queen of the Apostles, united in the Upper Room, we pray for a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. I cordially greet you and thank you,

Fernando Cardinal Filoni

*Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
President of the Supreme Committee of the Pontifical Mission Societies*

LETTERA DEL CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI
AI RETTORI E FORMATORI DEI SEMINARI MAGGIORI

Città del Vaticano, 8 aprile 2018
Domenica nell'Ottava di Pasqua

Cari Rettori e Formatori Seminari Maggiori

la Pace del Signore Risorto sia la nostra speranza!

Facendo seguito alla mia lettera del 3 dicembre 2017, inviata ai Vescovi del mondo intero, scrivo ora a voi direttamente a riguardo dell'iniziativa missionaria che il Santo Padre Francesco ha annunciato alla Chiesa intera domenica 22 ottobre 2017. Il Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019 rappresenta per tutti noi un'occasione unica: la celebrazione del centesimo anniversario della Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* di Papa Benedetto XV ci aiuta a riaccendere l'ardore e la passione per la missione di Gesù. Rinnovare evangelicamente la missione, come chiedeva Papa Benedetto XV nel lontano 30 novembre 1919, si rivela ancora oggi di grande attualità se guardiamo alla condizione del mondo e della Chiesa.

La finalità spirituale, pastorale e teologica di questo mese missionario straordinario consiste nel riconoscere, vivere e convincerci che la missione è e deve diventare sempre più il paradigma della vita e dell'opera di tutta la Chiesa, e quindi di ogni cristiano. Convertendo i nostri cuori e le nostre menti di discepoli missionari, lo Spirito ci spinge ad uscire verso il mondo per annunciare Cristo crocifisso e risorto. Rimettere la *missio ad gentes* nelle sue diverse declinazioni al centro della vita della Chiesa, riconoscere la missione di Gesù come cuore e identità della Chiesa, ci fa riscoprire il genuino e sfidante rapporto che Dio tesse con il mondo da lui amato, creato e redento (cfr. Gv 17; Ef 1).

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La preghiera, la riflessione e l'azione ci aiuteranno a vivere il Mese Missionario Straordinario in questa dimensione. Infatti: «Noi, con il battesimo, veniamo immersi in quella sorgente inesauribile di vita che è la morte di Gesù, il più grande atto di amore di tutta la storia; e grazie a questo amore possiamo vivere una vita nuova, non più in balia del male, del peccato e della morte, ma nella

comunione con Dio e con i fratelli»⁴⁵. Siamo invitati a confermare la nostra identità battesimale come incontro personale con Gesù Cristo vivo: Lui ci invia ad essere suoi testimoni nel mondo.

La missione della Chiesa prolunga infatti la missione che Gesù riceve dal Padre nello Spirito. Annunciando Gesù Cristo nella Parola e nel Sacramento, la missione della Chiesa risponde alla sete di vita autentica e di senso, che alberga nel cuore di ogni donna e di ogni uomo. Offrire agli uomini di questo mondo il battesimo nel nome del Padre e del Figlio e dello Spirito Santo (cfr. Mt 28,19) e con loro spezzare il pane dell'Eucaristia significa dare la vita di Dio che ci salva dal male e dalla morte (cfr. Gv 6,48-51; 10,10). Nell'acqua e nello Spirito, il sangue di Cristo (cfr. 1Gv 5,1-13) ci redime, ci dona la fede e ci offre al mondo per la salvezza. Ai poveri, a noi prigionieri del peccato, è veramente annunciata la grazia che libera e salva (cfr. Lc 4,14-22). Niente e nessuno è escluso dall'amore misericordioso di Dio che ci invia in missione per attirarci tutti a sé.

Ringraziamo il Santo Padre Francesco per volerci guidare, con il tema affidatoci, nel cammino verso il Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019. In questa ottica, mi permetto, in uno spirito di comunione, di farvi una proposta per crescere in una maggiore consapevolezza della nostra battesimale missionarietà. Oltre ai suggerimenti offerti ai Vescovi per iniziative da viverci nelle Chiese particolari di cui siete membri, vi propongo di iniziare un processo di reciproco ascolto affinché tutti possiamo cooperare a quella conversione missionaria della compagine ecclesiale, tanto insistentemente auspicata da Papa Francesco (EG 25, 27, 30, 32 e 33). Ascoltarci nello Spirito ci converte e ci fa crescere nella comunione a partire dalla missione e per la missione.

Essere più chiaramente consapevoli del dono del battesimo, del dono dell'eucaristia, del dono della Chiesa; essere più consapevolmente identificati con la specifica chiamata a vivere il ministero presbiterale servendo la missione di Gesù nella sua Chiesa, potrebbero diventare fonte di comunicazione nello Spirito di esperienze di vita cristiana e di formazione seminaristica da ascoltare e condividere. Alla luce del criterio battesimale datoci da Papa Francesco, potreste insieme avviare una riflessione dal tema ANNUNCIO, SACRAMENTO E MINISTERO SACERDOTALE NELLA MISSIONE DELLA CHIESA, con particolare riferimento alla *missio ad gentes*. Si tratta di narrare e riflettere, insieme, sulla propria esperienza di fede e di chiamata vocazionale. Gesù Cristo e la Chiesa nella Scrittura, nei Sacramenti, nella carità e nel dialogo con il mondo, le sue culture e religioni, rappresentano il cuore di ciò che si vuole comunicare ascoltandosi, discernendo e condividendo. La riflessione teologico-spirituale dovrebbe riguardare quelle tematiche più attinenti alla *missio ad gentes* e alle nuove sfide dell'evangelizzazione come è ben indicato nella *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* dell'8 dicembre 2016 (nn. 30 a 34, 61, 69, 97, 98, 121, 171 e 175). Ogni

⁴⁵ Papa Francesco, Udienza Generale, mercoledì 8 gennaio 2014.

vostra comunità di formazione può organizzare secondo le proprie modalità, possibilità e necessità questo reciproco ascolto, preghiera e riflessione.

Anche i nostri Direttori Nazionali e Diocesani delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, presenti nelle vostre Chiese locali, possono essere un opportuno riferimento di collaborazione per pensare e lavorare insieme. Grazie a loro stiamo raccogliendo importanti riflessioni per la pubblicazione di un Sussidio che a suo tempo vi invieremo.

Prego e auguro che tutto ciò che siamo chiamati a vivere, riflettere e pregare in vista del Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'ottobre 2019 possa contribuire ad una genuina conversione missionaria a Cristo. Con Maria Regina degli Apostoli, uniti nel Cenacolo, invociamo il dono dello Spirito Santo per il giorno di Pentecoste. Cordialmente vi ringrazio e vi saluto,

Cardinal Fernando Filoni

*Prefetto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli
Presidente del Comitato Supremo delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie*

LETTER OF CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI
TO RECTORS AND FORMATORS OF MAJOR SEMINARIES

Vatican City State, 8 April 2018
2nd Sunday of Easter

Dear Rectors and Formators
of Major Seminaries,

May the Peace of the Risen Lord be our hope!

Following my letter of 3 December 2017, which was sent to all Bishops, I now write to each of you directly with regard to the missionary initiative that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced to the entire Church on Sunday, 22 October 2017. The Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 is truly a unique opportunity for all of us; the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV helps us to reignite our ardor and passion for the mission of Jesus Christ. Renewing the mission of the Gospel, as Pope Benedict stressed many years ago, on 30 November 1919, is still relevant today if we consider the current state of the world and the Church.

The spiritual, pastoral, and theological goal of this extraordinary missionary month consists in first recognizing that this mission is and must become more fully the paradigm of life and work for the whole Church, and thus of every Christian, so that we can then live it out with conviction and joy. Converting our hearts and minds, as missionary disciples, the Spirit urges us to go out into the world and announce Christ, Crucified and Risen. Placing the *missio ad gentes*, with its various facets, at the center of the Church's life and recognizing the mission of Jesus as Her heart and identity helps us to rediscover the genuine, yet challenging relationship that God establishes with the world that He created, redeemed, and loves (cf. Jn 17, Eph 1).

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brothers and sisters.”⁴⁶ We are invited to confirm our baptismal identity in a personal encounter with the living person of Jesus Christ. He invites us to be his witnesses in the world.

The Church carries on the mission that Jesus received from the Father in the Spirit. By announcing Jesus Christ, in Word and Sacrament, the Church responds to the thirst for an authentic life and a sense of purpose that resides in the heart of every woman and man. By offering Baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (cf. Mt 28:19) to the inhabitants of this world and in breaking the bread of the Eucharist with them, the very life of God, which saves us from evil and death (cf. Jn 6:48-51, 10:10), is made manifest and communicated to the world. In water and Spirit, Jesus Christ, through his Blood (cf. 1 Jn 5:1-13), redeems us, gives us faith, and offers us to the world for the salvation of souls. The grace that frees and saves is truly announced to the poor and to those of us imprisoned by sin (cf. Lk 4:14-22). Nothing and no one is excluded from the merciful love of God, who invites us to go on mission, so that all may be drawn to the Lord.

We are grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for leading us and entrusting us with a fitting theme on this journey toward the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019. With this in mind and in a spirit of communion, I would like to propose a way to grow in greater awareness of our baptismal missionary vocation. In addition to any initiatives that may be implemented by the Bishops in the particular Churches of which you are members, I would like to propose that each of you initiate a process of reciprocal listening, in such a way that all may be able to cooperate in the missionary conversion of the entire ecclesial team so often insisted upon and hoped for by Pope Francis (cf. EG 25, 27, 30, 32 and 33). Listening to one another in the Spirit converts us and helps us grow in the very communion that comes from and is necessary for authentic missionary activity.

We are called to be more aware of the gifts of Baptism, the Eucharist, and the Church, while striving to better realize our specific call to live our priestly ministry, serving the mission of Christ and his Church. This call, when realized, can be a valuable source of communication, through listening and sharing, which develop from our experiences of Christian life and priestly formation. In order to build toward the theme given to us by Pope Francis, I propose that you begin reflecting on the following: “Proclamation, Sacrament and Priestly Ministry in the Mission of the Church,” with particular reference to the *missio ad gentes*. It would involve coming together to recount individual experiences of faith and one’s personal call to the priesthood. Jesus Christ and the Church, in the Scriptures, in the Sacraments, in charity, and in dialogue with the world and its cultures and religions, represent the heart of that which we would like to communicate, by listening to one another, discerning and sharing. The aforementioned reflection, theological and spiritual in nature, should take into consideration, in a particular way, that which pertains to the *missio ad gentes* and the new

⁴⁶ Pope Francis, General Audience, Wednesday, 8 January 2014.

challenges of evangelization, as indicated in the *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* of 8 December 2016 (nn. 30-34, 61, 69, 97, 98, 121, 171, and 175). It is our hope that each of your formative communities would organize this reciprocal listening, prayer, and reflection, according to your particular means, circumstances, and needs.

Please know that our National and Diocesan Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies, present in your local Churches, can be a valuable reference for collaboration. Thanks to them, we are gathering important reflections for the publication of a Guide that will be sent to you upon completion.

I hope and pray that all we are called to live and prayerfully reflect upon in preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 will contribute to a genuine, missionary conversion to Christ. With Mary, Queen of the Apostles, united in the Upper Room, we remain united in prayer for a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Please know of my gratitude and best wishes for you and your seminary community.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fernando Cardinal Filoni
Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
President of the Supreme Committee of the Pontifical Mission Societies

PART ONE

EMM OCT 2019 ACTIVITIES

Baptized and Sent
The Church of Christ on Mission in the World

I.1

MESE MISSIONARIO STRAORDINARIO OTTOBRE 2019

Relazione Attività 2017

Dopo l'approvazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019 (MMS OTT2019), avvenuta il 31 marzo 2017, da parte del Santo Padre Papa Francesco, i Superiori della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli (CEP) e delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie (POM) si sono incontrati il 7 aprile presso la sede della CEP. Si è abbozzata una prima riflessione sulla provvidenziale opportunità di conversione a Gesù, di rinnovamento pastorale e di animazione missionaria della Chiesa circa la *missio ad gentes*. L'ottobre 2019 dovrebbe aiutare tutto il Popolo di Dio a rinnovare la consapevolezza della responsabilità battesimale riguardo la missione della Chiesa per l'evangelizzazione del mondo intero. È stato affidato al Segretariato Internazionale della PUM il ruolo di "motore e promotore", che consiste nell'essere anima di coordinamento delle POM assieme alla CEP e alla Pontificia Università Urbaniana (PUU) per questa iniziativa.

Durante l'Assemblea Generale delle POM, mercoledì 31 maggio 2017, ha avuto luogo una presentazione dettagliata dell'iniziativa missionaria ai Direttori Nazionali delle POM. La proposta del MMS OTT2019, favorevolmente accolta dal Papa, è stata ampiamente esposta e discussa affinché si potesse instaurare, fin dalle prime fasi della preparazione, un profondo coinvolgimento delle Direzioni Nazionali delle POM, dei Direttori Diocesani e dei loro collaboratori.

In seguito, il 23 giugno e l'8 settembre 2017, sono state convocate due ulteriori riunioni dei Superiori della CEP e delle POM per discutere in modo più dettagliato le modalità e i contenuti della preparazione del MMS OTT2019.

Si accolgono e si articolano le quattro dimensioni che devono caratterizzare il MMS OTT2019, indicateci da Papa Francesco nel suo Discorso ai Direttori Nazionali POM del 3 giugno 2017:

1. L'incontro personale con Gesù Cristo vivo nella sua Chiesa: Eucaristia, Parola di Dio, preghiera personale e comunitaria
2. La testimonianza di santi e martiri della missione (canonizzati e non)
3. La formazione biblica, catechetica, spirituale e teologica alla missione
4. La carità missionaria come impegno di tutti a sostenere i "costi" dell'annuncio del Vangelo e della formazione alla fede e alla missione, specialmente nelle Chiese più bisognose.

Queste quattro dimensioni, che potrebbero ritmare le quattro settimane, oltre a qualificare cronologicamente ciascuna di esse, sono anzitutto da considerarsi dimensioni spirituali trasversali

che ogni cristiano e ciascuna Chiesa possono vivere secondo libertà e creatività durante tutto il MMS OTT2019, se non addirittura durante tutto l'anno 2019.

È stato costituito un gruppo di lavoro formato da sei membri, due rappresentanti delle POM, due della CEP e due della PUU. Ci si è incontrati il 14 settembre, il 10 ottobre e il 5 dicembre 2017. Si sono avuti anche frequenti incontri informali sulle specifiche competenze di lavoro di ciascun membro. Ad oggi, il gruppo è composto da P. Fabrizio Meroni, coordinatore, Sr. Roberta Tremarelli, don Roberto Foini, don Joshua Ehli, don Frank Elias e don Antoine de Padu Pooda.

Domenica 22 ottobre 2017, Giornata Mondiale Missionaria, memoria di San Giovanni Paolo II, Papa Francesco ha inviato una lettera al Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefetto della CEP, affidandogli “il compito di avviare la preparazione di questo avvenimento, in particolare attraverso un'ampia sensibilizzazione delle Chiese particolari, degli Istituti di vita consacrata e delle Società di vita apostolica, così come delle associazioni, dei movimenti, delle comunità e delle altre realtà ecclesiali”. All'Angelus di questa stessa domenica il Santo Padre ha annunciato pubblicamente a tutta la Chiesa la sua intenzione di indire il Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019 per celebrare i 100 anni della Lettera Apostolica *Maximum Illud* del suo predecessore Papa Benedetto XV. “È con questi sentimenti che, accogliendo la proposta della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli, indico un *Mese missionario straordinario* nell'ottobre 2019, al fine di risvegliare maggiormente la consapevolezza della *missio ad gentes* e di riprendere con nuovo slancio la trasformazione missionaria della vita e della pastorale”.

Durante l'Assemblea Ristretta delle POM, tenutasi al CIAM il 7 e 8 novembre 2017, l'allora Presidente delle POM, mons. Protase Rugambwa, i quattro Segretari Generali e i Direttori Nazionali delle POM si sono ulteriormente confrontati e aggiornati sugli sviluppi nella preparazione del MMS OTT2019.

Al CIAM, il 24 novembre 2017, si è tenuto un incontro con la presenza di P. Leonardo Sileo, Rettore della PUU, don Frank Elias e don Antoine de Padu Pooda, Professori della PUU, e P. Fabrizio Meroni, Segretario Generale della PUM, per iniziare a programmare il Congresso Internazionale Teologico-Missionologico, promosso dalla PUU, per l'anno 2019, dal tema “*Missio ad gentes. Dalla Maximum Illud alla Evangelii Gaudium*”.

In data 3 dicembre 2017, il Cardinal Prefetto Fernando Filoni ha inviato una lettera, in sei lingue, a tutti i Vescovi della Chiesa Cattolica informandoli sulla proposta missionaria di Papa Francesco. Ai Vescovi viene chiesto di comunicare e rendere partecipi di questa iniziativa missionaria i membri delle associazioni e dei movimenti ecclesiali, oltre alle comunità religiose, presenti nelle loro diocesi. Una lettera dai contenuti simili è stata indirizzata anche ai Superiori e alle Superiori Generali degli Istituti di Vita Consacrata e delle Società di Vita Apostolica. Abbiamo chiesto la

cortesìa ai Segretari Generali dell'Unione Internazionale delle Superiori Generali (UISG), Sr. Patricia Murry, e dell'Unione Superiori Generali, (USG) P. David Kinnear Glenday, di trasmettere una copia della lettera ai religiosi e religiose e ai membri delle Società di Vita Apostolica. Durante gli incontri che abbiamo avuto con UISG (13 dicembre) e USG (15 dicembre) presso le rispettive sedi romane, si è pure discusso di collaborazioni future in vista del MMS OTT2019. In modo particolare è stata considerata la possibilità di riflettere insieme sul tema “Annuncio, Sacramento e Testimonianza nella *Missio ad Gentes*”. Il tenore della riflessione, frutto della preghiera e della vita, dovrebbe essere di tipo teologico-esperienziale. Si tratterebbe di narrare la propria esperienza missionaria con la serietà e l'impegno del riflettere teologico e spirituale. Gesù Cristo e la Chiesa, nella Scrittura, nei Sacramenti, nella comunione fraterna, nella carità e nel dialogo con il mondo, le sue culture e religioni, rappresentano il cuore di ciò che si è chiamati a comunicare ascoltandosi, discernendo e condividendo.

Il 12 dicembre 2017, è stata inviata, via email, copia della lettera del Cardinal Prefetto ai Vescovi affinché tutti i Direttori Nazionali POM ne fossero a conoscenza. Inoltre, come si può evincere dal messaggio, le Direzioni Nazionali sono state invitate ad una ulteriore collaborazione: condividere una riflessione sul ruolo, il rinnovamento e il servizio delle POM nella Chiesa di oggi.

Venerdì 15 dicembre 2017, al CIAM, si è tenuto un incontro fra alcune teologhe, docenti in Università romane, per verificare come lavorare insieme per la preparazione e l'implementazione del MMS OTT2019. Era presente anche un membro della Segreteria Vaticana per le Comunicazioni.

Il ruolo centrale della CEP e delle POM in questa fase preparatoria richiede un lavoro collegiale dove i Direttori Nazionali POM rappresentano un elemento importante di mediazione ed incontro con le Chiese locali. L'impegno di preparare e sensibilizzare ciascuna realtà ecclesiale, evitando ogni inutile centralizzazione, serve a stimolare e provocare beneficamente la creatività dei cristiani nelle loro Chiese. In questo modo tutto ciò che viene fatto, prodotto ed indicato da noi a Roma, vuole proporsi come stimolo affinché i bisogni locali della missione contestualizzino ogni attività del MMS OTT2019 per il bene dell'annuncio del Vangelo, della celebrazione dei Sacramenti e della testimonianza cristiana. Il servizio dato dalle istanze romane offre coordinamento, proposte ed iniziative in modo che, sensibilizzando le realtà locali, queste si possano aprire sempre più alle sfide della missione e all'universalità della Chiesa Cattolica. La preparazione di un testo comune di animazione missionaria per il MMS OTT2019 è già stata avviata, avvalendosi di risorse umane e contributi provenienti dal mondo intero. Pubblicheremo un testo, in versione cartacea e digitale, seguendo tematicamente le quattro dimensioni indicate dal Papa.

Questo unico sussidio è stato pensato come materiale fondamentale, ‘di base’, con la funzione di stimolare la creatività ecclesiale locale. Sarà composto di testi in varie lingue, internazionalmente

accessibili (italiano, inglese, francese, spagnolo e portoghese); questo ci sembra necessario per salvaguardare l'intenzione degli autori e offrire l'accesso al testo originale, a chi ne usufruirà, senza un ulteriore passaggio di traduzione mediata in lingua inglese. Tutti i contributi scritti verranno pubblicati anonimi. Ogni sussidio cartaceo o digitale prodotto da noi sarà dunque proposto per ispirare attività e iniziative locali, non per essere semplicemente tradotto o applicato pedissequamente. Ogni strumento offerto dalla CEP e dalle POM avrà dunque uno scopo ispiratore e non meramente prescrittivo.

Le letture bibliche della Liturgia della S. Messa quotidiana dei giorni corrispondenti al mese di ottobre 2019 sono oggetto di meditazione e studio, affinché da più parti del mondo, ci possano arrivare commenti spirituali missionari. Editori di sussidi liturgici ad alte tirature e di ampia diffusione, contattati, sembrano disponibili a dedicare l'edizione mensile dell'ottobre 2019 al MMS OTT2019. Si stanno anche interpellando cattolici di varia provenienza etnica ed ecclesiale per proporre figure di santi e martiri, canonizzati e non, figli e figlie delle Chiese cattoliche sparse per il mondo intero.

Oltre al Congresso Internazionale promosso dalla PUU, stiamo pure studiando la possibilità e l'opportunità di eventi formativi missionari, accademici o esperienziali pastorali, da realizzarsi a livello continentale: due in Africa (uno francofono e l'altro anglofono) e due in Asia (uno in India e l'altro nella regione 'Asian Pacific'). Il quinto Congresso Americano Missionario (CAM5) che si svolgerà nel luglio 2018 a Santa Cruz, in Bolivia, rappresenta questo sforzo formativo e celebrativo per le Americhe, in preparazione del MMS OTT2019 e del Sinodo Speciale sull'evangelizzazione in Amazzonia. Circa l'Europa, riteniamo più opportuno che le Chiese locali europee, con disponibilità di risorse umane ed economiche, insieme alle Direzioni Nazionali POM escogitino forme proprie per la riflessione teologica e la formazione missionaria riguardo alla *missio ad gentes*.

Per quanto riguarda la carità missionaria, si è chiesto al Comitato Fundraising delle POM e ad alcune Direzioni Nazionali di contribuire con una riflessione circa il *fundraising*, la *missio ad gentes* e le Chiese locali. Volendo sottolineare che, senza alcuna esclusione, i fondi raccolti durante l'ottobre 2019 saranno offerti al Papa per sostenere i costi dell'evangelizzazione, il contributo dell'esperienza dei Direttori Nazionali è alquanto prezioso. Ripensare ecclesiologicamente la natura ed il ruolo delle POM, per poterle rilanciare nel MMS OTT2019, significa ripensare anche questo aspetto, che caratterizza le POM fin dalla loro fondazione. L'aiuto materiale per l'annuncio del Vangelo ha sempre rappresentato l'estensione della fede e della preghiera di moltissimi cristiani a favore della *missio ad gentes*, in tutti i tempi. L'edificazione delle chiese e delle cappelle per il culto, la costruzione di strutture per la catechesi e la formazione cristiana, insieme a opere quali le traduzioni in lingua locale della Sacra Scrittura, dei testi liturgici, dei documenti magisteriali, esigono gesti concreti di

solidarietà cristiana verso la missione. La formazione dei catechisti, degli agenti di pastorale e dei cristiani impegnati in ambienti secolari, oltre che la formazione dei seminaristi, dei novizi e delle novizie, ha segnato, fin dagli inizi, il lavoro di animazione missionaria delle POM. Ripensare la dimensione economico-materiale delle Opere, radicandola nella missione di annunciare il Vangelo e edificare la Chiesa, sarà perciò di grande beneficio per tutti.

P. Fabrizio Meroni
Segretario Generale PUM
Direttore CIAM e Fides

I.2

EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

Activity Report 2017

Following the approval on 31 March 2017 on the part of the Holy Father Pope Francis for an Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 (EMM OCT2019), the Superiors of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (CEP) and the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) had a meeting on 7 April at the CEP head office. The participants outlined a reflection on this providential opportunity for conversion to Jesus, and for renewed pastoral care and missionary animation of the Church for the *missio ad gentes*. October 2019 could bring the entire People of God to a new awareness of Christian baptismal responsibility for the Church's mission to evangelize to the ends of the earth. It was decided that for this initiative the International Secretariat of the Pontifical Missionary Union (PMU) should be the "motor and promoter", in other words, the coordinating soul of the PMS, together with the CEP and Pontifical Urbaniana University (PUU).

During the General PMS Assembly, on Wednesday 31 May 2017, the attending National Directors were given a detailed presentation of the new missionary initiative. The proposed EMM OCT2019, welcomed by the Pope, was fully exposed and discussed in order to establish, from the very early stages of preparation, in-depth participation of our PMS National and Diocesan teams and co-workers all over the world.

Later, on 23 June and 8 September 2017, two more meetings of the CEP and the PMS were organized to discuss in detail the modalities and contents of EMM OCT2019 preparation.

These meetings led to the acceptance and articulation of four dimensions which will characterize EMM OCT2019. These dimensions were indicated by Pope Francis in his address to the National PMS Directors on 3 June 2017:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in his Church: in the Eucharist, in the Word of God, in personal and in community prayer.
2. Witness of missionary saints and martyrs (canonized and not)
3. Biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological formation, for missionary activity.
4. Missionary charity as commitment on the part of the whole Church share the "costs" of Gospel's proclamation and of the formation in the faith and in mission, especially in the most needy Churches.

These four dimensions, which could mark the four weeks of the month, besides qualifying each week chronologically, should be considered first of all spiritual transversal dimensions that

individual Christians and individual local Churches can live in all freedom and creativity during the EMM OCT2019, or indeed all through the year 2019.

A working group was formed of six members: two representatives of the PMS, two from the CEP and two from PUU. The group met on September 14, 10 October and 5 December 2017. Furthermore, there were frequent informal meetings to discuss the specific working competences of each member. At present the group is composed of Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, PIME coordinator, Sr. Roberta Tremarelli, rev. Roberto Foini, rev. Joshua Ehli, rev. Frank Elias and rev. Antoine de Padu Pooda.

On Sunday 22 October 2017, World Mission Day and also feast day of Saint John Paul II, Pope Francis sent a letter to Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefect of the CEP, entrusting to him “the task of starting preparations for the event, in particular by means of capillary sensitization in Particular Churches, Institutes of consecrated life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and associations, movements, communities and other ecclesial realities”. During the midday Angelus on that same Sunday the Holy Father made a public announcement to the whole Church expressing his intention to call an Extraordinary Missionary Month for October 2019 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* issued by his predecessor Pope Benedict XV. “It is with these sentiments that, welcoming the proposal by the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, I call an Extraordinary Missionary Month in October 2019, with the purpose of reawakening awareness of the *missio ad gentes* and working with new impulse to further the missionary transformation of life and pastoral activity”.

During a closed PMS Assembly, held at CIAM, on 7 and 8 November 2017, the then PMS President, Msgr. Protase Rugambwa, the four General Secretaries and the PMS National Directors had another opportunity to discuss and proceed with the process of preparations for EMM OCT2019.

On 24 November 2017, CIAM hosted a meeting with the presence of Fr. Leonardo Sileo, Rector of the PUU, rev. Frank Elias and rev. Antoine de Padu Pooda, Professors at the PUU, and Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, PMU Secretary General, to begin to plan the International Theological Missionological Congress, organised by the PUU, for the year 2019, with the theme “*Missio ad gentes. From Maximum Illud to Evangelii Gaudium*”.

On 3 December 2017, Cardinal Prefect Fernando Filoni sent a letter, in six different languages, addressed to all the Bishops of the Catholic Church informing them of the missionary proposal made by Pope Francis (text attached). The letter requested that the Bishops share the news of this initiative with members of ecclesial associations, and movements, as well as the religious communities in the respective dioceses. A letter with similar contents was addressed to Superiors General, male and female, of institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. We asked the General

Secretaries of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), Sr. Patricia Murry, and of the Union of Superiors General, (USG) Fr. David Kinnear Glenday, to forward copies of the letter to religious men and women and members of Societies of Apostolic Life. During our meetings with UISG (13 December) and USG (15 December) at the respective offices in Rome, we also discussed future cooperation in view of EMM OCT2019. In particular, we considered the possibility of reflecting together on the theme “Proclamation, Sacrament and Witness in the *missio ad gentes*”. The reflection, fruit of prayer and life, should be of a theology-experience nature.

It will consist in sharing one’s own mission experience with the seriousness and commitment of theological and spiritual reflection. Jesus Christ and the Church, in Scripture, in the Sacraments, in fraternal communion, in charity and in dialogue with the world, with its cultures and its religions, represent the heart of that which we are called to communicate listening to one another, discerning and sharing.

On 12 December 2017, we sent by email (text attached), a copy of the letter from the Cardinal Prefect to all Bishops to ensure the PMS National Directors would be informed. Besides, as it can be seen by the message, our National Directors were asked to cooperate ever more closely: sharing reflection on the role, renewal and service of the PMS in the Church today.

On 15 December 2017, CIAM hosted a meeting with a number of women lecturing theology at Universities in Rome, to see how to work together for the preparation and implementation of EMM OCT2019. A member of the Holy See’s Secretariat for Communications was present.

The central role of the CEP and the PMS in this preparatory stage demands collegial activity in which the National PMS Directors represent an important element of mediation and encounter with the local Churches. The commitment to prepare and raise awareness each ecclesial reality, avoiding useless centralization, will serve to stimulate and encourage the creativity of the Christian in the respective Churches. This will ensure that whatever is achieved, produced and indicated by us in Rome is proposed as an incentive so that the local needs of mission contextualize every activity of EMM OCT2019 for the benefit of Gospel announcement, celebration of the Sacraments and Christian witness. The service of the Rome offices, offers coordination, proposals and initiatives so that, sensitizing the local realities the latter may be ever more open to the challenges of missionary work and universality of the Catholic Church. The preparation of a common text on missionary animation for EMM OCT2019 is already underway with input of human resources and ideas from all over the world. We will issue a text, hard copy and digital, following the themes of the four dimensions given by Pope Francis.

This book will serve as the fundamental material, the ‘basis’, to encourage local ecclesial creativity. It will consist of texts in various internationally accessible languages (Italian, English,

French, Spanish and Portuguese); we think this is necessary to safeguard the intentions of the authors and provide access to the original texts, for those who so wish, without the ulterior passage of mediated English translation. All the written reflections will be published anonymously. Every hard copy or digital aid, published by us, will be proposed therefore for inspiring activities and local initiatives, not to simply be translated or slavishly applied. Every tool offered by the CEP and the PMS will aim to inspire rather than merely prescribe.

The scripture texts of the Liturgy of daily Holy Mass in the days corresponding to the month of October 2019 are for meditation and study and we look forward to receiving missionary spiritual comments from all over the world. Editors of liturgical booklets of high-circulation and widely distributed, consulted, appear willing to dedicate their respective monthly editions of October 2019 to EMM OCT2019. We are also in contact with Catholics of various ethnic and ecclesial backgrounds to put forward figures of saints and martyrs, canonized and not, sons and daughters of the Catholic Church everywhere in the world.

Besides the International Congress organized by the PUU, we are also examining the idea and opportunity of formative, missionary, academic events, or concerning pastoral experience, to plan at the continental level: two in Africa (French-speaking and English-speaking) two in Asia (one in India and the other in the 'Asian Pacific' region). The fifth American Mission Congress (CAM) to be held in July 2018 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, represents this same formative and celebrative challenge for the Americas, in preparation for EMM OCT2019 and the Special Synod for Evangelization in Amazonia. Regarding Europe, we think it opportune that the local European Churches, with human and economic resources, together with the PMS National Directorates contrive their own forms of theological reflection and missionary formation regarding the *missio ad gentes*.

As far as missionary charitable activity is concerned, we have asked the PMS Fundraising Committee and certain National Directorates to contribute with a reflection on the subject of fundraising, *missio ad gentes* and the local Churches. Wishing to underline that all funds, without exclusion, collected during October 2019 will be offered to the Pope for the costs of evangelization, we reaffirm that the contribution of the experience of our National Directors is of the utmost value. Rethinking the ecclesiological nature and role of the PMS, in view of its re-launching during EMM OCT2019, means rethinking also this aspect, which pertains to the PMS since their foundation. Material support for the mission of announcing the Gospel has always represented the extension of the faith and the prayers of great numbers of Christians for the *missio ad gentes*. The building of churches and chapels for worship, classrooms for catechesis and Christian formation, together with other activities such as translating into the local languages the Scriptures, liturgical texts, documents of papal teaching, all need concrete gestures of Christian solidarity for the missions. The formation

of catechists, pastoral agents and committed lay Catholics in secular fields, besides the formation of seminarians, novices, men and women, has always marked PMS mission animation from the outset. Therefore, the task of rethinking the economic-material dimension of the PMS, and rooting this in the mission of announcing the Gospel and building up the Church, will be of great benefit for everyone.

Fr. Fabrizio Meroni
PMU Secretary General
CIAM and Fides Director

I.3

MESE MISSIONARIO STRAORDINARIO OTTOBRE 2019

Relazione Attività 2018

In data 22 gennaio 2018 si è riunito al CIAM il Comitato Esecutivo delle POM e si è discussa e proposta la suddivisione del libro Guida in tre parti:

1. Meditazioni e commenti di spiritualità missionaria riguardo alle letture bibliche della liturgia della S. Messa del mese di ottobre 2019;
2. Testimonianza di Santi e Martiri della missione (canonizzati e non);
3. Riflessioni sulla formazione alla missione della Chiesa e sulle POM.

Si sono inoltre indicate due opzioni per una più efficace divulgazione della Guida: un testo multilingue, con la sola versione originale dei testi ricevuti e l'altra, un libro in cui ogni scritto sia tradotto nelle quattro lingue principali, inglese, italiano, spagnolo e francese.

Il Working Team al completo si è riunito in data 27 febbraio 2018 e P. Fabrizio Meroni ha esposto a tutti i membri, gli argomenti trattati durante il Comitato Esecutivo del 22 gennaio. Si è suggerito che il titolo del libro fosse “una Guida per il Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019” e che il numero massimo di pagine fosse di 300, con un'equa distribuzione per le tre parti che lo verranno a comporre.

Per valorizzare l'universalità della provenienza e destinazione dei contributi per il testo della Guida MMS OTT2019, si è stabilito di offrire la nostra collaborazione per sostenere localmente le Conferenze Episcopali e le Direzioni nazionali POM a creare eventualmente un proprio sussidio nella lingua nazionale.

Nel frattempo il Papa ha comunicato il tema del MMS OTT2019: “*Battezzati e inviati: la Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo*”. Si è inoltre proposto che i commenti sulle letture bibliche del mese di ottobre 2019 possano essere pubblicati o usati come ispirazione, per i testi di meditazione di alcune pubblicazioni mensili sulla liturgia quotidiana più diffusi, tra cui MAGNIFICAT (inglese, francese e spagnolo).

Oltre al Congresso Missionologico Internazionale della Pontificia Università Urbaniana (PUU), si sono studiate altre iniziative di riflessione teologica e formazione missionaria per le Chiese nell'Africa francofona (Burkina Faso), nell'Africa anglofona (Zambia), in India ed eventualmente in un altro luogo significativo in Asia Orientale – Oceania.

Al fine di presentare e coinvolgere le comunità formative proprie della CEP, si è provveduto ad incontrare i formatori e gli studenti dei nostri collegi a Roma. Sr Roberta Tremarelli, Segretaria Generale della POSI e membro del Working Team MMS OTT2019, ha visitato sabato 3 marzo 2018

il Collegio San Pietro e lunedì 5 marzo 2018 il Collegio San Paolo. P. Fabrizio Meroni ha incontrato la comunità del Collegio Urbano giovedì 15 marzo 2018, l'Assemblea dei Rappresentanti degli Studenti della Pontificia Università Urbaniana venerdì 16 marzo 2018, la comunità del Collegio San Giuseppe al CIAM mercoledì 11 aprile 2018 e la comunità delle Religiose del Collegio Mater Ecclesiae, a Castel Gandolfo, sabato 12 maggio 2018.

Martedì 20 marzo 2018 alle ore 9:00, durante l'incontro col Cardinal Prefetto, i Superiori della CEP, il Presidente e i Segretari Generali delle POM, è stato presentato tutto il lavoro fin lì svolto. Sono stati approvati il design del logo, gli eventi da proporre al Santo Padre per la celebrazione dell'ottobre 2019 a Roma con la Sua presenza e gli eventi da proporre ai Vescovi Diocesani del mondo intero, per le celebrazioni da farsi nelle Chiese particolari durante l'ottobre 2019. Si è poi riflettuto sulla possibilità di pubblicare il libro Guida per il MMS OTT2019 presso le Edizioni San Paolo. Si è deciso che il libro Guida venisse pubblicato in italiano, inglese, francese e spagnolo. Si è convenuto inoltre sull'opportunità di avere un'edizione portoghese (Portogallo), non prevista finora.

Il Cardinal Prefetto ha inoltre accolto positivamente la proposta di inviare una seconda lettera sul MMS OTT2019 ai: 1. Vescovi Ordinari del mondo intero; 2. Superiori e Superiore Generali degli Istituti di Vita Consacrata e delle Società di Vita Apostolica; 3. Responsabili Internazionali dei Movimenti Ecclesiali, delle Nuove Comunità e delle Associazioni Laicali; 4. Rettori e Formatori dei Seminari Maggiori. Le quattro lettere sono state scritte in data 8 aprile 2018 e comunicano ufficialmente il tema indicato dal Santo Padre per il MMS OTT2019 "*Battezzati e inviati: la Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo*", oltre a suggerire futuri passi per la preparazione e l'implementazione del mese stesso. A partire dal mese di giugno, grazie a questa lettera, si sono svolti incontri con membri del Consiglio generale di alcune Congregazioni religiose e Istituti missionari e con alcuni responsabili di Movimenti ecclesiali. Incontrandoli separatamente, oltre a conversare sulla loro interna preparazione e sulla partecipazione al MMS OTT2019, si è ribadito il desiderio di poter, insieme alla PUM e al CIAM, riflettere sul valore e sulla concreta testimonianza della *missio ad gentes* a partire dal carisma e dall'esperienza missionaria di ciascuno di loro.

Lo stesso martedì 20 marzo alle ore 11:30 al CIAM, il Presidente delle POM Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso, P. Fabrizio Meroni e il dott. Paolo Affatato (Fides) hanno incontrato alcuni esponenti dei media internazionali cattolici presenti a Roma assieme ad un rappresentante della Segreteria Vaticana per la Comunicazione. Ci si è confrontati sui temi della diffusione del MMS OTT2019, dell'elaborazione di prodotti mediatici che possano aiutare l'animazione missionaria per il MMS OTT2019 e l'individuazione di un *Multimedia Communication Manager* da impiegare, al più presto, per coordinare tutto il lavoro di comunicazione, informazione e social network in riferimento al MMS OTT2019.

Il 31 marzo 2018 era il termine per la consegna presso il Segretariato Internazionale della PUM, dei contributi provenienti dal mondo intero per la composizione dei testi riguardanti la prima e la seconda parte del libro Guida. La scadenza per i contributi riguardanti la terza e ultima parte del libro è stata stabilita invece per il 30 aprile 2018.

Mercoledì 25 aprile 2018 presso la sede della Segreteria Generale del Sinodo dei Vescovi in Vaticano, è avvenuto l'incontro tra P. Fabrizio Meroni, il Card. Lorenzo Baldisseri e Mons. Fabio Fabene, rispettivamente Segretario Generale e Sotto-Segretario del Sinodo dei Vescovi. Si è discusso della coincidenza nel mese di ottobre 2019 del Mese Missionario Straordinario con il Sinodo Speciale dei Vescovi sulle Chiese in Amazzonia, che si celebrerà in Vaticano. In modo particolare si è accertato che non ci sia una sovrapposizione di eventi presieduti dal Santo Padre, favorendo celebrazioni in comune. Si è sottolineata la provvidenziale coincidenza del comune interesse missionario per l'evangelizzazione dell'Amazzonia e l'universale identità missionaria di tutte le Chiese sparse nel mondo.

Lunedì 14 maggio e martedì 13 novembre 2018 nella Sala dei Congressi della CEP si sono tenuti due incontri di presentazione e discussione del MMS OTT2019 al Consiglio dei 18 Rappresentanti dei Superiori e Superiori Generali degli Istituti di Vita Consacrata presso la CEP.

Giovedì 17 maggio 2018, presso il CIAM, P. Fabrizio Meroni ha incontrato Don Simone Bruno, responsabile delle Edizioni San Paolo, e il Sig. Pino Occhipinti, responsabile opere collaterali Edizioni San Paolo, per studiare e definire la pubblicazione nelle cinque lingue del testo definitivo per il MMS OTT2019. P. Meroni si è molto raccomandato sulla qualità linguistica, grammaticale e stilistica che doveva avere il testo finale in italiano. Si è inoltre stabilito che, per realizzare la Guida nelle altre lingue (inglese, francese, spagnolo e portoghese), i traduttori e i revisori dei testi fossero tutti madrelingua e avvezzi al linguaggio teologico, pastorale e catechetico delle nostre realtà. Le Edizioni San Paolo hanno garantito la fattibilità di tale richiesta, più volte ribadita da P. Meroni, con particolare riferimento all'edizione inglese, vista la cruciale importanza comunicativa contemporanea.

Martedì 22 maggio 2018, presso il CIAM, si sono incontrati i membri del Working Team per definire e approvare il testo finale della Guida. Valutata la diversità qualitativa dei contenuti dei circa 380 documenti ricevuti dalle diverse Direzioni nazionali POM, si è preferito riorganizzare la composizione della Guida con il materiale pervenutoci, piuttosto che procedere ad una vera e propria riscrittura.

Mercoledì 30 maggio 2018, durante l'Assemblea Generale del Consiglio Superiore delle POM, è stato presentato ai Direttori nazionali il lavoro svolto circa il MMS OTT2019. Si è discusso di come continuare ad articolare il lavoro di preparazione e comunicazione tra Direttori nazionali,

Segretariati Internazionali e Working Team MMS OTT2019. Stimolati dalla proposta fattaci dal Santo Padre Papa Francesco, durante l'incontro con lui avvenuto venerdì 1 giugno, ci siamo impegnati ad elaborare una riflessione comune sulla *missio ad gentes* nel libro degli Atti degli Apostoli. Le Direzioni nazionali sono state invitate a chiedere una riflessione teologico-pastorale di carattere formativo catechetico sul tema a esponenti delle loro Chiese locali. La data di consegna dei contributi al Segretariato Internazionale PUM è stata fissata per il 31 ottobre 2018.

Martedì 19 giugno 2018, una prima bozza del testo italiano della Guida MMS OTT2019 è stata sottoposta alla valutazione e approvazione del Cardinal Prefetto, dei Superiori della CEP, dei membri del Comitato Esecutivo delle POM e dei membri del Working Team. Si è richiesta la collaborazione di tutti affinché ognuno evidenziasse le parti che potevano essere tralasciate o accorciate, in quanto la casa editrice ci aveva suggerito di realizzare un testo finale di circa 350 pagine per facilitare una sua capillare diffusione. Tale versione in lingua italiana rappresenta il documento base cui fare riferimento per le successive edizioni (cartacea e digitale) in inglese, francese, spagnolo e portoghese.

Venerdì 22 giugno 2018, dopo un'attenta valutazione di alcuni candidati, si è scelta la Dott.ssa Elena Grazini come *Multimedia Communication Manager* per tutte le attività riguardanti la multimedialità e la comunicazione per il MMS OTT2019. Si è concordata la sottoscrizione di un contratto di collaborazione dal 1 settembre 2018 al 30 novembre 2019.

Le spettano i suddetti compiti:

1. creazione e mantenimento del sito web www.october2019.va;
2. l'utilizzo dei social media dell'Agenzia Fides (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram);
3. l'interazione con le Direzioni Nazionali POM e le loro Chiese locali, le Congregazioni Religiose, specialmente con le loro realtà missionarie *ad gentes*, e l'Agenzia Fides;
4. produzione di video e altro materiale divulgativo;
5. eventuale allestimento di una mostra per il MMS OTT2019 (Braccio di Carlo Magno in Piazza San Pietro nei mesi di ottobre e novembre 2019);
6. rapporti con i mezzi di comunicazione sociale privilegiando la Sala Stampa Vaticana.

La bozza definitiva del testo completo della Guida MMS OTT2019 è stata consegnata alle Edizioni San Paolo in data 21 luglio 2018. A partire da questo momento la casa editrice ha provveduto alla revisione del testo italiano e ha iniziato il lavoro di traduzione dei testi nelle diverse lingue.

Da martedì 10 luglio a sabato 14 luglio 2018, si è tenuto il V Congresso Missionario Americano, CAM 5, a Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia). Il Santo Padre Francesco ha nominato il Card. Fernando Filoni, Prefetto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli, suo Inviato speciale alle celebrazioni del CAM 5. L'Arcivescovo Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso, segretario

aggiunto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli e presidente delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie è intervenuto al CAM 5, presentando il Mese Missionario Straordinario all'interno del bisogno di nuova missionarietà che la fede richiede anche nel contesto latinoamericano. Nella Messa di inaugurazione del Congresso, il cardinale Fernando Filoni, ha inoltre ricordato, che l'opera missionaria è prima di tutto una "benedizione" per tutti coloro ai quali viene annunciato il Vangelo. Il tema dell'annuncio della Parola di Dio è stato al centro anche dell'intervento di Mons. Dal Toso. L'Arcivescovo ha incontrato l'11 luglio i Vescovi presenti al Congresso per presentare il lavoro svolto dalle POM ed alcuni aspetti legati alla pastorale delle Chiese locali. A conclusione del Congresso, sabato 14 luglio, Mons. Dal Toso, nel suo discorso ai Vescovi ha rimarcato che la Chiesa in America, in sintonia con la Chiesa universale, si proietta, verso il prossimo grande appuntamento missionario, l'Ottobre 2019, celebrato a livello mondiale, in occasione del 100° anniversario della Lettera Apostolica "*Maximum Illud*" di Papa Benedetto XV. L'obiettivo è quello di "riqualificare evangelicamente la missione", affinché "ogni battezzato possa bruciare sempre di più con la stessa carità di Gesù Cristo, affinché tutti possano ricevere il dono della salvezza".

Giovedì 6 settembre 2018, presso il CIAM, si sono incontrati P. Fabrizio Meroni e la Dott.ssa Simona Leonardi con Don Simone Bruno e il Sig. Pino Occhipinti delle Edizioni San Paolo, per visionare le loro proposte sulle copertine della Guida, per valutare l'impaginazione del testo e per ricevere la loro bozza finale della revisione di tutto il testo in italiano. Da tale incontro è emerso che la Guida avrebbe avuto circa 416 pagine, 50 in più delle previste, ma nessuna delle opzioni di riduzione delle pagine è stata accettata (creazione di due volumi, eliminazione di alcune parti, pubblicare solo fino alla seconda parte nella versione cartacea e la terza unicamente online). Da ultimo si è ribadita, ancora una volta, la necessità di madrelingue per traduttori e revisori delle diverse edizioni linguistiche.

Dopo aver ricevuto una prima parte della Guida tradotta in inglese, lunedì 1° ottobre 2018 ci siamo resi conto, consultando un nostro madrelingua inglese, della pessima qualità della traduzione effettuata dalla casa editrice, scoprendo infine che si trattava di un traduttore italiano con anni di permanenza professionale nel mondo anglosassone. Nonostante tutte le raccomandazioni di P. Meroni sulla necessità di avere traduttori e revisori madrelingua, la casa editrice ha ammesso di aver impiegato un traduttore madrelingua italiano per la versione inglese. Alla luce di questa triste sorpresa, avvisata la casa editrice, ci siamo visti costretti a far revisionare tutti i testi nelle diverse lingue da traduttori/revisori madrelingue di nostra fiducia. Inoltre abbiamo riscontrato che la stessa lavorazione del testo italiano era stata eseguita senza accuratezza, scrupolosità e qualità professionale. Inutile dire che questo ha generato una moltiplicazione esponenziale del lavoro da parte del Segretariato Internazionale della Pontificia Unione Missionaria, composto soltanto da due membri.

A causa di questa incresciosa situazione, si è generato un considerevole ritardo nell'elaborazione dei file in formato PDF dell'interno della Guida MMS OTT2019 nelle varie lingue da poter pubblicare online sul sito www.october2019.va, lanciato venerdì 30 novembre 2018 durante la conferenza stampa presso la Sala Stampa della Santa Sede. Per questa data solo la versione italiana definitiva era pronta, mentre le edizioni in francese, spagnolo e portoghese sono state pubblicate nel sito web prima di Natale. Quella inglese si è previsto che poteva essere online per gli inizi di gennaio 2019. La versione cartacea della Guida in tutte le lingue era pronta invece per la fine di gennaio 2019 ed è stata inviata a tutti i Vescovi del mondo, ai Superiori e alle Superiori Generali degli Istituti Religiosi e ai Direttori nazionali POM durante i mesi di febbraio e marzo 2019, a celebrazione avvenuta della Giornata Mondiale della Gioventù a Panama (dal 22 al 27 gennaio 2019).

Il testo definitivo della Guida risulta dunque formato da:

PARTE INTRODUTTIVA con i testi relativi al MMS OTT2019 del Santo Padre Papa Francesco, del Prefetto della CEP Cardinal Fernando Filoni, del Presidente delle POM Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso e del Segretario Generale della PUM P. Fabrizio Meroni;

PARTE PRIMA “L'incontro con Gesù Cristo” con i commenti ai testi biblici della Liturgia del mese di ottobre 2019 e i riferimenti alle Omelie e Angelus di Papa Francesco;

PARTE SECONDA “I Testimoni della Missione” con le biografie di Santi, Martiri e Confessori della fede;

PARTE TERZA “Considerazioni sulla Missione”: riflessioni introduttive sulla *missio ad gentes* della Chiesa.

Venerdì 28 settembre 2018, il Presidente delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, l'Arcivescovo Dal Toso, ha aperto, a Parigi (Francia), il Congresso Missionario che riunisce per tre giorni sacerdoti e laici francesi per riflettere insieme sull'evangelizzazione nel paese e su come proporre la fede ai tempi odierni. Mons. Dal Toso si è soffermato sulla Chiesa e la missione, sottolineando che “la missione dell'evangelizzazione che la Chiesa ha ricevuto da Cristo non è una missione astratta, teorica” ma prende corpo attraverso la testimonianza. Il Concilio Vaticano II ha insistito sulla “responsabilità missionaria del Popolo di Dio nel suo insieme” e per mantenere viva questa responsabilità di tutta la Chiesa verso la missione, Papa Francesco ha voluto indire un Mese Missionario Straordinario, nell'ottobre 2019.

Martedì 2 ottobre 2018, presso la sede del Servizio del Transito merci che fa capo alla Direzione dei Servizi Generali del Governatorato, P. Fabrizio Meroni, la Dott.ssa Simona Leonardi e il Dott. Stefano Andrenelli (funzionario, Servizi del Transito di Merci) si sono incontrati per organizzare la futura spedizione delle copie cartacee della Guida MMS OTT2019 nel mondo intero.

In occasione della XV Assemblea Generale Ordinaria del Sinodo dei Vescovi dal tema *I giovani, la fede e il discernimento vocazionale*, tenutosi a Roma dal 3 al 28 ottobre 2018, seguendo le indicazioni del Cardinal Filoni, si è provveduto a creare dei pieghevoli che sono stati distribuiti a tutti i partecipanti del Sinodo con le informazioni riguardanti il MMS OTT2019 e le ricorrenze per l'anno 2022 dei 400 anni dalla fondazione della CEP, i 200 anni dalla creazione della Pontificia Opera Missionaria della Propagazione della Fede (POPF) e 100 anni dalla elevazione alla loro natura pontificia e universale della POPF, POSI e POSPA. I pieghevoli sono stati sia stampati che condivisi sul sito MMS OTT2019 in italiano, inglese, francese e spagnolo. La direzione nazionale POM del Brasile ha provveduto al testo in portoghese.

Martedì 16 ottobre 2018, presso il Santuario del Divino Amore a Collevalenza (Terni), è avvenuto un incontro di P. Meroni con i direttori nazionali di tutte le emittenti radiofoniche di Radio Maria per presentare e stabilire forme di collaborazione in vista del MMS OTT2019.

Venerdì 19 ottobre 2018 si è tenuta presso la Sala Stampa Vaticana, una Conferenza Stampa per la presentazione del Messaggio del Santo Padre "Insieme ai giovani portiamo il Vangelo a tutti" in occasione della Giornata Missionaria Mondiale di domenica 21 ottobre 2018. In tale occasione è stato presentato anche il lavoro di preparazione per il MMS OTT2019. Sono intervenuti il Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefetto della CEP, Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso, Presidente delle POM e P. Fabrizio Meroni, Segretario Generale della PUM.

Lunedì 22 ottobre 2018, si è riunito presso gli uffici della PUM, il Working Team, la Dott.ssa Elena Grazini e la Dott.ssa Simona Leonardi. P. Fabrizio Meroni ha esposto gli aggiornamenti sulla Guida e su tutto il lavoro di preparazione del MMS OTT2019. A seguire ha parlato la Dott.ssa Grazini sul sito web del MMS OTT2019 e sulla comunicazione. Poi si è discusso dei tre Theological Colloquia. P. Meroni ha confermato che verranno svolti nel 2019 un Theological Colloquium in India al Morning Star College di Barrackpore a Calcutta (dal 14 al 16 febbraio 2019), uno in Zambia al St. Dominic's Theological Seminary di Lusaka (Chiese Africane anglofone: dal 29 luglio al 3 agosto 2019) e che in via di definizione vi era un Theological Colloquium a Macau per dicembre 2019. Per il 2020 se ne è previsto uno in Burkina Faso per i paesi francofoni dell'Africa. I Theological Colloquia, oltre a sensibilizzare regionalmente sul tema della *missio ad gentes* con riferimento al MMS OTT2019, hanno anche la finalità di conoscenza e valorizzazione di pensatori locali nell'opera formativa missionaria delle Direzioni nazionali POM coinvolte fin dall'inizio nella preparazione di tali eventi.

Martedì 23 ottobre 2018, l'Arcivescovo Dal Toso, è intervenuto al Consiglio Missionario Nazionale della Conferenza Episcopale italiana a Roma, sul tema del MMS OTT2019, presentando

la Guida per il MMS OTT2019 come uno strumento pensato per stimolare la creatività locale e annunciando inoltre il lancio del sito dedicato www.october2019.va per il 30 novembre 2018.

Giovedì 15 novembre 2018 il Presidente delle POM, ha partecipato alla 72esima Assemblea generale della Conferenza Episcopale Italiana presentando il MMS. “Il Mese missionario straordinario - ha ricordato - cade nel centenario della lettera *Maximum Illud* di Benedetto XV”. Inoltre, in linea con il Concilio Vaticano II, che ha ricondotto la *missio ad gentes* alla responsabilità di ogni battezzato (cfr. AG 5), la scelta del tema del Mese missionario straordinario è stata “Battezzati e inviati. La Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo”.

Martedì 20 novembre 2018, Mons. Dal Toso è intervenuto all’Assemblea Plenaria della Conferenza Episcopale della Spagna, riunita a Madrid. La presenza dell’Arcivescovo è stata motivata anche dalla preparazione dell’importante appuntamento del Mese Missionario Straordinario dell’Ottobre 2019, promosso dal Papa come “straordinaria opportunità per la Chiesa, anche a livello locale, per rinnovare la fede e lo zelo missionario”.

Martedì 27 novembre 2018 sono stati ripresi i contatti con la redazione centrale (Parigi) di MAGNIFICAT, strumento mensile di divulgazione popolare a sostegno della preghiera, per finalizzare la pubblicazione in lingua inglese, francese e spagnola, della loro edizione del mese di ottobre 2019 dedicata al tema del MMS OTT2019. Il materiale raccolto e editato nella Guida, presente sul sito www.october2019.va, sarà fonte d’ispirazione per i contenuti e la composizione del loro testo.

Mercoledì 28 novembre 2018, si è proposto ai responsabili di Radio Maria World Family di poter condurre e animare insieme alle POM la preghiera pubblica del Santo Rosario nella Basilica Patriarcale di Santa Maria Maggiore a Roma il 7 ottobre 2019, memoria liturgica della Beata Vergine del Rosario. La proposta viene accolta favorevolmente da Radio Maria. Il Cardinal Prefetto presiederà la preghiera mariana trasmessa via radio e televisione in tutto il mondo.

Venerdì 30 novembre 2018, ricorrendo il novantanovesimo anniversario della promulgazione della Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* di Papa Benedetto XV, si è colta l’occasione per organizzare una conferenza stampa presso la Sala Stampa della Santa Sede alle 11:00 per presentare al mondo intero il Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019 con il lancio del suo sito web. Sono intervenuti il Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefetto della CEP, Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso, Presidente delle POM e P. Fabrizio Meroni, Segretario Generale della PUM.

Martedì 4 dicembre 2018, durante l’incontro con il Cardinal Prefetto, i Superiori della CEP e delle POM, dopo aver presentato tutte le attività svolte per il MMS OTT2019, è stata favorevolmente accolta la proposta della preghiera del Rosario per le missioni da celebrarsi il 7 ottobre 2019 nella Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore a Roma.

Venerdì 14 dicembre 2018, abbiamo ricevuto una proposta di collaborazione per uno Study Seminar sul tema: “Teologia delle religioni: approccio e prospettive antiochiane (orientali) nel contesto islamico cristiano”. L’iniziativa sarà svolta grazie alla collaborazione tra le Pontificie Opere Missionarie del Libano (Missio Libani) e il CIAM, che lo ha approvato come attività di ricerca e di formazione missionaria attinente con l’organizzazione dei vari Theological Colloquia per il MMS OTT2019.

Durante tutte le riunioni ordinarie e straordinarie del Comitato Esecutivo delle POM finora svolte si è sempre discusso delle questioni riguardanti il MMS OTT2019 e al diretto coinvolgimento dei Direttori nazionali delle POM in tale iniziativa.

Le visite del Presidente e dei Segretari Generali delle POM alle Direzioni nazionali, ad alcune Conferenze Episcopali e a varie comunità religiose sono state motivo di ampia sensibilizzazione circa il MMS OTT2019.

Città del Vaticano, 31 dicembre 2018

P. Fabrizio Meroni
Segretario Generale PUM
Direttore CIAM e Fides

I.4

EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

Activity Report 2018

On January 22, 2018 the PMS Executive Committee met at CIAM, where the division of the Guide book into three parts was proposed and discussed as follows:

1. Meditation and missionary spirituality comments regarding the liturgical Bible readings of the Holy Mass of the month of October 2019;
2. Witness of Saints and Martyrs of the mission (canonized and not);
3. Reflections on the formation of the mission of the Church and the PMS.

In addition, two options for a more effective distribution of the Guide were identified: a multilingual text containing only the original version of the texts received or a book in which every piece of writing would be translated into the four main languages: English, Italian, Spanish and French.

The Working Team met on February 27, 2018 and Fr. Fabrizio Meroni illustrated the topics discussed during the Executive Committee meeting on January 22 to all the members. It was suggested that the title of the book be “The Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 – A Guide” and that the maximum number of pages be 300, with equal distribution between the three parts the Guide is composed of.

To enhance the universality of the origin and destination of the contributions for the text of the EMM OCT2019, it was established that our collaboration would be offered in supporting the Catholic Bishops’ Conferences and the PMS National Directions locally to create their own material in their national language.

In the meantime, the Pope communicated the theme of the EMM OCT2019: “*Baptized and sent: the Church of Christ on mission in the world*”. It was also proposed that the comments on the Bible readings for the month of October 2019 could be published or used as inspiration for the texts of meditation in some of the most widespread monthly publications on daily liturgy, including MAGNIFICAT (English, French and Spanish).

As well as the International Congress of Missiology of the Pontifical Urbaniana University (PUU), other theological and missionary formation initiatives were being studied for the Churches in Francophone Africa (Burkina Faso) and Anglophone Africa (Zambia), in India and possibly in another very significant location in Eastern Asia- Oceania.

With the aim of presenting and involving the CEP’s own formative communities, a meeting between the formators and the students of our Rome Colleges was organized. Sr Roberta Tremarelli,

General Secretary of the MCA and member of the Working Team EMM OCT2019, visited the Collegio San Pietro on Saturday, March 3, 2018 and the Collegio San Paolo on Monday, March 5, 2018. Fr. Fabrizio Meroni met the community of the Collegio Urbano on Thursday, March 15, 2018, the Assembly of the Student Representatives of the Pontifical Urbaniana University on Friday, March 16, 2018, the community of Collegio San Giuseppe at the CIAM on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 and the community of Religious women of the Collegio Mater Ecclesiae in Castel Gandolfo on Saturday, May 12, 2018.

On Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 9 a.m., during a meeting with the Cardinal Prefect, the Superiors of the CEP, the President and the Secretaries General of the PMS, all the work hitherto accomplished was presented. Approval was given to: the design for the logo; the events to be proposed to the Holy Father for the celebration of October 2019 in Rome in His presence; the events to propose to the Diocesan Bishops of the whole world and the celebrations to have in the particular Churches during October 2019. The possibility of publication of the EMM OCT2019 Guide by Edizioni San Paolo was reflected upon. It was decided that the Guide was to be published in Italian, English, French and Spanish. It was agreed that a previously unplanned Portuguese edition would be opportune.

The Cardinal Prefect also welcomed the proposal of sending a second letter about EMM OCT2019 to: 1. Ordinaries of the whole world; 2. General Superiors of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life; 3. International Leaders of Ecclesial Movements, New Communities and Lay Associations; 4. Rectors and Formators of Major Seminaries. The four letters were dated April 8, 2018 and officially communicate the theme indicated by the Holy Father for the EMM OCT2019 “*Baptized and sent: the Church of Christ on mission in the world*”, as well as suggesting future steps for the preparation and implementation of the October 2019 celebrations. From June onwards, thanks to this Letter, meetings have taken place with members of the General Council of some religious Congregations and Missionary Institutes and with some leaders of Ecclesial Movements. Apart from being able to converse about their internal preparation and their participation at the EMM OCT2019, meeting them separately has allowed us to reiterate the desire to reflect on the value and solid witness of the *missio ad gentes* starting from the charism and missionary experience of each of them.

At CIAM, again on Tuesday, March 20 at 11.30 a.m., the President of the PMS Msgr Giampietro Dal Toso, Fr. Fabrizio Meroni and Dr. Paolo Affatato (Fides News Agency) met some representatives of the international Catholic media present in Rome together with a representative of the Vatican Secretariat for Communication. Ideas were exchanged on the themes of the diffusion of the EMM OCT2019, the elaboration of media products which can aid the missionary animation for

the EMM OCT2019 and the identification of a *Multimedia Communication Manager* to be appointed, as soon as possible, to coordinate all the work of communication, information and social networking with reference to the EMM OCT2019.

March 31, 2018 was the deadline for submission to the PMU International Secretariat of the contributions from all over the world relative to the first and second parts of the Guide. The deadline for the contributions regarding the third and last part of the Guide was set for April 30, 2018.

On Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at the offices of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican, a meeting was held between Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri and Msgr. Fabio Fabene, respectively Secretary General and Under Secretary of the Bishops Synod. There was a discussion about October 2019 being the Extraordinary Missionary Month and also coinciding with the Special Synod of the Bishops on the Churches in Amazonia which is to be celebrated at the Vatican. In particular, it was ensured that there will not be an overlapping of events presided by the Holy Father, rather, in preference, having joint celebrations. The providential coincidence of the common missionary interest in the evangelization of Amazonia and the universal missionary identity of all Churches from all over the world was underlined.

On Monday, May 14 and Tuesday, November 13, 2018 in the Congress Hall of the CEP two meetings of presentation and discussion about the EMM OCT2019 were held with the Council of the 18 representatives of the General Superiors of the Institutes of Consecrated Life men and women at the CEP.

On Thursday, May 17 at CIAM, Fr Fabrizio Meroni met Don Simone Bruno, Manager of Edizioni San Paolo, and Pino Occhipinti, Deputy Manager, Edizioni San Paolo to study and define the publication in 5 languages of the final text for the EMM OCT2019. Fr. Meroni emphasized the need for high quality linguistics, grammar and style in the final document in Italian. It was also established that to produce the Guide in the other languages (English, French, Spanish and Portuguese) the translators and revisors must all be mother tongue and accustomed to the theological, pastoral and catechetical language of our reality. Edizioni San Paolo guaranteed that request was feasible and was reiterated by Fr. Meroni many times, with particular reference to the English edition, given its crucial contemporary communicative importance.

On Tuesday, May 22 at the CIAM, the Working Team members met to define and approve the final text of the Guide. Having evaluated the differing quality of the contents of circa 380 documents that had been received from the different PMS National Directions, it was decided that it was preferable to reorganize the composition of the Guide with the material received rather than proceeding with a complete rewriting.

On Wednesday, May 30, during the General Assembly of the PMS Superior Council, the work carried out regarding the EMM OCT2019 was presented to the PMS National Directors. There was discussion about how to continue to structure the work of preparation and communication between National Directors, International Secretariats and the EMM OCT2019 Working Team. Challenged by the proposal made by the Holy Father Pope Francis during the meeting held with him on Friday, June 1, we committed ourselves to elaborating a common reflection on the *missio ad gentes* in the book of the Acts of the Apostles. The National Directions were invited to request a theological-pastoral reflection of a catechetical nature on the theme from representatives of their local Churches. The date for submission of the contributions was set for October 31, 2018.

On Tuesday, June 19, the draft Italian text of the Guide EMM OCT2019 was submitted for the evaluation and approval of the Cardinal Prefect, the CEP Superiors, members of the PMS Executive Committee and the Working Team members. Given that the Publishers had suggested the production of a final text of circa 350 pages to facilitate its widespread diffusion, everyone's collaboration was requested and the parts that could be omitted or shortened were highlighted. Said version in Italian represents the basic document to which reference will be made for further editions (paper and digital) in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

On Friday, June 22 following a careful evaluation of the candidates, Elena Grazini was chosen as *Multimedia Communication Manager* for all activities regarding the multimedia and communication for the EMM OCT2019. It was agreed upon a collaboration contract being drawn up from September 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019.

The following are her responsibility:

1. creation and maintenance of the web site www.october2019.va ;
2. use of the Fides News Agency social media (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram);
3. interaction with the PMS National Directions and their local Churches, the Religious Congregations, especially with their missionary reality *ad gentes* and the Fides News Agency;
4. production of videos and other publicity material;
5. preparation of a possible exhibition for the EMM OCT2019 (Braccio di Carlo Magno in Saint Peter's Square in the months of October and November 2019);
6. relations with the social communication means favoring the Holy See Press Office.

The final draft of the complete text of the EMM OCT2019 Guide was submitted to Edizioni San Paolo on July 21, 2018. From that moment the publishing house saw to the revision of the Italian text and started the translation of the text into the various languages.

From Tuesday 10 July to Saturday 14 July, 2018 the 5th American Missionary Congress CAM5 was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia). The Holy Father Francis named Cardinal Ferdinando Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, his special envoy for the celebrations of CAM5. Archbishop Monsignor Dal Toso, Adjunct Secretary of the CEP and President of the Pontifical Mission Societies, spoke at CAM 5, introducing the Extraordinary Missionary Month as part of the need for new missionaryity which our faith requires also in the Latin American context. In the opening mass of the Congress, Cardinal Filoni also recalled that missionary work is firstly a “blessing” for all to whom the Gospel is proclaimed. The theme of proclaiming the Word of God was also at the center of Monsignor Dal Toso's speech. On 11 July, the Archbishop met the Bishops present at the Congress to present the work carried out by the PMS and some aspects linked to the pastoral of the local Churches. At the end of the Congress on Saturday 14 July, in his speech to the Bishops, Monsignor Dal Toso emphasized that the Church in America, in accordance with the universal Church, is projected towards the next big missionary appointment, October 2019, celebrated worldwide, on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the “*Maximum Illud*” by Pope Benedict XV. The aim is to “evangelically requalify the mission”, so that “every baptized person can burn more and more with the same charity as Jesus Christ, until everyone can receive the gift of salvation”

On Thursday, September 6 at the CIAM, Fr. Fabrizio Meroni and Dr. Simona Leonardi met with Don Simone Bruno and Pino Occhipinti from Edizioni San Paolo, to inspect their proposals about the cover for the Guide, to evaluate the layout of the text and to receive the final draft of the revision of the entire text in Italian. From this meeting it emerged that Guide would have circa 415 pages, 50 more than expected. However, none of the options of reduction of the number of pages was acceptable (production of 2 volumes, elimination of some parts, publishing only up to the second part in a paper version and the third only online). Once again, the necessity for mother tongue translators and revisors for the different language editions was reiterated.

The first part of the Guide translated into English was received on Monday, October 1, 2018 consulting one of our mother tongue PMS member, we realized that the quality of the translation carried out by the publishing house was particularly bad. It was discovered that their translator was an Italian person with years of professional permanence in the Anglo-Saxon world. Despite Fr. Meroni's repeated exhortations regarding the necessity for mother tongue translators and revisors, the publishing house admitted they had employed an Italian mother tongue translator for the English version. In the light of this unwelcome surprise, the publishing house was contacted and we found ourselves forced to have all the texts in the various languages revised by our entrusted translators/revisors. We also found that the production of the Italian text was lacking in accuracy,

scrupulousness and professional quality. Needless to say this created an exponential increase in the amount of work for the Pontifical Missionary Union International Secretariat, which is composed of only two members.

Due to this regrettable situation, a considerable delay was caused in preparing PDF files of the EMM OCT2019 Guide in the various languages ready to be published online on www.october2019.va, which was launched on Friday, November 30 during a press conference held at the Press Office of the Holy See. For this date, only the definitive Italian version was ready, while the French, Spanish and Portuguese editions were published on the site shortly before Christmas. The English version has been expected to be online at the beginning of January, 2019. The paper version of the Guide in all the languages will be ready by the end of January, 2019 and will be sent out to all the Bishops in the world, to the General Superiors of Religious Institutes and to the PMS National Directors, during the months of February and March 2019, after celebrating the World Youth Day in Panama (from January 22 to 27, 2019).

The final text of the Guide is therefore made up of:

INTRODUCTION with texts relating to the EMM OCT2019 from the Holy Father Pope Francis, the CEP Prefect, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, the PMS President, Msgr. Giampietro Dal Toso and the PMU Secretary General, Fr. Fabrizio Meroni;

PART ONE “Encountering Jesus Christ” with comments on the Bible texts of the Liturgy in the month of October 2019 and the references to the Homilies and Angelus of Pope Francis;

PART TWO “Mission Testimonies” with biographies of Saints, Martyrs and Confessors of the faith;

PART THREE “Thoughts on Mission”: introductive reflections on the *missio ad gentes* of the Church.

On Friday 28 September, the President of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Archbishop Dal Toso opened, in Paris (France) the Missionary Congress that, for three days united French priests and lay people to reflect upon the evangelization in the country and on how to propose faith in these modern times. Monsignor Dal Toso focused on the Church and its mission, emphasizing that “the mission of evangelization that the Church received from Christ is not an abstract theoretical mission”, but comes to life through testimony. The Second Vatican Council insisted on “the missionary responsibility of the people of God together” and in order to keep the responsibility of the whole Church towards the mission alive, Pope Francis announced an Extraordinary Missionary Month, in October, 2019.

On Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at the Goods Transit Service office, which is overseen by the General Services Administration of the Governorate, Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, Simona Leonardi and Dr.

Stefano Andrenelli (Assistant, Goods Transit Service) met to organize the future shipping of the paper copies of the EMM OCT2019 Guide to the whole world.

On the occasion of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops with the theme *Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment* held in Rome, October 3 – 28, 2018, according to the indication of Cardinal Filoni, it was arranged for leaflets to be produced which were to be distributed to all the participants at the Synod with information regarding EMM OCT2019 and the events for the year 2022: the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the CEP, 200th anniversary of the creation of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith (PSPF) and 100 years since PSPF, MCA and PSSPA were raised to pontifical and universal status. The leaflets were available in a printed version and online on the EMM OCT2019 site in Italian, English, French and Spanish. The PMS national direction in Brazil saw to the text in Portuguese.

On Tuesday, October 16 at the Sanctuary of Divino Amore in Collevalenza (Terni), Fr. Meroni met the National Directors of Radio Maria broadcasting stations to present and establish ways of collaborating in view of the EMM OCT2019.

On Friday, October 19 at the Holy See Press Offices a press conference was held to present the message of the Holy Father “Together with the young, let us bring the Gospel to all” on the occasion of the World Mission Day, Sunday, October 21, 2018. On this occasion the work for the preparation of the EMM OCT2019 was also presented. Cardinal Fernando Filoni, CEP Prefect, Msgr Giampietro Dal Toso, PMS President, and Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, PMU Secretary General attended.

On Monday, October 22 the Working Team, Dr. Elena Grazini and Dr. Simona Leonardi met in the PMU offices. Fr. Fabrizio Meroni provided the latest information on the Guide and the preparation for the EMM OCT2019. Elena Grazini followed, talking about the EMM OCT2019 website and communication. Three Theological Colloquia were then discussed. Fr. Meroni confirmed that 3 Theological Colloquia were to take place in 2019: one in India at the Morning Star College in Barrackpore in Calcutta (February 14-16, 2019); a second in Zambia at the St Dominic’s Theological Seminary in Lusaka (Anglophone African Churches: July 29 – August 3, 2019) and a third, which was still being defined, in Macau in December 2019. There is another expected in Burkina Faso in 2020, for the Francophone countries in Africa. As well as bringing regional awareness to the theme *missio ad gentes* with reference to the EMM OCT2019, the Theological Colloquia have the purpose of using the knowledge and exalting the local thinkers in the missionary formation work of the PMS National Directions which have been involved in the preparation of these events from the outset.

On Tuesday 23 October, 2018, Archbishop Dal Toso spoke at the National Missionary Council of the Italian Episcopal Conference in Rome on the EMM OCT2019, presenting the Guide

for EMM OCT2019 as a tool designed to stimulate local creativity and announcing the launch of a dedicated website www.october2019.va on 30 November, 2018.

On Thursday 15 November, 2018, the President of the PMS, participated in the 72nd General Assembly of the Italian Episcopal Conference, presenting the EMM. "The Extraordinary missionary month" he recalls "falls on the centenary of the *Maximum Illud* letter by Benedict XV".

Also, in accordance with the Second Vatican Council, which connects the *missio ad gentes* to the responsibility of every baptized (cf AG 5), the choice of the theme of the Extraordinary missionary month was "Baptized and sent: the Church of Christ on mission in the world".

On Tuesday 20 November, 2018, Monsignor Dal Toso, spoke at the Plenary Assembly of the Spanish Episcopal Conference which gathered together in Madrid. The presence of the Archbishop was also motivated by the preparation towards the important appointment of the Extraordinary Missionary Month in October 2019, promoted by the Pope as "an extraordinary opportunity for the Church, to renew, also at a local level, faith and missionary zeal".

On Tuesday, November 27 contacts were resumed with the central headquarter (Paris) of MAGNIFICAT, a popular monthly publication which supports prayer, to define the publication in English, French and Spanish of their October 2019 edition dedicated to the EMM OCT2019. The material collected and edited in the Guide, available on www.october2019.va, will be a source of inspiration for the contents and the composition of the written work.

On Wednesday, November 28, 2018 a proposal was made to the Managers of the World Family of Radio Maria to conduct and animate, together with the PMS, the public prayer of the Holy Rosary at the Patriarchal Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, on the date of the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, October 7, 2019. The proposal was approved by Radio Maria. The Cardinal Prefect will preside over the Marian prayer which will be broadcast on radio and television all over the world.

On Friday, November 30, 2018 celebrating the 99th anniversary of the promulgation of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* written by Pope Benedict XV, the opportunity was taken to organize a press conference at the Press Office of the Holy See at 11 a.m. to present the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 to the world and to launch its website. Cardinal Fernando Filoni, CEP Prefect, Msgr Giampietro Dal Toso PMS President, and Fr. Fabrizio Meroni PMU Secretary General were present.

On Tuesday, December 4, 2018 during the meeting with the Cardinal Prefect, the Superiors of the CEP and the PMS, having presented all the activities carried out for the EMM OCT2019, the proposal of the prayer of the Holy Rosary for the missions to be celebrated on October 7, 2019 at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome was approved.

On Friday, December 14, 2018, we received the proposal of collaboration for a Study Seminar on the topic: “Theology of religions: Antiochiene (oriental) approach and prospectives in an Islamic-Christian context”. The initiative will take place thanks to the collaboration between the Pontifical Mission Societies in Lebanon (Missio Libani) and CIAM which approved it as an activity of research and missionary formation linked to the organization of the various Theological Colloquia for the EMM OCT2019.

During all the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the PMS Executive Committee carried out until now the discussion has always been about EMM OCT2019 issues and the direct involvement of the PMS National Directors in this initiative.

The visits of the PMS President and Secretaries General to the National Directions, to some Catholic Bishops’ Conferences and other Religious communities were to increase widespread awareness regarding the EMM OCT2019.

Vatican City, December 31, 2018

Fr. Fabrizio Meroni
PMU Secretary General
CIAM and Fides Director

I.5

MESE MISSIONARIO STRAORDINARIO OTTOBRE 2019

Relazione Attività 2019

Mercoledì 2 gennaio 2019 abbiamo nuovamente esortato i Movimenti ecclesiali, le Nuove Comunità e le Associazioni laicali a riflettere in maniera approfondita sul rapporto tra il loro carisma, le loro attività apostoliche e la loro proposta di santificazione con la missione della Chiesa (*missio ad-inter gentes*). Questa comunicazione scritta, inviata grazie al Dicastero per i Laici, la Famiglia e la Vita, fa riferimento alla lettera del Cardinal Fernando Filoni ai Movimenti Ecclesiali dell'8 aprile 2018.

Venerdì 11 gennaio 2019, l'edizione in lingua inglese della Guida per il Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019 (MMS OTT2019) è stata pubblicata online sul sito www.october2019.va realizzato e gestito dalla Dott.ssa Elena Grazini, Multimedia Communication Manager MMS OTT2019. Con ciò è terminata la pubblicazione cartacea di tutte le edizioni linguistiche della suddetta Guida (inglese, italiano, spagnolo, francese e portoghese).

Le sezioni che hanno composto il sito, disponibile nella versione italiana, inglese e spagnola (quest'ultima resa possibile grazie alla collaborazione con la direzione nazionale POM in Spagna) e alcuni contributi tradotti anche in francese, hanno rispecchiato le quattro dimensioni indicate dal Papa per vivere più intensamente il cammino di preparazione e realizzazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019.

Nella sezione TESTIMONI sono state presentate alcune figure di venerabili, beati, santi e martiri della missione, per ognuno dei quali c'era una sintesi biografica con le virtù riconosciute.

Nella pagina FORMAZIONE si potevano trovare alcuni testi del magistero della Chiesa, progetti di formazione missionaria nel mondo, e altro materiale formativo prodotto da alcune direzioni nazionali POM, con alcune schede delle pubblicazioni PUM CIAM della Collana Omnis Terra, allo scopo di mettere a disposizione dei contributi utili alla conoscenza e all'approfondimento della *missio ad-inter gentes*.

Nella sezione MONDO è stata aperta una finestra su alcune iniziative che sono state realizzate in tutto il mondo per il mese missionario e non solo. In questa sezione le protagoniste principali sono state la carità missionaria e la testimonianza.

Nell'home page e nella sezione MMS OTT2019 sono state riportate tutte le informazioni basilari sul mese: il logo, la preghiera e la Guida totalmente scaricabile nelle cinque lingue.

Le notizie che sono state pubblicate e tradotte in inglese e spagnolo, alcune anche in francese, provenivano dalle direzioni nazionali delle POM, dalle congregazioni, da istituti religiosi e dai

movimenti ecclesiali. Altro materiale è stato caricato in lingua originale, sotto la responsabilità diretta di coloro che lo hanno inviato, come le Conferenze Episcopali, gli Uffici di comunicazione delle Conferenze Episcopali nel mondo, congregazioni, istituti religiosi, movimenti ecclesiali e direzioni nazionali POM.

Tutto il lavoro tecnico per la creazione e la manutenzione del sito si è realizzato grazie a una stretta collaborazione tra le POM (Dott.ssa Elena Grazini) e il Dicastero Vaticano per le comunicazioni. Per approfondimenti si può prendere visione della relazione redatta dalla Dott.ssa Grazini sul sito web www.october2019.va, che si trova nella Part Two di questo libro.

Martedì 22 gennaio 2019, è avvenuto un incontro tra la Dott.ssa Barbara Jatta (direttrice dei Musei Vaticani), la Dott.ssa Elena Grazini e Padre Fabrizio Meroni. Si è convenuto di valutare, insieme a Vatican Media e alle Suore Missionarie della Divina Rivelazione, la fattibilità della proposta di realizzare un video sul MMS OTT2019 da poter mostrare all'interno del percorso museale vaticano durante i mesi di settembre, ottobre e novembre 2019. Purtroppo per motivi tecnici televisivi la realizzazione non è potuta avvenire.

Mercoledì 30 gennaio 2019, in previsione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019, la Pontificia Opera dell'Infanzia Missionaria ha promosso il concorso canoro "Battezzati e inviati: cantando la missione". Lo scopo del concorso è stato coinvolgere i bambini e i ragazzi di tutte le diocesi, coadiuvati dagli animatori, nella creazione del testo e della musica di una canzone che avesse come ritornello le parole "Battezzati e inviati".

I primi di febbraio abbiamo ricevuto 10.000 esemplari della Guida MMS OTT2019 così suddivisi: 3500 in inglese, 2000 in spagnolo, 2000 in francese, 1500 in italiano, 1000 in portoghese.

Il Cardinal Prefetto Fernando Filoni ha personalmente consegnato al Santo Padre Papa Francesco una copia cartacea della Guida in ciascuna delle cinque lingue summenzionate. Una copia di tutte è stata fatta pervenire anche al Papa emerito Benedetto XVI. Si è dunque provveduto a distribuire le prime copie cartacee della Guida ai Superiori CEP e POM e ai loro dipendenti. Poi si è disposto l'invio di più di 8000 Guide in base alle lingue di ogni paese, attraverso la Nunziatura Apostolica, ad ogni direzione nazionale POM e ad ogni Vescovo Ordinario del mondo. Inoltre le rimanenti sono state consegnate a tutti gli 81 direttori nazionali membri di Radio Maria, a tutti gli Istituti Missionari a Roma, alle Società di Vita Apostolica dipendenti dalla CEP, a ciascun Superiore e Superiora Generale membri del Consiglio dei 18 (CEP), ad alcuni Dicasteri della Curia Romana, ai Collegi della Domus Missionalis e della Domus Urbaniana e alle Pontificie Università di Roma.

Nel frattempo si è pensato a come poter distribuire le Guide ai Superiori e alle Superiori Generali dell'Unione Internazionale delle Superiori Generali (UISG) e dell'Unione Superiori Generali (USG) e si è convenuto di consegnarle durante le loro assemblee internazionali tenutesi a

Roma, quella della UISG (900 partecipanti) dal 6 al 10 maggio 2019 all'hotel Ergife e quella della USG (120 partecipanti) dal 22 al 24 maggio 2019 alla Casa del Divin Maestro ad Ariccia.

Martedì 12 febbraio 2019 presso la Sede della Segreteria Generale del Sinodo dei Vescovi in Vaticano si sono incontrati Sua Eminenza il Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, Segretario della Segreteria Generale per il Sinodo dei Vescovi, Sua Eccellenza Mons. Fabio Fabene, Sottosegretario, e Padre Fabrizio Meroni che ha consegnato ad entrambi la Guida sul MMS OTT2019 e si è discusso su eventuali momenti in comune con la celebrazione del Sinodo Speciale sull'Amazzonia e il MMS OTT2019. In data 25 aprile 2019, durante un ulteriore incontro si è formalizzata la partecipazione dei membri presenti al Sinodo speciale sull'Amazzonia alle celebrazioni del MMS che sarebbero avvenute a Roma (1° ottobre, Vespri di apertura e 20 ottobre Santa Messa per la Giornata Mondiale Missionaria presieduti dal Santo Padre, e il 7 ottobre il Rosario Missionario presieduto dal Cardinal Fernando Filoni).

Dal 14 al 16 febbraio 2019, si è svolto il Theologicum Colloquium a Calcutta in India, dal tema "Symposium on Evangelization in South Asia since *Maximum Illud*". Il simposio promosso dalla CEP e dalle POM, è stato organizzato dal Morning Star College, Barrackpore, Calcutta, in collaborazione con St. Xavier's University di Calcutta. Sono stati invitati 26 teologi e ricercatori locali, i direttori nazionali POM di lingua anglofona dell'Asia meridionale (India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan), 12 arcivescovi e vescovi e il simposio si è aperto con un saluto introduttivo di Sua Eccellenza Thomas D' Souza, arcivescovo di Calcutta. Alla fine del colloquio si sono raccolti molti suggerimenti su iniziative per le Chiese locali da potersi attuare nei paesi dell'Asia del Sud per prepararsi al MMS OTT2019.

A partire da febbraio 2019 il rettore della Pontificia Università Urbaniana (PUU), Padre Leonardo Sileo ci ha più volte consultato per la definizione dei temi e dei relatori per la preparazione del Congresso Teologico Internazionale sulla *missio ad gentes* dalla *Maximum Illud* alla *Evangelii Gaudium*, che si è svolto a Roma presso la PUU dal 27 al 29 novembre 2019.

Inoltre sempre dal mese di febbraio si sono tenuti alcuni incontri finalizzati alla conoscenza, divulgazione e collaborazione in vista del MMS OTT2019 ad esempio con il direttore dell'Osservatore Romano, Dr. Andrea Monda, con il prefetto del Dicastero Vaticano per la comunicazione, Dr. Paolo Ruffini oltre ai rappresentanti a Roma di media cattolici internazionali come Aurora Vision, EWTN, Rome Reports, Aleteia, Asia News, Associazione Luci nel mondo Onlus, etc. La nostra agenzia d'informazione Fides - Omnis Terra si è occupata di far conoscere attività e momenti di animazione missionaria delle varie Chiese locali sparse nel mondo, riguardanti il MMS OTT2019, attraverso le loro direzioni nazionali POM. Si sono anche presi contatti con le stesse direzioni e le varie case editrici internazionali affinché si potesse collaborare nella preparazione

e pubblicazione di vari libretti liturgici riguardanti le celebrazioni e le letture bibliche del mese di ottobre 2019.

Giovedì 28 febbraio 2019 Suor Adriana Gazzera, missionaria della Consolata, Suor Felicitas Santiesteban, missionaria saveriana e Suor Elisa Kidané, missionaria comboniana, come rappresentanti degli 8 istituti maschili e femminili esclusivamente missionari di fondazione italiana si sono incontrate con Padre Fabrizio Meroni e Don Roberto Foini per organizzare la preparazione della veglia di preghiera missionaria del 1° ottobre 2019. Sono avvenuti ulteriori successivi incontri per una più ampia e precisa organizzazione dell'evento di preghiera.

Nel corso dell'anno si sono incontrati inoltre rappresentanti della Segreteria internazionale di Comunione e Liberazione, della Pontificia Università Santa Croce, del Movimento internazionale di giovani cattolici indiani Jesus Youth, del Movimento Couples for Christ e del Movimento e comunità cattoliche carismatiche. Sono stati avviati anche contatti con la Fondazione Meeting per l'amicizia fra i popoli, per studiare una modalità di presenza del MMS OTT2019 durante la celebrazione dell'evento internazionale a Rimini a fine agosto 2019. Non sono mancati specifici momenti di conoscenza e discussione sul MMS OTT2019 con rappresentanti degli Istituti italiani maschili e femminili esclusivamente missionari.

I Segretariati Internazionali delle quattro Pontificie Opere Missionarie insieme al CIAM hanno organizzato per i membri delle direzioni nazionali e diocesane POM di tutto il mondo corsi di formazione missionaria e comunicazione in preparazione del MMS OTT2019. Sono state offerte tre sessioni, due in lingua inglese (dal 4 al 9 marzo 2019 con moderatore P. Karl Wallner – direttore nazionale POM Austria; dall'8 al 13 aprile 2019 con moderatore P. Anthony Chantry – direttore nazionale POM Inghilterra e Galles) e una in lingua francese (dal 1° al 6 aprile 2019 con moderatore P. Godefroid Manunga-Lukokisa – direttore nazionale POM Repubblica Democratica del Congo) tenutesi presso la sede del CIAM con una media di 30 partecipanti per sessione, preti, suore e laici.

Giovedì 7 marzo 2019, P. Meroni si è incontrato con P. Frederic Fornos sj, International Director Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network per discutere ed elaborare i testi e il video di presentazione delle intenzioni di preghiera del Santo Padre per il mese di ottobre 2019, in riferimento al MMS OTT2019.

Martedì 26 marzo 2019 si è riunito il Working Team per parlare dei seguenti temi

1. lavorazione e distribuzione della Guida MMS OTT2019;
2. valutazione e collaborazione nell'animazione missionaria e per il sito www.october2019.va rispetto al MMS OTT2019;
3. celebrazioni liturgiche ottobre 2019 (Vesperi 1° ottobre 2019 e S. Messa di domenica 20 ottobre 2019 con il Santo Padre Papa Francesco);

4. il Rosario Missionario presso la Basilica Papale di Santa Maria Maggiore lunedì 7 ottobre 2019 alle ore 15.00 (con Radio Maria);

5. Theological Colloquia: Lusaka (Zambia), Macao (Cina).

Si è designato don Roberto Foini della CEP come responsabile per la preparazione e animazione della Liturgia e Preghiera durante il mese di ottobre 2019.

Sempre ad aprile è uscito il libro della Collana Omnis Terra PUBBLICAZIONI PUM CIAM *Martyrs in Asia* pubblicato dalla Urbaniana University Press (UUP) come testo di formazione per la preparazione al MMS OTT2019. Il libro descrive il percorso del martirio dei cristiani, sia religiosi che laici, in alcuni paesi asiatici (Vietnam, Laos e Myanmar) e fornisce riflessioni teologiche e pastorali allo scopo di ispirare l'opera di evangelizzazione delle Chiese locali e dei loro fedeli. Il Cardinal Prefetto Fernando Filoni ha personalmente fatto dono di una copia di questa pubblicazione al Santo Padre.

Giovedì 25 aprile 2019, l'Arcivescovo Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso, Segretario aggiunto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli e Presidente delle POM, ha parlato all'Assemblea Generale della Conferenza Episcopale del Vietnam, dove si è recato per incontrare gli operatori pastorali impegnati nell'animazione missionaria, in vista del MMS OTT2019.

Martedì 14 maggio 2019, il Presidente delle POM ha tenuto una relazione sul tema "Chiesa e missione: una relazione feconda" durante un Atto accademico che si è svolto all'Università San Damaso di Madrid, organizzato dalla Cattedra di Missionologia della Facoltà di Teologia. A promuovere l'iniziativa è stata la Direzione nazionale delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie in Spagna, in vista della celebrazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario dell'Ottobre 2019.

Comunicazioni sulle attività finora svolte, sulle pubblicazioni della Collana Omnis Terra e sugli aggiornamenti del sito www.october2019.va sono avvenute giovedì 30 maggio 2019 durante l'Assemblea Generale delle POM a Sacrofano e martedì 4 giugno al CIAM durante il corso di formazione per i nuovi direttori nazionali. Negli incontri personali avuti con i vari direttori nazionali sono state oggetto di discussione le attività proprie di ciascuna direzione nazionale e conferenze episcopali riguardo al MMS OTT2019. Tra gli esempi più significativi, quelli della Bosnia Erzegovina, Colombia, Kenya, Malawi, Messico, Portogallo e Venezuela che hanno deciso di dedicare un intero anno alla missione.

Mercoledì 5 giugno 2019 presso il suo ufficio nel Palazzo Apostolico è avvenuto l'incontro tra Mons. Guido Marini, Maestro delle celebrazioni liturgiche pontificie, Padre Fabrizio Meroni e Don Roberto Foini, riguardante l'organizzazione delle due celebrazioni liturgiche presiedute dal Santo Padre durante il mese di ottobre 2019 (preghiera missionaria e vesperi nella memoria liturgica

di Santa Teresa di Lisieux il 1° ottobre e la celebrazione eucaristica del 20 ottobre, entrambi nella Basilica Papale di San Pietro).

Durante la 41esima edizione del pellegrinaggio Macerata-Loreto (Italia 8-9 giugno 2019) si è pregato per il MMS OTT2019. La CEP e le POM sono state presenti attraverso il saluto e la preghiera di Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso, la testimonianza dell'algerina Djaoudi Horia (Tilly) sui monaci di Tibhirine e la consegna durante il mandato missionario di un crocifisso insieme al logo del MMS OTT2019.

Venerdì 14 giugno durante un incontro con Padre Frederic Fornos, sj, direttore della Rete Mondiale di Preghiera del Papa, oltre ad aver valutato il lavoro fino a quel momento svolto per il video dell'intenzione di preghiera del Santo Padre per il mese di ottobre 2019 si è discusso su una futura collaborazione a partire dall'ottobre 2019 riguardante il Rosario Missionario per la pace, proposto dal Papa a Padre Frederic.

A fine giugno è uscita la pubblicazione *Missio Ad Gentes in the Acts of the Apostles* sempre della UUP, facente parte della Collana Omnis Terra PUBBLICAZIONI PUM CIAM. Tale iniziativa vuole rispondere all'invito fatto da Papa Francesco ai direttori nazionali POM durante l'udienza a loro concessa il 1° giugno 2018 a Roma. Tale testo, insieme alla pubblicazione *Martyrs in Asia*, è stato pensato per fornire ulteriore materiale formativo alle Chiese locali e alle direzioni nazionali POM del mondo intero per la preparazione del MMS OTT2019.

Nel frattempo si sono ricevute, da parte di molte diocesi e ordini religiosi del mondo intero, varie richieste di utilizzo del logo e del materiale della Guida MMS OTT2019 per produrre localmente pubblicazioni di formazione pastorale e per uso liturgico riguardante il mese di ottobre 2019. L'interessamento e la concessione dell'uso del logo, soprattutto a partire dalla fine del mese di maggio, hanno dimostrato una vitalità di animazione missionaria non pianificata e libera suscitata dal grande lavoro di divulgazione del MMS OTT2019 iniziato il 30 novembre 2018 con il lancio del sito web e proseguito ad inizio febbraio con l'invio a tutti i vescovi del mondo della Guida.

Lunedì 1° luglio 2019, l'Arcivescovo Giampietro Dal Toso ha aperto la settantaduesima Settimana spagnola di Missionologia, alla facoltà di Teologia di Burgos, dedicata quest'anno al tema "Missione ad Gentes, futuro della Chiesa". L'Arcivescovo ha indicato i tre eventi principali che scandiranno le celebrazioni del Mese missionario a Roma: il 1° ottobre, i Vespri a San Pietro con il Papa; il 7 ottobre, un Rosario missionario in diretta mondiale radiofonica dalla basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore; il 20 ottobre, Giornata Missionaria Mondiale, la celebrazione eucaristica a San Pietro con il Pontefice.

Dal 20 luglio al 3 agosto 2019, si è svolto al St. Dominic's Major Seminary di Lusaka in Zambia il Theologicum Colloquium dal tema "Proclamation, Sacrament and Christian Witness in the

Missio Ad gentes in Africa”, promosso dalla CEP e dalle POM e organizzato dalla direzione nazionale POM in Zambia e dalla Conferenza Episcopale dei Vescovi in Zambia (ZCCB). Si è voluta promuovere una riflessione teologica sulla natura universale missionaria della Chiesa in Africa, facendo riunire 13 teologi per condividere le conoscenze teologiche su questioni ed esperienze condivise dalla Chiesa in Africa. Sono stati invitati a partecipare i direttori nazionali e diocesani POM dell’Africa anglofona, i docenti stessi del St. Dominic’s Major Seminary, i Vescovi e il Nunzio Apostolico in Zambia. Si è quindi raggiunta una più approfondita comprensione delle sfide attuali che le Chiese si incontrano ad affrontare per il loro lavoro pastorale e di evangelizzazione e si è riflettuto su quale sia il ruolo delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie nell’Africa attuale.

Dall’inizio di agosto, persone in tutto il mondo hanno condiviso la loro missione personale sui social media, attraverso Facebook, Twitter e Instagram, con gli hashtag #MyMission e # EMM2019. L’obiettivo di questa campagna mondiale sui social media è stato quello di riaccendere lo spirito missionario in ogni battezzato e condividere questo spirito con le sorelle e i fratelli di tutto il mondo.

Dal 18 al 24 agosto 2019 si è svolto il 40esimo Meeting di Rimini dal tema «Nacque il tuo nome da ciò che fissavi» con 800.000 presenze agli eventi da 70 nazioni e CEP/POM sono state presenti con uno spazio allestito con cartellonistica, foto e messaggi sul Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019.

Lunedì 2 settembre 2019, il Presidente delle POM è stato ospite alla trasmissione il “Diario di Papa Francesco” su TV2000, approfondendo il tema della *missio ad gentes* e ricordando la celebrazione del MMS OTT2019, ricorrendo i 100 anni dalla Lettera Apostolica *Maximum Illud* di Papa Benedetto XV.

Mercoledì 4 settembre 2019, l’Arcivescovo Giampietro Dal Toso ha presentato, all’Istituto Teologico di Santiago de Compostela (Spagna), all’apertura della XX edizione delle Giornate di Teologia, una relazione con tema “Dalla *Maximum Illud* al Mese Missionario Straordinario”. Nel suo ampio intervento, l’Arcivescovo ha illustrato gli antecedenti del Mese Missionario Straordinario, dall’annuncio dato da Papa Francesco all’Angelus della Giornata Missionaria Mondiale del 2017 ai passi successivi, quindi si è soffermato a riflettere sulla *Maximum Illud* e sull’attualità della missione della Chiesa nel mondo, indicando infine alcuni obiettivi specifici del Mese Missionario Straordinario.

Mercoledì 11 settembre 2019, Mons. Dal Toso ha inviato una lettera a tutti i direttori nazionali delle POM ricordando gli eventi principali che si sarebbero svolti a Roma per il MMS OTT2019.

Martedì 1 ottobre 2019 *Basilica Papale di San Pietro*:

- alle ore 17:15 (ora italiana) Veglia di preghiera missionaria

- alle ore 18:00 (ora italiana) Vesperi di apertura del MMS OTT2019 presieduti dal Santo Padre

Lunedì 7 ottobre 2019 Basilica Papale di Santa Maria Maggiore:

- alle ore 15:00 (ora italiana) Santo Rosario presieduto dal Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefetto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli

Domenica 20 ottobre 2019 Basilica Papale di San Pietro:

- alle ore 10:00 (ora italiana) Santa Messa per la Giornata Mondiale Missionaria presieduta da Papa Francesco

Si è chiesta inoltre la collaborazione di tutte le direzioni nazionali POM nel divulgare il video sulle intenzioni di preghiera del Santo Padre per il mese di ottobre 2019, iniziativa sviluppata dalla Rete Mondiale di Preghiera del Papa, visualizzabile dal 1° ottobre anche sul sito www.october2019.va.

Le POM hanno collaborato anche all'organizzazione del 12° Pellegrinaggio Nazionale delle Famiglie per la Famiglia svoltosi al Santuario Mariano di Pompei il 14 settembre 2019, come iniziativa preparatoria al MMS OTT2019. Il Prefetto della CEP il Cardinal Filoni ha presieduto la celebrazione eucaristica delle 19.00. L'evento, patrocinato dal Dicastero per i Laici, la Famiglia e la Vita, è stato promosso dal Rinnovamento nello Spirito Santo in collaborazione con la Prelatura Pontificia di Pompei, le Pontificie Opere Missionarie, l'Ufficio Nazionale per la Pastorale della Famiglia della Conferenza Episcopale Italiana (CEI) e il Forum delle Associazioni Familiari.

Mercoledì 18 settembre 2019, si è inviata un'email ai direttori nazionali con l'invito a divulgare e a prendere parte all'evento del Congresso Teologico Internazionale "Dalla *Maximum Illud* alla *Evangelii Gaudium*: sull'urgenza della trasformazione missionaria della Chiesa" svoltosi a Roma dal 27 al 29 novembre 2019 organizzato dalla Pontificia Università Urbaniana.

Lunedì 23 settembre, l'Arcivescovo Giampietro Dal Toso, Presidente delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, ha tenuto la relazione principale sulla missione, la Chiesa e il MMS OTT2019, all'Assemblea plenaria della Conferenza episcopale dei Vescovi canadesi, che si è svolta dal 23 al 27 settembre al Nav Centre, Cornwall, Ontario.

Dal 24 al 25 settembre 2019 si è svolto al Catholic Theological Institute a Bomana in Papua Nuova Guinea il primo Simposio Missiologico "Baptised and Sent: the Church of Christ on the mission in PNG and in the world" promosso dalla Conferenza Episcopale di PNGSI e dalla PUM, organizzato dalle POM di Papua Nuova Guinea e Isole Salomone (PNGSI). L'evento ha visto la presenza di circa 300 partecipanti tra cui 1 Cardinale, 3 Arcivescovi, 14 Vescovi, molti preti (più di 50) e suore (40), e un gran numero di laici (80), seminaristi (100), alti funzionari di varie istituzioni e organizzazioni. Il simposio è stato organizzato in concomitanza con il Triennio pastorale dedicato ai Laici. Parte integrante del simposio la formazione per i Vescovi con l'obiettivo di riaccendere il fuoco dello spirito della nuova evangelizzazione nella Chiesa della Papua Nuova Guinea.

Venerdì 27 settembre 2019 si è ricevuta copia del libretto liturgico di preghiera Magnificat per il mese di ottobre 2019 frutto della collaborazione dei Segretariati Internazionali POM e Magnificat stesso. Come da comunicazione avvenuta a tutti i direttori nazionali POM nel marzo 2019 sono state prodotte cinque diverse edizioni linguistiche: una in francese, due in spagnolo (Spagna e America Latina), due in inglese (Inghilterra e USA).

Lunedì 30 settembre 2019 nella sala Clementina del Palazzo Apostolico è avvenuto l'incontro tra il Santo Padre Papa Francesco e le Superiori e i Superiori Generali degli otto istituti femminili e maschili esclusivamente missionari di fondazione italiana. Erano presenti un centinaio di Comboniani e Comboniane, Saveriani e Saveriane, Missionari e Missionarie della Consolata, Missionari del Pime e Missionarie dell'Immacolata.

Martedì 1° ottobre 2019 alle 11:30 presso la Sala Stampa della Santa Sede, ha avuto luogo un "Meeting point" con i giornalisti per l'apertura del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019 e per il lancio del video del Papa realizzato dalla Rete Mondiale di Preghiera in collaborazione con le POM, dal titolo "Primavera missionaria nella Chiesa". Erano presenti Sua Eminenza il Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefetto della CEP, P. Frederic Fornos, direttore internazionale della Rete Mondiale di Preghiera del Papa, P. Fabrizio Meroni, Segretario Generale della PUM, Suor Simona Brambilla, Superiora Generale delle Missionarie della Consolata, già missionaria in Mozambico e Padre Gabriel Amal Costa, prete bengalese del Pontificio Istituto Missioni Estere (PIME), già missionario in Costa d'Avorio.

Nello stesso giorno, Papa Francesco ha presieduto la celebrazione dei Vespri nella Basilica Papale di San Pietro, preceduta dalla Veglia Missionaria di preghiera con testimonianze missionarie da tutto il mondo, disponibile anche in diretta streaming sul canale YouTube di Vatican News e sul sito www.vaticannews.va. Si sono ascoltate tre testimonianze missionarie: una catechista di nazionalità mongola, un sacerdote Diocesano della Repubblica Centrafricana e una suora indiana Missionaria dell'Immacolata in Papua Nuova Guinea. Al termine dei Vespri nove missionari (di cui una famiglia), in partenza per la *missio ad gentes*, hanno ricevuto il crocifisso dal Santo Padre.

Lunedì 7 ottobre alle ore 15.00 si è svolto presso la Basilica Papale di Santa Maria Maggiore, un rosario internazionale organizzato dalla Famiglia Mondiale di Radio Maria, in collaborazione con la CEP/POM. Presenti all'incontro molte delegazioni delle Radio Maria nel mondo e più di 1000 fedeli. A guidare la preghiera mariana dei misteri gaudiosi Sua Eminenza il Cardinal Fernando Filoni. Il rosario si è svolto in 6 lingue: italiano, francese, spagnolo, inglese, cinese e latino. Ogni decina del Rosario è stata preceduta da una breve meditazione letta da un delegato di Radio Maria World Family per ogni continente. Sono stati collegati all'evento circa 10 milioni di persone in 58 paesi del mondo. Per approfondimenti si può fare riferimento alla relazione redatta da Bernhard Mitterutzner, Editorial

Office Coordinator di Radio Maria World Family, che potete trovare nella Part Two del presente libro.

Mercoledì 9 ottobre, nel suo intervento all'Assemblea generale della Conferenza Episcopale Polacca, a Varsavia (Polonia) in occasione del Mese Missionario Straordinario, il Presidente delle POM ha voluto soffermarsi sul servizio che le POM possono rendere alla pastorale della chiesa.

Domenica, 20 ottobre 2019, alle ore 10.00, nella Basilica Papale di San Pietro, il Papa ha celebrato la S. Messa in occasione della 93esima Giornata Missionaria Mondiale. Al termine della celebrazione il Santo Padre ha personalmente ringraziato il Cardinal Prefetto Fernando Filoni per l'immenso lavoro di preparazione e implementazione del MMS OTT2019, sottolineandone con soddisfazione la sua efficacia universale. La Giornata Missionaria 2019 si è celebrata nel cuore del Mese Missionario Straordinario voluto da Papa Francesco, sul tema "Battezzati e inviati: la Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo" con la partecipazione di molti Vescovi e membri del Sinodo speciale per l'Amazzonia. Durante questo Sinodo alcuni partecipanti hanno sottolineato la provvidenziale coincidenza per la missione della Chiesa in Amazzonia dei due eventi ecclesiali.

Venerdì 25 ottobre, l'Arcivescovo Giampietro Dal Toso, Presidente delle POM, prendendo la parola al Congresso Missionario nazionale della Nigeria, a Benin City (Nigeria), ha ribadito che il Mese Missionario Straordinario non deve essere solo una celebrazione, ma un punto di partenza, perché le nostre Chiese assumano con maggiore responsabilità il mandato missionario nella vita ecclesiale quotidiana.

Lunedì 4 novembre 2019 Fides ha presentato un dossier con tutte le notizie pubblicate dall'Agenzia dal 1° al 31 ottobre 2019 sulle attività svolte dalle Chiese locali e dalle direzioni nazionali POM, nei cinque continenti, in preparazione e implementazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019. Per approfondimenti si può prendere visione del rapporto scritto dalla redazione dell'Agenzia Fides, che trovate nella Part Two di questo libro.

Martedì 5 novembre è stato pubblicato, in lingua italiana, dalla Libreria Editrice Vaticana (LEV) insieme alla casa editrice San Paolo, il libro intervista a Papa Francesco del giornalista di Fides, dott. Gianni Valente, dal titolo "Senza di Lui non possiamo far nulla. Essere missionari oggi nel mondo". Il Santo Padre ha preferito questa forma di documento-intervista sul suo pensiero personale circa la missione della Chiesa oggi, ad altre forme più ordinarie del suo Magistero pontificio.

Lunedì 11 novembre 2019, si è tenuta l'Assemblea della Conferenza Episcopale in Tanzania con la presenza anche di 15 Direttori Nazionali POM di Paesi africani di lingua inglese. Il Presidente delle POM è intervenuto durante la celebrazione conclusiva del Mese Missionario Straordinario in

Tanzania sottolineando che l’Africa è una grande speranza per la Chiesa e per la sua missione universale.

Dal 27 al 29 novembre 2019 presso la Pontificia Università Urbaniana si è tenuto il Convegno Internazionale dal tema “Dalla *Maximum Illud* alla *Evangelii Gaudium* sull’urgenza della trasformazione missionaria della Chiesa” che ha visto la presenza di circa 400 partecipanti. Promosso e sostenuto dalla CEP il Convegno è stato concepito per riflettere sull’urgenza di avanzare nel cammino di trasformazione missionaria della Chiesa alla luce della mutata percezione della stessa *missio ad gentes* e sul trovare canali adeguati per l’evangelizzazione del mondo attuale.

In data 30 novembre 2019 si è concluso l’aggiornamento del sito www.october2019.va, lanciato il 30 novembre 2018, interamente dedicato a tutta la preparazione e implementazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019. Tutti i contenuti verranno collocati a perenne memoria nel sito web delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, area PUM. Sempre lo stesso giorno si è stabilita la scadenza per la consegna al Segretariato Internazionale della PUM delle relazioni sintetiche sulle attività del MMS OTT2019 svolte dalle direzioni nazionali POM nel mondo.

Dal 3 al 7 dicembre 2019 si è tenuto al Seminario maggiore Campus dell’Università cattolica Saint Joseph (USJ) a Macao, il *Maximum Illud Macao Theological Colloquium 2019* dal tema “Proclamation, Sacrament and Christian Witness in the *missio ad gentes* in Asia” promosso dalla CEP e dalle POM, organizzato dal Vescovo di Macao, Sua Eccellenza Mons. Stephen Lee Bun Sang, e dall’Università Saint Joseph (USJ) in collaborazione con il Segretariato Internazionale della Pontificia Unione Missionaria. Si sono riuniti solo 9 teologi dei 12 previsti a causa del diniego del visto e altri accademici delle Chiese dell’est e sud est asiatico, per celebrare il centenario della promulgazione della lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* e avviare un processo di riflessione teologica, basandosi sull’impulso impartito alla natura missionaria della Chiesa, dal Mese Missionario Straordinario nell’ottobre 2019.

Dal 27 gennaio al 1° febbraio 2020 si è tenuto al Centre National Cardinal Paul Zoungana di Ouagadougou, il Colloquio Continentale sulla *Missio ad Gentes* per l’Africa francofona in Burkina Faso dal tema “*Témoigner, annoncer et célébrer la foi dans la mission d’Évangélisation en Afrique aujourd’hui*”. Sono stati invitati 15 professori, i direttori nazionali POM dell’Africa francofona, 20 Vescovi della Conferenza Episcopale Burkina Faso e Niger per riflettere sulle sfide dell’azione missionaria della Chiesa nell’Africa francofona di oggi.

Durante tutto l’anno 2019, i Segretari Generali e il Presidente delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie sono stati invitati ad eventi promossi in vista della celebrazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019, incontrando, nei vari paesi, gli operatori pastorali impegnati

nell'animazione missionaria e partecipando a conferenze e colloqui/riunioni con realtà accademiche, seminaristi, sacerdoti, religiosi, religiose e laici in tutto il mondo.

Ringraziamo gli stessi direttori nazionali POM che hanno provveduto ad informare i Segretariati Internazionali delle POM sulle attività svolte nei loro paesi in preparazione e per la celebrazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019, inviando durante l'anno foto, video, materiale di animazione missionaria e comunicazioni varie.

Città del Vaticano, 3 febbraio 2020

P. Fabrizio Meroni
Segretario Generale PUM
Direttore CIAM e Fides

I.6

EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

Activity Report 2019

On Wednesday, January 2, 2019, we once again urged the Ecclesial Movements, New Community and the Lay Associations to reflect deeply on the relationship between their charisms, apostolic activities and their proposal for sanctification with the mission of the Church (*missio ad-inter gentes*). This written communication, sent by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, makes reference to the letter of Cardinal Fernando Filoni to the Ecclesial Movements of April 8, 2018.

On Friday, January 11, 2019, the English language edition of the Guide for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 (EMM OCT2019) was published online on the website www.october2019.va, created and managed by Ms. Elena Grazini, Multimedia Communication Manager for EMM OCT2019. With this, the paper publication of all the language editions of the above mentioned Guide (English, Italian, Spanish, French and Portuguese) ceased.

The sections that made up the site, available in Italian, English and Spanish versions (the latter made possible thanks to the collaboration with Spain's PMS national directorate), with some contributions also translated into French, reflected the four dimensions indicated by the Pope for experiencing more intensely the preparation and implementation of Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019.

In the section WITNESSES, there were some profiles of venerables, blessed, saints, and martyrs of mission. For each one, there was a biographical summary highlighting their virtues.

On the FORMATION page, there a number of texts from the magisterium of the Church, projects of missionary formation across the world, and other formative material produced by various PMS national directorates, with some information on the Omnis Terra PMU CIAM publications series, in order to make available useful contributions to the knowledge and strengthening of the *missio ad-inter gentes*.

In the section WORLD, you got a glimpse of some initiatives being undertaken worldwide for the Missionary Month and beyond. In this section, the main themes were missionary charity and testimony.

On the home page and in the section EMM OCT2019, all the basic information related to the Month was available: the logo, the prayer and the fully downloadable Guide in five languages.

The news that was published in English and Spanish - some also in French - came from the PMS national directorates, congregations, religious institutes, and from ecclesial movements. Other material was uploaded in their original language by those who sent it, including Episcopal

Conferences, Episcopal Conference Communications Offices, congregations, religious institutes, ecclesial movements and PMS national directorates from around the world.

All the technical work for the creation and maintenance of the website was done thanks to a close collaboration between Elena Grazini at the PMS and the Vatican Dicastery for Communication. For further information, a report compiled by Ms. Grazini on the website www.october2019.va can be found in the Part Two of this book.

On Tuesday, January 22, 2019, there was a meeting between Ms. Barbara Jatta (director of the Vatican Museums), Ms. Elena Grazini and Fr. Fabrizio Meroni. Together with Vatican Media and the Missionary Sisters of Divine Revelation, it was agreed to evaluate the feasibility of a proposal to make a video on EMM OCT2019 that could be shown within the Vatican Museums itinerary during the months of September, October, and November 2019. Unfortunately, for technical reasons related to Vatican Media, the idea could not be realised.

On Wednesday, January 30, 2019, in preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019, the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood promoted the song contest “Baptized and sent: singing the mission”. The aim of the contest was to involve children and young people from all dioceses, working together with youth leaders, to compose the lyrics and music of a song that would have the words “Baptized and sent” as a refrain.

At the beginning of February, we received 10,000 copies of the EMM OCT2019 Guide in five languages: 3,500 in English, 2,000 in Spanish, 2,000 in French, 1,500 in Italian, 1,000 in Portuguese.

The Cardinal Prefect Fernando Filoni personally presented the Holy Father, Pope Francis, with a paper copy of the Guide in each of the five languages. Likewise, copies were also sent to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. The first paper copies of the Guide were then distributed to the CEP and PMS Superiors and their employees. Then it was organized to send more than 8,000 Guides, in the language of each country, through the Apostolic Nunciature to each PMS National Directorate and to each Ordinary Bishop in the world. The remaining copies were distributed to all 81 national directors of Radio Maria, all the Missionary Institutes in Rome, the Societies of Apostolic Life dependent on the CEP, each Superior General member of the Council of 18 (CEP), a number of Dicasteries of the Roman Curia, the Colleges of Domus Missionalis and Domus Urbaniana as well as to the Pontifical Universities in Rome.

In the meantime, a plan was developed for how to distribute the Guides to the International Union of Superiors General (IUSG for religious women) and Union of Superiors General (USG for religious men). It was agreed to deliver them during their international assemblies held in Rome, at the IUSG (900 participants) from May 6-10, 2019 at the Ergife Hotel and then the USG (120 participants) from May 22-24, 2019 at the Casa del Divin Maestro in Ariccia.

On Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican, a meeting took place between H. E. Lorenzo Cardinal Baldisseri, Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, H. E. Mons. Fabio Fabene, Undersecretary and Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, who presented the EMM OCT2019 Guide to both. There was a discussion of possible common moments between the celebration of the Special Synod on the Amazon and EMM OCT2019. On April 25, 2019, a further meeting formalized the participation of the members present at the Special Synod on the Amazon in the celebrations of the EMM in Rome (October 1, opening Vespers and October 20, Holy Mass for World Mission Day presided over by the Holy Father, as well as on October 7, at the Mission Rosary presided over by H. E. Fernando Cardinal Filoni).

From February 14-16, 2019, the Theological Colloquium at Calcutta in India was held on the theme “Symposium on Evangelization in South Asia since *Maximum Illud*”. The symposium, sponsored by the CEP and PMS, was organized by Morning Star College, Barrackpore, Calcutta, in collaboration with St. Xavier's University of Calcutta. Twenty-six local theologians and researchers, the English-speaking PMS national directors from southern Asia (India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan), and 12 archbishops and bishops were invited, and the symposium opened with an introductory greeting from H. E. Thomas D' Souza, Archbishop of Calcutta. At the end of the symposium, many suggestions were collected for local Church initiatives to be implemented in South Asian countries in preparation for EMM OCT2019.

From February 2019 on, the rector of the Pontifical Urban University (PUU), Fr. Leonardo Sileo, consulted us on a number of occasions to identify speakers and topics for the preparation of the International Theological Conference on the *missio ad gentes* from *Maximum Illud* to *Evangelii Gaudium*, which took place at the PUU in Rome, from November 27-29, 2019.

Also starting from the month of February, there were a number of meetings aimed at promoting awareness, media outreach and collaboration in the buildup to EMM OCT2019. For example, meetings were organized with the director of *L'Osservatore Romano*, Mr. Andrea Monda; with the Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication, Mr. Paolo Ruffini; as well as with Rome representatives of international Catholic media outlets such as Aurora Vision, EWTN, Rome Reports, Aleteia, Asia News, Associazione Luci nel mondo, etc. Our news agency Fides - Omnis Terra was responsible for providing information about activities and events for missionary awareness and formation in various local Churches around the world related to EMM OCT2019, through their PMS national directorates. Contacts were also made with these directorates and the various international publishing houses so that they could collaborate in the production and publication of liturgical booklets created for the celebrations and bible readings for the month of October 2019.

On Thursday, February 28, 2019, Sr. Adriana Gazzera, a Consolata missionary, Sr. Felicitas Santiesteban, a Xavierian missionary and Sr. Elisa Kidané, a Comboni missionary, as representatives of the eight exclusively missionary male and female institutes founded in Italy, met with Fr. Fabrizio Meroni and Don Roberto Foini in order to organize the preparation of the missionary prayer Vigil of October 1, 2019. Subsequently, there were further meetings for a wider and more detailed organization of the prayer event.

During the year, there were also meetings with representatives of the International Secretariat of Communion and Liberation, the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Jesus Youth, an international movement of Indian Catholic youth, the Couples for Christ movement, and the Charismatic Catholic movement and communities. Contacts were also established with the Meeting for Friendship among Peoples Foundation, to study how EMM OCT2019 could be present during the celebration of the international event in Rimini at the end of August 2019. Specific moments of understanding and discussion on EMM OCT2019 were held with representatives of the eight exclusively missionary Italian institutes for men and women.

The International Secretariats of the four Pontifical Mission Societies together with CIAM organized missionary formation and communications courses for members of the national and diocesan PMS directorates around the world in preparation for the EMM OCT2019. Three sessions were provided, two in English (from March 4-9, 2019 with moderator Fr. Karl Wallner – PMS National Director in Austria; from April 8-13, 2019 with moderator Fr. Anthony Chantry – PMS National Director in England and Wales) and one in French (from April 1-6, 2019 with moderator Fr. Godefroid Manunga-Lukokisa – PMS National Director in the Democratic Republic of Congo) held at CIAM with an average of 30 participants—priests, religious sisters, and laity—per session.

On Thursday, March 7, 2019 Fr. Meroni met with Fr. Frederic Fornos, SJ, International Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, in order to discuss and produce the text and video presentation of the Holy Father's monthly prayer intentions for the month of October 2019, with reference to the EMM OCT2019.

On Tuesday, March 26, 2019, the Working Team met to discuss the following items:

1. production and distribution of the EMM OCT2019 Guide;
2. evaluation and collaboration on missionary formation and the website www.october2019.va for EMM OCT2019;
3. liturgical celebrations in October 2019 (Vespers of October 1, 2019 and Holy Mass on Sunday, October 20, 2019 with the Holy Father, Pope Francis);
4. the Mission Rosary at the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major on Monday October 7, 2019 at 3.00 p.m. (with Radio Maria);

5. Theological Colloquia: Lusaka (Zambia), Macao (China).

Fr. Roberto Foini from the CEP was tasked with organizing the Liturgy and Prayer for the month of October 2019.

Also in April, the Omnis Terra PMU CIAM Publications book, *Martyrs in Asia*, was published by the Urbaniana University Press (UUP) as a formation text in preparation for EMM OCT2019. The book portrays the martyrdom of Christians, both religious and lay, in a number of Asian countries (Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar) and provides theological and pastoral reflections in order to inspire the work of evangelization of the local Churches and their faithful. The Cardinal Prefect Fernando Filoni personally donated a copy of this publication to the Holy Father.

On Thursday, April 25, 2019 Archbishop Giampietro Dal Toso, Adjunct Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and President of the PMS, spoke at the General Assembly of the Episcopal Conference of Vietnam, where he went to meet pastoral agents involved with PMS missionary work, in view of EMM OCT2019.

On Tuesday, May 14, 2019, the PMS President gave a talk on the theme "Church and Mission: A Fruitful Relationship" during an academic event held at San Damaso University in Madrid, organized by the Chair of Missiology of the Faculty of Theology. The initiative was promoted by the Pontifical Mission Societies National Directorate of Spain, in preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019.

Presentations of the activities carried out up to that date, regarding the Omnis Terra PMU CIAM publications and on the updates of the website www.october2019.va took place on Thursday, May 30, 2019 during the PMS General Assembly in Sacrofano (Rome), and on Tuesday, June 4 at CIAM during the formation course for new PMS national directors. In the face-to-face meetings held with a number of national directors, the activities of each national directorate and local episcopal conference on EMM OCT2019 were discussed as well. Among the most significant examples were those regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Portugal and Venezuela, who all decided to dedicate an entire year to theme of Church's Mission.

On Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at his office in the Apostolic Palace, Msgr. Guido Marini, Master of Papal Liturgical Celebrations, met with Father Fabrizio Meroni and Don Roberto Foini, for the organization of the two liturgical celebrations presided over by the Holy Father during the month of October 2019 (missionary prayer and Vespers on the liturgical memorial of St. Teresa of Lisieux on October 1 and the Eucharistic celebration on October 20, both in the Papal Basilica of St. Peter's).

During the 41st anniversary of the Macerata-Loreto Pilgrimage (Italy, June 8- 9, 2019) prayers and reflections were held for EMM OCT2019. The CEP and the PMS were present through the greeting and prayer of Msgr. Giampietro Dal Toso, the testimony of Djaoudi Horia (Tilly) from

Algeria, about the monks of Tibhirine. Missionary mandate and the gift of a cross with the logo of EMM OCT2019 marked the end of the Marian pilgrimage.

On Friday, June 14, during a meeting with Fr. Frederic Fornos, SJ, director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, in addition to evaluating the work done so far on the video of the Holy Father's prayer intentions for the month of October 2019, there was discussion about future collaboration starting in October 2019 regarding the Mission Rosary for Peace, proposed by the Pope to Father Frederic.

At the end of June, the book *Missio Ad Gentes in the Acts of the Apostles* came out, also published by UUP, as part of the Omnis Terra PMU CIAM Publications series. The initiative aims to respond to the invitation made by Pope Francis to the PMS national directors during the audience granted them on June 1, 2018 in Rome. This text, together with the publication *Martyrs in Asia* was designed to provide further formation material to local Churches and PMS national directors around the world in preparation for EMM OCT2019.

In the meantime, numerous requests were received from dioceses and religious orders around the world to use the logo and material of the EMM OCT2019 Guide to produce local publications for pastoral formation and liturgical use for the month of October 2019. The interest in and requests for the use of the logo revealed an unanticipated, unfettered enthusiasm for missionary animation, especially since the end of May. This was generated by the great work of dissemination of the MMS OTT2019 which began on November 30, 2018 with the launch of the website and continued in early February with the sending of the Guide to all the bishops of the world.

On Monday, July 1, 2019, Archbishop Giampietro Dal Toso opened the seventy-second Spanish Missiology Week, at the Department of Theology in Burgos, dedicated this year to the theme “*Missio ad Gentes*, the Future of the Church”. The Archbishop indicated three principal events that would mark the celebration of the Missionary Month in Rome: on the 1st of October, Vespers at Saint Peter's with the Pope; on October 7, a Mission Rosary broadcast live to the world by Radio Maria from the Basilica of Saint Mary Major; on October 20, World Day of Mission, the Eucharistic celebration at Saint Peter's, again with the Pope.

From July 20-August 3, 2019, the Theology Colloquium on the theme “Proclamation, Sacrament and Christian Witness in the *Missio Ad gentes* in Africa” was held at St. Dominic's Major Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia. The colloquium was promoted by the CEP and the PMS and organized by the Zambia PMS National Directorate and the Episcopal Conference of Bishops in Zambia (ZCBC). The objective was to promote theological reflection on the universal missionary nature of the Church in Africa by bringing together 13 theologians to share theological knowledge on issues and experiences shared by the Churches in Africa. The PMS national and diocesan directors of

English-speaking Africa, professors from St. Dominic's Major Seminary, the Bishops and the Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia were invited to participate. A deeper understanding of the current challenges facing the Churches in their pastoral and evangelization work was obtained and the role of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Africa today was an issue for reflection.

From the beginning of August, people from around the world shared their personal missions on social media, through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, with the hashtags #MyMission and #EMM2019. The goal of this worldwide social media campaign was to re-ignite the missionary spirit in every baptized person and to share this spirit with others all around the world.

From August 18-24, 2019, the 40th Rimini Meeting was held on the theme “Your name was born from what you gazed upon”, with around 800,000 visitors at the events from 70 countries. The CEP and PMS were present with a space set up with posters, photos and messages on Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019.

On Monday, September 2, 2019, the PMS President was a guest on the program “Diary of Pope Francis” on TV2000, discussing the theme of *missio ad gentes* and recalling the celebration of the EMM OCT2019, celebrating the 100 years since Pope Benedict XV’s Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*.

On Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at the opening of the 20th edition of Theology Days at the Theological Institute of Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Archbishop Giampietro Dal Toso presented a paper on the theme “From *Maximum Illud* to the Extraordinary Missionary Month”. In his wide-ranging address, the Archbishop explained the background of the Extraordinary Missionary Month, from the announcement made by Pope Francis at the Angelus of World Mission Day 2017 and follow-up activities, pausing then reflect on *Maximum Illud* and the relevance of the Church's mission in the world today, and in conclusion highlighting some of the specific objectives of the Extraordinary Missionary Month.

On Wednesday, September 11, 2019, Archbishop Dal Toso sent a letter to all the PMS national directors reminding them of the main events that would take place in Rome for EMM OCT2019.

Tuesday, October 1, 2019, *Papal Basilica of Saint Peter*:

- 5:15 pm. (Italian time) Missionary Prayer Vigil

- 6:00 pm. (Italian time) Opening Vespers of EMM OCT2019 presided over by the Holy Father

Monday, October 7, 2019 *Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major*:

- 3:00 pm. (Italian time) Holy Rosary presided over by Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples

Sunday, October 20, 2019 *Papal Basilica of Saint Peter*:

- 10:00 am. (Italian time) Holy Mass for the World Day of Mission presided over by Pope Francis

The collaboration of all the PMS national directors was requested in disseminating the video with the prayer intentions of the Holy Father for the month of October 2019, an initiative produced by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network together with the PMS. The video has been available on the website www.october2019.va since October 1.

The PMS also collaborated in the organization of the 12th National Pilgrimage of Families for the Family held at the Marian Shrine in Pompeii on September 14, 2019. The Prefect of the CEP, Cardinal Filoni, presided at the Eucharistic celebration at 7:00 pm. The event, sponsored by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, was promoted by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement in collaboration with the Pontifical Prelature of Pompeii, Pontifical Mission Societies, the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI) National Office for the Pastoral Care of the Family and the Forum of Family Associations.

On Wednesday, September 18, 2019, an email was sent to the national directors with the invitation to share the news and take part in the International Theological Congress event “From *Maximum Illud* to *Evangelii Gaudium*: on the urgency of the Church's missionary transformation” held in Rome from November 27-29, 2019, organized by the Pontifical Urban University.

On Monday, September 23 Archbishop Giampietro Dal Toso, President of the Pontifical Missionary Societies, gave the main address on mission, the Church and EMM OCT2019, at the Plenary Assembly of the Canadian Bishops' Conference, which took place from September 23-27 at the Nav Centre, Cornwall, Ontario.

From September 24-25, 2019, promoted by the Episcopal Conference of PNGSI, sponsored by the PMU and organized by the PMS of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands (PNGSI), the first Missiological Symposium “Baptised and Sent: the Church of Christ on mission in PNG and in the world” was held at the Catholic Theological Institute at Bomana in Papua New Guinea. At the event, there were about 300 participants, including 1 Cardinal, 3 Archbishops, 14 Bishops, many priests (150) and sisters (40), and a great number of laity (80), seminarians (100), and senior officials of various institutions and organizations. The symposium was organized in conjunction with the three-year National Pastoral Plan dedicated to the Laity. An integral part of the symposium was a specific formation for Bishops with the aim of rekindling the spirit of the new evangelization in the Church of Papua New Guinea.

On Friday, September 27, 2019, a copy of the liturgical prayer booklet Magnificat for the month of October 2019 was received, fruit of the collaboration between the PMS International Secretariat and Magnificat. As communicated to all the PMS National Directors in March 2019, five different language editions were produced: one in French, two in Spanish (Spain and Latin America), two in English (British and US).

On Monday, September 30, 2019, in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace, a meeting took place between the Holy Father Pope Francis and the Superiors General of the eight women's and men's exclusively missionary institutes founded in Italy. There were about one hundred men and women: Comboni Missionaries, Xaverian Missionaries, Consolata Missionaries, Missionaries of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME) and Missionaries of Mary Immaculate.

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. at the Press Office of the Holy See, a "Meeting Point" with journalists took place for the opening of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 and for the launch of the video of the Pope made by the Worldwide Prayer Network in collaboration with the PMS, entitled "Missionary Springtime in the Church". Among those present were: H. E. Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Fr. Frederic Fornos, International Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, PMU Secretary General, Sister Simona Brambilla, Superior General of the Consolata Missionaries and former missionary in Mozambique and Fr Gabriel Amal Costa, Bengali PIME priest and former missionary in the Ivory Coast.

On the same day, Pope Francis presided over the celebration of Vespers in the Papal Basilica of Saint Peter, preceded by the Missionary Prayer Vigil which included missionary testimonies from all over the world, also available by live stream on the Vatican News YouTube channel and on the website www.vaticannews.va. Three missionary testimonies were heard: a catechist from Mongolia, a diocesan priest from the Central African Republic, and an Indian sister who was a Missionary of Mary Immaculate in Papua New Guinea. At the end of Vespers, nine missionaries (among whom was a family) leaving for the *missio ad gentes* received the missionary cross from the Holy Father.

On Monday, October 7 at 3:00 p.m. at the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major an international mission rosary was held, organized by the World Family of Radio Maria, in collaboration with the CEP and PMS. There were many delegates from Radio Maria around the world and more than 1,000 faithful there. The Marian prayer of the Joyful Mysteries was led by H. E. Cardinal Fernando Filoni. The rosary was recited in 6 languages: Italian, French, Spanish, English, Chinese, and Latin. Each decade of the rosary was preceded by a brief meditation read by a delegate from the Radio Maria World Family from each continent. About 10 million people in 58 countries around the world were connected to the event. For further information, a report written by Bernhard Mitterrutzner, Editorial Office Coordinator of Radio Maria World Family can be found in the Part Two of this book.

On Wednesday, October 9, in his talk at the General Assembly of the Polish Episcopal Conference in Warsaw (Poland) on the occasion of the Extraordinary Missionary Month, the PMS President focused on the support that the PMS could provide for the Church's pastoral care.

At 10:00 am on Sunday, October 20, 2019, Pope Francis celebrated Holy Mass on the occasion of the 93rd World Missionary Day in the Papal Basilica of Saint Peter. At the end of the celebration, the Holy Father personally thanked Cardinal Prefect Fernando Filoni for the great work of preparation and implementation of the EMM OCT2019, highlighting with satisfaction its effectiveness around the globe. World Missionary Day 2019 was the Extraordinary Missionary Month's principal moment of celebration. The Day saw the participation of many Bishops and members of the Special Synod on the Amazon. During this Synod, a number of participants emphasized the providential coincidence of these two ecclesial events for the mission of the Church in the Amazon.

On Friday, October 25, Archbishop Giampietro Dal Toso, PMS President, taking the floor at the National Missionary Congress of Nigeria, in Benin City (Nigeria), affirmed that the Extraordinary Missionary Month must not only be a celebration, but a point of departure, so that our churches may take greater responsibility for the missionary mandate in the daily life of the Church.

On Monday, November 4, 2019 Fides presented a dossier with all the news published by the Agency between 1-31 October 2019 on the activities organized with local churches by the PMS national directors on five continents in preparation and for the implementation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month 2019. For more information, a report from the editors of Fides News Agency can be found in the Part Two of this book.

On Tuesday, November 5, the book-length interview of Pope Francis with the Fides News journalist, Mr. Gianni Valente, entitled "Without Him We Can Do Nothing: A Conversation about Being Missionaries in Today's World" was published in Italian by Libreria Editrice Vaticana (LEV) together with the San Paolo Publishing House. The Holy Father preferred this form of communication of his personal thoughts about the mission of the Church today to other more ordinary forms of pontifical magisterium.

On Monday, November 11, 2019, the Assembly of the Episcopal Conference in Tanzania was held, with 15 PMS National Directors from English-speaking African countries also present. The PMS President spoke during the concluding celebration of Extraordinary Missionary Month 2019 in Tanzania, emphasizing that Africa is a great hope for the Church and her universal mission.

From November 27-29, 2019, the International Conference on the theme "From *Maximum Illud* to *Evangelii Gaudium*: on the urgency of the Church's missionary transformation" was held at the Pontifical Urban University, and counted with the presence of about 400 participants. Promoted and supported by the CEP, the Conference was conceived to reflect on the urgency of moving forward on the path of missionary transformation in light of the changed perception of the *missio ad gentes* itself, and to identify appropriate channels for evangelization in today's world.

On November 30, 2019, updates of the website www.october2019.va came to an end. Launched on November 30, 2018, the site was entirely dedicated to the preparation and implementation of the Extraordinary Mission Month October 2019. All the content will continue to be stored on the website of the Pontifical Mission Societies, in the PMU area. Also on the same day, a deadline was set for sending of the summary reports on the activities for EMM OCT2019 carried out by the national PMS directorates worldwide to the International Secretariat of the PMU.

From December 3-7, 2019, the Maximum Illud Macao Theological Colloquium 2019 on “Proclamation, Sacrament and Christian Witness in the *missio ad gentes* in Asia”, promoted by the CEP and PMS, was held at the Major Seminary Campus of the Catholic University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in Macao, organized by the Bishop of Macao, H.E. Stephen Lee Bun-sang and Saint Joseph University (USJ) in collaboration with the International Secretariat of the Pontifical Missionary Union. Due to the denial of entry visas, only 9 of the 12 theologians expected met with other academics from the churches of East and Southeast Asia to celebrate the centenary of the publication of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* and to initiate a process of theological reflection, based on the impetus given to the missionary nature of the Church by the Extraordinary Missionary Month in October 2019.

From January 27-February 1, 2020, the Continental Colloquium on *Missio ad Gentes* was held at the Cardinal Paul Zoungrana National Center in Ouagadougou, with the theme “*Témoigner, annoncer et célébrer la foi dans la mission d'Évangélisation en Afrique aujourd'hui*”. Fifteen professors, the PMS national directors of French-speaking Africa and 20 Bishops of the Bishops' Conference of Burkina Faso and Niger were invited to reflect on the challenges of the Church's missionary action in French-speaking Africa today.

Throughout the year 2019, the Secretary Generals and the President of the Pontifical Mission Societies were invited to events promoted for the celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019, meeting pastoral agents involved in missionary formation in various countries and participating in conferences, talks and meetings with academic institutions, seminarians, priests, male and female religious and lay people throughout the world.

We thank the PMS national directors who have informed the International Secretariats of the PMS about the activities carried out in their countries in preparation for the celebration of Extraordinary Mission Month October 2019, sending photos, videos, missionary formation material and various communications during the year.

Vatican City, February 3, 2020

Fr. Fabrizio Meroni
PMU Secretary General
CIAM and Fides Director

PART TWO

EMM OCT 2019 REPORTS

Baptized and Sent
The Church of Christ on Mission in the World

II.1

LA CELEBRAZIONE DEL MESE MISSIONARIO STRAORDINARIO NELLE CHIESE LOCALI DEI CINQUE CONTINENTI

*Report tratto dalle notizie pubblicate dall’Agenzia Fides
Organo di informazione delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie (POM)*

Il Mese Missionario Straordinario, indetto da Papa Francesco per l’ottobre 2019, volutamente non è stato celebrato con una serie di eventi “centralizzati”, disposti e programmati dalla Santa Sede, ma ha avuto eco e fattiva risonanza in tutte le Chiese locali, a tutte le latitudini, dove comunità cattoliche, associazioni, movimenti ecclesiali, parrocchie, grazie anche al lavoro locale delle direzioni nazionali delle POM, hanno promosso preghiere, liturgie, testimonianze, in modo diffuso e capillare. Proprio per dare il senso di “una scossa” – come l’ha definita Papa Francesco, durante i Vespri celebrati il 1° ottobre nella Basilica Papale di San Pietro – e di una testimonianza evangelica che prosegue, istante per istante, nella vita quotidiana dei battezzati, in tutto il mondo, il Mese non ha avuto una “celebrazione conclusiva”, dando così ai cristiani un segno e un incoraggiamento ad essere attivi discepoli missionari sempre.

“La missione è prima di tutto opera di Dio stesso ed è affidata ai discepoli che pongono Cristo al centro della loro vita. La Chiesa vive e compie la missione affidatale da Cristo. Ogni battezzato, in virtù del battesimo, è missionario. Tutti i cristiani, in quanto figli di Dio, ricevuta la grazia battesimale, sono missionari. La missionarietà, allora, non è legata alla generosità di pochi ‘inviati’ ma, come sottolinea la *Evangelii Gaudium* di Papa Francesco, tutta la Chiesa di Dio è in stato di missione. La missione è il paradigma e la forma della vita ordinaria della Chiesa e di ogni sua attività pastorale, ed è termometro della sua vitalità e fecondità”: lo ha sottolineato il Cardinale Fernando Filoni, in occasione della solenne apertura del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019, nella giornata del 1° ottobre, memoria liturgica di Santa Teresa di Gesù Bambino, Patrona universale delle missioni insieme a San Francesco Saverio. Con la solenne celebrazione dei Vespri presieduta da Papa Francesco nella Basilica Vaticana, introdotta da una veglia missionaria, si è aperto il Mese Missionario Straordinario che cadeva nel centenario della Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* di Benedetto XV.

In tutto il mondo il Mese Missionario Straordinario è stato accolto da una mobilitazione straordinaria di fedeli laici e consacrati. L’intensa animazione e formazione catechistica ha visto in moltissime nazioni la creazione di testi e sussidi liturgici e catechetici, con il coinvolgimento di tutte le fasce di età a partire dai più piccoli, per la preparazione e lo svolgimento del Mese Missionario Straordinario, occasione straordinaria per la Chiesa di rinnovare lo zelo missionario che è anche il grande scopo della Congregazione per l’Evangelizzazione dei Popoli e delle Pontificie Opere

Missionarie (POM). Come documentato dall'Agencia Fides, dall'Europa all'Africa, dall'Asia all'America, fino all'Oceania, i fedeli hanno rinnovato la loro vocazione e missione di “Battezzati e inviati”, rendendo presente “la Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo”, come recitava il tema prescelto per il Mese straordinario, che intendeva ravvivare nei cattolici la consapevolezza di essere chiamati a evangelizzare e, nel contempo, celebrava i cento anni della Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* di Benedetto XV.

Nella esposizione non esaustiva che segue, si segnalano alcune delle iniziative di rilievo, organizzate dalle Chiese locali in tutto il mondo. Per una informazione più dettagliata e completa nei diversi contesti, si rimanda al Dossier pubblicato online il 4 novembre 2019 dall'Agencia Fides “*Il Mese Missionario Straordinario nei cinque continenti*”, che riporta tutte le notizie pubblicate sulle attività proposte, in preparazione e durante lo svolgimento del Mese Missionario Straordinario.

In **Africa** numerose diocesi e comunità cattoliche in tutto il continente hanno dato rilievo al Mese Straordinario, iniziando a riconoscere il dono del Vangelo portato dagli antichi missionari. “Nessuno di noi è giunto alla fede da solo o attraverso i propri sforzi” ha detto ai fedeli della sua comunità monsignor Martin Waingue Bani, Vescovo di Doba, nel sud del Ciad, ricordando che “con il Mese Missionario Straordinario, il Papa ha voluto dare a ciascuno di noi l'opportunità di rendersi conto che la nostra fede in Gesù Cristo, manifestata nel battesimo, è innanzitutto un dono di Dio per il quale ogni giorno dobbiamo ringraziarlo”. “La fede – ha detto ai fedeli riuniti – nasce dall'ascolto della Parola di Dio e questa parola non può essere ascoltata se non c'è qualcuno che la annuncia. Ognuno di noi ha avuto nella sua vita una madre, un padre, un catechista, un prete, una suora, in breve, una testimonianza del Vangelo che lo ha portato alla conoscenza di Gesù”, elogiando in particolare “i numerosi catechisti senza i quali Gesù Cristo non sarebbe annunciato nei nostri villaggi più lontani”. Tutto questo, ha rimarcato “è reso possibile dall'azione dello Spirito Santo” che agisce nel sacramento del battesimo “e rende tutti discepoli missionari”. Il Vescovo ha ricordato che “la prima missione cattolica in Ciad, prima a Kou Doholo e poi trasferita a Doba, è stata aperta sotto il patrocinio di Santa Teresa di Gesù Bambino”, patrona delle missioni, e “questo vuole dire che la prima forma di evangelizzazione è prima di tutto la testimonianza della vita di preghiera e carità”, ha concluso.

In Africa questo annuncio del Vangelo a volte viene “trasformato in satira sociale o in pura denuncia del male”, ha rimarcato padre Donald Zagore, teologo ivoriano della Società per le Missioni Africane, a proposito delle tensioni sociali presenti nel continente. Il missionario ha rilevato “la tendenza a rinchiudersi in dinamiche che consistono principalmente nel denunciare ingiustizie, errori, violenze, senza concentrarsi sulla proclamazione della verità del Vangelo di Cristo”. “Continuiamo a porre troppa enfasi alle erbe infestanti, mettendo in disparte il seme buono, il vero, Gesù Cristo. Il

Vangelo non è prima di tutto che un linguaggio d'amore. È una chiamata all'amore”, ha detto in occasione del Mese Missionario, auspicando il rinnovamento dell'attività missionaria per renderla più feconda.

Con questo spirito in Costa d'Avorio, in occasione della Giornata Missionaria Mondiale, culmine del Mese Missionario Straordinario, si è tenuta nell'Università cattolica dell'Africa occidentale la cerimonia di consegna dei diplomi in Missiologia per 62 laici, sostenuto dalla collaborazione ormai triennale del Segretariato Internazionale della Pontificia Unione Missionaria. “Si diventa missionari vivendo come testimoni del Vangelo di Cristo, non con le parole, non con diplomi o certificati di studio, ma con la vita”, ha sottolineato padre Lucas Marabezé, incaricato d'affari ad interim della Nunziatura apostolica in Costa d'Avorio, durante la cerimonia, ricordando che “nessuno è escluso dalla missione della Chiesa: chiunque, padre o madre di famiglia, giovane, operaio, impiegato, cameriere, disoccupato, ammalato in un letto d'ospedale è missionario: il Signore chiede a tutti di essere un dono in qualunque condizione ci troviamo”.

Il Mese Missionario Straordinario appena concluso, “non è solo una celebrazione, ma deve essere un punto di partenza, perché le nostre Chiese assumano con maggiore responsabilità il mandato missionario nella vita ecclesiale quotidiana”, ha ribadito l'arcivescovo Giampietro Dal Toso, Presidente delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, intervenendo al Congresso Missionario nazionale della Nigeria, a Benin City, sul tema “La Chiesa di Cristo in missione in Nigeria”, nell'ottobre scorso.

Anche in **America** il Mese Missionario ha visto un fermento di attività di sensibilizzazione, testimonianza e preghiera, specialmente per l'impegno delle direzioni nazionali delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie. In particolare in Colombia, i fedeli hanno recitato quotidianamente la preghiera del Santo Rosario con l'intenzione del sostegno alle missioni, senza mancare di ricordare le elezioni regionali che nel mese di ottobre si sono svolte in diverse aree della nazione. Uno dei temi ricorrenti ricordava la famiglia chiamata a diventare comunità della viva trasmissione della fede “a diventare luogo di umanizzazione” di pacificazione della società.

Una miriade di iniziative locali hanno caratterizzato la celebrazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario in Perù: parrocchie, associazione di fedeli, movimenti apostolici e nuove comunità hanno organizzato attività come veglie missionarie, recita del Rosario nelle famiglie, annuncio del “*kerygma*” per le strade, le piazze e le case, con una partecipazione speciale dei giovani. L'arcidiocesi di Cusco ha centrato le sue attività pastorali sull'Anno missionario della gioventù, che ha legato l'evangelizzazione con i gruppi giovanili, mentre una speciale celebrazione eucaristica di chiusura è stata prevista nella prima domenica di novembre.

In Ecuador, nell'ambito delle attività programmate per il Mese Missionario Straordinario, il Movimento delle Religiose consacrate del Vicariato Apostolico di Esmeraldas, ha allestito una mostra

vocazionale nella Gran Manzana, parco centrale della città di Esmeraldas. L'evento è stato caratterizzato da momenti di animazione, di gioia e di preghiera, organizzati dai membri di 14 comunità religiose. Il programma prevedeva anche un tempo di adorazione del Santissimo Sacramento, in cui coinvolgere i fedeli passanti.

Non si è trattato solo di programmi di carattere spirituale: è radicata la consapevolezza che la missione tocca la sfera sociale e politica e deve guardare al mondo. Lo hanno espresso con chiarezza i vescovi dell'Honduras che, in un messaggio pubblicato per il Mese Missionario Straordinario, hanno ricordato la realtà del paese, segnata dal "flagello del narcotraffico, che ha messo fine a così tante vite e che viene sostenuto da uomini senza scrupoli". Per questo l'episcopato ha invitato i politici a porre al centro "l'etica che li fa custodi del bene comune e non dei propri interessi personali" e a "lavorare per la giustizia, la pace nel paese".

Anche in **Asia**, in luoghi e contesti dove le comunità dei fedeli cristiani sono piccole minoranze, non si è mancato di celebrare il Mese Missionario Straordinario. In Libano si è scelto di coniugare la missione con i temi del dialogo interreligioso: si è celebrata la prima "Giornata di Tripoli per la Fraternità umana" dedicata al "futuro delle relazioni islamo-cristiane dopo la missione di Papa Francesco ad Abu Dhabi", sotto l'egida del Segretariato Internazionale della Pontificia Unione Missionaria, delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie del Libano e della Custodia di Terrasanta, con numerosi altri partner e organismi civili e religiosi. Nella vicina Giordania, invece, mentre era in corso il Mese Missionario Straordinario le scuole cattoliche del Patriarcato latino di Gerusalemme hanno celebrato i 150 anni dall'inizio della loro avventura nelle terre oggi governate dal regno Hascemita. E, con l'occasione, hanno riaffermato la loro missione culturale e spirituale al servizio della popolazione locale, in gran parte costituita da fedeli musulmani. Significativo, pensando alla realtà dei cattolici sparsi in paesi a maggioranza islamica, l'approccio con cui il Patriarca caldeo Louis Raphael Sako a Baghdad ha riproposto la missione come tratto costitutivo del dinamismo con cui si comunica agli uomini la salvezza promessa da Cristo, sottolineando che tale vocazione missionaria chiama in causa anche le Chiese di tradizione apostolica presenti in Medio Oriente. Il "metodo" valido anche oggi per annunciare la gioia del Vangelo ai propri contemporanei – ha suggerito il Patriarca caldeo – è lo stesso utilizzato dall'apostolo Filippo con Natanaele, raccontato nel Vangelo secondo Giovanni, quando Filippo gli disse: "Vieni e vedi".

Perfino nelle steppe dell'Asia centrale, dove la comunità dei battezzati sono poche centinaia, la riflessione sulla vocazione missionaria ha preso piede: "Il risveglio missionario è necessario per tutta la Chiesa", ha confidato padre Andrzej Madej, degli Oblati di Maria Immacolata (OMI), Superiore della Missio sui iuris del Turkmenistan, annunciando che, proprio in occasione del Mese Missionario Straordinario, un nuovo religioso degli Oblati che ha raggiunto la piccola comunità locale

si dedicherà a imparare la lingua turkmena. Finora la Chiesa, in quella repubblica ex sovietica, ha sempre svolto la sua missione servendosi della lingua russa, “ma la gente che viene in città dalla campagna o dai piccoli paesini parla solo il turkmeno. Per questo conoscere la lingua locale aprirà una nuova epoca della missione. Ora ci sarà qualcuno che potrà entrare nella lingua e quindi nella cultura di questo popolo. Si prospetta un bel futuro per la nostra missione: qui in Turkmenistan”, ha spiegato padre Madej.

In altri paesi dell’Asia del Sud, come il Pakistan, il Mese Missionario è stato legato alla Parola di Dio: “Abbiamo incoraggiato i fedeli, in particolare i giovani, a leggere quotidianamente la Parola di Dio, almeno due o tre minuti ogni giorno, al fine di diventare più forti nella fede e di proclamarla al prossimo”, ha raccontato padre Benjamin Mushtaq, viceparroco nella chiesa di San Giacomo nell’Arcidiocesi di Karachi dove, tra le varie iniziative, è stata organizzata una mostra biblica e una rappresentazione biblica per incoraggiare e motivare i fedeli a “passare dal Vangelo alla vita e dalla vita al Vangelo”, vivendo la Parola di Dio e testimoniandola nella loro vita sociale.

Più a Oriente, in Myanmar, nel Sudest asiatico, il Mese Missionario Straordinario è stato caratterizzato da uno speciale evento che ha assunto una autentica dimensione missionaria: l’ordinazione sacerdotale di nove tra nuovi preti diocesani e religiosi nel paese. Tre gesuiti del Myanmar sono stati ordinati sacerdoti insieme a sei preti diocesani di Yangon e sono subito divenuti missionari all’interno del loro stesso paese, in zone dove si vive la conflittualità oppure ci sono situazioni di povertà e indigenza.

Nel paese che è definito il “polmone cattolico dell’Asia”, le Filippine, è stato il Cardinale Luis Antonio Tagle a ricordare l’urgenza di “pregare e sostenere la missione”. Ma questo, ha detto, “non è un compito fai-da-te ma è comunitario, per e con gli altri, soprattutto con Cristo. La missione non è solo per pochi individui ma per tutti. La missione si fa in comunità, è ecclesiale: la Chiesa tutta, con ogni battezzato, è in missione”. Partendo da questo assunto anche le comunità sull’isola filippina di Mindanao, nel Sud del paese, segnata dalla presenza di popolazioni indigene e musulmane, ha voluto riflettere sulle strade e i nuovi mezzi per l’evangelizzazione nelle Filippine celebrando, durante il Mese Missionario, un convegno pastorale sul tema “Chiesa in uscita”, cui hanno preso parte oltre 650 tra sacerdoti, religiosi, leader ecclesiali, giovani e laici.

Una delle caratteristiche peculiari della celebrazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario nel mondo è stata quella di fare breccia sui social media: nella Cina continentale, oltre alle consuete attività pastorali incentrate sul tema della missione, tra i fedeli si è registrata una costante e fervente attività di condivisione del messaggio “Battezzati e inviati” sul web, sui social media come “WeChat”, sui blog, con la possibilità di raggiungere quanti non sono cristiani. Negli scambi e nei “post” messi in rete da parrocchie, associazioni e account dei social media dedicati

all'evangelizzazione, si è rimarcato che “la missione non è un evento speciale, ma è un fatto quotidiano, e va vissuta concretamente nella vita di ogni giorno”.

In tale prospettiva, in **Oceania**, ha avuto uno speciale rilievo la campagna lanciata sui social media da Catholic Mission Australia e titolata “Qual è la tua missione?” a cui hanno risposto migliaia di persone di Europa, Americhe, Africa e Asia Pacifico, usando l'hashtag #MyMission sui social media come Facebook, Instagram, Twitter e Snapchat. “La campagna #MyMission ha posto una domanda semplice che forse siamo poco propensi ad articolare”, ha scritto Catholic Mission Australia, la Direzione australiana delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie, che ha avviato la campagna. “Quale migliore occasione per esprimere a parole qual è la nostra missione proprio durante il Mese Missionario Straordinario?”, si è notato.

L'eco è giunta fino alla Papua Nuova Guinea dove Matthew Nguyen, missionario laico Salesiano, riferendosi al contesto della Papua Nuova Guinea e delle Isole Salomone, e alle sfide dell'evangelizzazione in Oceania, ha ricordato con gratitudine tutti quei volontari laici che dedicano i loro fine settimana a tenere incontri di catechismo per i bambini di comunità remote o nuove parrocchie, condividendo i loro talenti e doni in modo molto pratico. “Questa è missione” ha insistito, ricordando il tema del Mese Missionario Straordinario “Battezzati e inviati: la Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo”. “L'amore verso Cristo e verso il prossimo spinge la missione nei nostri cuori a donarsi l'un l'altro. Preghiamo per tutti i nostri missionari, affinché possano essere benedetti e incoraggiati a continuare il loro ministero. ‘Va’ e proclama la Buona Novella’, ci dice Cristo. Tutte queste persone, religiosi e laici, mettono in pratica l'invito di Gesù”.

Infine, lo slancio missionario è stato avvertito anche nel Vecchio continente. In **Europa**, tra le iniziative promosse dalla diocesi di Roma per il Mese Missionario Straordinario, rientra l'istituzione di uno speciale Premio intitolato a don Andrea Santoro, il sacerdote Fidei Donum ucciso a Trabzon, in Turchia, il 5 febbraio 2006. La Fondazione “Missio”, in partnership con l'Ufficio per la Cooperazione missionaria della Conferenza Episcopale Italiana, hanno tenuto un forum dal titolo “La missione fa la Chiesa: battezzati e inviati per la vita nel mondo”, riunendo oltre 300 persone tra Vescovi incaricati delle Commissioni missionarie regionali, direttori dei Centri missionari diocesani con le loro équipes, rappresentanti degli Istituti Missionari e Religiosi, sacerdoti Fidei Donum, volontari internazionali e laici missionari.

In Irlanda, l'Arcivescovo di Armagh, Eamon Martin, Presidente della Conferenza Episcopale Irlandese, durante la concelebrazione eucaristica che ha presieduto il 1° ottobre, aprendo l'Assemblea generale autunnale dei Vescovi della nazione ha esortato: “È tempo di rivitalizzare i nostri geni missionari, di rinnovare i nostri cuori per la missione”. Anche i Vescovi della Svizzera hanno inviato una speciale missiva ai fedeli rinnovando “l'invio in missione nel nome di Gesù, per rispondere alla

chiamata di Dio per la vostra vita! Contiamo su di voi, Cristo conta su di voi e tutta la Chiesa è con voi per percorrere il cammino della conversione pastorale e missionaria”.

A Proseč, città della Repubblica Ceca vicino a Skutec, si è svolta una Giornata missionaria intitolata “Seguendo le orme dei Santi missionari”, dove oltre 110 piccoli e grandi missionari della diocesi di Hradec Králové e dell'arcidiocesi di Olomouc hanno vissuto una esperienza comunitaria piena di gioia, creatività e presenza di Dio. Altra iniziativa rilevante è stato, nella stessa nazione, il settimo Congresso missionario nazionale dei bambini della Pontificia Opera della Santa Infanzia.

Fervide le attività missionarie in Spagna: a livello nazionale, a settembre, un congresso missionario, organizzato dalla direzione nazionale delle POM, ha riunito a Madrid più di 380 partecipanti tra teologi, missionari e persone impegnate nell'animazione missionaria. L'autobus “Domund” (Giornata Missionaria Mondiale) ha percorso gran parte della geografia spagnola al ritmo del rap missionario “Cadena de Bondades”, di Grilex e Not From This World, che ha fatto “danzare” molte parrocchie e scuole del paese iberico. A livello diocesano, nella penisola iberica si sono tenuti oltre 300 eventi in diverse parti del Paese: circa 180 messe e incontri di preghiera missionaria, 10 mostre, 50 conferenze e tavole rotonde, 3 discorsi, 9 concerti e festival missionari, 5 marce. Varie Facoltà di Teologia con cattedre di Missiologia (Burgos, Madrid, Valencia, Santiago ecc.) hanno attivamente contribuito con simposi e giornate di studio sulla missione per ringraziare e riflettere accademicamente, interrogandosi sulle nuove sfide, di tutta la ricchezza di testimonianza e di annuncio missionario che i cristiani di Spagna da secoli vivono a servizio della *missio ad gentes* nel mondo intero. Le attività erano aperte a persone di ogni età e condizione ecclesiale, ed hanno avuto i missionari come protagonisti principali e come unico obiettivo ricordare che tutti i battezzati sono missionari.

Tutte le notizie pubblicate da Fides sulla preparazione e implementazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019, a partire dal 1° aprile 2017 fino a febbraio 2020, saranno visualizzabili e scaricabili dal sito dell'agenzia Fides www.fides.org. Si potrà andare sul banner “Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019” e da lì accedere sia all'archivio del sito www.october2019.va sia al dossier completo con tutti gli articoli sul MMS OTT2019.

Roma, 30 novembre 2019

Agenzia Fides

II.2

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH IN LOCAL CHURCHES IN THE FIVE CONTINENTS

*A report drawn up from the news items published by Fides
The news agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS)*

The Extraordinary Missionary Month called by Pope Francis for October, 2019 was intentionally not celebrated by a series of events, centralized, organized or programmed by the Holy See but echoed and resonated in all the local Churches, of all latitudes, where Catholic communities, associations, ecclesial movements and parishes, thanks also to the local work of the PMS National Directions, promoted prayers, liturgies, testimonies in a thorough, widespread way. In order to “jolt us”, as defined by Pope Francis during the Vespers celebration on 1 October in the Papal Basilica of Saint Peter, and give a sense of evangelical testimony that continues, minute by minute, in the daily life of the baptized throughout the world, the month did not have a ‘conclusive celebration’, therefore giving Christians a sign and encouragement to be active missionary disciples always.

“The mission is first and foremost the work of God himself and is entrusted to the disciples who place Christ at the center of their lives. The Church lives and carries out the mission entrusted to her by Christ. Every baptized person, by virtue of baptism, is a missionary. All Christians, as children of God, having received the baptismal grace are missionaries. The mission activity, therefore, is not linked to the generosity of a few who are ‘sent’ but, as emphasized by the *Evangelii Gaudium* of Pope Francis, all the Church of God is in a state of mission. Mission is the paradigm and the form of ordinary life of the Church and of all her pastoral activity, and is the thermometer of its vitality and fruitfulness”, says Cardinal Ferdinand Filoni, on the occasion of the solemn opening of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019. October 1 is the liturgical memorial of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus, universal Patroness of missions together with Saint Francis Xavier. On this day, having been introduced by a missionary vigil, there was a celebration of Vespers presided over by Pope Francis in the Vatican Basilica. In this way the Extraordinary Missionary Month, which falls on the centenary of the letter “*Maximum Illud*” by Benedict XV, began.

Throughout the world, the Extraordinary Missionary Month was welcomed by an extraordinary mobilization of lay and consecrated faithful. The intense animation and catechetical formation has seen the creation of texts and liturgical and catechetical subsidies in many nations, with the involvement of all age groups, starting from the youngest, for the preparation and progress of the Extraordinary Missionary Month, an extraordinary occasion for the Church to renew the missionary zeal which is also a great aim of the Congregation of the Evangelization of Peoples and of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS). As reported by Fides, from Europe to Africa, from Asia to

America, as far as Oceania, the faithful have renewed their vocation and mission of “Baptized and Sent” demonstrating “the Church of Christ on mission in the world”, like the chosen theme for the Extraordinary Missionary Month which is intended to arouse greater awareness of being called to evangelize and at the same time, celebrating the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* by Benedict XV.

Here follows a selection of some of the most important initiatives organized by local Churches throughout the world. For more detailed information, refer to a dossier published online on 4 November 2019 by Fides News Agency “*The Extraordinary Missionary Month in the five Continents*” which contains all the news published on the activities held both in preparation for and during the Extraordinary Missionary Month.

In **Africa** numerous dioceses and Catholic communities all over this continent have given importance to the Extraordinary Missionary Month, starting off by recognizing the gift of the Gospel through the first missionaries “We do not reach faith alone or through our own efforts” said Msgr Martin Waingue Bani, Bishop of Doba, in southern Chad to the faithful, remembering that “with the Extraordinary Missionary Month, the Pope wants to give each of us the opportunity to realize that our faith in Jesus Christ manifested in baptism is first and foremost a gift from God for which every day we must thank him”. “Faith - he said to the faithful gathered – comes from listening to the Word of God and this word cannot be heard unless there is someone who announces it. Each of us has had a mother, a father, a catechist, a priest, a nun in his life, in short, a testimony of the Gospel that brought him to the knowledge of Jesus”, praising in particular “the many catechists without whom Jesus Christ would not be announced in the depths of our villages”. “All this” he emphasized “is made possible by the action of the Holy Spirit” which works through the sacrament of baptism and “means being missionary disciples”. The Bishop reminded us that “the first Catholic mission in Chad, first in Kou Doholo and then transferred to Doha was opened under the patronage of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus”, Patroness of missions, and he concluded that “the first form of evangelization is first of all, the witness of the life of prayer and charity”.

In Africa announcing the Gospel is sometimes “transformed into social satire or simply into denouncement of errors” stated Father Donald Zagore, Ivorian theologian of the Society for African Missions, talking about social tensions present in the continent. The Missionary revealed “the tendency to lean towards using an approach that consists mainly of denouncing injustice, error and violence, without concentrating on announcing the truth of the Gospel of Christ”. “We continue to give too much attention to the weeds, putting in the background the good seed, the true, Jesus Christ. The Gospel is first and foremost a language of love. It is a call of love” he said on the occasion of the Missionary Month, advocating a renewal of missionary activity to render it more fruitful.

It was in this spirit that in the Ivory Coast during World Mission Day, the culmination of the Extraordinary Missionary Month, the ceremony of awarding diplomas in Missiology was held in the Catholic University of West Africa for 62 lay people. It has been supported for three years now by the Secretariat International of the Pontifical Missionary Union. “We become missionaries living as witnesses of the Gospel of Christ, not with words, not with diplomas or certificates, but with life” underlined Father Lucas Marabezé, interim charge d’affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature in the Ivory Coast. During the ceremony, Father Marabezé, reminded us that “no one is excluded from the mission of the Church: anyone, father or mother, the young, laborer, clerk, waiter, unemployed, the sick in a hospital bed is missionary. The Lord asks everyone to be a gift in whatever condition we find ourselves.”

The Extraordinary Missionary Month has just ended, it “is not only a celebration, but must be a starting point, so that our churches assume the missionary mandate ever more consciously in the day-to-day ecclesial life” emphasized Archbishop Giampietro Dal Toso, President of the Pontifical Mission Societies, speaking at the National Missionary Conference in Benin City, Nigeria, on the theme: “The Church of Christ in mission in Nigeria” in October, 2019.

Also in **America** the Missionary Month caused an increase in awareness, testimony and praying, especially regarding the commitment of the National Directions of the Pontifical Missionary Societies. In particular, in Columbia, the faithful recited the Prayer of the Holy Rosary daily, offering the intention of support for the missions, without forgetting the regional elections that took place in the month of October in many areas of the nation. One of the recurrent topics reminded that the family is called to being the community of live transmission of faith “to become a place of humanization”, of pacification of society.

A myriad of local initiatives have characterized the Extraordinary Missionary Month celebrations in Peru: parishes, associations of faithful, apostolic movements and new communities have organized activities such as missionary vigils, prayer of the Rosary in families, announcing the “*kerygma*” in the streets, squares and houses, with a special participation of the young. The Archdiocese of Cusco focused all its pastoral activities on the Year of the Missionary Youth which linked the evangelization to youth groups while a special Eucharist celebration of closure was planned for the first Sunday in November.

In Ecuador, regarding the activities organized for the Extraordinary Missionary Month, the movement of the consecrated religious of the Apostolic Vicariate of Esmeraldas prepared a vocational exhibition in the Gran Manzana, a central park in the city of Esmeraldas. The event which was characterized by moments of animation, joy and prayer, was organized by the members of 14 religious

communities. The program included a moment of worship of the Holy Sacrament involving faithful passersby.

Not only spiritual programs were involved: the knowledge that this mission touches social and political spheres and must look at the world is deeply rooted. This was clearly expressed by the Bishop of Honduras who, in a message published for the Extraordinary Missionary Month, recalled the reality of the country, marked by “the scourge of drug trafficking, which put an end to so many lives and that is supported by unscrupulous men”. For this reason, the Episcopate invited the politicians to place at the center “ethics (which) makes them custodians of the common good and not of personal interests” and to “work for justice, peace in the country”.

Also in **Asia**, in places and contexts where the communities of Christian faithful are small minorities, the Extraordinary Missionary Month was celebrated. In Lebanon, it was decided to combine the Mission with a theme of interreligious dialogue and the first “Tripoli Human Fraternity Day” dedicated to the “future of Christian-Muslim relations after Pope Francis’ mission to Abu Dhabi” was celebrated under the auspices of the Secretariat International of the Pontifical Missionary Union, the Pontifical Mission Societies in Lebanon and the custody of the Holy Land, with numerous other partners and civil and religious organizations. Instead, in nearby Jordan, while the Extraordinary Missionary Month was in progress, the Catholic Schools of the Latin Patriarch Jerusalem celebrated the 150 years from the beginning of their adventure in the lands which are today governed by the Hashemite family. On this occasion, they confirmed their cultural and spiritual mission at the service of the local population, for the greater part made up of Muslim faithful. Considering the reality of Catholics in countries of Muslim majority, the approach with which, in Baghdad, the Patriarch of the Chaldeans, Louis Raphael Sako, re-proposed the mission as a constitutive trait of the dynamism with which Christ’s promise of salvation is communicated to men, underlining that such a missionary vocation also calls into question the churches of apostolic tradition present in the Middle East. The “method”, valid even today, of announcing the joy of the Gospel to one’s contemporaries – the Chaldean Patriarch suggested – is the same used by the Apostle Philip with Nathanael, and narrated in the first chapter of the Gospel according to John, when Philip said to him “Come and see”.

Even in the steppes of central Asia, where in the community of the baptized there are only a few hundred, reflection upon the missionary vocation has begun. “The missionary awakening is positive and necessary for the whole Church” says Fr Andrzej Madej of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI), Superior of the *Missio sui iuris* of Turkmenistan, announcing that on the occasion of the Extraordinary Missionary Month, a new religious of the Oblates arrived in the small local community and would dedicate himself to learning the Turkmen language. Until now in that ex-Russian Republic, the Church has carried out their mission using Russian, “the people who come to

the city from the countryside or small towns speak only Turkmen. Knowing the local language will open a new era of mission. Now there will be someone who can enter the language and therefore the culture of this people. We have a good future ahead for our mission here in Turkmenistan” explained Fr. Madej.

In other countries in South Asia, like Pakistan, the Extraordinary Missionary Month has been linked to the Word of God: “we encouraged the faithful, especially the young people, to read the Word of God daily, at least two or three minutes a day, in order to become stronger in faith and to proclaim it to others” says Fr Benjamin Mushtaq, vice parish priest in the Church of St. James in the Archdiocese of Karachi, where among the various initiatives, a biblical exhibition and biblical representation were organized to encourage and motivate the faithful “going from gospel to life and life to gospel” living the word of God and bearing witness to it in their social lives.

Further to the East, in Myanmar, in Southeast Asia, the Extraordinary Missionary Month was characterized by a special event which took on a true missionary aspect: nine ordinations of new diocesan priests and religious in the country. Three Jesuits from Myanmar were ordained priests together with six diocesan priests in Yangon; they immediately became missionaries within their own country in areas where there is conflict or destitution and poverty.

In the country that is defined as “the Catholic heart of Asia”, the Philippines, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, reminds us of the necessity to “pray and support the mission”. However, he said that this “is not a ‘do-it-yourself’ task but one that is communal, for and with others, above all with Christ. The mission is not just for a few individuals but for all of us. The mission is in community, is ecclesial: all the Church, every baptized person is in mission”. Following this, the communities on the Philippine island of Mindanao, in the south of the country, which is marked by the presence of natives and Muslims, decided to reflect upon the new routes and ways for evangelization in the Philippines by holding a pastoral conference on the theme “The Church which goes forth” where 650 people including priests, ecclesial leaders, the young and lay people took part.

One of the characteristics particular to the celebrations of the Extraordinary Month in the world was that of a huge presence on the social media: in China, in addition to the usual pastoral activities centered on the theme of the mission, a constant, fervent activity of sharing the message: “Baptized and sent” on the web, social media sites such as ‘WeChat’ and blogs, thus reaching many non-Christians. In the posts posted on the web by parishes, associations and on social media dedicated to evangelization, it was emphasized that “the mission is not a special event, but a daily occurrence and needs to be lived in everyday life”.

In fact, in **Oceania**, special attention was given to the campaign launched by Catholic Mission Australia on the social media called ‘What’s your mission?’ “receiving thousands of responses from

people in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia-Pacific using the hash tag #MyMission on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat. “The campaign #MyMission asked a straightforward question that perhaps we are rarely inclined to articulate” said the Catholic Mission Australia, the Australian Direction of the Pontifical Missionary Societies which initiated the campaign. It asked “What better time to put into words what our mission is than during the Extraordinary Missionary Month?”

The news reached Papua New Guinea where Matthew Nguyen, a Salesian lay missionary, referring to the context of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, and to the challenges of Evangelization in Oceania, recalled with gratitude all the lay volunteers who dedicate their weekends to holding catechism meetings for children from distant communities or new parishes, sharing their talents and gifts in a very practical way. “This is mission” he insisted, recalling the theme of the Extraordinary Missionary Month: ‘Baptized and Sent: the Church of Christ on mission in the world’. “The love of Christ and of our neighbour encourages the mission in our hearts to give ourselves to each other. We pray for all our missionaries, so they can be blessed and encouraged to continue their ministry. ‘Go and tell the Good News’, Christ tells us. All these people, religious and laity, put into practice Jesus’ invitation”.

Lastly, the missionary enthusiasm has been felt in the Old Continent. In **Europe**, among the initiatives proposed by the diocese of Rome for the Extraordinary Missionary Month there is the institution of a special award named after Father Andrea Santoro, the Fidei Donum priest killed in Trabzon in Turkey on 5 February, 2006. The “Missio” foundation, in partnership with the Office for the Missionary Cooperation of the Italian Episcopal Conference held a forum entitled “Mission makes the Church: baptized and sent for a life in the world”, gathering together 300 people including appointed Bishops of the Regional Missionary Commissions, Directors of the Diocesan Missionary Centers with their teams, representatives of the Religious and Missionary Institutes, Fidei Donum priests, international volunteers and lay missionaries.

In Ireland, during the celebration of Eucharist on 1 October, when opening the Autumn General Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference, Eamon Martin, the Archbishop of Armagh, President of the Bishops Conference urged “It is time to revive our missionary genes, to renew our hearts for mission.” The Bishops of Switzerland also sent a special letter to the faithful renewing “the missionary mission in the name of Jesus, to respond to God’s call for your life. We count on you, Christ counts on you and the whole Church is with you to walk the path of pastoral and missionary conversion”.

In Proseč, a city in the Czech Republic near Skutec, a missionary day entitled “Following the footsteps of the Missionary Saints”, where more than 110 small and big missionaries from the diocese

of Hradec Kralové and the archdiocese of Olomouc lived a community experience full of joy, creativity and God's presence. In the same country, another important initiative was the 7th National Mission Congress of the Children of the Pontifical Society of Holy Childhood.

The missionary activities in Spain were fervid: at a national level, in September, a missionary congress organized by the Direction National of PMS gathered more than 380 participants, including theologians, missionaries and people involved in missionary animation. A coach "Domund" (World Mission Day) travelled the greater part of Spain to the rhythm of the missionary rap 'Cadena de Bondades' by Not From This World featuring Grilex, making many parishes and schools of Spain dance. At a diocesan level, in the Iberian peninsula, over 300 events were held in various parts of the country: around 180 masses and missionary prayer meetings were held, as were 10 exhibitions, 50 conferences and round tables, 3 speeches, 9 concerts and missionary festivals and 5 marches. Various faculties of Theology with missiology chairs (Burgos, Madrid, Valencia, Santiago etc) actively contributed through symposiums and mission study days to thank and reflect academically, questioning themselves about the new challenges, of the abundance of missionary witness and announcement that the Christians in Spain live at the service of the *missio ad gentes* in the whole world. The activities were open to all people of all ages and ecclesial conditions, had missionaries as main protagonists and had as their sole objective to remember that all the baptized are missionaries.

All the news published by Fides News Agency on the preparation and implementation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019, from 1 April 2019 to February 2020, can be viewed or downloaded from the Fides website: www.fides.org. Open the Extraordinary Missionary Month banner and from there go to both the archives of the www.october2019.va site and the complete dossier with all the articles on the EMM OCT2019.

Rome, 30 November, 2019

Fides News Agency

II.3

RELAZIONE SUL SITO DEL MMS OTT2019 WWW.OCTOBER2019.VA

I primi contatti da me avuti con Padre Fabrizio Meroni, Segretario Generale della Pontificia Unione Missionaria e Coordinatore Generale del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019, per predefinire e impostare il lavoro di coordinamento per la comunicazione riguardante il Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019 (MMS OTT2019), incentrato principalmente sulla creazione di un sito dedicato all'evento www.october2019.va, risalgono a maggio 2018.

Il lavoro per arrivare alla sua definizione è cominciato nei mesi seguenti, attraverso la lettura e l'analisi accurata di documenti inerenti alle tematiche relative al Mese Missionario Straordinario e con un lavoro di ricerca volto a focalizzare la finalità ultima del sito stesso e soprattutto le esigenze dei suoi visitatori. Individuato l'obiettivo finale di contribuire, attraverso i contenuti multimediali, a sostenere il tempo di preghiera e di riflessione sulla *missio ad gentes*, indetto dal Santo Padre in occasione del centenario della Lettera Apostolica *Maximum Illud* di Benedetto XV e di animare, promuovere e proporre il Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019 rimettendo al centro il Vangelo come "motore" dell'agire missionario, si è cercato di concretizzare quanto era stato ipotizzato a livello concettuale con la realizzazione di un progetto approvato a settembre 2018.

Il sito è stato lanciato ufficialmente il 30 novembre 2018 in occasione della prima conferenza stampa di presentazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019. Esso è nato e si è arricchito nei mesi successivi con il supporto continuativo del Dicastero per la Comunicazione che ne ha curato l'impianto tecnico.

Da quel momento si è avviato in parallelo un lavoro tecnico e contenutistico che ha portato alla costruzione del sito e all'alimentazione costante dello stesso che si è protratto fino a novembre 2019.

Le sezioni che hanno composto il sito, disponibile integralmente in italiano, inglese e spagnolo (quest'ultima lingua resa possibile grazie all'aiuto della Direzione Nazionale POM in Spagna) e parzialmente in francese, hanno sviluppato le quattro dimensioni indicate dal Papa per vivere più intensamente il cammino di preparazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019:

1. L'incontro personale con Gesù Cristo vivo nella Sua Chiesa attraverso l'Eucaristia, la Parola di Dio, la preghiera personale e comunitaria, presente in tutte le sezioni. In particolare, per quanto concerne la preghiera, dal mese di maggio 2019, si è attivata una sezione dedicata al Rosario Missionario per aiutare gli utenti del sito web a pregare, mettendo in evidenza i misteri e come si recitano. Successivamente è stata inserita una sezione "Liturgie Ottobre 2019" dove

si potevano trovare i Commenti ai testi biblici della liturgia del mese di ottobre 2019 con lo scopo di facilitare la preghiera quotidiana.

2. La testimonianza: i Santi, i martiri della missione e i confessori della fede, espressione delle Chiese sparse nel mondo intero sono confluiti nella sezione Testimoni.
3. La formazione missionaria: Scrittura, catechesi, spiritualità e teologia sono confluite nella sezione Formazione.
4. La carità missionaria ha trovato il suo spazio nella sezione Mondo.

La home page, costruita con l'ausilio di immagini molto colorate ed una grafica appositamente ideata, ha avuto lo scopo di attrarre gli utenti che nell'ultimo anno sono stati 132.634, con circa 697.399 visualizzazioni.

Nella pagina di apertura si è reso subito visibile il richiamo alla Guida del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019 in 5 lingue, raggiungibile sia dalla home page sia dalla sottosezione ad essa dedicata nella Formazione.

Nelle sezioni del sito, che è stato ideato in primis come strumento al servizio di tutto il popolo di Dio, si è cercato di raccogliere informazioni, materiali e testimonianze.

Di seguito una sintetica descrizione delle sezioni:

MMSOTT2019: essa conteneva tutte le informazioni basilari sul Mese, sulle dimensioni indicate dal Papa per viverlo, sul tema, sul logo, sulla preghiera nella diverse lingue e vi erano dei sintetici profili della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli e delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie. Questa rappresentava la pagina istituzionale dell'iniziativa.

TESTIMONI: in questa sezione si sono presentate alcune figure di venerabili, beati, santi e martiri della missione. Per ognuna di queste figure era presente una sintesi biografica con le virtù riconosciute, ed erano visualizzabili anche delle sottosezioni che contenevano le biografie dal mondo nelle varie lingue ed alcuni approfondimenti, come quello dedicato alle catechesi di Benedetto XVI o quello sui testimoni contenuti nella Guida.

La parte più significativa di questa sezione è nata grazie all'analisi delle biografie pervenute dalle Direzioni Nazionali POM dei vari Paesi che non hanno trovato spazio nella Guida. Da questo lavoro di selezione è stata generata la parte "portante" di questa sezione che ha ospitato figure anche non note al grande pubblico. L'intento è stato quello di dare spazio a vite assolutamente straordinarie nella loro ordinarietà che provenissero da più parti del mondo e potessero rappresentare una testimonianza luminosa di una vita vissuta, alcune volte anche nel segno della eroicità e del martirio, nel segno della missione.

MONDO: è stata la sezione che ci ha consentito di aprire una finestra su tutte le iniziative che si sono realizzate in tutto mondo per il mese missionario. In questa sezione la protagonista principale

è stata la testimonianza. Sacerdoti, religiosi e laici, famiglie e giovani hanno raccontato la propria esperienza di missione e questo racconto si è realizzato grazie ad articoli e alla voce dei missionari e delle missionarie nelle loro lingue originali.

L'intento principale della sezione sopra descritta è stato quello di rendere evidente il rapporto missione-mondo. Moltissime le iniziative del MMS OTT2019 che qui hanno trovato la loro collocazione. La raccolta delle iniziative è stata frutto di un lavoro di sollecitazione sia delle Direzioni Nazionali POM, così come di molte realtà ecclesiali, ma anche di una ricerca vera e propria. Esse hanno raccontato con un linguaggio semplice e diretto cosa è avvenuto nei mesi di preparazione e durante il Mese stesso. Inoltre una parte preponderante della sezione è stata quella della testimonianza vera e propria dei missionari, religiosi, consacrate o laici (tra questi ultimi anche diverse famiglie) che hanno risposto con molto slancio all'invito di raccontare la propria vocazione e dimensione di missionarietà.

FORMAZIONE: vi si trovava la Guida del Mese. Era inoltre presente una sottosezione dedicata agli approfondimenti dal mondo con contributi anche questi nelle lingue originali sul Mese Missionario ed uno spazio dedicato alle pubblicazioni con schede realizzate ad hoc su diversi volumi.

Erano presenti anche due sottosezioni dove si potevano visualizzare rispettivamente i documenti ufficiali e i materiali informativi che sono stati prodotti nelle varie lingue. Questa sezione aveva lo scopo di mettere a disposizione dei contributi utili alla conoscenza e all'approfondimento.

Menzione speciale, merita tra tutte, la sottosezione dedicata agli approfondimenti dove è stato possibile ospitare molti supporti formativi per il Mese provenienti dalle Direzioni Nazionali POM, ma anche da realtà religiose, e alcuni documenti delle diverse Conferenze Episcopali preparatori al Mese. Numerosi i sussidi realizzati per il mese di ottobre che qui erano disponibili.

Inoltre, si è voluto dedicare uno spazio apposito agli approfondimenti dei volumi della collana OMNIS TERRA nati dalla collaborazione tra PUM e CIAM: di essi sono state pubblicate delle schede che rimandavano tramite link ad alcune parti del volume, alle informazioni sugli autori, alla casa editrice ed in tre casi sono stati pubblicati i volumi integralmente: *Martyrs in Asia* e *Missio Ad Gentes in the Acts of Apostles* a cura di Meroni Fabrizio e *Church's Mission* di Colzani Gianni.

Accanto a queste che sono state le sezioni principali si è creata la sezione MULTIMEDIA suddivisa a sua volta in Video, Comunicati Stampa e Foto.

Qui trovavano spazio le foto delle missioni che ci sono pervenute, i video, tra cui il video ufficiale del Mese, una sezione dedicata ai video provenienti dalle differenti Direzioni Nazionali POM, altri che venivano da missioni nel mondo ed una sottosezione specifica pensata durante il corso dell'anno per ospitare i video e gli audio delle differenti Direzioni Nazionali POM che avevano partecipato al concorso canoro per l'infanzia "Battezzati ed Inviati". Infine vi era la parte inerente ai

comunicati stampa che è stata popolata con i comunicati giunti dalle Direzioni Nazionali POM riguardanti le attività realizzate in occasione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019.

A queste sezioni si è aggiunta, nel corso dell'anno 2019, una specifica area dedicata alle NOTIZIE. In essa sono confluite notizie di diversa natura da quelle più istituzionali a quelle più legate alle iniziative del Mese. Di esse buona parte sono state riprese dall'Agenzia Fides e rilanciate. Il rapporto con l'Agenzia Fides è stato costante durante tutto l'anno e nella home page del sito si era predisposta una finestra che si apriva sulla pagina Facebook di Fides. Questo rapporto tra il sito e i social media di Fides, in particolar modo con la pagina Facebook nelle diverse lingue, è stato scandito nell'arco dell'anno con regolarità ed un ritmo costante di aggiornamento. In occasione del lancio del sito sono stati raccolti gli indirizzi delle pagine Facebook delle Direzioni Nazionali POM e si sono attivati i diversi link con la pagina Fides che ha trasmesso anche la diretta della Conferenza stampa di lancio del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019.

Da quel momento in poi sulla pagina di Fides sono state rilanciate molte delle notizie sul Mese Missionario Straordinario, i Video apparsi sul sito delle Direzioni Nazionali POM e delle missioni, accompagnati dai diversi hashtag elaborati in base alla strategia e alla pianificazione editoriale, sviluppata con l'andamento dei preparativi e dello svolgimento del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019.

Infine nella home page si aveva un vero e proprio "rullo" delle ultime notizie ed una parte dedicata ai video, di cui una fissa inerente ai video istituzionali ed una più dinamica dove nel corso dell'anno si sono alternati contributi video di diversa natura, da quelli provenienti da esperienze missionarie a quelli di taglio giornalistico o ancora a quelli sul Mese e sulle diverse iniziative realizzate.

Dai dati ci risulta che le pagine più visualizzate sono state le home page nelle tre lingue (nel seguente ordine numerico: italiano, inglese, spagnolo), a seguire la pagina spagnola del rosario missionario 2019 e in quinta posizione la pagina di formazione italiana. Il tempo medio di lettura di una pagina è stato di 1.10 minuti. La provenienza degli utenti del sito web ha evidenziato la seguente classifica (riportiamo per comodità i primi tre posti): al primo l'Italia (28.481 utenti); al secondo posto il Messico (9.471 utenti); al terzo posto - Spagna (9.359 utenti).

Dal momento della messa online, nel novembre del 2018, il sito si è via via arricchito ed è stato costantemente aggiornato da un punto di vista contenutistico. A marzo 2019 è stata aggiunta la versione in lingua spagnola, e a seguire, nuove sezioni come quella dedicata al "Rosario Missionario" realizzato con la collaborazione delle Missionarie della Divina Rivelazione e alle "Liturgie Ottobre 2019", la sottosezione dei video del concorso canoro promosso dalla Pontificia Opera Infanzia

Missionaria e una sezione specifica dedicata alla Giornata Missionaria Mondiale dove è stato reso disponibile il Messaggio in tutte le lingue.

Fonte degli articoli è stato il materiale proveniente dalle Direzioni Nazionali delle POM, dalle congregazioni, dagli istituti religiosi, dai movimenti ecclesiali, opportunamente esortati e contattati, e dal lavoro di “ricerca” svolto periodicamente in rete, nella stampa e nei social sul tema della missione.

Fondamentale nel corso dell’anno è stata la collaborazione con gli uffici della Comunicazione delle Direzioni Nazionali delle POM nel mondo. Questo rapporto, che è nato in occasione della ricerca del materiale da pubblicare sul sito, si è poi sviluppato in modo più organico dando vita a dei contatti che si sono rivelati proficui e produttivi.

La caratteristica peculiare che emerge dal materiale raccolto e pubblicato è la capillarità del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019 che è stato declinato nelle diverse realtà, trovando spazi e forme di comunicazione e di attuazione molteplici e sempre differenti durante tutto l’anno. In particolare per il Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019 nelle diocesi del mondo sono state proposte iniziative di preghiera mirate per differenti fasce d’età, a partire dal rosario indetto in tante comunità parrocchiali, oratori, piazze, iniziative caritative per le missioni, iniziative di formazione (congressi, seminari, Theological Colloquia), iniziative artistiche (esposizioni fotografiche, iniziative musicali) e di comunicazione (campagne social sul tema della missione ad esempio o utilizzo di video formativi, catechistici e divulgativi).

I contributi si sono suddivisi in due tipologie: articoli tradotti in inglese e spagnolo, alcuni anche in francese e testi in lingua originale la cui responsabilità diretta era dell’autore stesso. Da dicembre 2018 in poi sono stati caricati in media circa 5 contributi a settimana mentre l’home page è stata aggiornata con una frequenza serrata.

Il lavoro iniziale (da settembre 2018 fino al novembre 2018) ha anche previsto un forte impegno grafico e estetico (dalla scelta delle foto in home page alla creazione di una vera e propria linea grafica). Fondamentale in questo senso le collaborazioni avviate per la realizzazione del sito così come per la sua promozione a partire da quella con il reparto fotografico dell’Osservatore Romano che ci ha consentito di poter attingere ad un bacino di foto molto ampio e benfatto che abbiamo utilizzato soprattutto nella home page, così come più in generale la consolidata e proficua collaborazione con il Dicastero per la Comunicazione, nella persona del Prefetto il Dr. Paolo Ruffini, e che si è snodata su più fronti: dal supporto tecnico per il sito già menzionato, a quello per le due conferenze stampa che sono state realizzate rispettivamente il 30 novembre 2018 (lancio del sito) ed il 1° ottobre 2019 quando è stato fatto il lancio del mese, la promozione del sito stesso attraverso una

campagna social (twitter del Santo Padre) ed ancora la diffusione delle iniziative del Mese grazie a Vatican News, Radio Vaticana e l'Osservatore Romano.

Nel corso della presentazione alla stampa fatta il 1° ottobre 2019 del MMS OTT2019 è stato anche diffuso il Video del Papa realizzato dalla Rete Mondiale di Preghiera. Il video dal titolo “Primavera missionaria nella Chiesa” con l'intenzione di preghiera per il Mese Missionario Straordinario 2019 è stato preparato in maniera congiunta dalle POM e dalla Rete Mondiale di Preghiera del Papa. Questo Video del Papa (www.thepopevideo.org) dimostra il comune impegno nel sottolineare l'importanza delle parole del Santo Padre rivolte alle POM, ossia “che l'anima della missione è la preghiera”, e alla Rete Mondiale, ossia che “il cuore della missione della Chiesa è la preghiera”.

Infine, ma non per questo meno importante, c'è stato il lavoro del “dietro le quinte” che è stato fondamentale per essere rintracciati, come sito web, nei motori di ricerca (SEO, acronimo inglese per *Search Engine Optimization* è il termine specialistico che indica questo ambito di lavoro): esso implica un utilizzo di “*best practices*” costanti nella titolazione degli articoli e contributi e soprattutto nella creazione di contenuti non visibili all'esterno ma che sono fondamentali per la ricerca in rete mediante parole chiave, dei contenuti pubblicati. Alla fine del mese di novembre 2019 i contenuti del sito www.october2019.va sono stati “congelati” per poi farli confluire nel sito ufficiale delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie.

Città del Vaticano, 2 dicembre 2019

Dott.ssa Elena Grazini
EMM OCT2019
Communication Manager

II.4

REPORT EMM OCT2019 WEBSITE WWW.OCTOBER2019.VA

The first meetings I had with Father Fabrizio Meroni, Secretary General of the Pontifical Missionary Union and Coordinator General of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 were in May 2018 and were organized to define and lay out the work of coordination regarding communication during the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019, focusing principally on the building of a site dedicated to the event: www.october2019.va.

Work on its definition started in the following months and was carried out through reading and accurately analyzing documents pertaining to the themes of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 and also through research aimed at focusing on the purpose of the site itself and, above all, the needs of its visitors. Once the final objectives of helping to support, by means of multimedia contents, the time for prayer and reflection on the *missio ad gentes*, announced by the Holy Father on the 100th anniversary of Benedict XV's Apostolic letter "*Maximum Illud*", and to propose, enliven and promote the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019, placing the Gospel at the center as the motor of missionary action, we proceeded with what had been hypothesized at a conceptual level, developing a project which was approved in September 2018.

The site was officially launched on November 30, 2018 at the first Press Conference presenting the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019. It was enhanced over the following months with the continuous support of the Dicastery for Communication which dealt with the technical side.

From then a simultaneous collaboration of technical and content work began, leading to the building and updating of the site which was extended until November 2019.

The site, available in Italian, English, Spanish (thanks to the assistance of the PMS National Direction in Spain) and partially in French, is composed of sections which have developed the four dimensions specified by the Pope to live more intensely the journey of preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019.

1. The personal encounter with Jesus Christ, alive in his Church through the Eucharist, the Word of God, personal and communal prayer, are present in all sections. In particular, concerning prayer, from the month of May 2019, a section dedicated to the Missionary Rosary has been active, to help all the website users pray, highlighting the mysteries and how to recite them. Successively a section "Liturgies, October 2019" was inserted where comments on the bible

passages of the liturgy for the month of October 2019 were found, with the aim of facilitating daily prayer.

2. Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs and the confessors of the faith, expression of the Churches around the whole world converge in the section “Witnesses”.
3. Missionary formation: Scriptures, catechism, spirituality and theology converge in the section “Formation”.
4. Missionary charity is present in the section “World”.

The Home page, built with the help of colorful pictures and specially developed graphics was aimed at attracting users, which over the past year have been 132,634, with around 697,399 visualizations.

On the opening page there was a link to the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 Guide, available in 5 languages, which could be reached from both the home page and the sub-section dedicated to it in the Formation section.

In the various sections of the site, which was thought of firstly as being at the service of the People of God, information, material and testimonies have been collected.

Here follows a concise description of the sections:

EMMOCT2019: this section contained all the basic information on the Month, on the dimensions specified by the Pope to live it to its full, on the logo and prayers in different languages. There were also concise profiles of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Mission Societies. It represented the institutional page of the initiative.

WITNESSES: this section presents some figures of venerable, blessed, saints and martyrs of the mission. For each of these figures a short biography with the recognized virtues was presented and they were also displayed in the sub-sections which contained the biographies from all the world in different languages. Also various in-depth studies were included, such as the one dedicated to the catechism of Benedict XVI or the one on the testimonies contained in the Guide.

The most significant part of this section began from the analysis of the biographies sent by the Pontifical Mission Society National Directions of the various countries that were not included in the Guide. From this selection, the central part of this section was generated, presenting figures that were not known to the general public. The intention was to give space to those lives which are absolutely extraordinary in their ordinariness from all over the world, presenting a virtuous testimony of a life lived within the mission, at times heroically or in martyrdom.

WORLD: this was the section that allowed us to talk about the initiatives that have been organized all over the world for the missionary month. In this section the main protagonists were testimonies. Priests, religious and lay people, families and the young spoke of their own mission

experience. These stories were realized thanks to articles and the voices of the missionaries in their own languages.

The main intention of the aforementioned section was that of making the relationship between the mission and the world evident. Many EMMOCT 2019 initiatives were mentioned here. Collecting together the initiatives was the result of soliciting PMS National Directions and other ecclesial realities and also doing real research. The initiatives reported in simple direct language what happened in the months of preparation and during the month itself. Also a prevalent part of the section was the true, personal testimony of the missionaries, religious, consecrated and lay (including families) who responded enthusiastically to the call to report their vocation and dimension of missionarity.

FORMATION: Here the Guide of the Month was available. A subsection dedicated to in-depth studies from all over the world with contributions on the missionary month in original languages was present, as was a space for publications with fact sheets written ad hoc on the different volumes.

There were also two sub-sections where official documents and informative material could be viewed, written in various languages. The aim of this section was to make contributions to general knowledge and in-depth studies available.

Out of all the sub-sections, the one dedicated to the in-depth studies deserves special mention. Here it was possible to publish many formation aids for the Month coming from the PMS National Directions and other religious realities, and also documents from the various preparatory Episcopal Conferences. Many aids were devised and were available here.

Also a designated space was dedicated to the in-depth study books provided by the OMNIS TERRA collection, a spin-off from the collaboration between PMS and CIAM: fact sheets have been published which, via links, connected visitors to parts of the books, information on the authors and the publishers. Three volumes were published in their entirety: *Martyrs in Asia* and *Missio Ad Gentes* in the Acts of Apostles by Fabrizio Meroni and *Church's Mission* by Gianni Colzani.

Alongside these main sections, the MULTIMEDIA section was created, which was divided into video, Press Releases and photographs.

Here we published photographs and videos sent to us, including the official video of the Month, a section dedicated to the videos from the various PMS National Directions and others that came from missions in the world. There was also a specific sub-section which was thought of during the year where all the videos and audios from the various PMS National Directions which took part in the children's singing competition "Baptized and Sent: Singing the Mission" were posted. Lastly, there was the part regarding the Press releases. Here the press releases coming from the PMS National

Directions were posted, in relation to the activities carried out in connection to the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019.

During the year 2019 a specific area dedicated to NEWS was created. Different kinds of news (from institutional to that linked to initiatives connected to the month) were grouped together. Many of these news items were taken from the Fides Agency and relaunched. The relationship with Fides Agency has been constant throughout the year, on the home page of the site there was a link to the Facebook page of Fides. This relationship between the site and Fides' social media, in particular with the Facebook page in various languages, has been regularly built upon and updated during the year. When the site was launched the Facebook addresses of the PMS National Directions were collected and various links were activated with the Fides page which transmitted live the Press Conference for the launching of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019.

From that moment onwards, many news items on the Extraordinary Missionary Month were relaunched on the Fides page, together with videos which appeared on the PMS National Directions site and the missions site as well as hashtags created on the basis of the strategy of the editorial planning developed alongside the unfolding of the preparation and the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 itself.

Lastly, the home page had a scrolling window which contained the latest news and a part dedicated to videos. One part was for institutional videos and another, which was more dynamic, where, during the year, different types of videos were uploaded, from those coming from missionary experiences to those of a journalistic take or those on the Month and the different initiatives realized.

From the data collected it was evident that the pages that were most visualized were the home pages in the three languages (in the following order: Italian, English, Spanish), then the Spanish page of the 2019 Missionary Rosary and, in fifth place, the page of formation in Italian. The average time spent reading a page was 1.10 minutes. The origins of the website users were as follows: (first three places) 1st: Italy (28,481 users); 2nd: Mexico (9,471 users); 3rd: Spain (9,359 users).

From the moment it went online in November 2018, the site was enriched and constantly updated from a contents point of view. In March 2019, the Spanish version was updated and following this, new sections such as the "Missionary Rosary" were built with the collaboration of the "Missionaries of the Divine Revelation" and the "Liturgies October 2019", the sub-section of the videos of the singing competition promoted by the Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood and a specific section dedicated to the World Mission Day where the Message was available in all languages.

The articles were taken from material coming from PMS National Directions, congregations, religious institutes and ecclesial movements which were encouraged and then contacted appropriately

and research work was carried out periodically on the web, in the Press and in the social media on the theme of the mission.

The collaboration with the PMS communication offices was fundamental throughout the year. This relationship which began when material to be published on the site was being looked for then evolved into a more systematic form, establishing contacts that were productive.

The peculiar characteristic that emerges from the material collected and published is the extensiveness of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 which has been declined into various realities and found many differing spaces and forms of communication and actualization during the year. In particular, for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019, in dioceses all over the world, prayer initiatives aimed at different age bands were proposed, starting with a rosary announced in many parish communities, oratories and squares, charity initiatives for missions, formation initiatives (congresses, seminars, Theological Colloquia), artistic initiatives (photographic displays, musical initiatives) and communication (social campaigns of the theme of the mission, for example or use of formative, catechistical and didactic videos).

The contributions were divided into three types: articles translated into English and Spanish, also some into French, and texts in their original language, where the responsibility therefore was the author's. From December 2018, an average of 5 contributions were uploaded per week, whereas the home page was updated with a more intense frequency.

The initial work (from September 2018 to November 2018) also included work on the graphics and appearance (from the choice of photos for the home page to the creation of a true graphics style). The collaboration started to build the site was fundamental as it was for the site's promotion: the photographic department of the Osservatore Romano allowed us to draw from a wide range of good photos which we have used, above all, on the home page. In the same way, and more generally, the consolidated, productive collaboration we have with the Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication, Mr Paolo Ruffini, has unraveled in many ways: from the aforementioned technical support for the site to the two Press Conferences which took place on 30 November, 2018 (site launch) and 1 October 2019 when the Month was launched. Also the promotion of the site itself through a social campaign (the Holy Father's twitter) and the diffusion of the initiatives of the Month thanks to Vatican News, Radio Vatican and the Osservatore Romano.

During the presentation of the EMMOCT2019 to the Press on 1 October 2019 we also transmitted the video of the Pope made by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. The video, entitled "A Missionary Spring in the Church", was intended for praying for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 and was prepared together with PMS and Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. This video of the Pope (www.thepopevideo.org) shows the common commitment to underlining the

importance of the word of the Holy Father in addressing the PMS that is “prayer, the soul of the mission” and to the worldwide network: “the heart of the Church’s mission is prayer”.

Last but not least, the work behind the scenes. This was essential in order to be tracked as a website on the search engines (SEO: search engine optimization: a specialist term which indicates this area of work): this requires a use of best practices, which are not visible externally but which are fundamental for web research through keywords and advertising contents. At the end of November 2019 the contents of the site: www.october2019.va were ‘frozen’ to then have them converge on the official site of the Pontifical Missionary Societies.

Vatican City, 2 December, 2019

Elena Grazini
EMMOCT2019
Communication Manager

II.5

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK REPORT THE POPE VIDEO OCTOBER 2019 - Missionary spring in the Church.

Partnership with the Pontifical Mission Societies

“The Pope Video - Missionary spring in the Church” was released on Tuesday, October 1st at 11:30 AM in Rome (GMT +2) during a Meeting Point organized by the Pontifical Mission Societies in Vatican City as the official opening of the *Extraordinary Missionary Month*.

This video has a total of 1,154,513 views in our networks. Total views include: Our own and partners social media accounts.

Own: TPV YouTube, Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.

Partners & others: Fides Agency, Pontifical Mission Societies, Vatican News, Aleteia, Rome Reports, Pontifex & Franciscus. (YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Weibo & WeChat).

We have observed that the total views are lower compared to the last months, due to some supposed reasons:

1. It coincided with the Amazonia Synod, and there was an extreme online coverage and attention to that topic.
 2. The cost of the CPV (Click per view) increased from 0,002 to 0,003.
 3. The official Pope accounts, Franciscus and Pontifex, registered fewer views than previous months.
- January - Young People and the Example of Mary: **1,992,966**
 - February - Human Trafficking: **2,312,819**
 - March - Recognition of the Rights of Christian Communities: **1,495,698**
 - April - Doctors and their collaborators in War-Torn Areas: **1,301,534**
 - May - The Church in Africa, a seed of unity: **1,400,869**
 - June - The Priests' Way of Life: **1,435,201**
 - July - Integrity of justice: **4,208,221**
 - August - Families, schools of human development: **2,080,516**
 - September - Protecting the oceans: **2,191,781**
 - October - Missionary spring in the Church: **1,154,513**

Currently, and since its launching in 2016, The Pope Video has a total of about **56,039,608 views** with a reach of **112,399,166**.

1. Views

Total views on “The Pope Video - Missionary spring in the Church” video: **1,154,513** (All: Own and Partners’ sources)

Organic Views: 989,430

Paid views: 165,083

CPV: 0,003 € Total Views of own and partner’s social media pages (in the period corresponding to the month of each video intention)

Performance by language

The graphic reflects data from own and partners sources only by the period corresponding to the month of each video intention.

Total views on Pope Francis official accounts:

Twitter (Pontifex): **303,885** views in 8 languages.

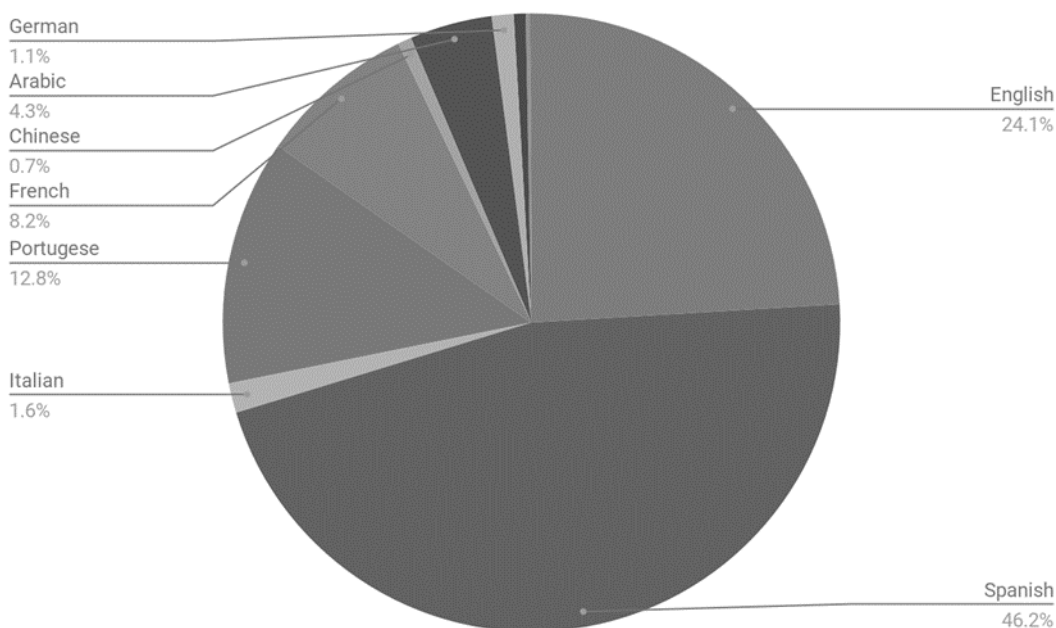
Instagram (Franciscus): **177,359** views - only English

This graphic represents the general performance since the beginning of the year:

2. Social Media

Facebook is the largest network with **266,648** likes, followed by YouTube with **40,526** subscribers, **Twitter** with **10,390** followers, and **Instagram** with **7,605** followers.

Community by language:

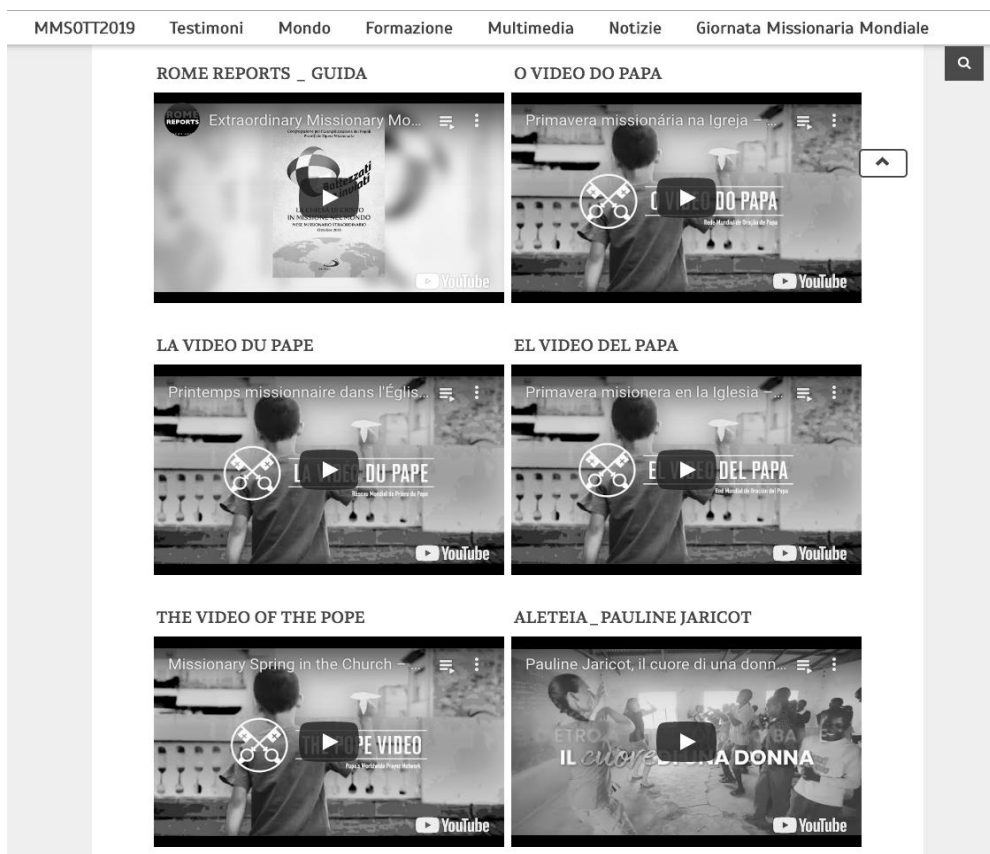


Total of community divided by language and percentage of growth during the last month:

English: 78,230	→ +0,20%
Spanish: 150,311	→ +0,36%
Italian: 5,051	→ +2,56%
Portuguese: 5,051	→ +0,26%
French: 26,710	→ +0,26 %
Chinese: 2,349	→ +0,95%
Arabic: 14,029	→ -0,32%
German: 3,733	→ +1,11%
Dutch: 2,027.	→ +1,35%
Vietnamese: 712	→ +14.29%
Polish: 107	→ +4,90%
Swahili: 84	→ +2,44%
Kinyarwanda: 61	→ +7,02%

3. Partnership

The Pontifical Mission Societies launched a special website for the Extraordinary Missionary Month, which hosted The Pope Video in different languages. Also, they shared all the videos and posts on their social media accounts, considering the fact that on Facebook the official account has been blocked from Oct 1st to Oct 15th.



Below, some posts from different Pontifical Mission Societies offices around the world:

 **Pontifical Mission Societies Philippines**
 October 2 at 1:00 AM · 🌐 · 📍

EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

Pope Francis has convoked an Extraordinary Missionary Month to remind us that we live in a permanent state of mission.

Every baptized person is a mission. A Mission that doesn't consist in proselytism, but in offering Christian salvation while respecting each person's freedom.... See More



YOUTUBE.COM
Missionary Spring in the Church – The Pope Video 10 – October 2019

 **OPM France**
 @OPMFrance

En automne, les @OPMFrance prient avec le Pape pour un nouveau printemps missionnaire dans l'Église!
 youtu.be/jrBeTH1dr1s #espritmissionnaire #MME2019 #EMM2019 #moismissionnaireextraordinaire

Traducir Tweet



Printemps missionnaire dans l'Église - Vidéo du Pape 10 - Octobre 2019
 #MissionaryOctober Le Pape François a appelé à un Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire pour nous rappeler que nous vivons en état permanent de ...
 youtube.com

 **Agenzia Fides**
 October 17 at 12:23 PM · 🌐

https://www.facebook.com/ilvideodelpapa/videos/438174866820452/?brand_redir=983035741748288



1,914 Views

Il Vídeo del Papa (IT, VA, SM)
 Published by Mac Rc [?] · October 1 · 🌐 Like Page

Papa Francesco ha convocato un Mese Missionario Straordinario con cui vuole ricordarci che viviamo in uno stato permanente di missione.

Ogni battezzato e ogni b...
 See More

See Translation

 **OBRAS MISIONALES PONTIFICIAS**
 October 1 · 🌐

"Este Mes Misionero Extraordinario, recemos para que el Espíritu Santo suscite una nueva primavera misionera para todos los bautizados y enviados por la Iglesia de Cristo", Papa Francisco 🙏
 #MesMisioneroExtraordinario #MissionaryOctober



YOUTUBE.COM
Primavera misionera en la Iglesia – El Video del Papa 10 – Octubre 2019

👍👍 You and 60 others 2 Comments 88 Shares

Like Comment Share

Fr. Frederic Fornos SJ
 International Director
 POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK

II.6

ATTIVITÀ SVOLTE DALLA FAMIGLIA MONDIALE DI RADIO MARIA PER LA PREPARAZIONE E L'IMPLEMENTAZIONE DEL MMS OTT2019

In occasione degli incontri continentali di Radio Maria, svoltisi a febbraio e a marzo 2019, ad ogni direttore è stata consegnata la guida ufficiale dell'Ottobre2019. Ad ognuno di loro, inoltre, è stato inviato il contatto del direttore nazionale delle POM con lo scopo di concordare insieme programmi di sensibilizzazione e formazione, così da valutare la possibilità di trasmettere eventi specifici, organizzati dalla Chiesa locale, sul territorio. In tante radio in tutti i continenti sono state organizzate delle trasmissioni di formazione sulla spiritualità missionaria e sulla vita missionaria dei Santi.

Lunedì 7 ottobre 2019 alle ore 15.00 si è svolto, presso la Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore, un rosario internazionale organizzato dalla Famiglia Mondiale di Radio Maria, in collaborazione con la Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli e delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie (POM).

Presenti all'incontro, oltre al direttivo di World Family of Radio Maria ed i rappresentanti del Dicastero e delle POM, molte delegazioni delle Radio Maria nel mondo, giunte a Roma da tutti i continenti. Nutrita anche la partecipazione dei fedeli, arrivati da ogni parte d'Italia, riempiendo la Basilica per pregare insieme. Le stime parlano di circa 1.000-1.200 fedeli. A guidare la preghiera dei misteri gaudiosi S. Em. Card. Fernando Filoni, Prefetto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli. Il rosario internazionale si è svolto in 6 lingue: italiano, francese, spagnolo, inglese, cinese e latino. Ogni decina del Rosario è stata preceduta da una breve meditazione letta da un delegato di Radio Maria per ogni continente. I misteri sono stati accompagnati da canti del coro del Santuario dell'Amore Misericordioso di Colleva. Successivamente alle litanie (recitate in latino) ed ai ringraziamenti da parte del Card. Filoni, quest'ultimo ha reso omaggio all'icona della Salus Populi Romani con un dono floreale. Tutti i delegati delle Radio Maria hanno preso parte a questa processione, sino alla cappella dove è presente l'icona tanto cara a Papa Francesco. Una processione simbolica così da accogliere l'invito della Vergine Maria di annunciare il Vangelo nel mondo, in piena armonia con lo slogan scelto per il Mese Missionario: *“Battezzati ed Inviati – La Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo”*. L'evento è stato trasmesso da Radio Maria in audio e video. Sono stati collegati circa 10 milioni di persone in 58 paesi del mondo.

Venerdì, 18 ottobre 2019, 68 radio in 53 paesi si sono collegati all'iniziativa *“Un milione di bambini pregano il Rosario”* promosso dalla fondazione pontificia *“Aiuto alla Chiesa che soffre – ACS”*. Ogni Radio ha organizzato nel suo paese, o nel suo bacino, un S. Rosario recitato dai bambini

per i bambini. Scuole, asili, istituti, parrocchie oppure semplicemente dalle cappelle negli studi di Radio Maria. Tutto trasmesso in lingua locale.

Erba, 12 novembre 2019

Bernhard Mitterrutzner
Editorial Office Coordinator
Radio Maria World Family

Paesi collegati il 7 di ottobre:

ALBANIA	ECUADOR
AUSTRIA	EL SALVADOR
BIELORUSSIA	GUATEMALA
BOSNIA ERZEGOVINA	MESSICO
CROAZIA	NICARAGUA
FRANCIA	PANAMA
GERMANIA	PARAGUAY
UNGHERIA	PERU
IRLANDA	USA
ITALIA	VENEZUELA
KOSOVO	ANGOLA
LETTONIA	BURUNDI
LITUANIA	REP DEM DEL CONGO
MALTA	COSTA D'AVORIO
ROMANIA	KENYA
RUSSIA	LESOTHO
SERBIA	MADAGASCAR
SLOVACCHIA	MALAWI
SPAGNA	MOZAMBICO
SVIZZERA	REP. DEL CONGO
PAESI BASSI	RUANDA
UCRAINA	SIERRA LEONE
ARGENTINA	TANZANIA
BOLIVIA	TOGO
BRASILE	UGANDA
CILE	IRAQ
COLOMBIA	FILIPPINE
COSTA RICA	RADIO MARIAM
REP. DOMINICANA	PAPUA NUOVA GUINEA

Paesi collegati il 18 di ottobre:

ARMENIA	AUSTRIA
BELGIO	BOSNIA ERZEGOVINA
CROAZIA	FRANCIA
GERMANIA	IRLANDA
ITALIA	ITALIA SUD TIROLO
ROMANIA	SERBIA (Hungarian)
SLOVACCHIA	SLOVACCHIA (Hungarian)
SPAGNA	UCRAINA
ARGENTINA	BOLIVIA
CILE	COSTA RICA
REP. DOMINICANA	ECUADOR
EL SALVADOR	GUATEMALA
MESSICO	NICARAGUA
PANAMA	PARAGUAY
PERU	URUGUAY
USA (Spanish)	USA Friends (Italian)
VENEZUELA	BURUNDI
CAMERUN	REP.DEM CONGO
GUINEA EQUATORIALE	COSTA D'AVORIO
KENYA	LIBERIA
LESOTHO	MADAGASCAR
MALAWI	MOZAMBICO
REPUBBLICA DEL CONGO	RUANDA
SIERRA LEONE	TANZANIA (Dar es Salaam)
TANZANIA (Bukoba)	TOGO
UGANDA	ZAMBIA
IRAQ	MACAO
RADIO MARIAM	

II.7

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE WORLD FAMILY OF RADIO MARIA FOR THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMM OCT2019

On the occasion of the Continental Meetings of Radio Maria in February and March 2019, each Director was given the official guide of October 2019. They also received the contact of their PMS National Director with the aim of planning programs to raise awareness and provide formation, therefore evaluating the possibility of broadcasting specific events organized by the local Churches on the territory. In all continents, on many radio stations, broadcasts of formation on missionary spirituality and the missionary life of saints were made.

On Monday, 7 October, 2019, in the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major, an International Rosary was organized by the World Family of Radio Maria, in collaboration with the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS).

In addition to the Board of the World Family of Radio Maria and the representatives of the Dicastery and PMS, many delegations of Radio Maria who had come to Rome from every continent were also present at this meeting. The participation of the faithful was substantial, travelling from all over Italy to fill the Basilica to pray together; an estimated 1,000 - 1,200 people were present. The prayer of the Joyful Mysteries was led by His Eminence, Cardinal Ferdinand Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The International Rosary was prayed in six languages: Italian, French, Spanish, English, Chinese and Latin. Every decade of the Rosary was preceded by a short Meditation read by delegates of Radio Maria, one from each continent. The Mysteries were accompanied by chants sung by the Sanctuary of Merciful Love Choir of Collevaleza. Following the litany (recited in Latin), Cardinal Filoni expressed his thanks and paid homage to the icon of the Salus Populi Romani with an offering of flowers. All delegates from Radio Maria took part in the procession to the chapel where the icon, which is particularly dear to Pope Francis, is situated: a symbolic procession to embrace the Virgin Mary's invitation to announce the Gospel to the world, in full accordance with the slogan chosen for the missionary month: "*Baptized and sent: the Church of Christ on Mission in the world*". The event was broadcast by Radio Maria in both radio and video format. Approximately 10 million people in 58 countries followed.

On Friday, 18 October, 2019, 68 radio stations in 53 countries were tuned into the initiative '*One Million Children Praying the Rosary*' which was promoted by the Pontifical foundation 'Aid to the Church in Need - ACN'. In their country or broadcast range, every radio station organized a Holy

Rosary prayed by children, for children. In schools, nurseries, institutes, parishes or simply in chapels in the Radio Maria studios. Every Rosary was broadcast in the local language.

Erba, 12 November 2019

Bernhard Mitterrutzner
Editorial Office Coordinator
Radio Maria World Family

Countries tuned in on 7 October

ALBANIA	ECUADOR
AUSTRIA	EL SALVADOR
BELARUS	GUATEMALA
BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA	MEXICO
CROATIA	NICARAGUA
FRANCE	PANAMA
GERMANY	PARAGUAY
HUNGARY	PERU
IRELAND	USA
ITALY	VENEZUELA
KOSOVO	ANGOLA
LATVIA	BURUNDI
LITHUANIA	DEM. REP. CONGO
MALTA	IVORY COAST
ROMANIA	KENYA
RUSSIA	LESOTHO
SERBIA	MADAGASCAR
SLOVAKIA	MALAWI
SPAIN	MOZAMBIQUE
SWITZERLAND	REPUBLIC OF CONGO
THE NETHERLANDS	RWANDA
UKRAINE	SIERRA LEONE
ARGENTINA	TANZANIA
BOLIVIA	TOGO
BRASIL	UGANDA
CHILE	IRAQ
COLOMBIA	PHILIPPINES
COSTA RICA	RADIO MARIAM
DOMINICAN REP.	PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Countries tuned in on 18 October

ARMENIA
BELGIUM
CROATIA
GERMANY
ITALY
ROMANIA
SLOVAKIA
SPAIN
ARGENTINA
CHILE
DOMINICAN REP.
EL SALVADOR
MEXICO
PANAMA
PERU
USA (Spanish)
VENEZUELA
CAMEROO
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
KENYA
LESOTHO
MALAWI
REPUBLIC OF CONGO
SIERRA LEONE
TANZANIA (Bukoba)
UGANDA
IRAQ
RADIO MARIAM

AUSTRIA
BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA
FRANCE
IRELAND
ITALY SOUTH TIROL
SERBIA (Hungarian)
SLOVAKIA (Hungarian)
UKRAINE
BOLIVIA
COSTA RICA
ECUADOR
GUATEMALA
NICARAGUA
PARAGUAY
URUGUAY
USA Friends (Italian)
BURUNDI
DEM. REP. CONGO
IVORY COAST
LIBERIA
MADAGASCAR
MOZAMBIQUE
RWANDA
TANZANIA (Dar es Salaam)
TOGO
ZAMBIA
MACAU

II.8

ASSESSMENT OF MAGNIFICAT'S WORK FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

October 2019 - Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World

Following the decision of Pope Francis to make the month of October 2019 an extraordinary missionary month, MAGNIFICAT was happy to highlight the missionary dimension of baptismal life to the many readers it reaches.

At the request of Pontifical Mission Societies' (PMS) President and International Secretariats, MAGNIFICAT has enriched his monthly October 2019 issue, with a focus on mission, "in order to nourish the ardor of the evangelizing activity of the Church *ad gentes*...". (Pope Francis).

This would not have been possible without the support of the PMS.

1. CONTENT

Thanks to the editorial support of the PMS, the editorial teams of the American, French and Spanish editions have conceived this MAGNIFICAT as a support for prayer and missionary life, simple and practical, to be lived in daily life:

- a broad introduction to this Extraordinary Missionary Month, rich in papal documents, accompanied by articles from His Excellency Archbishop Giampietro Dal Toso, President of the Pontifical Mission Societies, and Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, General Secretary of the Pontifical Mission Societies, which explained the particularities of this extraordinary month;
- Monthly and daily columns with a special missionary focus: a daily text linking the Gospel of the day to the mission, and the daily presentation of a missionary saint or witness of the faith as well as suggested actions linked to his/her charism.
- Prayer intentions specifically oriented toward the mission were also proposed each day in the morning prayer.

2. DISTRIBUTION

Thanks to the financial support of the PMS, MAGNIFICAT was able to offer this issue at a very low price, and to promote and distribute it to dioceses and parishes, in order to contribute to their pastoral dynamics. It helped Catholics live the call to mission in their communities.

Benefiting from the MAGNIFICAT network throughout the world, we have distributed more than 600,000 copies of this special issue in three languages: French, English and Spanish. This is an estimated outreach of 1.8 million readers! Similarly, on the digital continent, more than 250,000

people have been reached through our digital tools. This special issue was distributed in more than 100 different countries.

I am deeply grateful to the Pontifical Mission Societies for their confidence and their support.

Romain Lizé
President of MAGNIFICAT

PART THREE

THEOLOGICAL COLLOQUIA

In Europe, various theological congresses have been carried out at a national level, organized by the PMS National Directions in collaboration with academic institutions and local Institutes of Missiology. In the Americas, as well as some theological conferences on the mission, organized by the PMS National Directors, the preparation and celebration of the 5th American Missionary Congress (CAM 5) which took place in Bolivia in Santa Cruz de la Sierra from 10 to 14 July 2018, represented a complex work of missionary awareness, in preparation for the MMS OTT2019.

In Europa a livello nazionale si sono svolti vari congressi teologici sulla missione organizzati dalle Direzioni Nazionali POM in collaborazione con istituzioni accademiche e istituti di missiologia locali. Nelle Americhe, oltre ad alcuni convegni teologici sulla missione, organizzati da Direttori Nazionali POM, la preparazione e la celebrazione del V Congresso Americano Missionario (CAM 5) tenutosi in Bolivia a Santa Cruz de la Sierra dal 10 al 14 luglio 2018, ha rappresentato un complesso lavoro di sensibilizzazione missionaria, in preparazione al MMS OTT2019.

III.1

14 – 16 FEBRUARY 2019

INDIA

EMM OCT 2019

BAPTISED AND SENT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MISSION IN THE WORLD

“Symposium on Evangelization in South Asia since *Maximum Illud*”

Morning Star College, Barrackpore, Kolkata, India

Having celebrated its golden jubilee in November 2018, the Morning Star College, Kolkata, India, launched on another “golden event”, i.e., a theological symposium on “Evangelization in South Asia since *Maximum Illud*”, on 14-16 February 2019. The symposium was promoted by the Pontifical Mission Societies and the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples as part of that “reflection”, which every baptised is called upon to undertake in view of the forthcoming Extraordinary Missionary Month, October 2019.

Within the general theme: “Baptised and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World”, a more focused symposium on ‘Evangelization in South Asia since *Maximum Illud*’ was organized by Morning Star College in collaboration with St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata (SXUK).

It saw 120 participants, including **26 experts** in different disciplines of thought, namely theology, education, medical care, social scientists, legal experts, social activities, twelve archbishops and bishops and veteran missionaries from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. The challenge to both the resource persons and the participants was how to actualize the Christian Vocation to communicate Christ and his message with passion and compassion in the midst of various challenges in South Asia. The purpose of the symposium being to take stock of the evangelisation in South Asia so far, especially since the Apostolic letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV, and to reflect together on the future course of action. The one thing common to all South Asian countries is that Christians are a minority in them. Moreover, in almost all the countries spreading the Word of God is a real challenge. However, surprisingly, the discussions did not concentrate on the persecutions the Church is facing, rather on the positive “actions” carried on by the “disciples”. There was a general realisation that evangelisation is possible, especially through the concrete living of the Beatitudes.

In his welcome address, Archbishop Thomas D’Souza of Kolkata emphasized the need to awaken the Christian Community to their duty to participate in the Evangelization. Dr Elias Frank, who was instrumental to have this symposium in Kolkata through Fr. Santhanam, rector of Morning Star Regional Seminary, explained the promulgation and scope of the Extraordinary Missionary Month – EMM OCT2019. He stressed that prayer, reflection and action are the three “mantras” on which the forthcoming ecclesial event rocks.

Prof. Dr. Felix Wilfred, the Founder-Director of Asian Centre for Cross-Cultural Studies, Chennai, Former President of the Faculty of Arts, and Chairman of the School of Philosophy and Religious Thought, University of Madras, India. He was also the Head of the Department of Christian Studies. Dr. Wilfred is the President of the International Theological Review Concillium published in seven European language editions (English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, German and Croatian). He has been a member of the Vatican International Theological Commission with Cardinal Ratzinger as Chairman. He was visiting professor in several International Universities, including the University of Frankfurt, University of Munster, University of Nijmegen, Boston College, Ateneo De Manila University, and Fudan University, China. On deputation by the Government of India, he served as ICCR Professor at Trinity College, Dublin. He has served also as a member of the Statutory Ethical Committee of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Chennai. He is a recipient of three gold medals for academic excellence, and several other awards. He is presently Editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Asian Christianity (IJAC), published by Brill.

In his key-note address noted that the Church's work of evangelization needs to focus on the poor as the recipient of the Good News and to build bridges among the followers of various religions. He stressed on the need for developing a new mission method that acts in cooperation with the people of goodwill across religious boundaries to contribute to the transformation of the society and the wellbeing of the world in accordance with the Kingdom values of Jesus Christ, the Saviour, rather than building barriers and walls of separation.

Dr. John Romus, Secured Masters in Theology from JDV, Pune, Masters in Philosophy from Madurai-Kamaraj University, and two Doctorates in Theology from Radbound University Nijmegen, Netherlands. He was former Professor and Dean of Theology at Morning Star College, Barrackpore. He was visiting professor of Philosophy in the PG Department of Interreligious Relations at Madurai-Kamaraj, Tamil Nadu (1997 – 2002) and visiting professor of Inter-Cultural Theology at Serampore University College, Kolkata (2007 – 2016). He was a National Consultation Team Member of the CBCI Commission for Justice, Peace & Development (2007 – 2010) and Commission for Dialogue & Ecumenism (2006 – 2012); and a Managing Committee Member of the Indian Journal of Theology (2000-2016). He was a Theological Censor of the Diocesan Enquiry for the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of St Teresa of Kolkata. Currently he is Joint-Editor of revising & updating the theology resource book, *The Christian Faith*. He presents research papers to journals on matters of religion, philosophy, social issues and culture.

As the coordinator of this symposium, he presented a paper on the reception of the magisterial documents on Evangelization since *Maximum Illud* by Pope Benedict XV in 1919. The Church in its evangelizing mission lives in solidarity with the concerns of the world community.

Dr. Leonard Fernando SJ, is the Rector of St Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli, India. For 10 years (2001-2007; 2013-2017) he was the Principal of Vidyajyoti College of Theology, Delhi. He has been a Professor of Church History and Systematic Theology at Vidyajyoti, Delhi and other Colleges in India and in Europe. He did his Master's at Gregorian University, Rome and doctorate studies at Leopold-Franzens University, Innsbruck, Austria. He was the editor of Indian Church History Review (1999-2008), editor of Vidyajyoti Journal of Theological Reflection (2010-2016) and since 2012 General Editor of History of Christianity in India, a series published by the Church History Association of India of which he is the President since 2017.

He explained the history of evangelization in South-Asia from the first century onwards and observed that it was not a history of preaching but a saga of transformation of the lives of the peoples.

Dr. Vimal Tirimanne, CSsR, teaches moral theology at the Pontifical Accademia Alfonsiana Rome, the Pontificio Collegio di San Beda, Rome and at the National Seminary, Kandy, Sri Lanka. From 1997 to 2012, he was the theological representative of the Sri Lankan Bishops at the Office of Theological Concerns (OTC) of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), and from 2002 to 2012 he served two terms as the Executive Secretary of the OTC. He has delivered papers at various theological conferences and seminars on all the five continents. He was the Regional Superior of the Redemptorists in Sri Lanka for three successive terms from 1996 to 2005, and also the President of the Conference of Major Religious Superiors (CMRS) of Sri Lanka from 1999 to 2003.

He highlighted that the evangelization or missions need to be understood today in a broad and comprehensive sense compared to the narrow sense of making converts or bringing back the 'fallen away' to the Catholic Church". It is recognizing the salvific value of other religions and the action of Holy Spirit in them as we approach them with the good news of salvation.

Prof. Dr. Jacob Parappally MSFS, holds a doctorate in Theology from the University of Freiburg, Germany and was awarded Professorship by Vatican in 2000. He was teaching systematic theology at Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth (JDV) Pune for 14 years where he served as the dean of the Faculty of Theology. He is a visiting professor of many theological faculties in India and Freiburg and Erfurt. He was the rector of Tejas Vidya Peetha, Institute of Mission-Oriented and Contextual Theology, Bangalore and was the President of the Indian Theological Association (2005-2011). He is the chief-editor of the Journal of Indian Theology.

He highlighted the contribution of the missionaries both foreign and Indian to the development of culture through literature, developing systematically various languages with grammar and literary master pieces on art and architecture. This approach was the most unthreatening way of evangelization.

Dr. Sagaya John Anthony Jesu, is the Director of NBCLC (National Biblical, Catechetical & Liturgical Center), Bangalore, India. He studied theology at St. Paul's Seminary, Trichy, Tamil Nadu; Licentiate Degree specialized in Pastoral Catechetics at Institute Catholique de Paris, France, and Doctorate in Ministries (D.Min.) Specialized in Cross Cultural Perspective (Interreligious), at Catholic Theological Union (CTU), Chicago. He had been Parish Priest in Palliamkotai diocese, Director of Jubilee Pastoral Center, Secretary of Christian Life Commission, Vocation promoter & Rector of St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Chancellor of the Diocese of Palayamkottai, Region Secretary of Commission for Vocation, Clergy, Religious & formation of the Tamil Nadu Latin Bishops' Conference (TNLBC) as well as offered parish pastoral services at Ste. Marie de Batignolles, Archdiocese of Paris and St. Christopher Parish, Archdiocese of Chicago.

He highlighted the 'mystery of incarnation model' and 'the early Christian model' of inculturation for evangelization and emphasised inculturation should not be limited to some adaptations in liturgy. It should be at the grass-root level by the inclusion of vernacular languages, Tribal & Dalit cultures and interreligious concepts. In his paper, 'The Cost of Discipleship - Revisiting 'Kandhamal Witness'

Bishop Sarat Chandra Nayak born on 1 July, 1957, of late Gobardhan Nayak and Janifulo Nayak, village Kerubadi. He had his schooling at Kerubadi, Mondasoro and Surada, College at Phulbani and at Kolkata, Minor Seminary at Barasat, Major Seminary at Morning Star College, Barrackpore, MCL at Bangalore and Doctorate in Urbaniana University, Rome. He worked as a priest in the Archdiocese of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar from 1990-2006, as Assistant Parish Priest, Parish Priest, Dean, Vocation Promoter, Spiritual Director, Director of Language Course, Visiting Professor of Canon Law, Chancellor, Defender of the Marriage Bond and the Judge in the Regional Ecclesiastical Marriage Tribunal. He is the Bishop of Berhampur since 30th January 2007; he is Member of the CBCI Advisory Committee on Canonical Matters, Chairman of the CBCI Commission for SCs & BCs since 2018 and currently the Chairman of the Regional Commissions for Liturgy, SC& STs and the Laity.

He emphasised the self-giving of Khandamal martyrs for the faith as a powerful witness to the Gospel in a pluralistic society.

On 15th February morning sessions began with the paper of **Dr. Pudota Rayappa John SJ**, the Principal of Vidyajyoti College, Delhi, on Evangelization and Inter-faith Dialogue.

He holds Doctorate in Historical-Dogmatic Theology from Leopold – Franzens University, Innsbruck, Austria. He was the Director of Kala Darshini an institute of evangelization and culture in Vijayawada. He produced dance-dramas "Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya" (Retelling the Story of Jesus in a multi-religious Indian Context and "Bhakta Paulu" (Retelling the Story of St. Paul in Indian

Context. Currently, he works as the Principal of Vidyajyoti, College of Theology and teaches Systematic Theology. He is the Visiting Professor of Vijnananilayam, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh, St. John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad and Arul Kadal, Chennai.

He pointed out that interfaith dialogue is difficult and challenging. Church calls us to be 'reconciled evangelizer' who proclaims the scandal of the cross and the risen Lord. He emphasised that evangelization and inter-faith dialogue are not opposed but they mutually support and nourish each other.

Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto joined the Archdiocese of Delhi in June 1977 and after completing his theological studies at Vidyajyoti College of Theology in Delhi, was ordained a Priest on the 8th of February 1981. He holds a doctorate in Ecumenical Theology from Rome. He was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi on 11 March 2001. In April 2007 he was appointed Bishop of Jalandhar. In 2013, having been appointed Archbishop of Delhi, on 20th January 2013 he took canonical possession of it. He teaches Ecumenism at Vidyajyoti College of Theology in Delhi.

He shared how important it is to have unity among the Church in ecumenism for evangelization. The unity of the Church is not for itself but for the unity of the whole of humankind. **Sr. Dr. Josephine Arokia Martina SJC**, is President of Sister Doctors Forum of India, Tamil Nadu Region. She belongs to the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny. She obtained MBBS from St. John's Medical College, Bangalore; MSOG from Rajeev Gandhi University Health Sciences, Bangalore; M.Med in Family Medicine from CMC Vellore under MGR University, Tamil Nadu. Currently she works at Arockia Matha Nilayam, a rural hospital in Salem Dt., Tamil Nadu. Her special area of interest is Maternal and Child Health Care. She visits schools, colleges and villages to give awareness programme especially on sex education, facts of life and cancer awareness programme in schools and villages.

She explained the uniqueness of Catholic medical care as holistic in the sense that it is not only physical healing but also spiritual and ethical. It is taking care of all aspects of life as Jesus did. In this sense it is a powerful means of evangelization.

Mrs Charlotte Simpson-Veigas, the Vice Principal of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. She has a Masters in Economics, Masters in Education, M.Phil. in Education: B.Ed. and PhD in Education from Calcutta University. She is a Gold medallist. She was awarded the Loreto Gold Medal for All Round Excellence. She also received a Gold medal from Loreto College for topping Calcutta University in her graduation. She also stood first in both M.A. Part I as well as in M.A Part II Examination from Calcutta University. Dr. Charlotte Simpson Veigas also held the First position in the B.Ed Examinations at the Calcutta University Teachers' Training. As a research scholar Dr. Charlotte Simpson-Veigas successfully completed the Research and Training Programme (RTP) at

the prestigious Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta for which she received a most coveted Scholarship in Social Sciences. She has conducted several workshops and seminars as a motivational speaker. She has attended International as well as National level seminars and has regularly been invited as a resource person for various educational programs and has presented several papers at various seminars and workshops besides writing prolifically on educational issues. She is credited with several National and State level academic awards. She is also the State Co-ordinator of AICUF, West Bengal. She conducts sessions on Leadership and Personality Development.

She highlighted the impact of catholic education on the students through a scientific research on this and emphasised the evangelising mission of the Church through Catholic education.

The theme 'Evangelization and Subaltern Movements' dealt with the issues the Dalit, Tribal and Women. **Dr. Louis Montfort Prakash SJ** is a Researcher, Writer, Facilitator of Development Organisations, Consultant to Bilateral and Multi-lateral funding agencies, Consultant to Regional and National Governments on Development and Governance. He was a consultant to the following commissions of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India: Justice and Peace Commission, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission, Women's Commission, Youth Commission, Caritas India and Labour Commission. He was the Director of Indian Social Institute (ISI), New Delhi, a national research and action institute of the Jesuits of South Asia and also he was the Regional Director of Jesuit Refugee Service.

He highlighted that the Dalit received a new identity by becoming Christians and it regained their dignity as humans. They are both the evangelized and are evangelizers.

Dr. Sudhir Kujur SJ belongs to the Jesuit Province of Ranchi, Jharkhand. After the completion of the normal religious formation and secular University studies (B. A. Hons), he pursued his theological studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome and obtained a Licentiate in theology (STL) in 1988, and a doctorate in Sacred Theology in 1992. Since 1992, he was engaged in the ecclesial ministry as professor, formator, animator and spiritual guide at St. Albert's Regional Seminary, Ranchi. Since 2010, he was actively involved in the interreligious dialogue as the Co-ordinator of the Dialogue Commission of the Province.

He explained how the work of evangelisation among the tribals through securing their human rights and legal rights especially in Central India created new identity for them and eventually they become evangelizers.

Dr. Shalini Mulackal PBVM, is a Presentation Sister, teaching systematic theology at Vidyajyoti College of Theology, a Jesuit faculty of Theology at Delhi since 1999. She is also a visiting professor to a number of other Seminaries and theological institutes in India. After completing her Masters in Theology from Vidyajyoti, she did her Doctoral studies in the University of Madras and

did her research on Religio-cultural practices of Dalit women especially Catholic women of Tiruvallur Dist., Tamil Nadu. Currently she is an active member of the Indian Theological Association (ITA) and has served the Association as Vice-President and also as its first woman President. She is also a member of the Indian Women Theologians Forum (IWTF), Ecclesia of Women of Asia (EWA) and served as coordinator of both. She is the chairperson of Centre for Dalit Studies (CDS) Delhi. She is actively involved in the Conference of Religious of India (CRI) and has served as the President of CRI, Delhi Unit. She is a member of the Indian Christian Women's Movement (ICWM) as well. She recounted the victimization of women among all section of the society. In the Church their great work of evangelization needs to be recognized, confirmed and encouraged, she emphasized.

In the panel discussion that was held on 15th evening the representatives of the laity, **Mr. S.A. Stanislaus Devotta** from Sri Lanka, **Mr. Chito Francis Rebeiro** from Bangladesh and **Mr. Eugene Gonsalves** from India narrated various missionary activities the lay people are engaged in. The lay people individually, collectively and in collaboration with priests, religious and bishops in their respective countries.

Mr. Sigmaringen Anthony Stanislaus Devotta, is a Graduate in Production Engineering and Electrical Engineering from National Institute of Business Management. He held the job of Workshop Manager of Philips Company in Sri Lanka (1965-1986); he was Information Officer of the Embassy of Japan (1988-2004), again Information Officer of the Canadian High Commission (2005-2007), Project Assistant [I.O.M. 2008-2010] in Australia, France, Switzerland, Singapore & India (2008 - 2010). He was Assistant Projects Coordinator to the Hon. Minister of Education (2015-2017). In 1978, he joined the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement in Sri Lanka and selected to the National Service Team. He pioneered the Renewal in the Tamil Stream and represented it in various conferences overseas. In particular, he has contributed towards the post conflict reconciliation process, relief efforts to those affected, assisted in the process of tracing missing persons. He is a regular contributor to the Catholic and secular press.

Mr. Chitto Francis Rebeiro born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, is blessed with his Spouse Puspa Gloria Rebeiro. He obtained B.A. Hons and M.A. Sociology from Dhaka University; in addition, he also obtained a Diploma in Social Leadership from London University and another diploma in Business Administration from Germany. He belongs to the Bangladesh Civil Service (B.C.S.) First Batch; He held the post of Shadhin Bangla Chatro Sangram Porishad Central Member-1971, Participated in Hoisting Revolutionary Flag on 2nd March 1971, and with the Student Leaders he held the job of Organizer of the War of Liberation (BLF) as Freedom Fighter. He is an accomplished journalist and editor: editor & Publisher of the Weekly Shikha Anirban since 1979, Founder Editor

of the Weekly Christabdo, Joint Editor of the Daily Desh Bangla; Column Writer in Several Dailies & Catholic Weekly Protibeshi; He has the honour of being the Executive Member of the International Federation of Catholic Periodicals for three Terms; Executive Member of SACPA and BACPA (1972-2001); General Secretary of the Bangladesh Chapter: ACRP Asian Conference of Religions for Peace.

Mr. Eugene Gonsalves, graduated in Commerce (B.Com) and holds P.G. Diploma in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management (DIRPM), M.Com. (Finance and Cost & Management Accounting), M.B.A. (Marketing and Personnel). Presently he has the job of "Chief Executive Officer" of EVEC Group of Companies having interest in Plywood, Pharmaceuticals. As an active lay Catholic in the Church, Eugene has been (1) Member of the Parish Council and Parish Finance Committee for several terms during the last 24 years, (2) Coordinator of the Laity Commission, Archdiocese of Calcutta, (3) Regional Secretary of the West Bengal Region Laity Commission and (4) Core Group Member of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan & Synod.

The third day of the Symposium on 16th February had three Panel Discussions. The first Panel Discussion was on Dialogue with three major faith-communities in South-Asia in the context of evangelization.

Dr. M.D. Thomas MST, presently is founder director of the Institute of Harmony, Delhi, which engages with research and social interaction on religion, religions and social harmony. 'Inclusive thinking and harmonious living' is his esteemed motto in life. He has by now lectured at nearly 100 universities and colleges, some 50 Christian institutes, some 500 academic conferences and over 1000 interfaith gatherings and civil meetings in India and overseas, making a total of over 1800 by now. He was Founder Director of 'Samanvay Institute of Religion and Culture' for 5 years in Ujjain, National Secretary of the Commission for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Dialogue of CBCI, New Delhi, and Editor of multi-faith journal 'Fellowship', for 9 years.

He discussed the need to engage in dialogue with the adherents of Hindu religion. However, dialogue should not be limited to Brahminic groups and Sanskrit traditions, but it should be with all sections of the Hindu society and it should involve all sections of the Christian community.

Bishop Bejoy D'Cruze is the Bishop of Sylhet, Bangladesh. He had his graduation (I.A. and B.A.) at Notre Dame College; had his Major Seminary studies in 1979 - 1985 and ordained Priest in 1987. He had his Licentiate in Dogmatic Theology at Gregorian University, Rome. He obtained his Doctorate in Theology from Gregorian University (1996-1999). He was appointed Superior of the Scholasticate in 2001 and Superior of the Oblate Delegation of Bangladesh (2001-2005). He was ordained Bishop on 6 May 2005 and served the diocese of Khulna; later in 2011 he was appointed the first Bishop of Sylhet. Responsibility at Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB):

(1) Chairman of Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity & Interreligious Dialogue, (2) Chairman of Doctrine of Faith.

He stressed the need for training Christians for entering into dialogue with their Muslim brothers and sisters. By witnessing to Christian faith through friendly relations at the local level as well as communicating Christian values through schools and colleges. In dialogue with Islam we realize that there are a lot of converging beliefs that can unite us. The Church as a sign of unity implies that dialogue with Islam is an imperative.

Mr. Marshal Fernando is attached to the Ecumenical Institute of Study and Dialogue (EISD) in Sri Lanka since 1986 and serves as its Director since 1993. He graduated from the University of Ceylon with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and obtained a MA in Economics, MA in International Relations and a MA in Buddhism. He served as the Chairman of the Student Christian Movement of Sri Lanka and held many positions in the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF). Initially he served as an Area Secretary for the Asian region, and later elected as the Chairperson of the Asia Regional Committee. He was elected Chairperson of the WSCF (world body) from 1990 – 1995. These engagements provided wide experience in theological and interfaith dialogue work.

He discussed the need to enter into dialogue with Buddhists in spite of the experience of tensions between Christians and Buddhists in Sri Lanka.

The second Panel Discussion was on Indigenous Christian Movements. **Abbot Jerome Naduvathaniyil OSB**, is a monk of the Asirvanam Benedictine Monastery, in the Archdiocese of Bangalore, India. Fr. Jerome was born at Pervoor, Kerala. At the age 15, he entered Asirvanam Benedictine Monastery. He did his Pre-University Course at Madras University, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Mysore University and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Asirvanam Benedictine Monastery. His thesis was "Concepts of God and Man in the Sacred Scripture of Hindus." He also earned his Bachelor's degree in Theology from Saint Thomas Benedictine Abbey in Kottayam. He was ordained to the priesthood on 23 November 2005.

He served his Monastery in various capacities, Financial Administrator and Development Officer of Asirvanam Benedictine Society, Assistant Principal at Saint Benedict's High School, Assistant Parish Priest at St. Benedict parish, as Secretary to the Benedictine Inter-Religious Dialogue (BID) for India and Sri Lanka. He also had served as pastor in many churches and institutions in the U.S.A while at the same time studying for a Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry and Counselling at St. John's Abbey and University. In 2015, Fr. Jerome was elected as the Major Superior (Abbot) of Asirvanam Benedictine Monastery and all its daughters' houses in India for eight years. He is the Founder of Benedictine Group of Institutions and Academy in Bangalore. Very recently he is elected

as the President of Indo-Sri Lankan Benedictine Federation (ISBF). As Benedictine, his primary pastoral concern is bringing people closer to God through the meaningful celebration of liturgy.

He discussed the development of Ashram movement in India and showed how this way of living and witnessing to Christ is attuned to the contemplative spiritual traditions of India.

Dr. Jerome Sylvester IMS is Director of Gyan Bharati Theologate at Christ Nagar, Varanasi. He had his graduation at Allahabad University, Masters and Licentiate in Theology at Catholic University of Leuven and M.Phil & Ph.D in Christian Studies at Madras University, Chennai. He is specialized in Contextual theology and teaches Contextual Research Methodology in Theology known as Synopticon Method in several theological colleges. He was President of the Local CRI (Catholic Religious of India), Executive member of Catholic Council of India; he also has been twice Executive member of the Indian Theologians Association (ITA). He has contributed much to the recent Statement of ITA on the Theology of Family and Marriage as member of the Drafting Committee.

He presented using documentary on the Khristbhaktas of Varanasi as a new way of accepting and proclaiming Christ and his message. He explained how the seekers become devotees of Christ and the devotees become followers and followers become members of the Church.

Fr. T.V. George SDB narrated the adventurous missionary attempts of the Capuchins to reach Tibet and Nepal and plant the Church in these regions in the past centuries and the evangelization work of the Jesuits in the latter half of the 20th century. At present there is a diocese and a number of religious congregations of women and men are involved in the work of evangelization, mainly through social commitment.

In the third Panel Discussion on Mission Advocacy **Mr Leo Jalais** presented how the caring for the differently-abled people is not a social work but a mysticism in action to transform their lives as it is being witnessed at Asha Niketan, Kolkata.

He born in 1945 in France, came as a volunteer to Bihar, India, in 1967 with a lay organization Freres des Hommes (Brothers to All Men) to join the efforts of a Gandhian organization to help the Dalit population in Gaya District of Bihar. After four years, when he planned to return to France, he was asked by Freres des Hommes to be in Calcutta and to join with Government agencies and other NGOs to help the refugees coming from East Pakistan. In a refugee camp, he met the one who became his wife. She was also a French national giving volunteer service to a group of slum dwellers. Fr. Francois Laborde was their inspiration; who taught them, "The Poor at the service of the Poorest." As disciples of Jesus, both of them had a desire to follow a simple life style. They remained volunteers and joined Seva Sangh Samiti, a voluntary organization, founded by Fr. Francis Laborde in Howrah. They are blessed with three children, born and brought up in Kolkata. They have now four

grandchildren. In 1973, Jean Vanier, the Founder of L'Arche, with the help of the late Cardinal L.T. Picachy, SJ, Archbishop of Calcutta, opened Asha Niketan in Kolkata, a place for mentally and differently-abled persons. Their family became very close to the members of this community. In 1992, he was asked to be the community leader of Asha Niketan and he continues this post to date. While his wife and he have retired and no more live in the community but remain close to its members. He keeps giving some services in the second organization founded by Father Laborde: Howrah South Point.

Sr Christin Mary ICM of the Missionary Sisters of Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM) is a social activist functioning from Mumbai. She has B.Sc., MSW and LLB to equip herself for this specific form of ministry. Her social ministry includes Involvement with Slow learners in UP (2001-2002); Field supervision for Non Formal Education in Bihar (2002 -2003). With National Domestic Worker Movement (NDWM) she has been involved from 2006 till date; currently she is the National Coordinator of this NGO organization spread over 16 States in the country. Appropriate skill needed for her social advocacy are building rapport with women and children, Monitoring, Organizing, Report writing, Public Relation, Proposal writing, political analyses, coordination, lobbying, etc.

Her service contribution to NDWM include (1) Programme Coordinator of Child Right Activities in NDWM- 2006-2008; (2) State coordination of the activities of Maharashtra branch of NDWM 2008 onwards; (3) Planning Execution of Trainings, Social Security Schemes, Lobbying, Networking; (4) National level lobbying and advocacy for the rights of women and children in domestic work; (5) Public Relation; (6) Proposal writing ; (7) Communication to the Donors, Mobilizing funds; (8) Documentation ; and (9) Representing NDWM in the National and International Forum.

She explained how the struggles of the domestic workers and the advocacy for their human rights in 16 States of India in collaboration with other religious congregations in fact comes from the demand of Jesus to his disciples. It is done with judicial and media advocacy as well as by net-working with other organizations which work of the same cause.

Dr. Lalit Premal Tirkey SJ is an academic as well as social activist. This January 2019, he has been appointed Principal of St. Xavier's College, Rajganj, W. Bengal. He obtained Masters in Natural Resource Management (MNRM) from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada and in 2013 received PhD in Development Studies from National Institute of Technology, Silchar, Assam, with thesis, "Livelihood (In) Security of Tea plantation Workers of North Bengal." His professional experiences are: Director of Self-Financing Deptts of St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling & Asst. Professor in the Deptts of Mass Communication, Business Administration and Environmental

Studies, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling 2007-2013); Director of Human Life Development & Research Centre, Matigara, Dist. Darjeeling (2013-2018).

He presented the Church's advocacy on eradicating human trafficking that reduces human into objects of exploitation. Human trafficking affects about 40 million people in India. The Church's commitment to evangelization needs to seek to prevent human trafficking as well as care for the rescue and rehabilitation of the victims of human trafficking.

In the concluding session of the Symposium, Dr. John Romus, the Convenor of the Symposium, requested the participants to suggest concrete suggestions for new evangelization in the South-Asia and the participants responded with various important suggestions which will be included in the book to be published containing the symposium deliberations, the scholarly research papers presented during the symposium along with the narratives presented here by eminent missionaries and experts from various fields. The co-ordinator, Fr. John Romus promised that the book would be ready by September 2019.

As immediate initiatives to prepare ourselves for the Extraordinary Mission Month October 2019 (EMM Oct 2019) the following were suggested by the participants:

- a) each diocese in South Asian countries must initiate activities at the diocesan and parish level to foster an increased awareness of the mission among the faithful through prayer and reflections;
- b) to become credible witnesses through one's real life by shunning parochialism and dishonesty in dealing with the available resources of the Church etc.;
- c) initiate collaboration with people of other religions to fight for justice for the oppressed and constant dialogue with other religions;
- d) use of internet to reach out to the people of all faiths;
- e) initiate Small Christian communities at every parish level and strengthen the already existing ones to make them immediate bearers of the Gospel to their Hindu or Muslim brethren etc.
- f) to revisit the documents of the Church on Mission at various levels in the parish to foster an awareness of the necessity of missionary activities of every Baptised;
- g) cultivating an ardent missionary spirit among the formees to priesthood and religious life by integrating a missionary oriented vision throughout their formation etc.

This was followed by a brief narration of the situation of the Church in Bhutan by **Mr Sudeep**, a convert and later a Catechist from Bhutan.

The symposium was concluded with Archbishop Thomas D'Souza appreciating the work of the organizers, especially John Romus, the co-ordinator, Fr J.A. Santhanam, the secretary and the Rector of Morning Star College, Fr Elias Frank who initiated the process of conducting this

symposium and helped to actualize it, thanked the staff and students of Morning Star college for their hard-work for the successful completion of the symposium. Fr. Elias Frank and Fr. Santhanam also thanked profoundly Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, PMU Secretary General, CIAM and FIDES Director and Coordinator General EMM OCT2019 and the Congregation for the Evangelisation of the Peoples & Pontifical Mission Societies without whose support and generosity this symposium would not have attained its logical conclusion and the successful completion of the symposium. The research papers presented at the symposium would be published as a resource book on Evangelization in South Asia.

Kolkata, 27 February 2019

Fr. J. A. Santhanam
Rector
Morning Star College

III.2

29 JULY – 3 AUGUST 2019

ZAMBIA

EMM OCT 2019

BAPTISED AND SENT
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MISSION IN THE WORLD
Theological Colloquium Zambia EMM OCT 2019
“Proclamation, Sacrament and Christian Witness in the *Missio Ad gentes* in Africa”

St. Dominic’s Major Seminary Lusaka, Zambia

1. Description of the Content dealt with during the Execution of the Project.

The Theological Colloquium is a formation theological initiative sponsored by the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) International Secretariat and the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples (CEP) under the coordination of the Pontifical Missionary Union (PMU) International Secretariat in view of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019, called for by Pope Francis.

As part of the celebration of the EMM OCT 2019, the Pontifical Mission Societies organized a Theological Colloquium in Zambia, for the English Speaking Africa, to enable theologian scholars in the continent to participate in the celebration, by way of offering theological reflections. The Theological Colloquium successfully took place from 29th July to 3rd August 2019.

THE GOAL OF COLLOQUIUM: To help the Church in Africa to prepare and implement the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019.

OBJECTIVE OF COLLOQUIUM: To Foster Theological Reflection on the Universal Missionary Nature of the Church in Africa by having Scholars come together to share theological knowledge on issues and experiences that are shared by the Church in Africa.

As a starting point, after making known to the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) the PMS’s intention to hold a Theological Colloquium at St. Dominic’s Major Seminary, a preparatory Team was formed with the following members; Fr. Edwin Mulandu, PMS National Director-Zambia; Fr. Brian Chibuluma, St. Dominics’ seminary formator; Fr. Charles Mwila, St. Dominic Seminary formator; Fr. Gabriel Mapulanga and Sr. Shanetta Musonda, Secretary.

Thirteen Theologians were identified, through the PMS National Directors, from the English speaking African Countries to present papers in line with the general Theme: Proclamation, Sacrament, and Christian Witness in the *Missio Ad gentes* in Africa.

2. Evaluation of the Results that came as an outcome of the Project.

Generally the Theological Colloquium received a positive evaluation from the participants. Twelve participants presented their papers successfully while one participant from Zambia did not manage to make a presentation.

Quality of Papers.

From the general outlook, some papers were very good while others needed some improvements. As a result researchers were given up to the end of September to work on their papers taking into consideration the feedback they received during the Presentation Sessions.

3. List of Participants, their Professionalism, Titles, Qualifications and Area of Origin.

REV. FR. DR. FRANCIS APPIAH KUBI - GHANA

The Vocation, Ministry and Mission of Priests and Religious Men and Women in Church Mission in Africa

The researcher opined that, in the course of history and as the Church evolves and moves within this 21st century of her existence, she is confronted with multifaceted challenges that push her to determine, define and strategize her missionary axiology in this rapid changing world. At the same time, there is demand for a critical reflection on the church and her missionary activities. The researcher suggests that, in this light the church has to consider its place, identity and function, in response to these ever-challenging issues of her evangelisation mission in the world. The researcher opines that, the whole Church is called to greater and constant apostolic commitment which is both personal and communitarian, renewed and generous. In this perspective, the author observes, Priests and Religious men and women must be ever more ready to recognize and appreciate the urgency and the importance of their call and to hasten their preparations, with renewed apostolic spirit.

Biography:

Senior Lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, is the former Head of the Department of the Religious Studies Department at the Faculty of Social Science in the KNUST. He is a Ghanaian Theologian specialized in Ecclesiology and in African Traditional Religions. He holds PhD degree from Institute Catholique de Paris (2005) with specialization in Ecclesiology, and Catholic University, Leuven (PhD in Systematic Theology, 2005) and Master's degree in Theology from Faculties Catholique de Kinshasa, in Congo (1995). He was a formator and lecturer of Systematic Theology in St Peter's Major Seminary, Cape Coast from 2005-2011

He is also a visiting lecturer to the St. Gregory the Great Major seminary, Kumasi and Ecumenical Institute Al Mowafaqa, Rabat, Morocco. He is the Acting Chairman of the Governing Council of the Spiritan University College, Ejisu Kumasi, Ghana; and the Board Chairman of Procurement at KNUST. He served as the President of the *National Union of Ghana Catholic Diocesan Priests' Associations* (NUGDPA) from 2011 to 2019; He was the first President of Regional Union of Priests of West Africa, RUPWA/URPAO. He is also a Parish Priest for Kwamo St. Anthony Catholic Church since 2010; and a member of *Comitheol*, a theological Committee at the service of African Bishops, SECAM.

PROF. ANTHONY A. AKINWALE, O.P - NIGERIA

Mutuality in Mission

The researcher raises the following questions; would local Churches and societies in the global north receive missionaries from Africa just as Africans received missionaries from the global north in times past? Has Africa got anything to offer to Europe and North America when it comes to the missionary enterprise? If she does offer, would her contribution be considered worthy of acceptance? Can Africa and the global north mutually send and receive missionaries to each other?

The researcher contends that, his intention is not just to offer a positive response to the questions but, even more importantly, to explain the nature and theological basis of mutuality in mission as flowing out of the ecclesiology of communion (*koinonia*) of the Second Vatican Council. This ecclesiology of communion is summed up in the first article of *Lumen Gentium* when the Council says: “The Church in Christ is in that nature of a sacrament, that is, sign and instrument of communion with God and of unity among human beings.” The paper attempts to show that mutuality in mission takes place when the one who is sent and the one who receives both hear the word together, and bear a common witness to the word received through the celebration of the sacraments together, and through their concretization of the love of God in the world.

Biography:

Born in Lagos, on June 10, 1962, Fr Akinwale studied Philosophy at the Major Seminary of Ss Peter and Paul, Ibadan, Nigeria, and Theology at the *Faculté de Théologie Catholique de Kinshasa* (now *Université Catholique de Kinshasa*). He holds masters and licentiate degrees in Theology from the *Collège Universitaire des Dominicains* in Ottawa, Canada, and a doctorate in Theology from Boston College.

Father Akinwale was Professor of Systematic Theology at the Dominican Institute, Ibadan, where he also served as Dean of Studies, and later as President of the same Institute. He also teaches

at the Institut Saint Thomas d'Aquin in Yamoussoukro in Cote d'Ivoire. His areas of specialization are the writings of Thomas Aquinas and contemporary issues in religion and society.

A past President of the Catholic Theological Association of Nigeria, a consultant to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria, he has recently founded with some of his colleagues the Patristic Association of Nigeria (PATRAN) at the Dominican University.

He was Chairman of the Project Implementation Committee of the then proposed Dominican University. The Dominican University was licenced by the federal government of Nigeria on November 2, 2016. Fr Akinwale was appointed pioneer Vice Chancellor of the University in August 2017.

REV. DR. GEORGE BULEYA – MALAWI

Social Media and the Mission of the Church in Africa

The researcher observes that, many organizations have risen up to the new platform of Social Media and are now very efficient in their use of social media to further their message and mission. Since the mission of the Church, is essentially to reach out to people with the redemption of Jesus Christ, the researcher asks the following question, does Social Media, provide a platform for the Church to reach out to people? The researcher argues that, this question is pertinent for Africa where the Church is relatively young and where, in spite of resource challenges, new technologies are opening new doors for communication.

In the context of the extraordinary missionary month of October 2019, among other objectives, the research paper seeks to draw implications and recommendations for carrying out the mission of the Church in Africa in this age of social media.

Biography:

Rev. Dr. George Buleya took up the position of vice Chancellor of the Catholic University of Malawi in 2015. A moral theology trained by the Alphonsian Academy of the Lateran University in Rome; he is a distinguished scholar in the field of Catholic Ethics in Malawi. He has vast experience teaching in the areas of Fundamental Christian Ethics, including Climate Justice, Bioethics, Social Ethics and Social Teaching of the Church. From 200 up to 2008, he trained over 100 would be priests in Malawi. From 2008 to 2014, he served as Secretary General in the Secretariat of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Malawi known as the Episcopal Conference of Malawi. Rev. Dr. George is the only Moral Theologian in Malawi recognized by the Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church, an international cross – cultural conference for Catholic Theological Ethicist. He was

amongst the key Speakers at the “Leading Edge 2020.” Research Project Organization by Trocaire and launched in Dublin in 2011.

REV. SR. DR. MARY JEROME OBIORAH, IHM - NIGERIA

The Challenges of Full Participation of the Laity in the Mission of the Church

The paper composed from a Sub-Saharan African background examines the nature of the mission as requisite prelude to discussion on various challenges experienced by the laity in participating fully in the mission. After identifying the challenges, the researcher explores those challenges militating against full participation of the laity in the Church’s mission. Its premise is an understanding of this mission rooted in Christ’s own mission and the status quo of the participation of the laity. The author considers that as a necessary prelude for a meaningful discussion on the challenges they experience. Suggestions towards their enhanced mission are proffered by the researcher as a contribution to the Church’s concern for her members.

Biography:

Sister Mary Jerome Obiorah was born at Akure, Nigeria on the 9th of March 1962. She had her primary and secondary education in Nigeria. In 1980 she joined the Religious Institute of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ. This is a Religious Institute founded in southern Nigeria by an Irish Missionary, Archbishop Charles Heerey, CSSp., in 1937 with the charism of compassion practised in humility. Mary Jerome made her first Religious Profession in 1984 and perpetual profession in 1994.

From 1989 to 2004 she was in Rome, Italy and partly in Jerusalem, for her studies. She has BA philosophy and theology from the Gregorian Pontifical University; and Masters and Doctorate degrees in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome. Sister Mary Jerome returned to Nigeria in 2004 and since then she has been teaching various aspects of Sacred Scripture at the Blessed Iwene Tansi Major Seminary, Onitsha and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. She is a senior lecturer at the University of Nigeria Nsukka.

Sister belongs to some academic associations like Catholic Theological Association of Nigeria, Catholic Biblical Association of Nigeria, Pan-African Catholic Exegetes, Society of Biblical Literature, International Organisation for the Study of the Old Testament, Commission for Theology, Liturgy and Biblical Apostolate of Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa, member of the Board of Governors of Veritas Catholic University, Abuja, Nigeria; member of Pastoral Agents Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria.

Since 2011, Mary Jerome has been serving in the Central Administration of her Religious Institute as the General Councillor in charge of Education, Liturgy and Catechesis. She co-ordinates the Catechetical Institute of her Congregation and teaches in the formation houses of her Religious Family.

RV. FR. DR. JOSEPH KIMU - MALAWI

Sacraments in Africa *Missio ad Gentes*

The researcher asks the following questions as regards the process of evangelization *Missio ad Gentes*; have the African Christians really understood the meaning of the sacraments of the Church in their lives? Does the administration and reception of the various sacraments deepen Christianity in Africa? Does the catechesis before, during and after the reception of the sacraments of the Church lead an African Christian to a genuine conversion-metanoia and a personal encounter and relationship with Jesus Christ alive?

The researcher opined that, beneath this thinking is the understanding that the way the Christian faith is lived in many parts of Africa remains alien in many respects. It is still at the level of the “received faith”, yet to be owned. The author compared that kind of faith to the Christological question that Christianity is still at the level of “Who do people say I am?” and that it must shift to “Who do you say I am?” (Cf. Mt 16:18-20).

Biography:

Diocesan Priest of Catholic Diocese of Mangochi in Malawi, Central Africa. - Comes from Mtalimanja village, Traditional Authority Mpondasi in Mangochi, Southern region of Malawi, 200 kilometers from Blantyre, the industrial city of Malawi. - Primary School at St. Augustine I Primary School. - Secondary School 1974-1978: Nankhunda Minor Seminary Forms 1-4. - 1978 Kachebere Major Seminary First Year – 3rd Year Philosophy. - St. Peters Major Seminary 4th Year – 7th Year. - 1985 on 27 July, ordination to priesthood.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Diploma in Theology from the University of Malawi 1985. - Dissertation: Towards a Christian-Moslem Dialogue in Mangochi Diocese. - License in Dogmatic Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University 1992. - Dissertation: The Theology of the Cross in Hans Urs von Balthasar and Jürgen Moltmann. - Doctorate 15 December 2009 at The Pontifical Gregorian University specialising in Dogmatic theology: Thesis: The Theology of Suffering in the Teaching of John Paul II.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teacher: St. Paul Minor Seminary: 1985-1987. - Rector: St. Paul Minor Seminary 1987-1992. Rector: St. John the Baptist Major Seminary 1992-2005. - Vicar General: Diocese of Mangochi 1993-2005. - Director of Radio Maria Malawi 1999-2005, 2009 to date - Episcopal Conference of Malawi: Chairman for the Implementation of the African Synod. - Chairman for Inculturation. - Board Member for The Catholic University of Malawi. - Chairman Theological Commission of Malawi. - Chairman for the Great Jubilee (2000) Celebrations. - President of Tiyende Pamodzi Group. - Member of the Translation Team of the New Chichewa Order of Mass. - Chairman of Media Managers in Malawi.

Director of Charitable Works: St. John and Bishop Assoalari Nursery schools 2,000 kids, Nutritional Centre for children, Centre for the Promotion of Women, Food Security Project, Scholarship Fund for needy students, Home Based Care for HIV/AIDS patients and Orphans, St. John Girls' Boarding Primary School for Poor Children, Treadle Pump Irrigation project, Bore Holes for potable water.

CURRENT POSITION

Director of Radio Maria Malawi. - Member college of Consulters of the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Mangochi.

CURRENT ENGAGEMENTS

Director of Radio Maria Malawi. - President of Tiyende Pamodzi Group. - Chairman of Media Managers in Malawi. - Director of Charitable Works: St. John and Bishop Assoalari Nursery schools 2,000 kids, Nutritional Centre for children, Centre for the Promotion of Women, Food Security Project, Scholarship Fund for needy students, Home Based Care for HIV/AIDS patients and Orphans, St. John Girls' Boarding Primary School for Poor Children, Treadle Pump Irrigation project, Bore Holes for potable water. - Member of the Translation Team of the New Chichewa Order of Mass. - Going around giving talks and preaching retreats

PROF. PAUL NCHOJINKWI - CAMEROON

Anthropological Challenges of the Sacraments, Scripture and the Mission of the Church in Africa.

The researcher seeks to demonstrate the necessity to build the new ways of evangelization on a better knowledge of African cultures from an anthropological angle. The paper examines some anthropological challenges that face different sacraments against the backdrop of Scripture and the Church's efforts to bring Christ and His Good news to those who have not known him yet.

The following questions among others are addressed by the researcher: What is man to an African? What is the finality of life to an African? What is the meaning of procreation and marriage? The author also attempts to address the unknown and the world beyond.

Biography:

PERSONAL HISTORY AND EDUCATION

He was born on October 1940 and baptized seven days later and did not go to school until he was ten and obtained the GCE certificate at 23 and first degree at 27 and a STL at 31 and PhD in anthropology at 36. He have published six books of ethnographic nature and hundreds of articles in national and international peer-review journals

WORK EXPERIENCE

Taught anthropology for more than four decades in universities at home and abroad as well as in seminaries. He served as a senior government official for 14 years (program officer, deputy director, director and senior adviser for scientific research.

When he retired in 2006 from the Cameroon public service, the Bishops of the Bamenda Ecclesiastical Province asked him to babysit their university project. For six years they asked him to serve as the deputy vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at this new “Catholic University of Cameroon”, Bamenda. Before then he was the Executive Director of the African Population Advisory Council in Nairobi. He was also the founding president of the Pan African Anthropological Association and elected a permanent member of the World Anthropological Union (WAU/IUAES)

CURRENT POSITION: Member of the Cameroon Constitutional Council since 2018

CURRENT ENGAGEMENTS: Constitutional and Electoral Issues in Cameroon

REV. PROF. LAWRENCE DAKA - ZIMBABWE

The Hunger for Healing as a Challenge to the Church's Ministry in a fast-Changing Africa.

The researcher asserts that, people are broken in many forms. Some are physically broken, others emotionally and many spiritually. In whatever form, no one wants to perpetuate suffering up to tomorrow. To whatever suffering and form of brokenness people experience they seek immediate answers. Hence, many people are ready to go to any length and at whatever cost to get this immediate remedy and end to suffering.

The researcher contends that, other Christian denominations, especially the daily-mushrooming Pentecostal movements are confusing people by offering what they believe to be more than just spiritual. Religion, by offering a broad perspective of healing, has become for many the

answer they need to solve their brokenness. Hence, the researcher embarks on stimulating a debate on the subject of physical healing.

Biography:

BA (Gregorian University), Kimwenza – DRC (1990-1993); BTh (CUEA), Nairobi – Kenya (1996-1996); MA in Philosophy (University of Zimbabwe), Harare – Zimbabwe (1994-1995); S.T.L. (Weston Jesuit School of Theology), Cambridge – MA – USA (1999-2001); Ph.D. Philosophy (Boston College), Boston – Mass., USA (2001-2005).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PRESENT:

Rector and Responsible Authority, St. Ignatius College, Harare; Member of Council – Arrupe Jesuit University; Co-chair Child Protection Commission of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM); Board Member – St. George's College, Harare; Trustee Member – Jesuit Province of Zimbabwe and Mozambique; Child Protection Officer for the Jesuit Province of Zimbabwe and Mozambique; Part time Lecturer Arrupe Jesuit University, Harare; Partner-Committee member. Katholischer akademischer Ausländer-Dienst (KAAD) (The Catholic Academic Exchange Service – a scholarship organization of the German Catholic Church for postgraduate scholarships; Visiting Priest to several Parishes in Harare; Spiritual Director and Patron to many local and international Catholic groups, associations and individuals.

PAST:

Socius/Assistant Provincial and Executive Secretary – Jesuit Province of Zimbabwe-Mozambique, Harare, Zimbabwe (Occasionally Acting Jesuit Provincial of the Province); Academic Qualification Assessor and Consultant - Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE), Zimbabwe; Professor – Arrupe College: Jesuit School of Philosophy and Humanities, Harare, Zimbabwe; DPhil Internal Examiner: University of Zimbabwe; University Member of Council - Catholic University in Zimbabwe (CUZ); Dean of Studies: Arrupe College: Jesuit School of Philosophy and Humanities, Harare, Zimbabwe; Full time Lecturer of Philosophy: Arrupe College; International Visiting Jesuit Scholar and Professor - Department of Philosophy, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. Acting Parish Priest: Chishawasha Mission, Harare and Kutama Mission, Chinhoyi Diocese; Assistant Priest: Sacred Hearts Parish, Malden, Mass. USA.

DR. CAMILLUS D.N. KASSALA - TANZANIA

Responsible Stewardship of Creation

The paper proposes that responsible stewardship of creation will be a reality in Africa if an Afrocentric approach is taken to be the basis for missionary theology of evangelization.

Using an Afro-centric perspective and theological textual survey data from AMECEA Bishops' Conferences' pastoral letters, the paper makes a critique of the Euro-centric conceptualization of stewardship, and applies this critique to assess the AMECEA theological contribution to responsible stewardship in particular, and to missionary theology of evangelization in general. The researcher contends that, an Afro-centric perspective would provide a more holistic and inclusive approach.

Biography:

CURRENTLY:

Marital Status: Married with two children.

Executive Secretary

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Department

Tanzania Episcopal Conference - TANZANIA

Part-Time Senior Lecturer

Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre, Dar es Salaam – TANZANIA

Editorial Board Member

National Bureau of Statistics -TANZANIA

Research Fellow, Extractive Industry

Interfaith Standing Committee for Socio-economic Justice and Integrity of Creation -TANZANIA

Member of National EITI Committee - TANZANIA

CSO Constituency

Member of the Scientific Council

OrdoSocialis of Germany, Cologne –FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

NARRATIVE CURRICULUM VITAE (Summary):

Having obtained two Bachelor's degrees (Philosophy, 1981 *Milltown Par Institute – Dublin* and Theology, 1986 *Pontifical Gregorian University – Rome*), he taught for some years (Moths, Chemistry, Physics, English Language: 1987-1989) in intermediate higher learning institutions, in 1990 he joined the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) as a lecturer, got a Master's degree (1994, Warwick University-UK) in sociolinguistics and followed a PhD course (2004-2009, Groningen University-Netherlands). His thesis was about '*Critical Sociolinguistic Competence in Strategic*

Managerial Performance, the Case of EAC', and taught Communication Skills, Business Communication and International Business Communication at IFM until he retired in July, 2011.

Dr. Kassala is also currently working with the Interfaith Standing Committee for Socioeconomic Justice and Integrity of Creation in Extractive Industry. The Committee comprises the leaders of the faiths' communities in Tanzania, under the National Muslim Council (BAKWATA), Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), and Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC). His area of involvement is *socioeconomic justice and integrity of creation in extractive industry* (mining, oil and gas). He is now developing a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) index to measure the contribution of mining investors to the welfare of the local communities in mining areas.

REV. DR. PATRICK CHILAMBWE - ZAMBIA

Acts of Service and Justice in Society- The Role of Christians in the Mission of Evangelization in Public Service in Africa.

The paper explores the role of Christians in the mission of evangelisation in public service in Africa. By public service, the author takes into consideration both civil service and private business sector. It attempts to look at how one can integrate working life into faith or how one's job or professional life can become an instrument of evangelisation. In other words, it attempts to understand work as a practical vocation and an integral part of evangelization.

The researcher argues that, the duty of making the world a better place is the responsibility of everyone. However, this responsibility gets a new meaning from the Christian perspective since every baptised person is called to evangelise. Hence, it is the vocation of every Christian, through their work, to bring the good news of the Kingdom of God to all peoples as those engaged in public service must perceive their work as an instrument of evangelisation. However, in his argument the researcher acknowledges the numerous challenges that are faced by public service workers in the course of executing their duties.

Biography:

QUALIFICATIONS

- Doctor's Degree (PhD) Theology and Religion, 2011, KULeuven, Belgium
- Sacrae Theologiae Doctorem (STD) Sacred Theology, 2011, KULeuven, Belgium (Pontifical Degree).
- Certificate of Completion of the Doctoral Programme, KULeuven, 2010, Belgium.
- Master of Advanced Studies in Theology and Religion, KULeuven, 2007, Belgium.
- Sacrae Theologiae Licentiate (STL), KULeuven, 2007, Belgium

- Master of Theology and Religious Studies (MA), KULeuven, 2006, Belgium.
- Master of Business Administration Degree (MBA), The Copperbelt University, Kitwe, 2001, Zambia. With three specialization electives that include Services Marketing, Human Resources Management and Industrial Relations, and Small-Scale Business Management and Entrepreneurship.
- Bachelor of Divinities Degree (BD), 1992, Urbaniana Pontifical University, Rome, Italy.
- Diploma in Philosophy and Religious Studies, St Augustine's Major Seminary, Kabwe, 1989, Zambia.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2015 (February) to date:	Vice Chancellor, The Zambia Catholic University.
2014 (July) to January (2015)	Acting Vice Chancellor, The Zambia Catholic University.
2013 (October) to July 2014	Deputy Vice Chancellor, The Zambia Catholic University.
2012 (August) to 2013 (September)	Dean Faculty of Business, Zambia Catholic University.
2011 (August) to date	Lecturer Zambia Catholic University, School of Business. Responsible for: Business Ethics: all areas of business ethics, Ethics: all aspects of ethics, fundamental and applied ethics; theological and philosophical ethics, etc, Corporate Governance, Services Marketing and Principles of Management
2011-up to date	Lecturer at Redemptoris Mater Seminary, Kitwe. I was responsible for teaching Ethics, and Moral Theology/Theological Ethics, Social Ethics.
2007-2011	Taught Business Ethics at various university colleges in Belgium: Brussels, Katho.
2002-2004	Part-time Lecturer Business Studies to Bachelors Students in Management and Marketing at Zambia Insurance Business College Trust, Ndola (offered under the auspices of the Copperbelt University).

EXPERIENCE IN THE CHURCH

2013 (May) up to date	Parish Priest, St. Anthony of Padua, Kamakonde, Kitwe West.
2011 up to date	Member of the Diocesan Consultor' Team
2012(Jan) to 2013(May)	Parish Priest, St. Annuarite, Kitwe
2017 August	Board member, Lulamba Trades Training School, Chingola
2017 August (up to date)	Board member, Murundu Trades Training School, Mufulira

2012 (up to date)	Board member, St. Marcellinus Secondary School Kalulushi
2003-2004	Diocesan Administrator: was elected Diocesan
2000-2003	Member of the Diocesan Consultor' Team
2000-2003	Ndola Catholic Diocese, Cathedral Administrator and Parish Priest.
1997-2000	Parish Priest, Our Lady of Africa Parish, and St. Peter Parish, Ipusukilo, Kitwe.
1995-1997	Parish Priest, Chimwemwe Parish, Kitwe, and Chambishi Parish, Chambishi.
1995-1997	St. Nicholas, Chambishi Parish, Chambishi
1994 August, 7 th	Ordained to the Priesthood.

CURRENT POSITION

- Vice Chancellor, The Zambia Catholic University

CURRENT ENGAGEMENTS

- Member of the Committee of Experts – The Higher Education Authority, Zambia
- Full Member of the Zambia Institute of Marketing (ZIM)
- Member of Business Ethics Network (BEN-AFRICA)
- Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church (CTEWC)
- The International Network of Societies for Catholic Theology (*INSeCT*)

REV. DR. TATAH MBUY - CAMEROON

Pentecostalism, Interreligious Dialogue and the Mission of the Church.

The paper intends to present, examine, and analyse how the Church in contemporary Africa, with a specific mission to proclaim Christ, has to navigate herself through a network of plural religions, each claiming to possess the truth. The researcher asserts that, the Church in most African countries which is still fairly young is composed of mainly young people, many of whom are easily swayed into deleterious sects and new Pentecostal Churches. Yet the Church has a mission to these youthful people for whom relevance is an essential parameter. The author asks the following question; how does the Church make herself relevant in such a situation where others are equally competing for the same population?

Biography:

Ordained by Pope St John Paul II on 11 August 1985. He is an Anthropologist (Ph.D.); a Bioethicist (M.A) and research scholar in the Science of Communication (M.Sc.). He is an author and

has published 20 books already mostly in cultural anthropology and African Traditional Religion. He is a member of the world council of urgent anthropologist, a member of the Pan African Association of Anthropologists and the National Coordinator for Communications at the National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon.

REV, FR. JOHN PETER-PEARSON – SOUTH AFRICA

Corruption as stumbling Block to the Mission of the Church

The paper brings out conversations from the magisterium of the church. The author asserts that, the practice of corruption destroys dignity and is hence placed in the category of grave sin. He opines that, a Catholic inspired model of society will acknowledge not only the need to minimise and restrain the evil of self-interest (of which corruption is a prime example) but also a challenge to maximise the good of self-giving. The researcher proposes that, strategies for community must be given priority over concern for limiting or channelling self-interest. He further argues that, the Political and economic institutions premised on the primacy of self-interest can never embody the theological vision of a good society.

Biography:

Peter-John Pearson is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cape Town where he also serves as Vicar General. He is also the Director of the Southern Catholic Bishops Conference Parliamentary Liaison Office which is the Church's official platform for engaging the parliamentary/ public policy domain. He is a lawyer by training and in addition to a law degree from UCT holds a BST from Urbanianum and a M.Phil. from St Augustine's in Johannesburg. He also serves on a number of boards both in church and civil society organizations. He does this both locally and internationally. He is a member of the Santa Marta Group, Catholic Peace Network and the Holy Land Co-ordinations Commitment.

REV. SR. DR. FLORENCE ADETOUN OSO. - NIGERIA

Immigration, Urbanization and Mission in the City

The researcher argues that, presently, migration and urbanization create a crisis in the missio "Ad Gentes", as it challenges the models of doing mission among the city dwellers and particularly among migrants. The impact of migration and urbanization is an indication that there is a great need to map out a new direction of mission which is adaptable to the city dwellers. She asserts that the missionary mandate given by Christ in Matthew 28 and the purpose of mission as indicated in the Decree, *Ad Gentes* remains the same and valid for Africa, but the characteristics of the Gentes will have to be taken into consideration in order to know the mission direction among the city dwellers.

She further argues that, the changes in the world today, such as urbanization and migration, will influence the way the mission *Ad gentes* will be carried out because it is in that same changing world that this mission takes place.

Biography:

Sr. Florence Adetoun OSO is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, an indigenous Congregation of Pontifical Status founded in Nigeria. She was born on the 6th of May 1966, in Lagos and had her primary and secondary school education in Nigeria. She made her First Religious Profession of Vows on August 17, 1986 and her Perpetual Profession of Vows on August 14, 1994. She had further studies both in Italy and Nigeria after which she bagged the following academic qualifications: B.A. in Catechesis at the Pontifical Urban University, Rome; Licentiate in Missiology at the Pontifical Urban University, Rome; Doctorate in Missiology at the Pontifical Urban University, Rome; undertook studies for a Licentiate in Spiritual Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome; Diploma Course in Liturgical Animation at Tomasso Ludovico da Vittoria Music School (Affiliated to the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome) and Post-Graduate Diploma in Education - University of Jos, Nigeria.

She worked in both Primary and Secondary schools as a teacher and started her teaching career in the seminary in 1996 at St. Augustine Major Seminary Jos and is presently a Senior Lecturer and the Deputy Head of Department of Theology at the Seminary of Ss. Peter & Paul, Bodija, Ibadan, Nigeria. She also has pastoral experience, working for two years as a Pastoral Assistance at St. Leo's Parish Ikeja, Lagos.

She is a member of the following learned Associations: Catholic Theologians Association of Nigeria (Executive Secretary); Catholic Missiologists Association of Nigeria, (immediate Past Secretary); South West Association of Catholic Theologians; International Association of Catholic Missiologists; Nigerian Association of Church History and Missiologists and an Associate Fellow of the Centre for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology, DePaul University, Chicago, USA.

4. Methodology followed for Carrying out the Project

Researchers were asked to write an essay of 5000 to 7000 words. Within the first one month of their identification, researchers were asked to submit to the PT a one-page outline showing a summary of the research, methodology to be employed in the research and presentation of findings. After six months a draft work was sent to the PT. Each Member of the PT took time to go through the draft and made comments within one Month. Drafts with comments were sent back to the

researchers for corrections and writing of a final paper. After a period of one month the final work was received by the PT before the time of presentations.

Lusaka, 26 August 2019

Fr. Edwin Mulandu
PMS National Director, ZAMBIA

III.3

24 – 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

EMM OCT 2019

BAPTISED AND SENT
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MISSION IN THE WORLD
EMM OCT2019 - Missiological Symposium in Papua New Guinea

Catholic Theological Institute, Bomana, Papua New Guinea

1- Narrative description of the contents dealt with during the execution of the project

The first Missiological Symposium in Papua New Guinea, commenced on Tuesday 24th September at the Catholic Theological Institute in Bomana. The main theme of the symposium was “*Baptised and Sent*”; *the Church of Christ on the mission in PNG and in the world*. During the symposium the following themes were discussed: Change in understanding mission of the Church, the Laity and mission of the Church, the New Evangelization, the Parish in Mission, Mission in the era of media and instant communication, and during the Panel Discussion the theme, ‘Justice to Creation is Justice to Humanity’ was discussed.

The symposium started with a short para-liturgy led by Fr. Valentine Gryk, SVD, the PMS Director for PNG SI, followed by the address of the Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, the Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, who at the end presented the letter of the Fernando Cardinal Filoni, the Prefect of the Congregation of Evangelization of Peoples, to the participants of the Symposium.

The symposium had a following program:

Tuesday, 24 September 2019

08:45 am – Prayer/Welcome/Apostolic Nuncio’s address

09:15 am – **Changes in Mission from *Maximun Illud* to *Gaudete et Exsultate*** by Fr. Dr. Clarence Sandanaraj Devadass (Malaysia)

11:00 – Coffee break

11:15 – **The Laity at the forefront of the Mission** by Mr. Paolo Baleinakorodawa (Fiji)

12:30 – Light lunch

13:30 – The New Evangelization: concept, objectives and strategies by Fr. Edgar Javier (Philippines)

15:00 – Coffee break

15:15 – Guided groups (CTI lecturers and resource persons)

16:15 – Sharing from the groups

17:00 – End of first day

Wednesday, 25 September 2019 (Bl. John Mazzucconi PIME, Missionary and Martyr - 1826-'55)

08:45 – A short para-liturgy

09.00 – **The Parish in Mission** Fr. Andrew Moses – (Papua New Guinea)

10:30 – Coffee break

10:45 – **The Mission in the era of media and instant communication** by Agatha Ferei (Fiji)

12:30 – Light Lunch

13:30 – Panel Discussion. **Justice to Creation is Justice to Mankind.** *Laudato si'* and the new *loci* of the Mission: climate change, environment, urban and rural poverty, migrations, gender equality...
Voices from Papua New Guinea and other parts of the Pacific: Paul Harricknen, Marie Mondu, John Glyn, symposium resource persons, etc.

15:30 – Coffee break

15:45 – **Summary** – Fr. Joseph Vnuk, OP – President, Catholic Theological Institute.

16:15 – **Closing remarks** – Bp. Rochus Tatamai MSC – President, CBC PNGSI

16:30 – **Mass of the Memorial of Blessed John Mazzucconi, PIME** – Main Celebrant: His Em. John Card. Ribat, MSC – Homilist: Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME (CBC Gen Sec).

18:00 - End of the second day (bus available to the city)

1. The Symposium started with a reflection on **the change in understanding of mission of the Church from “*Maximum Illud*” to “*Gaudete et Exsultate*”** by **Fr. Dr. Clarence Sandanaraj Devadas** from Malaysia.

In his reflection he presented the process in understanding the mission of the Church, as our mission, mission which finds its origins in the creation when God made us stewards of His creation.

The mission mandate – ‘*Go, make disciples, baptise, and teach*’ in Mt 28:19-20 / Mark 1:14-15a. / Luke 4: 18-19/ John 20: 21, is continuation of that original mission. The missionary command of Jesus must be seen in relation with Jesus’ own mission. Mission is not a product to sell but it is relationship.

After giving the biblical foundation, Fr. Clarence looked at the understanding of mission in 12 documents of the Church, starting from *Maximum Illud* to *Gaudete et Exsultate*.

1. *MAXIMUM ILLUD* - On the Propagation of the Faith throughout the World (1919)
2. *RERUM ECCLESIAE* On Promoting Sacred Missions (1926)
3. *EVANGELII PRAECONES* On Promoting Catholic Missions (1951)
4. *FIDEI DONUM* On the Present State of the Catholic Missions Especially in Africa(1957)
5. *PRINCEPS PASTORUM* On the Missions, Native Clergy and Lay Participation (1959)
6. *AD GENTES* On the Missionary Activity of the Church (1965)

7. *EVANGELII NUNTIANDI* Evangelisation in the Modern World (1975)
8. *REDEMPTORIS MISSIO* On the Permanent Validity of the Church's Missionary Mandate (1990)
9. *CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH* (1992)
10. *NOVO MILLENNIO INUENTE* At the Beginning of the New Millennium (2001)
11. *ECCLESIA IN OCEANIA* On Jesus Christ and the Peoples of Oceania: Walking His Way, Telling His Truth, Living His Life (2001)
12. *EVANGELII GAUDIUM* On the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World (2013)

In his reflection Fr. Clarence came to seven points of changing understanding of mission as we start at a. *Ad Gentes* (Go Forth) to b. Christocentric – Pneumatological mission, to c. Local Church mission, to d. Contextualised mission, to e. Dialogue mission, to f. Human Liberation & Accompaniment mission, to g. Eco-consciousness mission.

According to Fr. Clarence, during the recent history the understanding of mission went through a few paradigm movements from a. foreign to local, from b. clergy-centred to people of God, from c. subjects of conversion to sojourners, from d. cultural incompatibility to complementarity, from e. ecclesia-centric to regno-centric.

Therefore, we have some paradigm ahead: a. the Church as Communion of Communities, b. the Church as Participatory, c. the Church as Dialoguing Partner, d. the Church as Prophet.

Fr. Clarence finalized his reflection that, missionary activity is nothing else and nothing less than an epiphany (AG 9) and mission must not be reduced to some activity but it must be the DNA of our Christian/Catholic identity and existence, which comes from our baptism.

2. The second speaker of the day was **Mr. Paolo Baleinakorodawa**, a lay man from Fiji and a lay missionary to the Philippines. He looked at the theme – **The laity at the forefront of the mission.**

In his presentation Mr. Paolo started with his experiences as a lay missionary from Fiji in the Philippines. At arrival in the Philippines he was asked one question which still rings in his ears – *Did you come here to bring Jesus or to meet Jesus here?* According to him, all frontier missionaries should answer this question for themselves. As a lay missionary he reflected on this question and on his mission ministries with the people in the Philippines many times and he experience that *Jesus was already there* and his mission was to help people to discover and experiences his presence together with them. That was his mission. Therefore, according to him our mission (lay people and clergy) is to be present with people, not much working for them but to be, to be witnesses of Jesus' presence...

When he returned to Fiji, he was involved in many mission initiatives. He realized that there was a lot of mission needs back home and that we can involve lay people in those mission, as he says. The Philippines experience taught him a lot about doing practical mission in Fiji. He started to be involved in raising awareness about mission in the local church and setting up lay local intercultural mission, groups consisting of adults, youth and children using the Seven Steps of Bible Sharing as a tool. He was involved in Evangelization Outreach Program. The program consists of running evangelization programs in parts of Fiji that are hardly visited by priests. A priest accompanies the team only to celebrate the sacraments and acts as an advisor particularly in relation to theological issues that surface during the encounters.

Part of the mission awareness was also to set up teams that would go on mission promotion awareness and vocation drives to schools, parishes, communities and institutions.

Finalizing his presentation Mr. Paolo stressed, that the lay faithful people must bring and live the faith in the secular world. The realms of the spiritual and temporal are distinct yet are very much interconnected. Hence each and every Catholic lay person must live and share the Gospel values wherever they go – in their work, office, community and even in politics.

3. After the lunch, there was a third session, with **Fr. Dr. Edgar Javier, SVD**, a missiologist from the Divine Word Institute of Mission Studies in Tagaytay, Philippines. Fr. Edgar Javier, SVD reflected **on the New Evangelization in the present world, as a Global Village and what kind of Church and missionaries we need for this new world.**

According to Fr. Edgar, the New Evangelization is one of the challenges facing the contemporary Church. It is defined and understood in many ways as there are many and varied cultural and religious situations confronting the Church. The new evangelization, however, indicates a renewed approach to Jesus' one and unchanging command, to bring the Gospel to all peoples at all times and in all places. The adjective "new" is not intended to qualify the content of the mission mandate but rather to explain further the condition and manner of the proclamation of the Gospel message. The new evangelization concept is threefold: call to *conversion*, call to *communion*, and call to *solidarity*.

The goal of evangelization is to promote a *relationship* with Jesus Christ that is transformative not only personally but also culturally. As a new way of doing mission, it demands skills to be learned by missionaries. As such, it demands a re-imagining the image of the missionary of the new evangelization. In line with Pope Francis' thinking in *Evangelii Gaudium*, our approach to mission through the new evangelization might be described as a "missiology of attraction." To complement the missiology of attraction is a "missiology of silence and beauty."

According to Fr. Edgar Javier, the new evangelization is the fundamental mission of the Church born out of personal encounter with Jesus Christ, grounded in the Tradition and manifested in the Church's life. It depends on the faithful proclamation of the Word of God, renewed emphasis on catechesis and the catechumenate, the agency of local churches, and the ability of Christians to give an account of their faith.

New evangelization is a missionary effort directed at the "lukewarm" within the Church itself and at those people and societies who were once Christian. The conversion required by the new evangelization is a retrieval of the capacity to listen and understand the words of the Gospel as a living and life-giving message (Romans 10:14, *Lineamenta* 6).

Now, the Church faces many challenges such as globalization, conflict and violence and violation of human rights and religious freedom. Missionary activity *ad gentes* is directed towards "peoples or groups who do not yet believe in Christ," "who are far from Christ," in whom the Church "has not yet taken root" and whose culture has not been influenced by the Gospel. In other words, it is addressed to groups and settings which are non-Christian because the preaching of the Gospel and the presence of the Church are either absent or insufficient" (*Redemptoris Missio* 34).

The Gospel must be proclaimed in way that transforms those who listen. Proclamation is not just transmitting information about Jesus Christ but eliciting faith in Jesus Christ.

The new evangelization is comprehensive. It is cannot just be about individuals but must also form communities of faith (*Lumen Gentium* 9). A vibrant community involves face-to-face relationships, mutual sharing of life's joys and sorrows and the exercise of shared responsibility for its common life and mission. The Church is not only a proclaimer but also a hearer and disciple (*Lineamenta* 2).

The goal of evangelization is to promote a relationship with Jesus Christ that is transformative, not only personally, but also culturally. Engagement in the new historical situations in the world today is not simple. It is important that the new lay faithful for the new evangelization be trained to acquire some skills for their work as *cultural sensitivity*, *ethnic relations*, and *human interaction with technology*.

Sensitivity to the culture leads to greater respect of and empathy with the culture of the people in the new sector. The *ethnic relations* create space that the people do not only co-exist but inter-exist meaningfully. This attitude creates inclusiveness among all people.

The missionary becomes a bridge that connects different peoples, different cultures, different religious traditions, and so on. Harmonious ethnic relations breed peace among different peoples. Human interaction with technology is something very important to be considered. Technology remains a tool to be properly used. Today, however, technology is controlling and programming many people, especially the young generation. Technology is transforming them from being *homo sapiens*

(thinking person) to *techno sapiens* (technology programmed person). Technology should remain a tool to make things easier.

Therefore, Fr. Edgar proposed to re-image the image of the missionary disciple of Jesus Christ. He proposed the images that might be adopted.

A missionary must be a “bridge” that connects us and the ‘Other’. Because the ‘Other’ is significant, the missionary must be a “listener” and a “learner.” The ‘Other’ has so much to teach us. Because of brokenness experienced by human beings and creation, the missionary must be “a healer” and “a reconciler.” Because of the globalization’s nefarious effects on society and the environment, the missionary must be a “care-taker” of the Earth, our common home. Finally, in a noisy, polluted and radiated world, the missionary must be a “mystic” or a “contemplative” - a man or woman of silence so that he or she can develop intimacy with God, the origin and goal of mission, who also speaks in silence.

In line with Pope Francis’ thinking in *Evangelii Gaudium*, Fr. Edgar proposed that our approach to mission might be described as a “*missiology of attraction*.” This new paradigm is grounded on “an attractive gospel message” of God’s mercy and compassion. This understanding of the message is embodied and ensouled in an “attractive community” – a community of believers in Christ, the human face of God’s mercy and tenderness. It is an open and welcoming community that embraces anyone and offers an “attractive teaching” that is culture-*sensitive* and religion-*sensitive*. To complement the missiology of attraction is a “missiology of silence and beauty.” God is a beautiful God. Love for divine beauty has inspired many men and women to develop intimacy with the beautiful God.

Concluding the session Fr. Edgar stated that mission is God’s attribute. Mission belongs to God. Mission is a divine work that flows from God’s love and missionaries are called and sent to participate in this work of love. He quoted, Benedict XV that “only God can enter men’s hearts and illumine their minds with the radiance of truth; only God can enkindle their wills with the spark of virtue; only God can give them the strength to pursue the truth and do the good they have seen. The emissary will spend himself in vain unless the Lord helps him as he works” (*Maximum Illud* 29). So, let us be open to be a tool of love in God’s hand.

The second session in the afternoon was dedicated to the GROUP DISCUSSION.

There were 14 groups discussion by 15/20 members each with the task to answer/share the following questions:

1. *Of the paradigm shifts mentioned (foreign to local, clergy to People of God, conversion to accompaniment, cultural incompatibility to complementarity, Church centred to Kingdom centred), which do you think is most important and useful in your approach to mission?*

2. *In your experience of mission, are you're finding Christ, bringing Christ, witnessing to Christ or sent by Christ?*
3. *Where is laity most needed in the mission of the Church in PNG&SI?*

The summary of Group Discussions is as follows:

Question 1:

Some groups questioned the paradigm shifts, arguing that both need to be held in balance. For example, the Catholic Church is universal, so it is always good for expatriates to be with locals. Another group said that the question simply represented how the Church in PNG is today – there are more locals than expatriates and the people are more involved. Another group said that these shifts are natural for a maturing church. The Church was originally established by foreign missionaries, most of whom were priests, but will eventually be localized so that most of the members will be laity of the indigenous culture. Finally, in the PNG context, if a Melanesian is sent outside of his tribal area, the new area is like a foreign place to him because the local languages and customs are different. Most groups were discussing the clergy to laity shift. This shift can take place in a bad way if there are not enough clergy to visit all the parishes or outstations such that the laity have to lead their local church or else the church will die out. Some people expressed frustration that local clergy seem unwilling to visit people in the bush. There is also the bad practice of para-clericalism, in which clerics think that they empower laity by having them take up duties like leading Sunday services which are really the job of priest or by reducing laity empowerment to liturgical participation. On the other hand, lay catechists and communion service leaders have done a lot to maintain the Catholic faith in PNG. The shift from clergy to laity is good if there is real communion between the priest and the laity and if the priest is able to empower the laity to live a Christian life outside of the church service. By participating in pastoral work with the religious, laity go out of their comfort zones for the sake of Christ. At the same time, PNG nationals tend to be humble in the presence of clergy and they miss the presence of the clergy and religious.

The values of PNG culture can complement the Gospel: respect, dialogue, charity, reconciliation. Regarding accompaniment, someone said that it is not a matter of teaching the people, but learning from the people; but somebody said that it is easier to correct non-Catholics than Catholics on moral issues because Catholics already 'know' the Church's teaching while non-Catholics will be interested to hear something new.

Question 2

There was not much discussion about this question. For some, it is obvious that Jesus is with us. He promised us. One group said it depends on the context. When a lay person is going to lotu/church

service, he may be finding Christ, but when he is doing pastoral work, he is witnessing Christ. One person said that they go together, for example, you can only witness Christ if you know Christ. Another said that Christ is found in the vulnerable. The Christ is always with us, as He promised.

Question 3

Overwhelmingly, people said that the most important work of the laity was to evangelize their own families. Evangelization needs to spread outwards from the family to the society. With the abolishment of the initiation house and practices in most areas, there is a gap in preparing the youth to be responsible adults and this gap can only be filled by instruction within the family. Secondly, the laity need to be involved in evangelizing society. Faithful laity need to teach RI in the schools and be moral examples in the universities and at work. Representing the Church in society is properly the work of the laity, not the priests. The laity also take a lead in running the diocese offices and programs. To be effective in this work, the laity need greater education in the faith, such that the bishops should also send some laity to seminary. Laity need to be able to empower each other to solve their problems. Laity can be involved in catechesis of children and adults. Lastly, laity are the strength of the priests as well as the source of the Church's money. The people will willingly give if there is love, but will hold back if they don't trust/love their priest.

The SECOND DAY OF SYMPOSIUM

25th September 2019-10-11

The sessions started again with a short para-liturgy about our mission in the world led by Fr. Valentine Gryk, SVD, the PMS Director for PNGSI, who was again MC for the day.

4. The first speaker for the day was **Fr. Andrew Moses**, the Diocesan priest from Daru- Kiunga Diocese of PNG. He is the Vicar General of the Daru-Kiunga Diocese and at the same time the parish priest in one of the remount parish. He has a big experience in the parish work and the diocesan pastoral programs. His topic of reflection was - **the Parish in Mission**.

The focus of his presentation was to look at the process of mission at the parish level: how mission can be applied, fruits of mission work in the parish, challenges and possible way forward to strengthen parish mission in the contemporary time in the PNG SI Church. He tried to propose the ways to improve the way of mission in our parishes.

According to Fr. Andrew **the parish** is the heart of other levels of Church administration. It is where the Church becomes real and concrete in its missions and nature. It is a community of peoples and not buildings or objects.

According to Pope Francis (*Evangelii Gaudium* no: 228), *the parish in the “Church” living in the midst of her sons and daughters, it is in contact with the home and the lives of its people. Presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing Gods word, for growth in Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities, the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizer. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirst come to drink in the midst of their journey and the centre of constant missionary outreach.*

Basically, the parish is where families, communities and people live. That is where the people are baptized and sent. That is where the Word of God is proclaimed and welcomed in the hearts of the people and lived and witnessed. That is where baptized people live their faith, their love and their hope. That is where people witness to Jesus and his way of life. That is where people experienced the compassionate love of the Father. That is where people become rooted in the Word of God and its message of peace and joy and forgiveness. That is where the people respond to the demands of faith and live their lives as disciples of Jesus, following his way of life, become his friends, trust and care as he did and are faithful to their mission as Jesus was faithful to his own mission.

What is its mission? Primary the mission is to provide worship, teaching and pastoral care.

In the past, the people believed that the priest was the Church. Being a missionary meant being a priest, sister, religious etc. The parish was primarily his concern.

Now, the parish priest is substituted with “the team”. This team has a link to every parishioner. It is representative. The team cares for the poor, visits the sick, gives pastoral advice etc. The Parish Pastoral Team is at the service of the people in the parish.

Fr. Andrew believes that many parishes throughout the dioceses in PNG and Solomon Islands are successful in evangelization through new and creative efforts aimed at forming and sending “missionary disciples”. He believes that these *best practices in parish evangelization* are the areas where bishops, priests and parish leaders together focus on planning their ministries. These includes: implementation the conference pastoral plans at diocesan and parish level, formulating strategic Annual Planning & Program in line with the diocesan themes/values, creating pastoral levels of planning; creating appropriate structures of communication and participation; promoting and living the Spiritual of Communion; creating and participating in Basic Ecclesial Communities, involving lay faithful in many areas of parish ministries; promote the “ownership” of the Church; create the space for everyone; increased participation in popular religiosity; empowerment of lay people; increasing in parish lay leadership; creating structures of communication and participation; men’s movement; creating the parish finance boards; self-reliance teams, etc..

The key challenges in terms of mission and its repercussions in PNG SI are: geographical challenges; materialism; consumerism; money culture; new forms of paganism; era of moral decay; social issues – (*corruption, prostitution, alcoholism, gambling, domestic violence etc*) and increase of hybrid churches (sects) and their false and destructive teachings and ideologies – brings a lot of confusion or people.

What are our pastoral challenges in PNG Church today? We need to read the “signs of times” and respond to them accordingly. The pastoral plans, strategies, programs are very helpful.

The key indicator for fruitful evangelization and mission work in the parishes in PNG today, according to Fr. Andrew, is a diagnostic approach to mission work. We have to know what the root causes of our problems are, to strategize appropriate solutions to these problems and all that it will demand.

Thus, all this calls for a diagnostic approach to Mission work today. This requires: putting in place cohesive planning, implementation and monitoring teams (DTPA); create mediums of dissemination of information (Parish Newsletter, messengers,); create structures of participation and communion; opt for a participatory and consolatory method; creating sense of ownership; resource creation; renewal of persons at all levels of church life; promotion and support of laity involvement in the life and mission of the Church.

Concluding, Fr. Andrew stresses that our parishes should become dynamic and living experience of communities. The experience of communion should be promoted in every level of parish life, through promoting strengthening families and Basic Ecclesial Communities.

5. ‘The Mission in the Era of Media and Instant Communication’ was the last theme discussed by renowned SIGNIS Pacific Region President and Caritas Fiji Director, **Ms Agatha Ferei Furivai**. The Mission is our journey in this world as Christians, as Catholics, as custodians, as stewards and in our journey, we are related to each others and to our environment. The challenge is to be Christ to others and to see Christ in others and to communicate Christ message to others. We are expected to be like *a city on a hilltops, like a lamp on a lamp stand*, visible to all, our light should shine like a beacon signalling the safe channel to a peaceful haven (Mt 5:13-14).

“What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the housetops” (Mt 10:27).

To proclaim the faith from the housetops today means to speak Jesus’ word in and through the dynamic world of communications. That’s communication. That’s our mission today.

The marvels of technology which God has destined human genius to discover, the inventions which in our time have immeasurably increased and extended the range over which our communications

may carry and have amplified the volume of our voice are a great tool which the Church should use to proclaim the Good News.

Since the way of communication, the media and communication landscape is constantly changing, we (the Church) need to be more open and willing to use them in our mission. We need to begin to think of creative and innovative alternative ways to use the media. Mrs Agatha noted that we are in the era of digitalization, and our media experiences are varied across Oceania. She made references to the World Communication Day messages by our Holy Father and His predecessors and proposed for the Church to make immediate access and deepen the Church's dialogue with the contemporary world. She quoted that, "In the new 'computer culture', the Church can inform the world of her beliefs, explain the reasons for her stance, on any given issue or event, hear more clearly the voice of public opinion, and enter into a continuous discussion with the world around her, thus involving herself more immediately in the common search for solutions to humanity's many pressing problems." Mrs Furivai added that we need to embrace these new technologies and proclaim the word of Christ as well as preach from the rooftops, transmitting our values, ideologies and the Gospel across the wide geographical landscapes. She explained that the mission of the lay faithful is a relational journey of family members, parents and children, the clergy and religious and all connected in being Christ like as well as in seeing Christ in others. That is why, we can use the means of communication in media to amplify our voices.

Mrs Furivai stated that our communication amongst people has significantly changed in the last 20 years when she began work in Media Education in the Pacific and more so in the area of online social media platforms. We can use media to extend our Creator's divine plan and spreading the Divine Word.

"The current generations have media emigrants, media babies and media natives co-existing. While our media natives or children may have the technological know-how, the parents and grandparents, community leaders and all those engaged in the nurturing and raising of a child need to walk hand in hand with them. They need our human connections and teachings on values, norms and expectations. We are all media users and media producers in one way or another. This is a good reason for a collaborative effort between Church and the media," she said.

Unfortunately, more and more people are moving away from face-to-face communication in families and communities. The young are seen to be spending more time online and with media gadgets than with family and friends. This is where the multitude of peoples are heading, and so that is where the mission needs to go, she urged.

The second session of afternoon was dedicated to the PANEL DISCUSSION

The main topic of the panel discussion was ‘Justice to Creation is Justice to Humanity’ in the context of *Evangelii Gaudium*, *Laudato Si* and *a new loci of mission*.

The following speakers presented the following topics of their involvements:

Dr Catherine Nongkas – Educating good Christians and good citizens in the era of mobility and communication - youth

Mr. Donatus Nahak – The Christian community and the people on the move – migrants.

Fr John Glynn – The challenge of the urban poverty (Port Moresby) for the Church.

Ms Marie Mondu – The gospel of salvation at the time of climate change.

John Cardinal Ribat MSC – The sea bed mining issue and the threats to the Ocean.

Attorney Paul Harricknen – Making Christ present in the professional environment

Fr. Dr Joseph Vnuk OP, the Rector of the Catholic Theological Institute, was the moderator of the discussions and led the discussion after. Each person presented the issue in 10 minutes followed by some discussions. All participants of the panel were very personally involved and zealous about their topics, their involvements. We all agreed that the Church of PNG SI, the government and each of us should be more involved in all these issues in different levels but we all have to do our part.

After the break, Fr. Joseph Vnuk, OP, summarised the discussion and all symposium with the talk about the baptism.

Fr. Dr. Joseph Vnuk, OP, as a professor of theology and Dominican, he followed the understanding of baptism according to St. Thomas Aquinas.

As we usually teach when we are baptized, we become children of God but we are already children of God as God’s creatures. God is our “Father” because he made us, he cares for us, makes us grow, teaches us, corrects us, and protects us, and so on.

How does baptism make us children of God?

By baptism we become children of God because we become heirs, co-heirs with Christ.

In baptism we are reborn, we are given a new life, a new way of existing, a new way of being present in the world. It is the way of the child of God, able to call God *Abba*, “Father,” as Jesus did.

Where does sending come in?

It depends upon how you define sent. Fr Clarence referred to John 20:21 - “*As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you.*” We can ask what does it mean for Jesus to be sent? Does it mean moving from one place to another? Does it mean that the Son is less than the Father? According to Fr. Joseph he said that St. Thomas responded to this by saying that when the Son or the Spirit is sent: they become present in a new way; they proceed from another divine person. God - Father, Son and Holy

Spirit - is present in the world at all times and in all places. The Son is sent when he becomes present in a new way and is present as the Son of the Father. Thus we see that when we are baptized, we live in a new way as one coming from God (child of God).

Our fundamental mission is to joyfully witness that we are children of God as Jesus is Son of God. Whatever we do in the world if we do it in this new way, with our hearts set on our eternal inheritance, then we are mission.

We said that mission comes from creation, when we are created according to the image and likeness of God. What does this mean? In the ancient world, the king or emperor brought peace and justice. But he could not be present everywhere, so, in the centre of each town his statue or image was erected. This extended his presence, his justice, his peace.

We are made as images of God. We are to be fruitful and multiply and to fill the earth and bring God's reign and we are sent to be so.

Bp. Rochus Tatamai MSC President of CBC – PNGSI, closed the symposium highlighting the important of such discussions and symposiums for the development of the Church in PNGSI. He thanked all participants especially the organizers and speakers. He congratulate all participants as well.

The SYMPOSIUM ended with a closing Eucharist celebration, led by Sir Cardinal John Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby.

It was a special memorial service to commemorate Blessed John Mazzuconi PIME, the Missionary, Priest and Martyr of Pacific, who in 1855 was killed in Woodlark Island, Alotau, PNG.

Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, the General Director of CBC shared a very historical and reflective journey of Blessed John Mazzuconi PIME CBC and the apostolic mission work of our early missionaries.

2- Evaluation of the results that came as an outcome of the project

The first missiological symposium in Bomana, PNG it seems have been a good and successful project by PMS, CTI and CBC. There were around 300 participants including 1 Cardinal, Archbishops (3) Bishops (9), many priests (over 50) and sisters (40), religious and big number of laity (80) people from Port Moresby parishes, seminarians (100), senior officials from various Institutions and organizations, and teachers.

The whole symposium has been coordinated by Fr Valentine Gryk, SVD, PMS Director, with the help of Fr. Joseph Vnuk, OP, the Rector of the Catholic Theological Institute and many seminarians. All invited speakers and guests were well prepared and delivered well their presentations. Everything went smoothly, on time and without any problem.

The presentations were well received and many good and interesting interventions and questions were made after each presentation.

The group's discussions were well attended and many good points were made in reflection on the proposed three questions.

The panel discussion was well organized and the issues were well and briefly presented. The discussion after that was very interesting but cut short for lack of time. We had to rush for the closing Eucharist.

Generally, the evaluation and feeling of the people after the symposium was very positive. Everybody noted that we need more of these kind of meetings, inputs and discussions. It opens horizons and shows us some lights for the future.

3- List of the participants including their professionalism, titles, qualifications, area of origin

Main speakers:

1. Fr. Dr. Clarence Sandanaraj Devadas from Malaysia.

Doctorate in Sacred Theology (Moral Theology) from Academia Alfonsiana, Pontifical Lateran University Rome, Director of the Catholic Research Center, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2. Mr Paolo Baleinakorodawa

MA in Conflict Transformation and Peace Building from Eastern Mennonite University in USA
Co-founder of Transcend Oceania – peace and development organization in Fiji.

Trainers and counselor of conflict transformation, trauma healing and dialogue in Asia-Pacific.

3. Fr. Dr. Edgar Javier , SVD, DMiss

Doctorate in Missiology from Pontifical University Gregoriana Rome

Director of the Divine Word Institute of Mission Studies – Tagaytay – Philippines

Professor in Macau, Davao City Manila Suva

4. Fr. Andrew Moses

Post-graduate Psychology Study in Toronto, Canada

Vicar General of Daru Kiunga Diocese

5. Mrs Agatha Maria Ferei Furivai

Bachelor of Art Degree (History/Politic &Language /Literature from USP, Fiji

Pacific Women in Leadership in the Education Program from EWC Hawaii

Director of Caritas in Archdiocese of Suva

Director of Media Watch Group, Suva

Co-founder of the IPA learning Center, Nasinus

4- Biography and formative skills of the speakers/professors

All the speakers/professors have teacher's qualification. Two priests (*Fr. Clarence and Fr. Edgar*) are very much involved in intellectual formation, teaching in different institutions (seminaries, universities). Mr. Paolo and Mrs. Agatha, with their teaching qualifications are very much involved in formation of laity women and men in different levels of societies in Fiji and Pacific islands. Fr. Andrew is very much involved in the Diocesan Pastoral Program, which consists many different workshops, inputs and evaluations. The program is based of the Better World Movement which was introduced in his diocese over 10 years ago. It is a model diocese for others.

5- Highlighting of the use and/or availability of bibliographical material

All the inputs given during the symposium were collected and will be compiled in one book which will be used for further reflection and formation in the seminary and with some lay groups. Since the PNG SI Church has three years pastoral plan for the laity, the material from symposium can be used for the reflection on the mission of laity. Already in November 26-29, 2019 we plan to have the PNG Workshop for the diocesan coordinator of Lay Formation: *Laity: Formation for Mission*. The PMS Director was asked to be one of the speakers and present the outcome of the symposium and deal some reflection on mission. The workshop is organized in collaboration with EAPI (Manila) and the members of lay covenant community based in Metro Manila.

6- Methodology followed for carrying out the project, teaching methods

The method used during the symposium was direct presentation of the topic by speaker/ professors with the interaction after the talk. There was always a time for clarification, explanation and intervention. The one question from each presenter was given for further discussion during the group discussion in the first day of symposium.

The group discussion was a time for deepening the topic or to be in touch with our own experiences and funding some guideline for the future ministry.

We hope and we pray that there will be many good fruits of this symposium.

Mount Hagen, 22 October 2019

Fr. Valentine Gryk, SVD
National Director for PNG/SI

III.4

3 – 6 DECEMBER 2019

MACAO

EMM OCT 2019

BAPTISED AND SENT
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MISSION IN THE WORLD
Macao Theological Colloquium

“Proclamation, sacrament and Christian witness in the *missio ad gentes* in Asia”

University of Saint Joseph’s Seminario de São José Campus in Macao

1. Introduction

Between 3rd and 6th December 2019, a group of Asian theologians, Scripture scholars, philosophers and pastors met in a colloquium at the University of Saint Joseph’s *Seminario de São José* Campus in Macao, to present papers and engage in discussion on the theme “Proclamation, sacrament and Christian witness in the *missio ad gentes* in Asia.

The colloquium was moderated by Professor Stephen Morgan, the Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies at the University of Saint Joseph and was attended by Fr Fabrizio Meroni of the Pontifical Missionary Union, through whose kind sponsorship the colloquium was made possible.

His Excellency Dom Stephen Lee, the Bishop of Macao was enormously supportive of the colloquium and participated in several of its activities, as did the Rector of the University, Fr Peter Stilwell.

This paper is intended as an initial brief review of the papers presented and a report on them and the issues that arose from the discussions.

The invited participants of the colloquium were either themselves from countries in East and South East Asia, or were individuals who had long-standing engagement with the cultures of those regions. Three of the invited scholars were unable to attend. Fr Joseph Hung from Vietnam was refused a visa by the Macao authorities for procedural reasons and he was unable to complete the formalities necessary to rectify the situation in time to attend. Frs Peter Zhao and Joseph Wang of the Beijing Diocese were called, at the last minute, to a meeting with the United Front Work Department of CPC Central Committee, the Mainland Chinese governmental body charged with the oversight of religions in the People’s Republic of China.

The papers given and the discussions they occasioned were of a high standard. A further report on the appropriate vehicle for publishing the papers will be submitted as soon as all final versions have been received. The papers, inevitably, took a variety of approach and displayed some inconsistency in the facility in written English. Insofar as the objective of the colloquium was to initiate a conversation, or series of conversations, by Asian or Asian-based scholars on the given theme, it is my considered opinion that it was successful and that the conversations initiated should

be continued and would certainly be something that the Faculty of Religious of Religious Studies at University of Saint Joseph would want to facilitate.

This main body of this report falls into two parts: it begins with a brief introduction to each participant and a summary of the contents of their paper, including the main philosophical, theological and cultural observations made, insofar as they are relevant to the theme of the colloquium; and, secondly, a consideration of the main themes that emerged from the papers and the discussions they occasioned, together with an identification of any lacunae, problematic ideas and points that would benefit from further consideration.

2. Review of Papers

Gianni Criveller – Troubles of a difficult past, lessons for a difficult present: an historical survey of the trials in proclaiming the Gospel in China and Asia

[Fr Criveller is a PIME Missionary with over a quarter of a century of experience of work in China. He is a theologian and ecclesiastical historian of Chinese Christianity and is an Advisor for the National Council of the Italian Theological Association.]

This paper surveyed those episodes related to evangelization in China and Asia, in order to explain the background to *Maximum Illud*. It reflected upon this history and considered the legacy of the Chinese rites controversy (1635-1742) in relation to the preaching of the Gospel. The paper argued that a measure of cultural accommodation is inevitable in the *mission ad gentes* – and happens even when consciously resisted. This accommodation is grounded in the Divine accommodation of the Incarnation and involves an element of risk, even at the level of the translation of theological and philosophical vocabulary. The Gospel is always both new and external, something given, a grace, thus the paper maintained the missionary is always external.

Martin Bai Ziqiang OP – St. Thomas Aquinas’s Relational Understanding of the Trinity’s Mission and its Implications for the Church’s *Missio ad Gentes* in Asia

[Fr Bai is a Chinese national, ordained for the Diocese of Hebei, he is currently in Simple Vows in the Holy Rosary Province of the Dominicans. He holds an STD on the Trinitarian Theology of St Thomas Aquinas and is currently undertaking a second doctoral degree – this time in Philosophy – at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila]

Based on St. Thomas's two-fold relational understanding of the Trinity's mission – “the relation of the one sent to the sender; and that of the one sent to the end whereto he is sent” (ST, Ia, q.43, a.1) – the paper argued that the Church's presence/being in Asia *is* mission, for she is the embodiment of the very divine persons' *missio ad gentes* in Asia. Church is not missionary by mandate but by virtue of being ontologically grounded in the mission of the Son. The paper connected this understanding with the realities mapped out in both *Ecclesia in Asia* and in the reflections of the various documents adopted by the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences. In so doing, the paper noted that St Thomas grounds the missionary character of the Church in a dependent upon preaching and sacraments: proclaiming the centrality of the Paschal mystery and making it present through the Eucharist.

Maria Ko Ha Fong FMA – “The Word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power” (Acts 19,20): the “growth” of the Bible in Asia.

[Sr Maria Ko is a Salesian Sister, born in Macao and brought up in Macao and Hong Kong. After studies in education, theology and biblical studies in Italy and Germany, she is currently professor of New Testament Exegesis at the Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences *Auxilium*, Rome and also teaches at the *Holy Spirit Seminary* in Hong Kong and at several Catholic Seminaries in China. She has been Consultor to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life for ten years and is currently Consultor to the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and member of the Pontifical Theological Academy.]

The paper presented a biblical approach to the theme of the Colloquium. It started with a consideration of the biblical metaphor of the Word of God that “runs swiftly” and “grows” that is not contained by the cultures into which it is planted. One aspect of that is to note that the Word of God in Scripture is rarely the object of a predicate but is almost always encountered as subject in action. It demands, therefore, in response to this Divine condescension, a patience that is characteristic of Asian approaches to wisdom, which are characterised by concrete images rather than abstract concepts, by narrative rather than analytical language. The growth of interest in studying Scripture *per se* in Asian churches offers interesting possibilities for proclamation that go beyond an approach that sees the Word mediated through the Liturgy and the Catechism. In seeking to explore this idea, the paper posed the hermeneutical question “How do Asians read their own classical books and religious texts?” It suggested that Asians prefer “open-ended” stories and suggested that this may be a consequence of ideographic writing systems encouraging the reader as an intuitive interpreter.

Philip So Reh OP – a Proclamation, Sacrament and Christian Witness: the *missio ad gentes* in contemporary Myanmar – the example of the Diocese of Loikaw

[Fr Philip is a Dominican priest working in the Diocese of Loikaw in eastern Myanmar. A native of the Diocese, since obtaining a Licentiate in Biblical Studies at the Angelicum, he has been serving as a parish priest, at the same time, as visiting professor in the local major seminary and in a religious institute (MIRS, Myanmar Institute of Religious Studies).]

Taking the Church in the Diocese of Loikaw as a case study, this paper considered the theological and pastoral demands upon a local Church in being faithful to its mission of proclaiming the saving person of Jesus Christ by drawing the people to render “worship” to God alone, and by building an active and participative church which demands the whole faithful to bear witness of their Christian faith. The paper argued that thirty years on from the establishment of the Diocese, Loikaw is one of the few places in Myanmar where one can find a missionary vitality of the church where the proclamation of the Good News has been undertaken specifically *ad gentes* and ordered towards a sacramental and Eucharistic encounter with Christ that has, despite an often hostile cultural, economic and political environment, begun to create a church rich in vocations and faithful witnesses to Him.

Leopold Leeb SVD – *missio ad Gentes* and Language Learning: Chinese Christian Polyglots Past and Present

[Brother Leo Leeb is an Austrian Divine Word Missionary. Since 1995 he has been working in Beijing, China and has a PhD in classical Chinese philosophy from Peking University (1999). He conducted studies and translation work at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, and since 2004 he has been teaching the western classical languages (Latin, Greek, Hebrew) at the School of Liberal Arts, Renmin University of China, Beijing.]

Br Leo’s paper looked at the linguistic challenges provided to the proclamation of the *missio ad gentes* in China. He argued that there is an element of cultural narcissism in China that is fed by a writing system and languages that allow for a closing off. A countervailing tendency is, however, an interest in the culture of the Western world, precisely as “other” and that the Confucian respect for the learned means that there is a profound curiosity about classical Western texts and a requirement for missionaries to be familiar with classical languages and with the Chinese linguistic and literate canon. Failure to do this means that missionaries all too readily fall victim to the narcissistic and miss the opportunities offered by the curious. The paper argued that the *missio ad gentes* in China must be one of cultural encounter.

Murat Antoni Ucerler SJ – Aristotle and Aquinas Come to ‘Warring State’ Japan: the early tradition of cultural adaptation in the Jesuit Mission to Japan

[Fr Antoni Ucerler entered the Society of Jesus in Rome in 1981 and was sent to Japan in 1985.

He serves currently as the Director of the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History and Associate Professor of East Asian Studies at the University of San Francisco. He is also co-editor of the new Brill series, *Studies in the History of Christianity in East Asia*.]

The demands upon the content and character of theological and intellectual formation made necessary by the early decision to admit native candidates to the Society of Jesus in Japan in the late-sixteenth century provides an example of cultural accommodation that has resonances in the mission to the Japanese to this day. This paper’s reflection upon a single historical example was an account of this fascinating episode in the history of Christianity in Japan and to stimulate discussion on the manner in which cultural particularities require careful examination of what adaptations to received forms may be necessary, particularly with regard to questions of ritual and moral conscience.

Antônio Pernia SVD – Missionary Realities and Challenges of the Asian Church Today: Echoes of *Maximum Illud* in Asia

[Fr Tony Pernia is a former Superior General of the Divine Word Missionaries. He obtained his SThD from the Gregorian University in 1988. He is the Dean of Studies at the Divine Word Institute of Mission Studies in Tagaytay City in the Philippines]

This paper argues that the Church in Asia today faces re-emerging realities and challenges *ad extra*, in the Asian reality that surrounds her, as well as emerging realities and challenges *ad intra*, as she turns the page from being a “mission Church” to a “missionary Church.” Therefore the task of the *missio ad gentes* in Asia can be understood as divided into two parts: (1) the re-emerging missionary realities and challenges *ad extra*, namely, massive poverty (A Church of the Poor), multiculturalism (An Intercultural Church), religious pluralism (A Church of Interreligious Dialogue), the ecological crisis (A Green Church), and the Millennial Generation (A Church of the Young), and (2) the emerging missionary realities and challenges *ad intra*, namely, “*missio inter gentes*” and “*missio ad gentes*,” with the corresponding challenge of promoting an “Asian way of doing mission.” The paper noted the activity of Filipino expatriate workers in the Gulf and elsewhere as an example of lay-led, and indeed almost exclusively lay *mission*.

Edmond Eh OP – The Role of Inter-religious Dialogue and Proclamation in the *Missio Ad Gentes* in China: approaches in the Context of the Three Teachings

[EDMOND EH is a Priest of the Holy Rosary Province of the Order of Preachers and an Assistant Professor at the University of Saint Joseph, Macau. He holds a doctoral degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies from the University of Macau and his research is in comparative epistemology, with a focus on the meeting of Aristotelian and Confucian traditions.]

Pope Benedict XV declared that: “The Catholic Church is not an intruder in any country; nor is she alien to any people” (*Maximum Illud*, n. 16). Since the Second Vatican Council, there has been greater awareness that inter-religious dialogue and proclamation of the Gospel are both essential components of the Church’s mission of evangelisation. In order for evangelisation in China to be successful, it seems necessary for missionaries to engage with Chinese culture and religions as both inter-religious and, perhaps more importantly, inter-cultural dialogue in order to identify the *semina verbi* to which a proclamation ordered to the sacramental incorporation to Christ can be addressed. In this paper, Fr Eh contended that dialogue and proclamation have to be approached within the context of the Chinese discourse on the Three Teachings (Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism).

Carolus Borromeo Kusmaryanto SCJ – *missio ad gentes* then and now: Indonesian perspectives

[Fr Carolus Borromeo is a Dehonian Father and is a bioethicist with a Doctorate in Moral Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome. He is a member of the Pontifical Faculty of Theology Weda Bhakti, Yogyakarta, Indonesia and the Catholic University of Sanata Dharma in Yogyakarta. He was previously a member of the Centre for Bioethics and Medical Humanities at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta.]

Having first described the actual situation in Indonesia – demographics and religion data in Indonesia, social and cultural situation in Indonesia – the paper looked at how *missio ad gentes* was initially carried out in Indonesia from its establishment in 1903. It then considered the situation now in a rapidly changing context, in which the previous peaceful coexistence with Islam is being increasingly replaced by more strained, even hostile relations because of the growth of Arab-influenced fundamentalist Islam. The paper argued that, in this situation, *missio ad gentes* must be reformulated to move beyond the personal and parochial, in a manner that engages the intellectual culture and addresses the ethical issues facing Indonesia.

3. Emerging themes

a. Asia/Asian as useful descriptors

From the very beginning of the Colloquium the question arose as to the usefulness of the terms Asia and Asian in consideration of the subject matter. References to documents such as *Ecclesia in Asia* noted that claims that the Lord was an Asian and that the Gospel was first planted in Asia depended upon such a wide and contingent definition of “Asia” that meant it was practically meaningless; it risked turning a *captatio benevolentiae*, aimed at overcoming a certain Eurocentric view of Christianity, into a mechanism that hindered rather than furthered understanding. Asia – if its boundaries for these purposes were to include all lands East of the Bosphorus – would include approaching 60% of the global population and cover cultures so diverse as to be largely lacking in any meaningful similarity. Even restricting the definition to the countries of South East and East Asia (still including 40% of the global population) called into question whether the term was useful.

Although this discussion did not reach a formal conclusion, it became apparent that the scholars whose work was concerned with China and Japan were dealing with cultures that had been, more or less, heavily influenced by Confucianism and that conclusions or even intuitions that were applicable there were not necessarily relevant to those cultures where the influence of Buddhism (Myanmar, Thailand), Islam (Indonesia and Malaysia) and Christianity (Philippines) predominated.

b. Accommodation and Inculturation

The questions of accommodation and *implicit* inculturation was a significant theme emerging from the papers, although less so in the discussions. Several papers noted that cultural accommodation had been a constant feature of the *missio ad gentes* in various Asian cultures and this had happened, even where there were explicit intentions not to do so. This accommodation was considered particularly necessary in Confucian cultures, where modes of behaviour and societal rituals (e.g. Chinese rites) were most profoundly part of life. The idea of religion as culture and the need, therefore, to address precisely the issues arising from this in a inculturation that envisaged the evangelisation of culture rather than simply adopting local cultural forms and importing them into Catholic liturgical and devotional practice was raised on several occasions.

The question of the character of *missio* as being specifically *ad gentes*, as opposed to *ad hominum* was addressed on several occasions but largely tangentially. The idea of a mission to a “people”, understood as a cultural or national *coetus* was not the paradigm with which the speakers – particularly those from Indonesia and the Philippines – appeared to have engaged or upon which they had reflected.

c. *Semina Verbi*

Several of the speakers made explicit reference to the pre-existing *semina verbi* in the cultures that were the *loci* of evangelisation. There was a tension between those, on the one hand, who saw these *semina* as evidence that the object of a particular mission *ad gentes* was to uncover the Gospel already present, more or less, in the culture of a people and, on the other hand, those who saw them as providential, elements of natural revelation which provided the opportunity for an initial *kerygma*. There was a detectible generational divide on this issue, with the older participants taking the former and the younger that latter perspectives.

d. Cultural tensions and national pride

Tensions also emerged in the responses to papers concerning the extent to which generalisations about cultures were helpful. The idea, introduced several times, of a distinctly Asian manner of engaging with a subject, whether Scripture, moral questions or abstract concepts encountered significant resistance from some participants. They maintained that, although there might be an Asian “flavour” to some of these engagements – or even one particular to a specific people or culture – these generalisations obscured just as much as they revealed. The specific suggestion of a “closed” mentality, of a certain cultural narcissism in certain Asian cultures and nationalities was at least as strongly rejected as it was proposed.

e. The lack of a Sacramental dimension to the contributions

The participants addressed at length questions of proclamation and witness but there was very little engagement, either explicit or implicit, with the question of the sacramental dimension on the theme. This manifested itself in a tendency to imagine the fruits of mission in institutional terms and measuring successful mission as manifested in personal conversion and in static ecclesial structures of parish, diocese, bishops’ conferences and even federations of conferences, heavily dependent upon clerical models of leadership and activity. Although encouraged so to do on several occasions, they seemed unfamiliar and even uncomfortable with the notion of the encounter with Christ as objectively located in the sacramental and liturgical and with the reality of the Church in those terms. Instead, the sacramental and liturgical tended to be reified in discussions, as primarily understood didactically and in terms of personal expression: a kind of sacramentalised Protestantism, where the encounter with Christ was understood as primarily affective and imaginative, anchored in a doctrinal/catechetical/magisterial positivism. This in part appeared to be connected with the idea of *missio* as *ad hominum* rather than as *ad gentes*, referred to above.

4. Conclusions

The Colloquium was very largely successful: the papers presented were good and, with minimal editing, are of a quality that merits publication under the auspices of both the University and PMU; the discussions occasioned by the papers – both in the formal proceedings and in informal interactions – were stimulating and revealed a high-degree of theological reflection; and consideration should be given to facilitating the continuation of the conversations initiated in a manner that reflects the very distinct differences between those cultures heavily influenced, even shaped by Confucianism and those subject to or the product of other dominant cultures.

Thought might reasonably be given to the establishment of a research centre at the University of Saint Joseph to undertake research and cultural dialogue, particularly with those cultures, countries and peoples most heavily influenced by Confucianism, such dialogue understood as being specifically at the service of a *missio ad gentes*.

The individuals invited to participate were deeply grateful for the opportunity to participate and were all willing to engage further with the subject.

Macao, 6 January 2020

The Reverend Professor Stephen Morgan
Dean, Faculty of Religious Studies
University of Saint Joseph, Macao

III.5

27 JANVIER – 1 FEVRIER 2020

BURKINA FASO

EMM OCT 2019

COLLOQUE CONTINENTAL SUR LA MISSION AD GENTES POUR L'AFRIQUE FRANCOPHONE AU BURKINA FASO

« Témoigner, annoncer et célébrer la foi dans la mission d'Évangélisation en
Afrique aujourd'hui »

Centre Cardinal Paul Zougrana, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

I- Bref résumé du projet

Le Centre National Cardinal Paul ZOUGRANA de Ouagadougou au Burkina Faso a abrité du 27 janvier au 1^{er} février 2020 un colloque continental sur la mission *ad gentes*. Initialement prévu dans le cadre de la célébration du centenaire de la Lettre Apostolique *Maximum Illud* du pape Benoît XV, l'évènement a été reporté en fin janvier 2020 pour des raisons de calendrier. Il a été organisé par l'Union Pontificale Missionnaire et les Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires pour permettre de réfléchir sur les questions théologiques, bibliques, socioanthropologiques, pastorales, etc. que soulève la praxis missionnaire dans les pays francophones d'Afrique. Dans cette perspective interdisciplinaire, des chercheurs ont planché sur ces problématiques afin de dynamiser l'action missionnaire *ad gentes* comme paradigme de l'agir chrétien et de l'être Église-Famille de Dieu. Choisi en adéquation avec le thème du mois missionnaire extraordinaire octobre 2019, « *Baptisés et envoyés, l'Église du Christ en mission dans le monde* », le thème du colloque est : « *Témoigner, annoncer et célébrer la foi dans la mission d'Évangélisation en Afrique aujourd'hui* ». Il a été subdivisé en 15 sous-thèmes développés par 15 conférenciers et panélistes.

II- Les conférenciers/panélistes et leurs données biographiques CONFÉRENCES/CONFÉRENCIERS

28 janvier 2020 Matinée

**Traduction du langage évangélique et théologique dans l'annonce de l'Évangile en Afrique
aujourd'hui**

Père Paul Béré – BURKINA FASO/ROME

SJ, Docteur en Science de la Bible, Enseignant-chercheur à l'Institut Biblique de Rome, Lauréat Prix Ratzinger 2019

29 janvier 2020 Matinée

Munus de la jeunesse africaine dans la mission évangélisatrice en Afrique

Père Samuel Komlavi Amaglo – TOGO/ROME

SDB, Docteur en missiologie, Enseignant-chercheur à l'Université Pontificale Salésienne de Rome

29 janvier 2020 Matinée

L'Évangile du Règne de Dieu et le développement humain intégral face à la lutte contre la corruption

Père Donald Zagore - COTE D'IVOIRE/TOGO

SMA, Master en théologie de la mission. Administrateur paroissial à Saoudé diocèse de Kara au Togo

29 janvier 2020 Après-midi

Les forces et les ambiguïtés du catholicisme missionnaire : approche critique des conversions massives pour une évangélisation en profondeur de l'Afrique

Abbé Lucien Niyonzima - BURUNDI

Licence canonique en Histoire de l'Église, Formateur et Professeur au G. Séminaire St Jean Paul II de Gitega au Burundi.

30 janvier 2020 Matinée

La missio ad gentes de Maximum Illud a Evangelii Gaudium : receptio africaine

Abbé Léonard Santedi Kinkupu - RDC

Docteur en théologie et en Histoire des Religions-Anthropologie religieuse, Recteur de l'Université Catholique du Congo, Professeur invité à l'Institut Catholique de Paris

30 janvier 2020 Matinée

Église-famille de Dieu, communautés chrétiennes de base dans la mission ad gentes

Abbé Benjamin Akotia - TOGO

Docteur en Écritures Saintes et en Ethnologie, Doyen de la Faculté de Théologie de l'UCAO.UUA

PANELS/PANÉLISTES

28 janvier 2020 Après-midi

Religions et construction de la paix en Afrique

Abbé Mathieu Sama – BURKINA FASO

Docteur en Philosophie éthique et en Théologie morale, Enseignant-chercheur à l'Université Saint Thomas d'Aquin (USTA) et au Grand Séminaire Saint Jean-Baptiste de Ouagadougou

Foi chrétienne et extrémisme religieux

Abbé Amadou Kizito Togo - MALI

Docteur en Histoire de l'Église, Curé, Enseignant-Chercheur à l'Université des lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Bamako

Annnonce de l'Évangile en contexte musulman et dialogue islamo- chrétien

Père Jean FARAH - LIBAN

Maronite, Docteur en missiologie, Enseignant-chercheur et curé de la paroisse maronite de Saint Georges –Zbbougha au Liban.

30 janvier 2020 Après-midi

La foi chrétienne face aux nouveaux mouvements religieux et ésotériques en Afrique

Sœur Christiane Baka - COTE D'IVOIRE

CSNDP, Docteur en Philosophie, Doyen de la Faculté de Philosophie de l'UCAO/UUA.

Inculturation et/ou interculturalité dans les Églises locales africaines

Abbé Antoine de Padou Pooda - BURKINA FASO/ROME

Docteur en missiologie, Enseignant-chercheur à l'Université Pontificale Urbanienne de Rome

La « *missio ad gentes* » à l'ère de la Nouvelle évangélisation

Abbé Jonas B. Anawia - TOGO

Docteur en missiologie, professeur missionnaire au Grand Séminaire Saint Jean Paul II de Lomé au Togo

31 janvier 2020 matinée

Le rôle de la femme dans la mission en Afrique contemporaine

Sœur Epiboué Marguerite Bakorba – BURKINA FASO

SIC, Docteur en Droit Canonique, sous-maîtresse des novices au Noviciat des Sœurs de L'Immaculée Conception à Pabré Burkina Faso.

Évangélisation et sorcellerie

Père Benjamin Sombel Sarr - SENEGAL/ BURKINA FASO

Docteur en Théologie et en philosophie, Professeur titulaire UCAO/UUA.

La problématique des moyens financiers et les activités missionnaires en Afrique

Abbé Jean-Marie Vianney Samarwa - RWANDA

Docteur en philosophie, Enseignant-chercheur à l'Institut Catholique de Kabgayi au Rwanda

III- Logistique et participation

Un comité d'organisation chargé de la logistique et un comité scientifique ont travaillé main dans la main en collaboration avec un coordinateur du colloque. Soixante-trois personnes (évêques, conférenciers, directeurs OPM et membres des comités) étaient prises en charge au Centre National Polyvalent Cardinal Paul ZOUNGRANA où le gîte et le couvert leur étaient offerts. La formule choisie pour réfléchir sur le thème en question était semi-ouverte : chaque conférencier disposait de 45 minutes et chaque panéliste de 30 mn pour exposer son thème. Au terme des communications, place était donnée aux questions, contributions et échanges avec l'auditoire. Tous les intervenants ont participé aux travaux de réflexion du début jusqu'à la fin du colloque. Quatorze directeurs nationaux des Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires et une quinzaine d'évêques ont participé aux assises

ouvertes aux instituts missionnaires, aux Grands Séminaires et universités catholiques de la place. Au total, la liste des présences fait état de 304 participants venus de seize nationalités dont le Liban et le Canada francophone.

IV- Résultats obtenus

Au terme du colloque, une dizaine de recommandations ont été formulées et adressées aux conférences Épiscopales d'Afrique francophone. Une quinzaine de textes récoltés sera étudiée en vue d'une publication. Nous ne pouvons pas quantifier à leurs justes valeurs tous les acquis de ces assises. Mais pour reprendre les propos d'un intervenant qui reflète la satisfaction générale, ce colloque a été et demeure « vital et capital » pour repenser et dynamiser la mission en Afrique Francophone. Toute notre reconnaissance va au Saint Père, au Préfet pour la CEP, aux secrétaires généraux de l'UPM et des OPM qui ont accompagné et soutenu la préparation et la mise en œuvre de cet événement historique. Ce fut un signe éloquent de la présence de l'Église au chevet du Burkina Faso en proie au terrorisme.

Ouagadougou, 4 Février 2020

Abbé Antoine de Padou POODA
Coordinateur du colloque

PART FOUR

**MISSIONARY FORMATION COURSES FOR
PMS NATIONAL AND DIOCESAN DIRECTIONS**

IV.1

CIAM

4 – 9 MARCH 2019

EMM OCT2019

**MISSIONARY FORMATION COURSE
FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING PMS NATIONAL AND DIOCESAN DIRECTIONS**

**Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019
Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ in Mission in the World**

Moderator Fr. Karl Wallner - PMS National Director in Austria

Final Report

From March 4th to 9th, 2019 in the CIAM 29 persons took part in a Formation Course, which somehow was an experiment. The moderation was given in the hand of a National Director from outside, Fr. Karl Wallner, ND of the PMS in Austria.

The 29 participants came from all five continents: Australia (1), Austria (1), Cameroun (2), Korea (1), Canada English (2), Egypt (3), India (1), Ireland (2), Malawi (3), Myanmar (3), New Zealand (2), Pakistan (1), Tanzania (3) and Zambia (4). Seven of the participants were National Directors, two of them were new in this office (India, Pakistan). Nine were Diocesan Directors; the others bore responsibility for the PMS in various ways, some of them in highest and very important positions (Australia, Ireland).

So only the five “old” National Directors had already good knowledge about the PMS; for all the others – the 2 new National Directors, all the Diocesan Directors and the lay-people – this Formation Course was an extraordinary NEW experience. Afterwards all confessed that they learned a lot of new things about *Missio ad Gentes* and the PMS.

The Program:

It was a course with 4 full and 2 half days of intensive lectures, reflections and meetings. On Wednesday morning, we took part in the General Audience and met Pope Francis.

We met the Holy Father at splendid weather conditions in the Piazza San Pietro. He was giving us a sermon about the 2nd demand of the “Our Father”: “Thy Kingdom Come”.

On Friday, we had a full-day pilgrimage to Assisi and we pray at the tomb of Saint Francis and Sainte Claire. Fr. Ted Nowak, Secretary General of the POPF, was with us the whole day and celebrated the Holy Mass in the Chapel of Peace, under the tomb of Saint Francis. Everybody appreciated this trip!

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019	
9:30am - 11:00am / 11:30am - 1:00pm	FR. FABRIZIO MERONI PMU SECRETARY GENERAL
EMMOCT2019 - PMU	
3:30pm - 4:30pm / 5:00pm - 6:15pm	MSGR. GIAMPIETRO DAL TOSO PMS PRESIDENT
Church Mission and PMS	
6:30pm	HOLY MASS
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019	
7:15am	HOLY MASS
9:30am - 11:00am / 11:30am - 1:00pm	FR. KARL WALLNER AUSTRIA PMS NATIONAL DIRECTOR
The <i>missio ad gentes</i> in Maximum Illud, Ad Gentes, Lumen Gentium, Gaudium et Spes, Nostra Aetate, Evangelii Nuntiandi, Redemptoris Missio, Evangelii Gaudium	
3:30pm - 5:00pm / 5:30pm - 7:00pm	FR. FILIPPO GOYRET UPSC THEOLOGIAN
Baptized and Sent: the Church of Christ on mission in the world	
7:10pm	EVENING PRAYER
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019	
7:15am	HOLY MASS
WEDNESDAY PAPAL AUDIENCE	
3:30pm - 5:00pm / 5:30pm - 7:00pm	FR. PASQUALE BASTA PUU-PIB SACRED SCRIPTURES PROFESSOR
<i>Missio ad gentes</i> in the Acts of the Apostles	
7:10pm	EVENING PRAYER
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019	
7:15am	HOLY MASS
9:30am - 11:00am PSPF	FR. TADEUSZ NOWAK, PSPF SECRETARY GENERAL
11:30 am - 1:00pm MCA	SR. ROBERTA TREMARELLI, MCA SECRETARY GENERAL
3:30pm - 5:00pm PSSPA	FR. GUY BOGNON, PSSPA SECRETARY GENERAL
5:30pm - 7:00pm PMS IN OUR COUNTRIES	DISCUSSION
7:10pm	EVENING PRAYER
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019	
ONE DAY VISIT OF ASSISI	FR. GERARDO RONCERO, PSPF
SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019	
7:15am	HOLY MASS
9:30am - 11:00am / 11:30am - 1:00pm	MR. ALAN HOLDREN EWTN ROME BUREAU CHIEF MRS. ELENA GRAZINI MULTIMEDIA COMMUNICATION MANAGER EMM OCT2019
<i>Missio ad gentes</i> : media communication and digital world	
1:00pm	CLOSING LUNCH

Themes, lecturers and lectures:

FR. FABRIZIO MERONI (Secretary General of the PMU, Chief of CIAM and FIDES): “The Mission of the Church and the *Missio ad gentes* (MAD). Some initial Reflections” (published in the Guide to the EMMOct2019, see: www.october2019.va). He gave us also a paper, which reflects on a reform of PMU and CIAM. In his initial reflections, he told us about the background and the plans for the EMMOct2019: “*Missio ad gentes*” must become the paradigm of reforming the whole attitude of the church. MAD is not only one form of what we do, but it is the formal method, the criteria, the measure of all the life of the church.

He gave us two major themes that we should reflect on in this week: 1. What do we really mean with “mission ad gentes” (MAD)? What does it imply? Redemptoris Missio 2: “A lack of missionary spirit is a lack of faith”. 2. How does MAD fit into the pastoral plans of our dioceses, in the ordinary life? The problem of the Church seems to be, that MAD is marginalised. A sign of this is that even most of the DD and many of the NDs are not 100percent free for their work!

MSGR. GIAMPIETRO DAL TOSO (President of the PMS): The participant appreciated it a lot, that the President of the PMS personally spoke to them and shared a whole afternoon and evening with them. He deepened the theological foundations of the church’s mission and gave an impression about the charisma of the PMS. There was a summary published by FIDES, telling that the PMS is a worldwide network in the Service of the Pope! “We should remember that we are talking about a special Charisma. I explicitly use the term 'charisma' because the activity of our mission works would not be comprehensible without the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

This becomes obvious when we look at the historical context in which they originated. Several saints lived in the diocese of Lyon at that time: Saint Jean Marie Vianney, Saint Pierre Jules Eymard, founder of the Congregation for the Most Holy Sacrament (Eucharist), and Saint Pierre Chanel, who later died as an apostle and martyr in Oceania. The special missionary Charisma of the Pontifical Mission Societies was therefore born in this context of holiness, so that mission might be supported by prayer and works of love". The target of all MAD is the personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Our President also gave a short definition of the PMS: “The PMS are a worldwide network at the service of the Holy Father to sustain the missions and the young churches through prayer and charity.”

As Pope Francis said in his video-message: The PMS is “importante, ma poco conosciuto! – important, but not well known”. We have to change this.

According to Msgr. Dal Toso the four Issues of the PMS Today are:

1. To keep the missionary spirit alive in the Church. With creativity.
2. The prayer for the mission: Sustain and foster the prayer for the mission.
3. To cultivate missionary formation.

4. To collect money for the mission. Every spirit needs a body. We need concretely money for the young churches.

FR. KARL WALLNER (ND of Austria, Prof. in Hochschule Heiligenkreuz). Although there was a short Apostolic Letter in 1880 by Pope Leo XIII, since 1919 there is a large and wide and motivating teaching of the Church about *Missio ad Gentes*, starting with the programmatic Letter of Benedict XV *Maximum Illud*, in which he reshaped the idea of MAD. The Text “The Mission of the Church and the PMS in the Documents of the Church from 1919-2019” has been distributed as PDF.

Then we meditated and discussed about the wish of Pope Francis, which he expressed in *Evangelii Gaudium* Nr. 25: “I am aware that nowadays documents do not arouse the same interest as in the past and that they are quickly forgotten. Nevertheless, I want to emphasize that what I am trying to express here has a programmatic significance and important consequences. I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion, which cannot leave things as they presently are. “Mere administration” can no longer be enough. Throughout the world, let us be “permanently in a state of mission”. There is a text with some quotations out of papal documents (*Evangelii Gaudium* etc.) about “missionary spirituality” that has been distributed.

FR. PHILIP GOYRET (UPSC-Professor of Dogmatics - Università Pontificia della Santa Croce). The theme of his two lectures were: “Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on mission in the World”. Prof. Philip Goyret gave an overview of the origin of creeds and ecclesiology, from the Bible to the Second Vatican Council. The Church emerged from mission and the Church is still today God's mission to the world. It was didactically very good and exciting. It was also interesting for theologians because he was able to bring the contents to the point. His two lectures were very theoretical, but also particularly valuable. Unfortunately, there is no scriptum by him. Remarkable is the word of St. John Paul II about the non-missionary mentality in our times: “Maybe the Catholic church has not been too catholic.” It means: “Catholicity” means “missionarity”.

FR. PASQUALE BASTA (PUU-PIB-Sacred Scriptures Professor). The Professor had an incredible knowledge of the biblical, archeological and historical origins of the Church. He gave two lectures:

1st About “Saint Paul in the Acts of the Apostles”

2nd About “Hoi dodeka – The Twelve Apostles”, using for the presentation also the Apocryphic Material that we have about the Twelve. The texts of his 2 Lectures have been distributed.

On Thursday, we had three Secretaries General of the PSPF (**FR. TADEUSZ NOWAK**), the MCA (**SR. ROBERTA TREMARELLI**) and **FR. GUY BOGNON** (PSSPA) with us. Everybody gave a condensed introduction in the origins, the charisma and the work of their secretary. Of particular

interest was the emergence of the societies from which the present secretariats emerged. Jeanne Bigard, for example, is very unknown. It was very much appreciated, that they were with us and a lot of questions arose. In many countries, the most known society is the Holy Childhood. For many the work of the PSSPA in taking care of so many seminaries was surprise. Fr. Guy Bognon: “The PSSPA is a mother, who is not known by her children.”

The presentations of all the four Secretaries General have been distributed as PDF to all the participants.

The importance of “mission” through the media was subject of the last morning, when we met **MR. ALAN HOLDRON** from EWTN (TV) and **MS. ELENA GRAZINI**, responsible manager for the multimedia communication for EMMOct2019.

Exchange of impressions ideas

Already at the beginning we built three working groups and after this a general sharing about our reflection several times. We repeated this fruitfully several times. - On the last full day, Thursday evening, we had a common sharing in the Full Assembly. The moderator invited the participants, to tell, what they had learned, what they would like to bring to their countries and to give general impressions and observations. This was very precious, because also the “shy ones” now dared to speak.

Something that should be remembered:

- Everybody felt totally motivated, there were only positive reactions on this formation course. Everybody will go back with new ideas and new motivations.
- Most of the participants are sad about the fact, that they have not the full support of their bishops; that the bishops even do not know, what the PMS is and that they do not care.
- The main problem everywhere is that the PMS is not well known, or even not known at all.
- Gratefulness for the EMMOct2019, because it is a chance to promote the work of PMS.
- Big gratefulness for the input and materials that they received.
- Some want to start formation courses for priests and young people;
- Some will start “mission-teams” in their countries, formed by the PMS.
- Many (from the west) would like to inform more the priests, the catholic schools. Often they have to beg the bishops to have the allowance for this promotional work.
- As the “connection” between the PMS and the bishops in some countries is “deficient”, many wish more support from the Holy See. One said: “They make us soldiers, but then they us to war without guns.”

- Everybody wishes to get more media-material from Rome to do a better promotion: videos, photos, reports etc.
- Some will start to use the Church-media as Radio Maria, but they will also contact the wealthy media.
- Everybody wants to go home and promote strongly EMMOct2019
- All agreed, that there has to be something done on the Diocesan Directors, they have to be better connected 1st to the national directions; 2nd to the bishops. This should be ordered by Rome.
- They were very impressed, that the President and all the General Secretaries took time to give them lectures, reflections and informations. The personal contact is very important.

Personal Observations

- Undoubtedly, the Formation Course was a big success according to the reaction of all participants. Also the idea of making me moderator (as a non English Speaking Person) worked, because all of the participants are adults, know how to carry responsibility and were eager to be full part of the theme.
- The mix of lectures, discussions – combined with the General Audience and the full-day-pilgrimage was okay. Only: We would have needed more time for sharing at the end. Everybody was full with ideas and ready to share it to the others, but at the end we were in a hurry...
- There should be always a good group photo for promoting the Courses.
- I was made responsible for the Liturgy, but I reached this over immediately to a team of three strong persons; they were happy to be honoured by being in charge of something - and they did it in a perfect way.
- I had to leave earlier, so I do not know if it happened: but at the end, there should be an evaluation of the Course, done by all.
- The beautiful Lodgement, the good meals, the friendly service of the sisters is immensely helpful for the atmosphere. Great!
- Within 2 days we became a strong “team”, everybody talked with everybody. Nevertheless, Badges with the names and the countries would be helpful, because it is not so easy to remember the names of 29 persons.
- Discussions and talking together: Working in three groups is okay. But it was also very precious, that we shared, what was in our heart in the assembly. The Moderator has to encourage the “shy” ones. It worked.

- Some of them realised for the first time the importance of mission and got an impression of the charisma and structure of the PMS. Accordingly, they were enthusiastic about the training course!
- The Moderator collected the E-Mail-Addresses of all participants, taking care, that they are readably written. He made a list with the names and E-Mail-Addresses and sent them to all participants. In the same way, he collected all the lectures and presentations available and sent them to all.
- It was not only the “content”, that was appreciated, but also the good atmosphere. Especially, that the President and the four Secretaries General invested such a lot of time and interest in this Formation Course.

Wien, 9 March 2019

Fr. Karl Wallner
PMS National Director, Austria

IV.2

CIAM

1 – 6 AVRIL 2019

MME OCT2019

**COURS DE FORMATION MISSIONNAIRE
POUR LES DIRECTIONS NATIONALES ET DIOCESAINES OPM
POUR LES PAYS FRANCOPHONES**

**Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire Octobre 2019
Baptisés et envoyés : l'Église du Christ en mission dans le monde**

Moderateur P. Godeforid Manunga Lulokisa, svd - Directeur National OPM-RDC

Rapport final

1. PRESENTATION

La session d'information et de formation sur le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire pour les Directions Nationales Francophones du monde catholique a eu lieu du 01 au 06 Avril 2019 au Centre International d'Animation Missionnaire (CIAM) à Rome.

Cette première rencontre du genre a connu la participation de 33 personnes venues de 15 pays et donc de 15 Directions Nationales des Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires du monde Francophone.

Suivant l'ordre alphabétique, il s'agit des pays ci-après (le nombre des délégués) :

1. OPM Belgique (2) 2.OPM Bénin (1) 3.OPMBurkina Faso + Niger (3) 4. OPM Cameroun (2) 5. OPM Canada Francophone (2) 6. OPM France (2) 7.OPM Gabon (3) 8.OPM Centrafrique (3) 9. OPM R.D.Congo (2) 10. OPM Côte d'Ivoire (1) 11.OPM Mali (3) 12. OPM Rwanda (3) 13. OPM Suisse (2) 14.OPM Tchad (2) 15. OPM Togo (2)

La Direction Nationale OPM Sénégal n'était pas représentée.

Le Père Godefroid MANUNGA LUKOKISA, SVD, Directeur National OPM-RDC a été invité pour assurer la modération de toute la semaine de formation qui a connu la participation de huit Directeurs Nationaux (dont 3 nouveaux et 5 anciens) et un bon nombre de laïcs et prêtres respectivement Directeurs Diocésains des OPM ou collaborateurs à différents niveaux dans les bureaux des OPM des pays représentés.

2. CONTENU DU PROGRAMME

Les diverses activités programmées pendant toute la semaine comprenaient les cours magistraux par des professeurs d'universités de Rome, surtout l'Urbaniana, des temps de Réflexion, d'Information et de partage d'expériences sur le Mois Missionnaire.

Nous avons eu les travaux de carrefours et de mise en commun suivant les directives des conférenciers. Après l'audience avec le Pape de mercredi 03.04.2019 avant-midi, les participants ont visité les bureaux des OPM au Palais de la Propaganda Fide (Piazza di Spagna) sous la conduite de la Révérende Sœur Roberta Tremarelli, Secrétaire internationale de l'Enfance Missionnaire.

La journée de vendredi était entièrement consacrée à l'excursion à Assise sur les pas de Saint François et de Sainte Claire.

Les participants à la session de langue française ont bien profité de toutes ces occasions que les organisateurs leur ont offertes pour faire de nouvelles connaissances et nouer des amitiés. Une occasion pour tous d'amorcer des échanges d'idées et des stratégies dans la promotion des OPM dans nos églises locales respectives.

Nous tenons à signaler que les professeurs d'universités et intervenants invités étaient à la hauteur de leur tâche.

Mgr Giampietro Dal Toso et les 4 Secrétaires internationaux ont abordé des objectifs des OPM internationales aux participants dans un langage simple, quoique ces derniers n'aient pas tous eu la même connaissance des OPM internationales.

LUNDI 1 AVRIL 2019	
9:30- 10:30 / 11:00 - 12:00	MGR. GIAMPIETRO DAL TOSO PRÉSIDENT DES OPM
La Mission de l'Eglise e les OPM	
12:15 - 13:00	MESSE
15:30 - 17:00 / 17:30- 19:00	P. FABRIZIO MERONI SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL DE L'UPM
MMEOCT2019 -UPM	
19:10	VÊPRES
MARDI 2 AVRIL 2019	
07:15	MESSE
9:30 - 11:00 / 11:30 - 13:00	P. GODEFROID MANUNGA-LUKOKISA RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO DIRECTEUR NATIONAL DES OPM
La missio ad gentes in Maximum Illud, Ad Gentes, Lumen Gentium, Gaudium et Spes, Nostra Aetate, Evangelii Nuntiandi, Redemptoris Missio, Evangelii Gaudium	
15:30 - 17:00 / 17:30- 19:00	P. ANTOINE DE PADOU POODA THÉOLOGIE DE L'UPU
Baptisés et Envoyés: l'Eglise du Christ en mission dans le monde	
19:10	VÊPRES
MERCREDI 3 AVRIL 2019	
07:15	MESSE
AUDIENCE PAPAIE DU MERCREDI	
15:30 - 17:00 / 17:30- 19:00	P. ETIENNE-NOEL BASSOUMBOUL PROFESSEUR D'ECRITURE SAINTE A L'UPU
La <i>missio ad gentes</i> dans les Actes des Apôtres	
19:10	VÊPRES
JEUDI 4 AVRIL 2019	
07:15	MESSE
9:30 - 11:00 OPPF	P. TADEUSZ NOWAK , SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL DE L'OPPF
11:30 - 13:00 OPEM	SR. ROBERTA TREMARELLI , SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL DE L'OPEM
15:30 - 17:00 OPSPA	P. GUY BOGNON , SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL DE L'OPSPA
17:30 - 19:00 OPM DANS NOS PAYS	DISCUSSION
19:10	VÊPRES
VENDREDI 5 AVRIL 2019	
VISITE D'UNE JOURNEE A ASSISE	P. GERARDO RONCERO , OPFF
SAMEDI 6 AVRIL 2019	
07:15	MESSE
9:30 - 11:00 / 11:30 - 13:00	MME SOLÈNE TADIÉ EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER M. BENJAMIN CROCKET EWTN VATICAN BUREAU DIGITAL STRATEGIST MME ELENA GRAZINI RESPONSABLE DE LA COMMUNICATION MULTIMEDIA MME OCT2019
Missio ad gentes : media communication et monde numérique	
13:00	DÉJEUNER DE CLÔTURE

3. BREVE PRESENTATION DES THEMES ET DES FACILITATEURS

3.1. Mgr Giampietro Dal Toso, Président des OPM

Après avoir donné une définition personnelle des OPM , « ... un réseau mondial pour soutenir la mission du Saint Père par la prière et les œuvres de charité », l'Archevêque Président a présenté les fondements théologiques de la mission et du charisme fondateur de chacune de 4 OPM.

Il a ajouté que les OPM ont été fondées dans une époque où la dévotion aux Saints était remarquable en France et en Italie particulièrement. Saint Jean-Marie Vianney (Curé d'Ars), Saint Pierre Julien Eymard (Fondateur de la Congrégation du Très Saint Sacrement) et Saint Pierre Chanel, mort martyr en Océanie, pour ne citer que ceux-là, sont produits de cette belle période de l'Eglise catholique de France.

Par la prière, la charité et les ressources financières envoyées aux respectifs fonds de solidarité universelle, les Directions nationales doivent continuer à vivre la communion avec le Saint Père, qui est le garant de la répartition équitable de ces fonds.

Mgr le Président des OPM a donné 4 défis que les Directeurs Nationaux et leurs collaborateurs doivent relever cent ans après la promulgation de la Lettre Apostolique « Maximum Illud » du Pape Benoît XV :

1. Développer une grande sensibilité missionnaire, Eveiller l'esprit missionnaire de tous les Baptisés (Clergé + Laïcs) en se servant des méthodes et moyens de communication sociale disponibles.
2. Soutenir la prière pour les différentes vocations missionnaires : Inviter les groupes de prière, encourager l'adoration du Très Saint Sacrement
3. Renforcer la collaboration à tous les niveaux : Secrétariat International-Direction Nationale-Direction Diocésaine.
4. Continuer la collecte des fonds pour les missions. L'argent est nécessaire pour que les OPM continuent à témoigner la solidarité envers les jeunes églises.

Les deux textes des conférences qui ont été distribués aux participants après son intervention s'intitulent: « Discours aux Directeurs Nationaux et leurs collaborateurs » puis « La Mission de l'Eglise et les OPM ».

3.2. R.P. Fabrizio MERONI, PIME, Secrétaire général de l'Union Pontificale Missionnaire, Directeur du CIAM et de l'Agence Fides

Auteur de plusieurs publications et professeur d'universités, Le Père Fabrizio MERONI PIME est polyglotte avisé. Il est secrétaire de l'UPM, directeur de l'Agence Fides et du CIAM-Rome. Le Père Fabrizio a aidé les participants à comprendre les différents sens de la « Mission ad gentes »

(MAD). Partant de « Redemptoris Missio » 2, le Père Fabrizio MERONI soutient que le manque de l'esprit missionnaire est un manque de foi.

La Mission ad gentes semble être marginalisée. Il a constaté que la mission ad gentes n'est pas à l'ordre du jour dans les plans pastoraux de nos églises locales ou diocèses.

Le Secrétaire international de l'UPM a rapidement présenté aux participants le « Guide la célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire 2019 ». Contrairement à beaucoup d'orateurs, le Père Fabrizio a invité chaque participant à lire personnellement les deux présentations :

1. La Mission de l'Eglise et la *Missio ad gentes*-Quelques observations préliminaires (8 pages)
2. Notes UPM et CIAM 2018 : commencer à définir ensemble un projet de réforme (11 pages).

Ces deux textes sont publiés dans le Guide de la célébration du Mois Missionnaire publié en 2019.

3.3. R.P. Godefroid MANUNGA, SVD, Directeur National OPM-RDC

Le Père Godefroid MANUNGA est membre de la Société du Verbe Divin, SVD en sigle. Ordonné prêtre à Kinshasa le 26 juillet 1992. Docteur en Missiologie de l'Université Pontificale Gregoriana. Il est Professeur de « Pastorale Missionnaire » à l'Université Saint Augustin de Kinshasa (USAKIN).

Le Directeur National des OPM-RDC a parlé de la Mission ad gentes et des OPM dans les principaux documents du Magistère de l'Eglise, de « Maximum Illud » (Pape Benoît XV, 1919) à la « Evangelii Gaudium » (Pape François 2015)

Depuis 1919 jusqu'à nos jours, atteste le Père Godefroid MANUNGA, les Souverains Pontifes ont toujours considéré la mission ad gentes comme constitutive de la nature de l'Eglise. Les 4 OPM sont des réponses concrètes à l'accomplissement du mandat divin de Jésus Christ en Eglise et par l'Eglise: « Allez, faites des disciples de toutes les nations » (Mt 28, 18-20).

La copie de sa conférence a été donnée à chaque participant dès le début, comme cela chacun pouvait suivre.

3.4. Prof Abbé Antoine de Padoue POODA, Prêtre diocésain de Gaoua au Burkina Faso (Prêtre depuis le 30.12.1999 à Dédougou). Il est Docteur en Missiologie de l'Université Pontificale Urbaniana. Il a expliqué le binôme « Baptisés et Envoyés » : L'Eglise du Christ en Mission dans le monde.

Il a affirmé que l'Eglise est par nature missionnaire. Il a fait beaucoup d'applications à la mission ad gentes et les OPM. Les participants ont eu à répondre à quelques questions qu'il posait après chaque exposé, de surcroît très théorique mais substantiel.

L'orateur a eu l'occasion de faire connaître son livre sur la mission comme échange et don.

3.5. Abbé Etienne-Noël BASSOUMBOUL, Prêtre diocésain d'EDEA au Cameroun

Il a fait une thèse de doctorat en Exégèse vétérotestamentaire à Jérusalem. Actuellement, il enseigne le Grec biblique et la syntaxe hébraïque à l'Urbaniana.

Il a bien développé le thème « La Mission ad gentes dans les Actes des Apôtres ».

Le Professeur BASSOUMBOUL a conduit les auditeurs de l'Ancien Testament au Nouveau Testament. Dans l'ensemble c'était bien. Il a promis d'envoyer le texte pour la distribution mais cela peut-être a été fait plus tard.

Après le Père Fabrizio MERONI, Secrétaire international de l'UPM, toute la journée de jeudi, les participants ont suivi attentivement les interventions de 3 autres Secrétaires Internationaux, à savoir le P. Tadeusz NOWAK, Secrétaire Général de l'OPPF, le Père Guy BOGNON, Secrétaire Général de l'OPSPA et la Sœur Roberta TREMARELLI, Secrétaire Général de l'OSPE/OPEM.

Chaque Secrétaire a très bien parlé de l'œuvre Pontificale qu'il dirige : Survol historique-objectifs et actualité de chaque OPM.

Il ressort de ces échanges que l'OPPF et l'OPSE semblent être les mieux connues dans les Eglises de mission francophones tandis que l'UPM et surtout l'OPSPA sont comme des « mères ignorées » par leurs enfants ; donc les deux sont peu connues.

C'est un élément important dans le souci de la réforme des OPM plus que cent ans de leur existence.

3.6. Madame Elena Grazini, Manager du site internet EMM oct 2019

Mr Alan Holdron, journaliste à la TV EWTN et son équipe (ses collaborateurs) ont parlé de comment vivre la mission, parler de la Mission et faire connaître le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire à travers les médias.

4. OBSERVATIONS GENERALES

4.1. Liturgie participative et très bonne ambiance de prière :

Le modérateur a fait imprimer des livrets des chants en Français... ils ont servi de support pour les célébrations eucharistiques de chaque jour.

Les participants ont été repartis en quatre groupes (composés de trois à quatre pays par groupe) pour la préparation de la Liturgie et la direction des prières à table, des Laudes et Vêpres.

La présidence de la Liturgie s'est faite de la manière suivante :

Lundi : Mgr Giampietro Dal Toso a présidé la messe d'ouverture de la session de formation

Mardi : Mgr Dubost, Directeur National OPM France

Mercredi : Directeur OPM-Bénin

Jeudi : A. Elie, Directeur National OPM-Rwanda

Vendredi : Abbé Ruffin Ngoubou, Directeur National OPM Gabon

Samedi : P. Godefroid MANUNGA, Directeur National OPM-RDC et Modérateur de la session.

4.2. Bonnes équipes de travail en carrefour :

Chaque équipe était composée de 7 à 8 personnes et l'ambiance était bonne. Tout le monde était bien motivé, désireux d'apprendre des uns et des autres. Les équipes ont servi aussi comme les lieux de discussion et d'échanges. Il serait intéressant de donner plus de temps à ces groupes dans l'avenir.

4.3. Impressions générales sur les OPM

Beaucoup de Directeurs Nationaux et Diocésains ne sont pas à temps plein. Les OPM sont connues comme des organismes qui financent les projets et l'OPPF et l'OPSE sont relativement bien connues. Les Directeurs diocésains devraient plus insister aussi sur la spiritualité missionnaire pas seulement sur la collecte de l'argent, quoiqu'important.

La Direction Nationale OPM Belgique exceptionnellement n'a pas de Directeurs diocésains. Il y a des Evêques qui supportent le travail des Directeurs Nationaux et Diocésains ; d'autres moins. Dans beaucoup de Directions nationales, le chapelet ou rosaire missionnaire est inconnu.

4.4. Session de formation sur le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire

Tout le monde a loué la belle initiative d'organiser une session pour les Directeurs Diocésains et les collaborateurs laïcs des OPM suivant les langues internationales. Ainsi, tout compte fait, la session des OPM Francophones a été un grand succès.

*Tout le monde a loué le choix judicieux du modérateur et les différents Professeurs et Secrétaires internationaux qui sont intervenus à tour de rôle. Le matériel didactique reçu après les conférences et la liste, la liste des E-mails proposée par le modérateur serviront à poursuivre les contacts intéressants.

*De retour dans nos pays, chaque participant promet de s'engager pour faire connaître les Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires et fera en sorte que le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire 2019 soit célébré solennellement.

*Au nom de tous, sincères remerciements à Massimo, Elisa et la communauté des Sœurs Servantes du Très Saint Sacrement, sans oublier les dames qui assurent la propreté du CIAM, pour la disponibilité et la collaboration

*Sincères remerciements au Père Fabrizio MERONI pour son savoir faire, ses initiatives et surtout pour le bon accueil et le logement de tous au CIAM. Merci au Directeur du CIAM d'avoir pensé à mettre à la disposition des participants des billets de bus pour le transport en public.

Quelques jours ou toute une semaine de formation missionnaire permanente au CIAM est une initiative à encourager et à réaliser si pas chaque année, alors une fois tous les 2 ans.

5. PROPOSITIONS DE REFORME DE L'UPM ET DU CIAM

5.1. UPM : Union Pontificale Missionnaire

L'UPM est la dernière née des OPM internationales. Elle est le cœur des Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires. Toutefois, jusqu'à présent, elle est la moins connue des Œuvres dans les Eglises locales probablement parce qu'elle ne demande pas l'argent chaque année.

Je propose ce qui suit:

1. Que l'élan missionnaire pris par l'UPM depuis l'avènement du Père Fabrizio MERONI, PIME, continue ; que l'UPM assure aux agents pastoraux et de l'évangélisation une formation intégrale qui tienne compte de réalités socioculturelles locales. Que la ferme volonté du secrétaire International de l'UPM de soutenir financièrement cette formation ne s'estompe pas.
2. Il est urgent de constituer une équipe internationale permanente d'experts interdisciplinaires pour repenser l'actualité des OPM aujourd'hui et demain, suivant les contextes socioculturels, pastoraux et missionnaires (Continents).
3. L'UPM doit aussi proposer des programmes de formation permanente pour tout le peuple de Dieu (Evêques (nouveaux et anciens), Clergé séculier et religieux, y compris les Laïcs (intellectuels catholiques, jeunes, adultes,...)).

5.2. CIAM : Centre International d'Animation Missionnaire

Le CIAM, un Centre Jubilaire

Créé le 31.05.1974, ce haut lieu d'accueil et de formation missionnaire fête quarante cinq ans d'existence, cependant Il est demeuré peu connu du public de Rome, moins encore des Directions Nationales des OPM de l'hémisphère Sud.

Ce centre international doit rester fidèle aux intuitions fondatrices : l'animation missionnaire contextuelle du peuple de Dieu (Du point de vue culturel et linguistique).

1. Le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire 2019
2. Les différentes sessions de formation organisées en 2018 et durant cette année en cours, suivant les langues, sont des occasions providentielles qui font connaître le CIAM-Rome. Nous prenons graduellement conscience que le CIAM est un véritable lieu de communion entre les Eglises de l'hémisphère Nord et Sud.
3. Je souhaite que le CIAM soit un lieu de réveil missionnaire des communautés et églises locales du monde. Quand les participants de différentes sessions sont ici, qu'on leur donne l'occasion de visiter les lieux historiques sacrés et missionnaires de Rome et environs.
4. Que le CIAM soit vraiment une école de formation spirituelle et missionnaire authentique des Directeurs Nationaux et Diocésains, sans oublier leurs collaborateurs (Catéchistes,...). Renforcer le personnel (en plus du Père Fabrizio,...)

5.3. AGENCE FIDES

Que cette agence soit au service de la mission universelle, qu'elle soit un lieu de communication et de sensibilisation de tous sur la mission ad gentes. Que l'Agence Fides motive toujours les Directions Nationales et les autres partenaires de la mission dans les églises locales d'envoyer des articles sur la mission en contexte et favoriser les échanges sur la mission ad gentes et inter gentes dans les différentes parties du monde.

Kinshasa, 17 avril 2019

P. Godefroid MANUNGA, SVD
Directeur National OPM-RDC

IV.3

CIAM

8 – 13 APRIL 2019

EMM OCT2019

**MISSIONARY FORMATION COURSE
FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING PMS NATIONAL AND DIOCESAN DIRECTIONS**

**Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019
Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World**

Moderator Fr. Anthony Chantry – PMS National Director in England and Wales

Final Report

From the very beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis has set mission as the most urgent priority on the agenda for the life of the Church. He calls us to recommit ourselves as Missionary Disciples dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel first and foremost to those who “do not know Jesus Christ”. He wants us to “realise that missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church’s activity”. (See *Evangelii Gaudium*, 15)

The Holy Father goes to say, “I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they are. Throughout the world, let us be permanently in a state of mission.” (Ibid.)

In his vision statement for the future of PMU titled “Beginning to Define a Reform Project Together”, Fr Fabrizio Meroni reminds us that PMS in general, and PMU in particular, are responsible for “formation to the mission of the Church (*missio ad gentes*) and the awakening of the missionary engagement of the entire People of God”.

On 7th April 2019, thirty-one people from PMS Directorates in the Philippines, Australia, Ghana, South Korea, Germany, Canada, Nigeria, the Pacific Islands, Ethiopia, Belgium, Uganda, the Czech Republic, Equatorial Guinea and Benin gathered at CIAM for a week of missionary formation. They comprised ten priests, one deacon, seven Sisters and thirteen lay people.

It is worth noting here that the greatest resource in any formation course is the participants themselves. Each person brings his or her own unique faith story. This living narrative is formed in the life experience of the individual, in his or her own cultural setting, and under the social and religious influence of those who have accompanied them on their life’s journey.

It was clear to me from the beginning that the participants were blessed with a deep and broad range of experiences, wisdom and insight, providing rich resources for the course.

We were further enriched by the presentations of eleven highly qualified speakers, including our own PMS President and General Secretaries. The topics covered were as follows:

- The Mission of the Church and PMS.
- The Extraordinary Month of Mission.
- *Missio ad gentes* in the Acts of the Apostles.

- Baptised and Sent: the Church of Christ on mission in the world.
- From *Maximum Illud* until EMM: the development of *missio ad gentes*.
- Media Communication of mission in the digital world.
- The hopes, joys and challenges of each of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

These topics were couched in a daily programme that included times of prayer, Eucharistic celebration and personal reflection, as well as opportunities to socialise.

Formation for mission is not about receiving information, to be digested and regurgitated on demand. Formation is most effective when it is designed as a process geared towards integration and transformation. This involves both spiritual and human growth. The verbs employed in the dynamics of ‘trans-formation’ are listening, sharing, challenging and changing, in an atmosphere of fearless acceptance, sincere humility and non-judgemental openness.

Our journey through the mission formation week began with introductions and realisation from all concerned that we had come together to focus on something vitally important to the Church. In the opening words of Pope Benedict XV’s Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, that Our Lord Jesus Christ has committed to us “a duty and a holy charge to go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation”. To gather such a geographically and culturally diverse group in one place, united in a common cause, is proof enough of the presence of the Holy Spirit, who is always the principal agent of formation. The Holy Spirit calls, forms and sends: our task is one of collaboration, always ready to receive his breath of life.

As we moved through the week we all came to appreciate each other as companions on the way. The spirit among us was positive and life-giving, and there was no shortage of joy.

Blessed by incessant rain, participants attended the audience of the Holy Father on Wednesday and were fortunate enough to come close to him.

On Friday we all went on pilgrimage to Assisi where we had an extensive guided tour of the Church buildings and a wonderful celebration of Mass in the Chapel of Peace.

The week concluded with the inevitable emotions related to saying goodbye to fellow participants, some of whom we would probably never see again. Such is the nature of missionary life.

We reflected upon the effectiveness of the formation course. Whilst appreciating the giftedness of the presenters, there was a general feeling that some of the inputs were too academic and that more time was needed to digest and integrate the information. We were all very appreciative of and grateful to the staff and helpers at CIAM. They all made us very welcome and did all they could to make us feel at home. Most of us came away with both expanded vision and waistlines!

Looking back upon the week, I can only echo the sentiments of one of the participants who wrote to me recently saying, “Our meeting in Rome still fills me with strength and new energy: I feel

that staying with so many precious people from around the world was such an enriching experience and I try to keep in touch and continue to exchange thoughts and experiences”.

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019	
9:30am - 11:00am / 11:30am - 1:00pm EMMOCT2019 - PMU	FR. FABRIZIO MERONI PMU SECRETARY GENERAL
3:30pm - 4:30pm / 5:00pm - 6:15pm Church Mission and PMS	MSGR. GIAMPIETRO DAL TOSO PMS PRESIDENT
6:30pm	HOLY MASS
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019	
7:15am	HOLY MASS
9:30am - 11:00am / 11:30am - 1:00pm The <i>missio ad gentes</i> in Maximum Illud, Ad Gentes, Lumen Gentium, Gaudium et Spes, Nostra Aetate, Evangelii Nuntiandi, Redemptoris Missio, Evangelii Gaudium	FR. ANTHONY CHANTRY ENGLAND AND WALES PMS NATIONAL DIRECTOR
3:30pm - 5:00pm / 5:30pm - 7:00pm Baptized and Sent: the Church of Christ on mission in the world	FR. FILIPPO GOYRET UPSC THEOLOGIAN
7:10pm	EVENING PRAYER
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019	
7:15am	HOLY MASS
WEDNESDAY PAPAL AUDIENCE	
3:30pm - 5:00pm / 5:30pm - 7:00pm <i>Missio ad gentes</i> in the Acts of the Apostles	FR. PASQUALE BASTA PUU-PIB SACRED SCRIPTURES PROFESSOR
7:10pm	EVENING PRAYER
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019	
7:15am	HOLY MASS
9:30am - 11:00am PSPF	FR. TADEUSZ NOWAK , PSPF SECRETARY GENERAL
11:30 am - 1:00pm MCA	SR. ROBERTA TREMARELLI , MCA SECRETARY GENERAL
3:30pm - 5:00pm PSSPA	FR. GUY BOGNON , PSSPA SECRETARY GENERAL
5:30pm - 7:00pm PMS IN OUR COUNTRIES	DISCUSSION
7:10pm	EVENING PRAYER
FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019	
ONE DAY VISIT OF ASSISI	FR. GERARDO RONCERO , PSPF
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019	
7:15am	HOLY MASS
9:30am - 11:00am / 11:30am - 1:00pm <i>Missio ad gentes</i> : media communication and digital world	MR. ALAN HOLDREN EWTN ROME BUREAU CHIEF MR. BENJAMIN CROCKET EWTN VATICAN BUREAU DIGITAL STRATEGIST MRS. ELENA GRAZINI MULTIMEDIA COMMUNICATION MANAGER EMM OCT2019
1:00pm	CLOSING LUNCH

THE FUTURE

In his PMU vision document, Fr Fabrizio Meroni has described CIAM as a centre for missionary formation in faith, mission and Christian commitment to the universal dimensions of the Catholic Church, at the service of PMS and CEP.

The ministry of gathering, forming and sending pastoral agents from across the world is surely central to our *raison d'être*. By offering formation programmes to those working for PMS within sight of the tomb of St Peter, PMU is faithfully discharging its mandate to instil a passion for mission and for God's people, based on a thorough understanding of our commitment to go and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the nations.

My fervent desire for PMU (and CIAM) is that it will grow from strength to strength by organising these formation courses on a regular basis, so that those attending will return to their Local Churches renewed, revitalised and refreshed in their commitment to *missio ad gentes*.

His Eminence Cardinal Filoni has often reminded us that "missionary formation should not be considered marginal in the ordinary life of the pastoral care of the dioceses and parishes; it is rather an essential element".

Therefore, I strongly recommend that these formation courses, organised from CIAM, should be extended out into the missionary dioceses of the world.

As the soul of PMS, PMU has the privilege of breathing life into its body. Let us not miss this opportunity spurred on by the celebration of the Extraordinary Month of Mission.

London, 10 July 2019

Fr. Anthony Chantry, MHM
PMS National Director, England and Wales

PART FIVE

PMS REPORTS

As of 18 August, 2018, all National PMS Directions have been asked to collaborate by sending materials and contributions which are useful to the www.october2019.va website, to Fides News Agency and for future reference regarding the activities carried out in preparation for and in the implementation of the EMM OCT2019. The last communication requesting each direction to send a summary report on the activities carried out for EMM OCT2019 by 30 November, 2019, was sent by email on 5 November, 2019 and again on 25 November, 2019. A final reminder was sent on 16 December, 2019 and the opportunity was taken to thank all those PMS National Directions who had sent their contributions on the Extraordinary Missionary Month, on schedule.

Fin da agosto 2018, a tutte le direzioni nazionali POM è stata chiesta la collaborazione nell'inviare materiale e contributi utili sia per il sito www.october2019.va, sia per l'Agenzia Fides, sia a futura memoria sulle attività da loro svolte in preparazione e implementazione del MMS OTT2019. Le ultime comunicazioni con cui si richiedeva, ad ogni direzione, l'invio entro il 30 novembre 2019 di una relazione sintetica sulle attività svolte per il MMS OTT2019, sono state inoltrate per email il 5 novembre 2019 e nuovamente il 25 novembre 2019. Il 16 dicembre 2019 è stato inviato un ultimo promemoria e si è colta l'occasione per ringraziare tutte quelle direzioni nazionali POM che avevano fatto pervenire il loro contributo sul Mese Missionario Straordinario, nei tempi previsti.

EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH OCTOBER 2019

International Secretariat of the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Final Report

The executive committee of the Pontifical Mission Societies helped to coordinate initiatives and events in Rome for the Extraordinary Mission Month 2019. The committee also encouraged National Directions and mission Dioceses to promote and plan initiatives and events locally. The General Secretary of the POPF actively participate in all of the executive committee meetings leading up to and during October 2019.

The General Secretariat of the POPF actively encouraged the promotion of the Extraordinary Mission Month 2019 both in the central office and abroad. All electronic communication that emanated from any of the officials of the POPF in Rome were be marked by the logo of the EMM and a request to visit the official EMM website (www.october2019.va). Letters sent out to Bishops and beneficiaries of subsidies included words encouraging engagement in preparing for and living out the EMM 2019. The National Directors were strongly encouraged to engage their local episcopal conferences and assist them in developing initiatives and events for the EMM 2019.

The General Secretary and his staff helped to prepare and correct parts of the English version of the official EMM Guide, which was available at no cost from the official website. The General Secretary also collaborated in correcting the English version of parts of the website itself.

During customary visits with the General Secretary in Rome, Bishops, priests, religious and laity were strongly encouraged to promote the EMM in their local communities. Many of these official visitors were happy to inform the General Secretary of EMM initiatives in their Dioceses.

The General Secretary participated in a Mission Congress in Australia, organized by the National Director of that country. During the Congress, the General Secretary made an intervention reminding all of the participants that Pope Francis called for an EMM 2019 and that everyone is invited and encouraged to engage in initiatives and events for the promotion of a more vibrant missionary spirit among all of the faithful.

His visit to Australia also provided an opportunity for the General Secretary to meet with a number of local Ordinaries, including the Vice-President of the Episcopal Conference and its General Secretary, and to encourage them to engage fully in the EMM. While in Australia, the General Secretary also visited the curial offices of the Archdiocese of Canberra (capital city of Australia) and with the Archbishop to promote the EMM. He also met with the head of the Youth Ministry of the Archdiocese who had developed a mission initiative called “Belong”. The General Secretary

encouraged the initiative and pledged that the POPF would co-sponsor the initiative. It has now reached all five continents and is active in at least five major languages. It is engaging untold numbers of young people throughout the world to a renewed faith and mission. Finally, during his visit to Australia, the General Secretary met with a group of local clergy and with all of the officials of the National and Diocesan offices of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Australia. During these meetings, he encouraged engagement in preparing for and living out the EMM.

During the Extraordinary Mission Month itself, the General Secretary participated in the First Mission Congress of the Antilles, organized by the Regional Director of the PMS in the Caribbean and the local Episcopal Conference. The Congress was held in the Archdiocese of Port of Spain and was truly a joyous and spirit filled event with thousands of participants.

Finally, the General Secretary participated in all of the official events held in Rome during October 2019.

Vatican City, 30 December 2019

Fr. Tadeusz J. Nowak, OMI
General Secretary POPF

MESE MISSIONARIO STRAORDINARIO OTTOBRE 2019

Segretariato Internazionale della Pontificia Opera della Santa Infanzia

Relazione finale

In occasione del Mese Missionario Straordinario Ottobre 2019 questo Segretariato Internazionale ha indetto il concorso **Battezzati e inviati: cantando la missione** e proposto ad ogni Direzione nazionale. Lo scopo del concorso, rivolto a tutte le diocesi cattoliche del mondo, è stato quello di coinvolgere i bambini e i ragazzi, coadiuvati dagli animatori, dai catechisti o dagli insegnanti, nella creazione delle parole e della musica di una canzone che avesse come ritornello “Battezzati e inviati”. Il testo e la musica della canzone, in lingua locale, dovevano rispecchiare gli usi e i costumi locali. Ogni diocesi, selezionata la canzone vincitrice del concorso a livello locale, l’ha inviata, sotto forma di file audio e di file video, alla Direzione Nazionale che, a sua volta ha selezionato la canzone vincitrice a livello nazionale.

Per il concorso il Segretariato ha realizzato un logo nelle diverse lingue, contenente il logo del MMS.



Le Direzioni POM e i segretariati nazionali POSI hanno risposto positivamente promuovendo il concorso e adattandolo al proprio contesto. È stato pubblicizzato sui diversi siti e anche nei social nazionali; alcune Direzioni hanno pubblicato tutti i video e le canzoni che pervenivano, proponendo ai follower del proprio profilo FB di votare. Qualche DN ha realizzato un CD in lingua locale per utilizzarlo nell’animazione missionaria e promuovere la POSI.

Siamo soddisfatti per i materiali prodotti nei vari paesi del mondo, testimonianza di comunità ecclesiali vive, e della partecipazione diffusa poiché questa attività ha provocato una vera e propria riflessione sul tema del MMS che con il canto resterà anche per il futuro, poiché “la musica e il canto sono linguaggi per testimoniare il vangelo e arrivare al cuore di tutti, anche a quanti sono lontani dalla Chiesa o dalla fede” come ha detto in un’occasione Papa Francesco. Infatti l’esperienza va ben oltre il concorso, perché è legata alla formazione missionaria permanente curata dalle direzioni nazionali e dai vari uffici missionari diocesani.

Durante il mese di ottobre i video e le canzoni vincitrici a livello nazionale sono stati pubblicati sul sito www.october2019.va

Il concorso è stato promosso anche su Radio Vaticana e su VaticanNews.

Tutte le Giornate nazionali e diocesane dell'Infanzia missionaria hanno avuto nel corso del 2019 il tema del MMS.

Sempre in occasione del MMS il Segretario Generale POSI ha proposto delle sessioni di formazione partendo dal Tema "Battezzati e inviati" in occasione della sua visita nella Repubblica Democratica del Congo.

Città del Vaticano, 30 dicembre 2019

Sr Roberta Tremarelli AMSS
Segretario Generale POSI

MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE OCTOBRE 2019
Secrétariat International de l'Œuvre Pontificale de Saint Pierre Apôtre

Rapport final

Dans le cadre du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire les OPM ont contribué de diverses manières à l'animation missionnaire selon l'intention du saint Père, qui est de réveiller l'esprit missionnaire dans le cœur des baptisés. Les OPM, à travers l'OPSPA :

1. ont demandé aux Recteurs, dans les lettres de payement des subsides ordinaires, de profiter du MME pour mieux faire découvrir aux séminaristes les OPM en général et l'OPSPA en particulier ;
2. ont demandé aux Directeurs Nationaux des OPM des territoires de mission de visiter les séminaires ou de se faire inviter pour y faire des exposés sur les OPM et sur la Mission, non seulement dans le cadre du MME, mais que cela devienne une habitude;
3. ont encouragé les Directeurs Nationaux des OPM, à saisir l'opportunité du MME pour susciter l'intérêt des fidèles pour les OPM ;
4. ont adopté le logo du MME dans nos correspondances pour orienter l'esprit de tous les correspondants vers l'objectif de ce MME qui est l'éveil de l'esprit missionnaire dans le cœur de tout baptisé ;
5. ont participé aux réflexions sur la mission lors du Congrès National organisé à Madrid par la Direction Nationale d'Espagne, en préparation du MME, du 19 au 22 septembre 2019, principalement en développant le thème : « *Baptisés et envoyés : l'initiation chrétienne et la mission* » ;
6. ont participé au Colloque Internationale organisé à Bruxelles par la Direction Nationale de la Belgique, du 19 au 21 novembre, en développant le thème : « *La mission selon la vision du Pape François* ».

Cité du Vatican, 30 décembre 2019

P. Guy Bognon
Secrétaire Général OPSPA

ANGOLA

Conferência Episcopal de Angola e São Tomé Comissão Episcopal das Missões e Obras Missionárias Pontifícias Direcção Nacional das Obras Missionárias Pontifícias

Relatório

O presente relatório refere-se as actividades realizadas para o Mês Missionário Extraordinário – Outubro de 2019.

Para preparação e organização do Mês Missionário Extraordinário foram realizadas nível nacional dois encontros importantes, o primeiro em Agosto de 2018, no Centro Saletino de Formação e Espiritualidade, da Arquidiocese de Lubango, onde reunimos os *Directores Diocesanos de OMP, das 20 Dioceses da CEAST*, na qual se fez uma reflexão em torno da Carta Apostólica “Maximum Illud” e traçamos as orientações para uma vivência missionária em cada Diocese. Das conclusões e recomendações ressaltamos o n.º 6, o seguinte:

6. Sobre o Outubro Extraordinário de 2019,
 1. O tema indicado pelo Papa Francisco é **“Baptizados e Enviados: a Igreja de Cristo em missão no mundo”**;
 2. Os Directores Diocesanos em sintonia com os Srs. Bispos tenham presente as sugestões vindas da Congregação para Evangelização dos Povos e dos Secretariados Internacionais das OMP, bem como outros subsídios que estão a ser preparados em Roma;
 3. Três iniciativas são indispensáveis:
 - a) Organizar uma Celebração Diocesana para abertura do mês missionário extraordinário;
 - b) Organizar uma Celebração Eucarística Diocesana para o Dia Mundial das Missões;
 - c) Organizar uma Celebração Eucarística para o encerramento do mês missionário extraordinário;
 4. Propor aos jovens uma actividade pública de anúncio do Evangelho que implique a participação dos membros de grupos e movimentos paroquiais e diocesanos, juntamente com os membros das OMP.

O segundo encontro, de 16 a 19 de Maio, realizamos as Segundas Jornadas Nacionais das OMP, no Centro Cultural Nossa Senhora de Lourdes, da Arquidiocese de Luanda, na qual participaram 118 delegados vindos das 20 Dioceses da CEAST, estudamos e trabalhamos o convite do Papa Francisco para Celebrarmos o Mês Missionário Extraordinário. Com estas jornadas, presidida pelo Núncio Apostólico, Dom Petar Rajic, dêmos inicio a nível nacional, no dia 19 de Maio, das actividades do Mês Missionário Extraordinário.

Em Agosto, realizamos na Diocese de Cabinda, o primeiro encontro de Formação de Animadores Missionários da Santa Infância, onde estiveram jovens e líderes vindos das diversas Paróquias desta igreja particular.

No dia 25 de Agosto, presidiu o Director Nacional o tema do Mês Missionário Extraordinário, no encontro com os Superiores Maiores das Congregações Masculinas e Femininas presentes em Angola.

Formação em Missiologia, nos dias 31 de Agosto, 01, 07 e 08 de Setembro, no Salão Paroquial de Nossa Senhora de Fátima, da Arquidiocese de Luanda, onde estiveram aproximadamente 400 delegados das Paróquias desta Igreja Particular, foi um momento para partilharmos experiências missionárias e promover a formação dos agentes de pastoral.

A nível das Dioceses várias actividades foram desenvolvidas, de acordo as orientações do Conselho Superior e dos encontros referidos acima:

- Abertura do Mês Missionário Extraordinário, 29 de Setembro
- Vigílias Missionárias, 4/5 de Outubro;
- Formações Missionárias;
- Tríduo Missionário, com Adoração ao Santíssimo, 17 a 19 de Outubro;
- Entrega e recolha de bens perecíveis (para lares e famílias mais pobres)
- Cozinhas Solidárias, 13 de Outubro;
- Reza do Terço Missionário, realizada todos os dias do mês de Outubro;
- Campanhas missionárias de evangelização;
- **Celebrações Missionárias**, 20 de Outubro, com destaque para os compromissos missionários de Crianças, Adolescentes e Jovens, articulados as Obras Pontifícias Missionárias da Santa Infância e São Pedro Apostolo.
- Destacamos ainda: a realização do Festival de Canções Missionárias, pela Diocese de Ndalatando e a Celebração do Dia Mundial das Missões na Diocese de Benguela, presidida pelo novo Cardeal Dom Eugénio Dal Corso;
- Encerramento do Mês Missionário Extraordinário, 27 de Outubro.

Para seguimento das actividades do MME-Outubro 2019, iniciamos o Projecto de Envio Missionário para a missão. Projecto conjunto com a Nunciatura Apostólica em Angola, que pretende levar, jovens, adultos e famílias para as missões.

Acreditamos que as sugestões foram bem recebidas e organizadas em cada Diocese. Foi um ano propício para o alavancar das Obras Missionárias Pontifícias de Angola e São Tomé.

ARGENTINA

ALGUNOS EVENTOS DEL MES MISIONERO EXTRAORDINARIO

PUBLICACIONES

Novena Misionera- Subsidio para las comunidades (120 páginas - 3000 impresos y la versión digital.

Cuatro números de la Revista “Iglesia Misionera Hoy” dedicados a MME.

Distribución de banderas MME.

Producción de spot MME.

CONCUROS

Concurso de canto “MME 2019” - se presentaron 23 cantos.

SIGNOS

La Cruz del Discípulo y Misionero

CELEBRACIONES

Lanzamiento del Mes Misionero Extraordinario con el Director Nacional de Obras Misionales Pontificias de Argentina, P. Jerzy Faliszek, en la Diócesis de Gregorio de Laferrere, Buenos Aires.

Cierre del MME 2019 en la Diócesis de Formosa con un Rosario Misionero en la Capilla María Auxiliadora, Parroquia San Francisco de Asís, Bella Vista.

Fiesta “Bautizado y Enviados” en la diócesis de Puerto Iguazú, Misiones.

Misa de envío misionero en la Diócesis de Lomas de Zamora.

Misa de envío misionero en la Diócesis de San Isidro.

Misa de envío misionero en la Diócesis de Concordia.

Adoración y rezo del Santo Rosario Misionero en el encuentro del decanato - Partido de Pilar, Buenos Aires.

Celebración misionera en la Diócesis de San Carlos de Bariloche.

Celebración misionera en la Diócesis de Neuquén.

Jornada y Misa callejera en la Arquidiócesis de Santa Fe.

Celebración del MME 2019 en la Ciudad de Córdoba.

Cierre del MME en la Diócesis de Quilmes (Ezpeleta)

ENCUENTROS DE FORMACIÓN Y ANIMACION MISIONERA

Encuentro de equipos misioneros de la región NOA.

Encuentro de grupos misioneros en la Arquidiócesis de Córdoba.

Encuentro de la Región Cuyo en la Arquidiócesis de San Juan.

Animación Misionera en la Diócesis de Cruz del Eje, tierra del Santo Cura Argentino, Gabriel Brochero.

Presencia de Obras Misionales Pontificias con un taller para comunicar el MME2019 en el Encuentro de Catequistas de la Diócesis de Zárate – Campana, Buenos Aires.

Taller formativo para Pastoral Misionera – Diócesis de Gualeguaychú

Talleres formativos diocesanos en la Región NOA, con la Participación del Director Nacional de OMP - Humahuaca, Jujuy, Cafayate

Presencia de Obras Misionales Pontificias con un taller para comunicar el MME2019 en el Encuentro de Catequistas de la Diócesis de Zárate – Campana, Buenos Aires.

Presencia de Obras Misionales Pontificias con un taller para comunicar el MME2019 en el Encuentro de Consagradas de la Diócesis de San Martín, Buenos Aires.

Jornada de la IAM en la Diócesis de San Martín, Buenos Aires.

Animación Misionera con motivo del Mes Misionero Extraordinario en diferentes parroquias de la Diócesis de Zárate – Campana.

Encuentro y Animación misionera con diferentes comunidades de pueblos originarios en la Diócesis de Orán, Salta.

Encuentro Diocesano de la IAM en la Prelatura de Esquel, Chubut, Patagonia.

Encuentro diocesano de animación misionera en Gualeguaychú, Entre Ríos.

Encuentro diocesano de la Diócesis de San Nicolás en Pergamino, Buenos Aires.

Encuentro Juvenil diocesano en Zapala, Neuquén.

PROGRAMAS RADIALES Y TELEVISIVOS

Celebración de la Santa Misa para la Televisión Pública Nacional, con motivo de la Jornada Mundial de las Misiones.

Programación especial del ciclo Ecos Misioneros que produce, para Radio María Argentina, Obras Misionales Pontificias.

Producción de audiovisuales y utilización de redes sociales para comunicar el MME2019.

Conversatorio Misionero en el Noviciado de los Misioneros de la Consolata, con testimonios de cuatro misioneros- transmitido por redes sociales

RETIROS Y ENCUENTROS DE ORACIÓN

Retiros diocesanos “Soy Misión”: San Nicolás

Retiro con motivo del Octubre Misionero en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa, La Pampa.

VISITA A LOS CENTROS EDUCATIVOS

Colegio de la Ciudad Río IV

Colegios de Entre Ríos: Crespo, María Luisa

Jujuy: Colegio Del Salvador

Taller para la Pastoral Educativa de la Diócesis de Quilmes

MISIONES DIOCESANAS Y PARROQUIALES

Misión región Buenos Aires / Misio Tren

Misión Juvenil Parroquial en la Prelatura de Deán Funes, Córdoba.

Misión diocesana en Lomas de Zamora.

Carpa Misionera en la diócesis de Formosa y la Diócesis de Quiles

Misión Diocesana en la Diócesis de San Martín, Buenos Aires.

Gesto solidario con motivo del MME 2019 en la Diócesis de San Rafael, Mendoza.

Misión diocesana de la Diócesis de Goya.

Obispos de la Región Buenos Aires misionan en San Miguel, Buenos Aires.

Misión de sacerdotes de la región litoral en Selva, Santiago del Estero.

Misión en Catriló, Diócesis de Santa Rosa, La Pampa.

Misión diocesana con motivo del Octubre Misionero en Comodoro Rivadavia.

Misión de Niños en la Arquidiócesis de Paraná, Entre Ríos.

Misión de los Obispos y Sacerdotes, Diócesis de San Martín.

Misión del Clero diocesano en Gualaguaychú.

“Mega Misión” en la Diócesis de Merlo-Moreno.

Misión en el Barrio de la Cava, Diócesis de San Isidro. Infancia y Adolescencia Misionera.

Salida Misionera en Puerto San Julián, lugar donde se celebró la primera Misa en territorio argentino el 1º de abril de 1520. Diócesis de Rio Gallegos, Patagonia Argentina.

Visita a geriátricos, adoración comunitaria, pintada de murales en la Arquidiócesis de La Plata.

Gesto Misionero en la Parroquia San Antonio María Gianneli de la Arquidiócesis de Rosario.

VISITAS A LOS SEMINARIOS Y MONASTERIOS

Encuentro de Seminaristas, religiosos/as de formación inicial. Pontificia Unión Misional, Sede de OMP, Buenos Aires.

Encuentro con seminaristas del Seminario Diocesano Jesús Buen Pastor, Diócesis de Río Cuarto, Córdoba.

Visita al Monasterio de la Visitación, Pilar, Buenos Aires. “Rezar Misionando”.

Encuentro con seminaristas del Seminario Diocesano San Miguel Arcángel, San Luis.

Encuentro Diocesano del Clero y de La Vida Religiosa en la Arquidiócesis de Mendoza.

PEREGRINACIONES A LOS SANTUARIOS

Peregrinación de Obras Misionales Pontificias a la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Luján con motivo del cierre del MME 2019.

Peregrinación misionera por los cerros de Tafí del Valle, Tucumán.

Peregrinación Hasenkamp (90km) Bautizados y Enviados, caminemos con María. Arquidiócesis de Paraná.

Expo – Carisma “MME 2019” _ Santuario Diocesano de la Virgen del Río Blanco en Jujuy

Dirección Nacional de las OMP, ARGENTINA

AUSTRALIA

REPORT ON ACTIVITY FOR EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

Catholic Mission fully engaged at all levels with the Extraordinary Missionary Month. From the announcement Catholic Mission on began planning the Australian Church's focus on the mission *ad gentes*. Our primary objective, both as the official Australian mission agency and as a member of Pope Francis' vast international Pontifical Mission Societies network, was to ensure that every Australian Catholic was aware of the existence and purpose of the EMM.

This involved employing a program of activity that combined our regular marketing, fundraising and formation output with a targeted events and communications strategy on a national, diocesan and international level.

The global theme of the Extraordinary Missionary Month, 'Baptized and Sent', underpinned all activities of Catholic Mission on a national and diocesan level associated with the EMM.

Catholic Mission was a major driver and contributor to the #MyMission global social initiative on a range of platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Around the country, individual and group videos were recorded of people, particularly youth, sharing their mission. These were posted on Catholic Mission's diocesan Facebook pages and on the national Facebook page. They were also shared to the international MyMission Facebook page, joining stories from people across Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Americas and Europe.

Our office created a special video for this cause, drawing attention to the Extraordinary Missionary Month as the basis for this exercise and reiterating Pope Francis' call to do something extraordinary for God. The video was very popular, gaining over 1,000 reactions, over 200 shares, over 180 comments, and a total of over 327,000 views.

We engaged with the EMM International Song Contest, with six dioceses submitting finalists for the national contest. Each diocese was responsible for judging their own winning entry to progress to the national round of judging, which was overseen by renowned Australian liturgical musicians Fr Christopher Willcock and Dr Paul Taylor. Despite strong competition from Rockhampton, Maitland-Newcastle and Lismore dioceses among others, the judges determined the winning entry to be '(Be bold you are) Made for More' by Sale musicians Jamie Floyd and Brendan Browne.

Mission: one heart many voices 2019 was a joint initiative of Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia, the fourth instalment of a highly popular and successful mission conference. Held in Sydney in May, the conference invited delegates from a range of ministries, including religious, healthcare, social services, education, business, Indigenous and youth.

Appearing at the conference breakfast, which was attended by over 200 guests, was Fr Tadeusz Nowak, President of the Pontifical Missionary Union. His keynote address essentially launched the Extraordinary Missionary Month celebration in Australia, and set the tone for the conference, which equips and inspires participants to live and lead the mission of Christ in their work and personal lives.

Catholic Mission launched its major appeal of the year, which raises funds for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. In 2019, this appeal carried the theme “Do not fear, for I am with you” (Isaiah 41:10), focusing on child protection and development in Ghana.

Our organisation continued to promote the Extraordinary Missionary Month in its marketing and communication activities, with a strong message to Australians to “Do something extraordinary for God”. This appeared across our entire social media presence, including through advertising, which reached an average 100,000 people per month. We appeared in print advertising and editorial around the country, including online advertising in major metropolitan markets for six weeks from the end of September through October. On World Mission Sunday we secured a full-page advertisement in the Catholic Weekly, among Australia’s most read Catholic publications, with a weekly readership of over 40,000.

A radio advertisement was recorded for Christian radio station Hope FM, which operates in Sydney, Brisbane, Gold Coast and Perth. The advertisement ran in two versions, the first focusing on raising funds for Ghana, the second, which ran through October, focusing on raising awareness of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. The ads were heard by an average of over 750,000 listeners per week, with an increase in web traffic to the Catholic Mission website recorded as a result.

Strong schools engagement was also a priority in the EMM in 2019. The major Ghana appeal was adapted for a primary and early secondary school audience, and a range of student learning and formation resources were created and distributed to enable young people to interact with mission work and feel a connection to the children and communities their efforts were supporting.

Schools also engaged with the EMM through Catholic Mission’s community engagement initiative, Socktober. Held throughout October, the initiative encourages students to raise funds for missionary projects overseas and to learn about the people they are supporting, through workshops and resources. The funds raised go to Catholic Mission’s work with children and communities.

When the schools hold their Socktober Event Day, the pinnacle of their Socktober efforts, the students participate in workshops and interactive learning, using the school resources created by Catholic Mission and other tools such as Catholic Mission’s 360-degree virtual reality video, which immerses the students in scenes from countries around the world, including Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, India, and Myanmar.

In addition to national initiatives, almost every diocese in Australia participated in the Extraordinary Missionary Month celebrations through a combination of parish, school and community engagement. Here is a summary of the activities some of those dioceses undertook:

Adelaide

Throughout the Extraordinary Missionary Month, Catholic Mission's Acting Diocesan Director in Adelaide, Tony Johnston made schools engagement across the state of South Australia a priority. His dedicated work in this area has seen 24 schools commit to undertaking the Socktober initiative next year, with others already on board this year.

Bathurst

James Sheahan Catholic High School in Orange, NSW, was the venue for another annual diocesan event, the Catholic Mission Expo 2019 – this year with its special Extraordinary Missionary Month theme and focus on Catholic Mission's Nagaland appeal. Celebrated on November 6, in the presence of Bishop Michael McKenna and representatives from the De La Salle Provincial Office in Sydney, the event engaged the entire James Sheahan school community, as well as schools from around the Diocese of Bathurst.

Brisbane

A photographic exhibit titled 'Precious in His Eyes' was held from October 25 to November 3, 2019, at the Percolator Gallery in Paddington, one of Brisbane's inner-western suburbs. Curated by volunteer Donna Longland, the exhibit showcased over 30 of Catholic Mission's most striking and powerful photographs from countries around the world.

On Children's Mission Day, students and teachers from fourteen schools around the Archdiocese of Brisbane came together at St Stephen's Cathedral for the annual Children's Mission Liturgy.

Bunbury

In Bunbury, south of Perth, Diocesan Director Deborah Robertson ran a series of three nights learning about and praying the Mission Rosary in the context of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. The Mission Rosary, developed by Archbishop Fulton Sheen in the 1970s, was a popular feature of the EMM celebration around the country.

Cairns

Cairns was among the most active dioceses in the country in terms of the number and diversity of Extraordinary Missionary Month activities.

The major event of the month was a Mission Prayer Walk, which resembled the Stations of the Cross. Participants could visit a number of stations promoting themes of mission and social justice and encouraging personal prayerful reflection.

Anna Jimenez, the Diocesan Director in Cairns, undertook ‘Gratitude Visits’ in two of the inner-city parishes. She describes these visits as ‘a different strategy of visiting parishes but certainly one that helped us raise our identity as the Pope’s mission agency in Australia.’

A Northern Deanery Women's Mass was held at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Trinity Park, to acknowledge and celebrate the missionary efforts of women across the northern deanery of Cairns. The Eucharist was celebrated with the presider, Fr Neil Muir.

Canberra and Goulburn

The EMM began with Mass on the 1st October with our Carmelite Sisters on the Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus (1873-1897), the Little Flower.

The annual Archdiocesan Mass was held on October 23 in St Christopher’s Cathedral, with over 600 school students and young adults from across the Archdiocese attending. The Mass celebrated World Mission Month, and in his homily, Archbishop Christopher Prowse explained to the school children Pope Francis’ desire for Missionary Disciples to be attentive to “Heart, Head, and Hands”.

Lismore

Michelle Sullivan, Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission in Lismore, gave presentations to various groups throughout the Extraordinary Missionary Month, talking about her personal experiences of mission with the organisation, during which she showed and discussed Catholic Mission’s projects.

Maitland-Newcastle

Mark Toohey, Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission in Maitland-Newcastle, listed the events and activities undertaken in the diocese in relation to the EMM: Diocesan Schools Mission Mass (Children’s Mission Day 23rd October 2019) attended by students and teachers from Schools across the Diocese - focus on EMM with Ghana WMM. Visiting Ghanaian missionary, Fred Amenga-Etego, spoke to staff of the Bishop’s Office and Catholic Schools Office 24 September. Full page article in the October issue of Aurora Magazine (circulate as a monthly insert into the Newcastle Herald and affiliate Hunter Valley newspapers) on EMM and how one local woman makes a difference to Mission.

Melbourne

Melbourne’s National Gallery of Victoria hosted an art exhibition in celebration of the EMM. The art exhibit was an exploration of how mission was conceptualised in select paintings and artworks throughout the gallery, which welcomes 2.4 million visitors per year.

A spirituality day was led by Sr Rachel McLoughlin IBVM on October 1, the Feast of St Therese of Lisieux.

The Annual Children's Mission Mass is always an inspiring occasion, and this year was especially so as it was held in the middle of the EMM. Well over 1,500 students and teachers filled St Patrick's Cathedral, with Bishop Mark Edwards.

Perth

Along with more than 30 parishes holding parish appeals around the Archdiocese over World Mission Sunday, a major event was the Archdiocesan Anti-Poverty Mass held on Thursday October 10 at St Thomas More Church in Bateman.

Additionally, many of the students recorded stirring ShoeStories, a youth engagement and sharing initiative of Catholic Mission, as they came out of the event. These will form an integral part of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Perth, at which Catholic Mission will have a strong presence.

Rockhampton

The Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, paid a very special visit to Rockhampton during the Extraordinary Missionary Month to celebrate World Mission Sunday Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral.

Townsville

Prayer was a major part of the month, with a Mission Rosary group formed at St Therese's, a largely Indigenous parish. Schools throughout the diocese were involved in many aspects of the EMM. Liturgies, mini fetes, and special Socktober events were held in schools across the diocese, encouraging young people to celebrate their role in global mission.

A study group was formed and sessions held at the House of Prayer and Spirituality, using Catholic Mission's publication *The Francis Effect* to unpack and explore *Evangelii Gaudium*.

Wollongong

In the Wollongong Diocese, south of Sydney, the major event held around the Extraordinary Missionary Month was a collaboration between Catholic Mission, Clonakilla Wines and Ruby's Mt Kembla to deliver A Winemaker's Dinner.

PMS National Direction, AUSTRALIA

AUSTRIA

THE EXTRAORDINARY MONTH OF MISSION OCTOBER 2019

I give a short report about the Extraordinary Month of Mission October 2019“ in Austria from my point of view as national director. We have tried with all our strength to implement the mandate given by Pope Francis to the Pontifical Mission Societies. For this we have developed many new ideas based on the motto “Baptized and Sent” in order to

- a) to call attention to the importance of world mission; in order to
- b) to motivate the faithful in Austria to become missionaries themselves.

Successful

1. PRAYER: We have distributed 46,500 prayer cards with the prayer of Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Month of World Mission. The parishes also liked to pray a novena before World Mission Sunday. Each of the 9 days was dedicated to a different missionary saint.
2. WEBSITE: We had set up our own website www.oktober2019.at, where all dates from all over Austria for the mission month of October were published.
3. SUNDAY MASS ON TV: On September 22nd, we organized the Sunday Mass which was broadcast by ORF and ZDF. I was the main celebrant as National Director. The theme was that every person has a mission to change the world for the better. The reach was 800,000 viewers in the German-speaking area. There were only positive reactions.
4. NUNTIATURE: On 3 October, the Apostolic Nuncio in Austria gave a festive reception for 260 responsible persons from state and church in the apartments of the Nunciature at the invitation of Missio Austria. We invited all responsible persons from missionary orders, movements and communities, but also development aid organizations. The appreciation by the Holy See was also positively perceived by aid organisations that have lost their Christian core.
5. MISSION CONFERENCE: On 4 October there was for the first time a large mission conference „Austria.On.Mission“, where we presented the missionary activities emanating from Austria in a modern way for one day in front of 220 participants. The main speakers were Bishop Samson Shukardin of Pakistan and Father Tom Uzhunnalil, who was kidnapped by the IS in Yemen in 2016 for 18 months. We did everything we could to make the day exciting: Interviews, short lectures, music, professional videos etc.
6. GLOBAL MISSIONARY ROSARY: On October 7th we promoted and joined the worldwide broadcast of the Rosary by Cardinal Fernando Filoni on Radio Maria.

7. LECTURES: Sister Rita Phyto from Myanmar travelled through Austria for 2 weeks and gave lectures in parishes and educational institutions about the work of the sisters against human trafficking. The lectures that Father Tom Uzhunnalil gave for 2 weeks in the big cities of Austria met with great interest.
8. WORKSHOPS FOR SCHOLARS : For 3 days there were workshops together with the Salesians of Don Bosco in Vienna for hundreds of pupils and scholars, where we informed them about the world mission and the situation in the world church. The basic question to the approx. 300 young people was: „What is your mission? Choose your mission!”
9. „MISSION CINEMA“: We started a „Mission Cinema“ in Vienna: Once a month we show a Christian film in a secular cinema followed by a talk about it. The interest is very great. The Mission Cinema will be continued.
10. BOOK OF AN AUSTRIAN MISSIONARY: We have published the experiences of an 81-year-old Austrian missionary in a book: Sister Johanna Datzreiter survived 42 years in Liberia civil wars and Ebola⁴⁷.
11. NEW DEPARTEMENT „YOUNG MISSIO“: We have founded a new department „Young Missio“ and hired two staff members for it. The „Young Missio“ will expand our volunteer program and network with all youth movements and youth communities in Austria. At the same time we want to conquer the schools in order to bring the theme of world mission to the young people and to help them to become missionaries themselves.
12. ACADEMICAL YOUTH SEMINARY: A large 2-day youth seminar at the Benedict XVI Heiligenkreuz University of Applied Sciences with 100 students on 18th and 19th October was entitled „Wie geht Mission“ („How does mission go“). Leaders of missionary initiatives from all over Europe reported on their practical experiences.
13. DIOCESAN DIRECTIONS: Our diocesan directors have been very active in the dioceses:, for instance:

In the diocese of Gurk-Klagenfurt there was for the first time an action in which every day in October the „Light of Faith“ was passed on to another parish in the form of a mission candle. There was also the video project „I am a mission“, in which Christians talked about how they put faith into action in their everyday lives.

In the diocese of Linz, there was a pilgrimage to the Pöstlingberg for the opening of October and finally a thanksgiving ceremony with diocesan bishop Dr. Manfred Scheuer for all the

⁴⁷ Schwester Johanna Datzreiter, Wo der Pfeffer wächst. Missionarin zwischen Bürgerkrieg und Ebola, Heiligenkreuz 2019, 335 Seiten, ISBN: 978-3-903118-91-1

missionary commitment in the diocese of Linz. Throughout October there was an exhibition on the theme of mission.

For the first time in the diocese of Eisenstadt there was the opportunity to attend a three-part „Bibliolog“ training event on the topic „The Missionary Dimension of the Bible“.

14. **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY:** In some dioceses this year for the first time the diocesan bishops celebrated World Mission Sunday. Unfortunately our Archbishop Cardinal Schönborn was absent in Vienna because of the Amazon Synod. But in St. Stephen's Cathedral, the cathedral of Vienna, we redesigned the World Mission Sunday and celebrated a very touching liturgy with 2.000 people: We experienced a small Pentecost with the 22 parishes from Africa, Asia and Latin America that there are in Vienna. Each parish carried a large sign, so that it was visible that we are world church. The motto was: Baptised and sent. Auxiliary Bishop Franz Scharl celebrated the Holy Mass, the National Director preached the sermon, which was also broadcast on church radio.
15. **CHARITY EVENING:** For the first time we organized a Charity Evening in the famous Wiener Konzerthaus with a prominent reader and a good choir singing African songs. We wanted to draw attention to the reconciliation work in Rwanda. 220 participants were enthusiastic, it was a great success.
16. **LIVING ROSARY:** Since 2017 we have been promoting the Living Rosary more strongly and we have won over 7,000 prayers so far. We call our prayer movement „Gott kann“ („God can“, see website: www.Gott-kann.at). On the eve of World Mission Sunday we celebrated a 3-hour „Prayer for Austria“ in the large Franciscan Church in Vienna, broadcast by Radio Maria.
17. **BROADCASTINGS ON RADIO MARIA:** Radio Maria Austria broadcasted a lot: we had a daily 4-minute broadcast of an input, given by one the diocesan directors. - We had already before had many radio broadcasts on Radio Maria. Now we expand our cooperation: Twice a month we are shall speak for 1 ½ hour on Radio Maria about the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies.
18. **REPORTS ON TV:** The Austrian state television ORF accompanied a team from Missio Austria to Myanmar and produced a good report about the engagement of Missio Austria and the Religious Sisters there against human trafficking.
19. **LECTURES OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR:** The national director is invited to many lectures on mission throughout Austria. He also gave some inputs on a mission conference for priests in Slovakia organized by the national director there, Ivan Knaze. But also some diocesan directors in Austria were very active and gave lectures in parishes.

20. „JUGENDAKTION“ („youth campaign“): Since 1976 children and young people have been selling sweets on World Mission Sunday, where the net proceeds are used for projects in the World Church. This „youth campaign“ (www.jugendaktion.at) was intensified this year. So we were able to sell 300,000 packs of chocolates in schools and parishes (Last year: 280.000 packs). This campaign makes the World Mission Sunday more present in the parishes and motivates young people to engage themselves for world mission.

Deficits

The Extraordinary Month of Mission also made us aware that the possibilities of the Pontifical Mission Societies for an „animazione missionaria“ are limited. We have not succeeded in making the theme of the „Extraordinary Month of World Mission“ known to a really broad public. One reason for this was that the media and most of the church organizations put the Amazon Synod in the centre of their attention. The main topics were ecology and the well-known church political topics such as celibacy, the diaconate of women, the priesthood of women, etc. Unfortunately in connection with the Amazon Synod, the term „mission“ was rarely used in Austria. And when the term „mission“ was used, then not in the sense of a „*missio ad gentes*“ but in a reinterpreted form: as the duty of us Christians to listen to and learn from indigenous peoples. So actually in the sense of a „*missio gentium ad christianos*“. Through this thematic narrowing the impression again arose that only some structures of the church would have to be changed in order to come into the future. - We have really tried very hard to underline, that every Christian has to be missionary because of his baptism. Who is baptized should be aware, that he has a mission. Or better: That he is a mission of christian love to this world.

Résumé

Overall, the „Extraordinary Month of Mission“ was very positive for us Pontifical Mission Societies! We felt motivated by Pope Francis to dare something new and to make the old better. We had the full support of our “Mission-Bishop” Werner Freistetter. We also succeeded a little in initiating a better relationship with church and non-church organizations that are less interested in mission than in development cooperation and are therefore at a certain atmospheric distance from the Pontifical Missionary Institutes.

One can say: All new initiatives have gone well, most of them we will continue and strengthen. Everything that already existed has become better. By October 2019 we have reached a higher level as a team. It has given us all joy.

But we have also seen how difficult it is to arouse interest in the theme of „mission“, that there is resistance even from within the Church. Our reach in the media, in the organizations of the Church, in the parishes... must increase. But we are motivated to continue along this path and, according to the wish of Pope Francis, to do more and more „animazione missionaria“.

The Extraordinary Month of Mission October 2019 was for us the starting signal for the preparations for the great 4-fold anniversary year 2022, where we want to celebrate

- a) 100 years of foundation of the Pontifical Mission Societies by Pope Pie XI. 1922;
- b) 100 years of foundation of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Austria, in the same year 1922;
- c) 200 years of foundation of the Work of Propagation of Faith by the Servant of God Pauline Jaricot in 1822 and
- d) 400 years of foundation of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples by Gregory XV. in 1622.

PMS Missio Austria

BANGLADESH

PROGRAM SUMMERY OF EXTRA ORDINARY MISSION MONTH (EMO) CELEBRATION IN BANGLADESH 2019

I. National programs:

May 12-14, 2019 - National Orientation Program on EMO, 2019: A special National Seminar on Mission Orientation program on the occasion of Extra Ordinary Mission Month (EMO) of 2019 was organized by CBCB –EC for Evangelization and Promotion of PMS at CBCB Center, Asadgate, Dhaka. All the Bishops of Bangladesh, Priests, Religious, Lay Leaders, Major Superiors of the Religious Congregations and all the Secretaries of CBCB Commissions and Desks participated in that national Seminar. All together 112 participated in that Mission Animation program.

July 2-4, 2019 - National Seminar on EMO, 2019 : A national Mission Animation program for the Diocesan Priests of Bangladesh (BDPF) on the occasion of EOM, was held at Banani Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Dhaka. The Theme was “Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World. 170 Diocesan Priests from all the diocese of Bangladesh participated in this National Seminar.

July 10-14, 2019: National Theological Seminar on the EMO, 2019: A national Theological Seminar on the Theme of EOM 2019- “Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World”, was organized by the CBCB Seminary Commission at the Holy Spirit National Major Seminary, Dhaka from July 10-14, 2019. The participants were Priests, Religious, Catechists and Lay Leaders from 8 Diocese of Bangladesh, all together above 90.

June 25-29, 2019 – National Seminar on EMO 2019: National Seminar organized by CBCB CCP Commission on the occasion of EOM 2019 with the participation of Priests, Religious, all CBCB Secretaries and Lay Leaders from all over Bangladesh. The Theme was the same of EMO “Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World.

October 25, 2019 – National Seminar on EMO 2019 by B.C.R : The B.C.R (Bangladesh Conference of Religious) also organized a national Seminar on the Theme “Baptized and sent” on the occasion of Extra Ordinary Mission Month of October 2019 at CBCB Center for 250 Men and Women Religious of Bangladesh on October 25, 2019.

June 25-29, 2019 – National Seminar on EMO 2019: National Seminar organized by CBCB Laity Commission on the occasion of EOM 2019 with the participation of Priests, Religious, all CBCB Secretaries and Lay Leaders from all over Bangladesh. The Theme was the same of EMO “Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World.

II. Diocesan programs

Mymensingh Diocese

May 2-3, 2019- Mymensingh Diocesan Seminar on EMO: The Mymensingh Catholic Diocese organized a Diocesan Seminar on the Theme, “Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World” for the Priests, Religious, Catechists and Lay Leaders of Mymensingh Catholic Diocese at Baromari Parish as preparation and orientation for the Solemn Celebration of EMO, 2019 in different Parishes of the Diocese. 96 participants from 16 Parishes were present there. A special Honor were given for the Missionary Martyrs in Mymensingh Diocese specially for Sr. Sueva Ashakra M.C, martyred in Sierra Leone in January 22, 1999 and Dr. Goni Islam, a newly converted Christian from Islam who was killed severely by the Muslim Fundamentalist in 2000.

September 19-20, 2019 – Seminar on the Lay Participation on Mission of Christ and the Local Church: A special Seminar on the participation of the Laity in the Mission of Christ and the Local Church in the Light of EMO 2019, was held at the Cathedral Parish of Mymensingh for the Priests, Religious , Catechists and Laity. 70 participants from Mymensingh Town area participated in that seminar.

November 14-15, 2019—Celebration of Extra-Ordinary Mission Month of October by MDPF: The Mymensingh Diocesan Priest’s Fraternity (MDPF) celebrated solemnly the Extra-Ordinary Mission Month of October at Baluchora Parish. Sharing of Priestly mission and ministry with the Parishioners in the light of Maximum Illud and the Papal Message of World Mission Sunday was the main concern of this Celebration of EMO, 2019.

Rajshahi Diocese

September 12-14, 2019 – Diocesan Seminar and workshop on Maximum Illud and Evangelization: The Pastoral Workshop and Seminar of Rajshahi Diocese on the Theme, “Evangelization through Culture and Customs” was held at the Pastoral Center of Rajshahi from September 12-14, 2019.

November 17, 2019 – Extra-Ordinary Mission Month October Celebration at Bonpara: The Extra Ordinary Mission Month of October 2019 was celebrated solemnly at Bonpara Parish, Rajshahi on November 17, 2019 with 150 participants from whole Diocese of Rajshahi.

Barishal Diocese:

October 24, 2019—Solemn Celebration of Extra-Ordinary Mission Month at Barishal Diocese: The Diocese of Barishal Observed the Extra-Ordinary Mission Month of October, 2019 at Padrishivpur Parish with 200 participants of Priests, Religious, Lay Leaders with the Theme, “Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on mission in the world”.

Dhaka Archdiocese

October 01, 2019—Inauguration of EMO 2019 at Hasnabab Parish, Dhaka: The EMO and Marian Month of October was inaugurated by a solemn Procession followed by Holy Mass here at Husnabad Parish presided by Parish Priest Fr. Maxwell Thomas. The Theme was, “The Family: baptized and sent”.

Khulna diocese:

5-6 October 2019 Extra-Ordinary Mission Month October Celebration at Khulna: The Extra Ordinary Mission Month of October 2019 was celebrated solemnly at Khulna Bishop’s house on 5-6 October 2019 with 100 participants from whole Diocese of **Khulna**.

18 October 2019: Extra-Ordinary Mission Month October Celebration at Dinajpur Diocese: The Extra Ordinary Mission Month of October 2019 was celebrated solemnly at Thakurgaon Parish, Dinajpur Diocese on 18 October, 2019 with 150 participants from all Parishes of Diocese of Dinajpur.

PMS National Direction, BANGLADESH

BÉNIN

SYNTHESE DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE D'OCTOBRE 2019

Disons d'entrée de jeu, que le lancement officiel et national du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire d'Octobre 2019 s'est fait le 1er octobre à la cathédrale Notre Dame de l'Immaculée Conception de Porto-Novo par Son Excellence Monseigneur Aristide GONSALLO, avec accueil de trois religieuses missionnaires (les Esclaves de la Très Sainte Eucharistie et de la Mère de Dieu) et de l'envoi en mission de deux prêtres Fidei donum.

Le pays comptant dix diocèses, les autres diocèses n'ont pas manqué de célébrer solennellement.

Voici en résumé sa célébration dans chaque diocèse.

Le diocèse de **Djougou**, dans le nord-Bénin, a pris le soin de préparer le MME sur la paroisse de Gaounga. Le 1^{er} octobre au cours d'une messe pontificale présidée par son Excellence Monseigneur Pascal N'KOUE, administrateur apostolique de Djougou, on a procédé à son lancement avec l'envoi en mission, deux par deux, de chaque couche de la société. Le directeur diocésain, le Père Roméo AMEZOTCHI, s'est efforcé chaque semaine du mois d'octobre de faire connaître les figures des quatre fondateurs dans les communautés ecclésiales vivantes de base et dans tout le diocèse à l'instar des autres directeurs diocésains.

A **Natitingou**, le MME s'est ouvert par une célébration présidée par Monseigneur Antoine SABI BIO, le 1^{er} octobre en présence de tout le peuple de Dieu venu vivre la communion avec l'Eglise universelle. Le 19 octobre, veille de la 93^{ème} Journée Missionnaire Mondiale : rentrée catéchétique avec recollection des catéchistes ; de même, la relance des activités du MADEB (Mouvement d'Apostolat Des Enfants du Bénin), grâce au dynamisme du directeur diocésain l'Abbé Axel TIANATI.

Dans le diocèse de **Kandi**, le même lancement du MME a eu lieu le 28 septembre sur la paroisse saint François d'Assise. Le mois d'octobre fut pour le directeur diocésain, Père Jonas NONSOU et l'aumônier de l'Enfance missionnaire le Père Patrick BIO une occasion pour sillonner les trois grands doyennés : Mallanville, Banikoara et Gogounou.

Le diocèse de **N'dali** a aussi vibré au rythme de la célébration du MME avec une messe d'ouverture le 1^{er} octobre à la cathédrale saint Marc par Monseigneur Martin ADJOU entouré de tous les agents pastoraux. Elle fut l'occasion de l'envoi en mission d'un grand nombre d'agents pastoraux et de la fixation d'un tableau portant les figures de tous les protagonistes de la Mission sur le mur de la cathédrale saint Marc. Il faut noter la finale du tournoi MME organisé par le directeur diocésain, le Père Valentin CHABI, avec la victoire de Bori (Bori/Ouenou)

Dans l'archidiocèse de **Parakou**, l'ouverture du MME s'est faite le 1^{er} octobre à la cathédrale saints Pierre et Paul avec tous les agents pastoraux par le vicaire général et sa clôture fut faite le dimanche 27 octobre par Monseigneur l'archevêque. Ici, entre autres activités organisées par le directeur diocésain le Père Gratien HOUNLODDJI avec son aumônier le Père Simon TANKLOUFEY, il faut noter les marches ou caravanes ou sorties missionnaires extraordinaires par l'enseignement catholique, les paroisses et les séminaristes.

Le diocèse de **Dassa-Zoumè** dans le centre-Bénin a fait aussi son lancement du MME dans la soirée du 1^{er} octobre par son évêque Monseigneur François GNONHOSSOU entouré de son presbyterium et des enfants de l'Ecole catholique. De même des animations missionnaires ont été faites par le directeur diocésain (abbé Roland AHOKPOSSI) et l'aumônier de l'Enfance missionnaire (abbé Sylvain YAYI) sur certaines paroisses du diocèse et auprès des jeunes.

A **Abomey**, la célébration diocésaine du MME s'est faite le 19 octobre sur la paroisse saint François d'Assise de Bohicon au cours d'une messe présidée par Monseigneur Eugène-Cyrille HOUNDEKON, l'ordinaire du lieu.

Dans le diocèse de **Lokossa**, l'évènement ecclésial mondial a été lancé par une messe solennelle à la cathédrale de Lokossa par Monseigneur Victor AGBANOU avec les CV-AV (Cœurs Vaillants, Ames Vaillantes). Tout ceci coordonné par les Père Antoine GOSSA directeur diocésain et Honoré KPODEZIHOUÉ l'aumônier de l'Enfance Missionnaire.

Dans l'archidiocèse de **Cotonou**, l'essentiel des activités, ayant été concentré sur le dimanche des Missions on a assisté à une journée spéciale de l'équipe de l'aumônerie diocésaine de l'Enfance missionnaire sur une paroisse. L'implication de chaque baptisé dans la mission, la prière comme âme de la Mission ont été des thèmes abordés avec la célébration du baptême des petits enfants par son aumônier diocésain (Père Bertrand TOMETIN) pour illustrer le thème du MME : « *Baptisés et Envoyés : l'Eglise du Christ en mission dans le monde.* »

Le diocèse de **Porto-Novo** a eu le privilège d'abriter le lancement officiel du MME. La marche missionnaire, l'entretien pluridimensionnel, fait par le Père Moïse KOUMAKPAI, directeur diocésain sur l'essentiel de l'enseignement de l'Eglise et du Pape sur le MME, de même qu'une campagne d'évangélisation pour faire grandir l'esprit missionnaire à travers une Croix pèlerine sont quelques activités vécues dans ce diocèse. La messe de clôture a été l'occasion d'exécution en différentes langues de nouvelles compositions de chants pour la mission Ad Gentes.

Au total, il faut noter la ferveur dans la prière pour la Mission de tous les fidèles dans les divers diocèses. Prière du Pape multipliée et distribuée, affiches ou prospectus, dépliants, plaquettes, hymne, tee-shirt, casquettes, stylos, bracelets '*les enfants aident les enfants*', émissions sur Radio, articles, ventes de chapelets missionnaires, messages de soutien à certains prêtres, religieux et

religieuses en mission d'étude ou fidei donum, ont été nos activités et matériels pour animer le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire. Toutes ces activités ont été soutenues par la méditation du chapelet.

Nous saluons, avec filiale gratitude le choix du thème du pèlerinage national de Dassa-Zoumè par nos Pères les Evêques : « *Marie, modèle de tout engagement missionnaire* », de même que leur pèlerinage à Komiguéa (Parakou) le dimanche 20 octobre 2019, aux pieds de Notre Dame de la Famille.

Pour marquer la célébration du MME, la direction nationale a apprêté une Salle d'Exposition et Vente d'Articles Missionnaires (SEVAM).

Direction Nationale des OPM, BENIN

BOSNIA-ERZEGOVINA

ATTIVITÀ MISSIONARIE NELL'ANNO MISSIONARIO BIH (ottobre 2018-ottobre 2019) E NEL MESE MISSIONARIO STRAORDINARIO DI OTTOBRE 2019

Su invito di Papa Francesco, del cardinale Fernando Filoni e della Direzione Nazionale delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie di Bosnia ed Erzegovina, i vescovi della Conferenza episcopale della Bosnia ed Erzegovina hanno proclamato tutto l'anno "Anno Missionario" per la Bosnia-Erzegovina. Hanno inviato una lettera a tutte le parrocchie e alle principali istituzioni della Bosnia-Erzegovina con linee guida specifiche in preparazione del Mese missionario straordinario di ottobre 2019.

Ecco i punti salienti che sono stati ampiamente coordinati e concordati con la Direzione Nazionale delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie di Bosnia-Erzegovina.

1. Le prediche quaresimali ogni venerdì nella Cattedrale di Sarajevo sul tema della missione
2. Il sesto incontro dei decani si è tenuto a Travnik il 9 maggio 2019, sul tema del Mandato Missionario della Chiesa circa la coscienza del clero e del popolo in BiH, tenuto da P. Pero Vrebac, ex missionario in Ruanda, Uganda e Kenya. Sono stati presenti a quest'incontro tutti i vescovi della Conferenza episcopale della Bosnia-Erzegovina, i provinciali, i vicari generali e i decani della Bosnia-Erzegovina.
3. Incontri primaverili dei decanati nell'Arcidiocesi di Vrhbosna: presentata la lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* circa l'aspetto del mandato missionario della Chiesa. (su 13 decanati, Luka Tunjić, direttore nazionale del POM BIH, ha tenuto gli incontri in 9 decanati).
4. Esercizi spirituali alle suore della città di Sarajevo, 19 maggio 2019, circa il mandato missionario delle suore secondo la Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* (Preparazione per la confessione, conferenza e S. Messa), guidata da Luka Tunjić, direttore nazionale del POM BiH
5. Incontro dei vescovi della Bosnia-Erzegovina e dei provinciali religiosi sul tema delle missioni a Sarajevo, 29 maggio 2019: introduzione di suor Magdalena Šokic, che ha presentato i suoi sette anni di esperienza missionaria in Guinea-Bissau.
6. Incontro dei cori di bambini a Travnik, 1 giugno 2019, canto della missione, canto comune "Dove fioriscono le palme" che è stata inviata a Roma e rappresenterà la Bosnia-Erzegovina sul CD in preparazione.
7. Il quarto Incontro di tutti i sacerdoti di Bosnia ed Erzegovina a Kupres, il 5 giugno 2019 sul tema delle missioni, una conferenza tenuta dall'ex missionario in Tanzania e dall'ex direttore

nazionale del POM BiH Don Ivan Štironja sull'azione missionaria della Chiesa secondo la Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* di Papa Benedetto XV.

8. La Giornata dei religiosi in BiH a Banja Luka, 24 agosto 2019 sul tema dei religiosi e delle religiose nel mandato missionario, conferenza di mons. Henry Hoser, arcivescovo, ex missionario ed ex presidente del POM presso la Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei popoli e Delegato speciale per il pastorale a Međugorje.
9. Esercizi spirituali ai sacerdoti della diocesi di Banja Luka, 16 ottobre 2019, sul tema delle missioni: la Lettera apostolica *Maximum Illud* e l'azione missionaria della Chiesa, di Luka Tunjić, direttore nazionale del POM BiH.
10. Il 24 ottobre 2019 si è svolta la Mostra missionaria di souvenir, oggetti, devozionali, indumenti e vasi liturgici e libri (traduzioni della Bibbia e del NT, catechismi, libri di preghiere, rituali editi e tradotti nelle lingue locali dai nostri missionari) presso la Casa del clero dell'Arcidiocesi di Vrhbosna. La Mostra è stata aperta dal cardinale Vinko Puljić, arcivescovo di Vrhbosna. Sono stati esposti tutti i doni dei nostri missionari dati alla Direzione Nazionale, al loro arrivo; doni provenienti dai paesi in cui operavano in missione e raccolti dal 1972.
11. Al Santuario della BVM di Kondžil, Parrocchia di Komušina, si è concluso l'Anno Missionario e il mese missionario straordinario di ottobre 2019 per Arcidiocesi di Vrhbosna. La Messa è stata presieduta dal cardinale Vinko Puljić, arcivescovo di Vrhbosna.
12. Mons. Mato Zovkić, professore emerito, ha scritto un articolo sulla *missio Ad gentes* negli Atti degli apostoli. L'articolo è stato pubblicato nel libro preparato da p. Fabrizio Meroni.
13. Materiale pubblicitario: opuscolo sulle quattro POM, opuscolo-libro illustrativo sulla Pontificia opera della Santa infanzia in croato e inglese, prospetto sulla Pontificia opera di San Pietro Apostolo, poster, immaginette con preghiera per le missioni, cartella, buste promozionali.
14. Con l'organizzazione dal Centro per i giovani dell'Arcidiocesi di Vrhbosna, tutti gli eventi sono stati impregnati dalla missione: incontro con i giovani della Cresima, via crucis per i giovani, animazione degli animatori.
15. Durante le sedute del Consiglio presbiterale e del Consiglio pastorale dell'Arcidiocesi di Vrhbosna, un punto speciale all'ordine del giorno è stato dedicato all'Anno della missione e al mese straordinario missionario di ottobre 2019.
16. Litanie del cammino di St. Cristoforo con l'approvazione dell'Arcidiocesi di Vrhbosna.
17. La rivista diocesana *Katolički tjednik* ha una rubrica regolare "La chiamata missionaria"
18. Lancio della pagina Facebook della Direzione Nazionale Missionaria.

19. Preghiera mensile del Rosario Missionario su Radio Maria durante l'ultimo sabato del mese. Tutte le quattro POM sono state presentate alla stessa radio singolarmente.
20. Azioni individuali nelle Parrocchie, ispirate all'anno della missione e al mese missionario straordinario di ottobre.

Come si può vedere, gli eventi e le attività missionarie sono state numerose a tutti i livelli, dalla Conferenza episcopale alle comunità parrocchiali. Siamo certi che molte delle attività missionarie che sono state avviate continueranno a vivere e rimarranno anche dopo l'Anno Missionario e il Mese Missionario Straordinario di ottobre 2019. Siamo convinti che tutti questi sforzi contribuiranno al risveglio missionario, come ha affermato una volta Papa Giovanni Paolo II. La primavera missionaria è iniziata e guidata dallo Spirito Santo, ma anche con la nostra preghiera sincera e l'aiuto materiale. Tutti questi passaggi contribuiranno ad accelerare l'avvento di una primavera missionaria affinché si realizzi il più rapidamente possibile.

In questa preghiera e con questa speranza, cordialmente Vi salutiamo nel Cristo Signore.

Direzione nazionale POM, BOSNIA-ERZEGOVINA

BURKINA FASO E NIGER

BILAN DU MOIS EXTRAORDINAIRE D'OCTOBRE 2019

Préparation du mois

Comme tous les autres pays du monde, le Burkina Faso et le Niger ont accueilli le mois extraordinaire d'octobre de l'année 2019 avec joie et comme une grande grâce que Dieu nous donne. Ainsi, la direction a préparé de longue date cet événement en lien avec tous les directeurs diocésains des OPM.

Ainsi, nous avons pu confectionner 6 700 affiches (posters), 21 800 dossiers d'animation en français et en trois (03) langues locales et 35 200 calendriers liturgiques dont 1 000 en grand format et 34 200 en petit format, guidés par le thème « Baptisés, nous sommes envoyés en mission dans le monde », une adaptation du thème mondial.

Nous avons aussi produit des spots publicitaires utilisés dans les radios et la télévision catholiques. Les spots en français, mooré, dioula, goulmatchéma et dagara (4 langue locales) ont été également diffusés par le canal des réseaux sociaux.

Tous les évêques et les diocèses ont été sensibilisés sur l'organisation de ce mois extraordinaire, chose qui a facilité son vécu.

Vécu du mois

Le Burkina Faso et le Niger étant déjà habitués, à cette forme d'animation que nous a proposé le Pape (car depuis des années, nous animons tout le mois d'octobre) ; nous n'avons fait que renforcer les acquis de cette animation.

De ce fait, l'ouverture et la clôture du mois ont eu lieu dans tous les diocèses et dans les paroisses, pour la plupart à la grotte, par une célébration eucharistique et une procession mariale au flambeau. Durant le mois, tous les jours nous avons la récitation du chapelet avec une intention particulière dans les églises, les Communautés Chrétiennes de Base (CCB), les familles (les dimanches surtout) ; et à la fin du chapelet une quête était faite pour les Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaire (OPM).

Le point culminant de ce mois a été sans doute la Journée Missionnaire Mondiale avec la grande quête. Les chrétiens ont manifesté leur générosité aux OPM et à l'Eglise du Burkina et du Niger.

Nous espérons des récoltes meilleures à l'an dernier même si la situation sécuritaire a handicapé l'animation et la mission dans certains diocèses du Nord, de l'Est et du Sahel du Burkina

et dans certaines zones du Niger. Des paroisses ont été fermées et des zones étaient inaccessibles aux agents pastoraux et animateurs des OPM.

La direction quant à elle a appuyé cette année le diocèse de Diébougou par l'animation à travers plusieurs sorties de sensibilisation dans des paroisses de ce diocèse.

Nous sommes sur le bilan général et bientôt nous pourrons vous communiquer le montant de la contribution du Burkina et du Niger.

Direction Nationale des OPM, BURKINA FASO-NIGER

BURUNDI

PREPARATION ET CELEBRATION DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE DANS L'EGLISE CATHOLIQUE DU BURUNDI

Introduction

Après avoir entendu le message du Pape François du 22 octobre 2017 décrétant le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire, la Conférence des Evêques Catholiques du Burundi à travers la Commission Episcopale pour les Missions et son bras opérationnel : les Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires (OPM en sigles) s'est mise en œuvre en vue de se préparer à la célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire.

1. Préparation au Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire

Parmi les activités réalisées au niveau de l'Eglise Catholique du Burundi par le biais des Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires et en vue de la préparation du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire je vais vous citer entre autres un plan opérationnel 2018-2020 des OPM Burundi et une retraite missionnaire.

A) Plan opérationnel 2018-2020 des OPM Burundi

A partir du 6 au 9 février 2018 au Centre Spirituel de Kiriri dans l'Archidiocèse de Bujumbura s'est tenu un atelier organisé par la Direction Nationale des OPM Burundi à l'intention des Directeurs Diocésains des OPM et leurs collaborateurs dans le cadre de l'élaboration d'un plan opérationnel 2018-2020 des OPM Burundi. Celui-ci a pour objectif global de contribuer à la promotion de l'évangélisation en profondeur pour faire face aux défis d'une foi superficielle de certains fidèles laïcs, de la nouvelle éthique mondiale, de la prolifération des sectes et de la crise des valeurs morales et chrétiennes. Dans ce plan on y trouve différentes activités centrées sur la célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire à accomplir de 2018 à 2020.

B) Retraite missionnaire

Comme pour faire rencontre et connaître le Christ Missionnaire aux autres, on doit d'abord Le rencontrer et Le connaître soi-même, c'est dans cette optique que la Direction Nationale des OPM Burundi a organisé une Retraite missionnaire du 25 au 29 juin 2018 au Centre Spirituel de Ruvyagira dans l'Archidiocèse de Gitega. Cette retraite organisée à l'intention des Directeurs Diocésains des OPM et leurs collaborateurs avait pour objectif de faire rencontre davantage le Christ Missionnaire à ces derniers pour puiser à nouveau plus de forces pour aller L'annoncer en accomplissant différentes responsabilités qui leurs sont confiées dans le cadre de la mise en pratique du plan opérationnel cité ci-haut.

2. Célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire

Au Burundi, la célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire a été marquée par plusieurs activités mais je vais revenir seulement sur trois d'entre elles :

A) Veillées missionnaires et ouverture de la célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire

En dates du 14 au 15 août 2019, la Conférence des Evêques Catholiques du Burundi à travers la Commission Episcopale pour les Missions et son bras opérationnel (les OPM Burundi) a procédé aux cérémonies du lancement solennel de trois mois d'activités de célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire. Ce lancement a eu lieu le 15 Août 2019 à la fête de l'Assomption de la vierge Marie au Sanctuaire Marial National de Mugera mais il a été précédé par l'organisation et l'animation des veillées Missionnaires mariales du 14 Août 2019, dans tous les sanctuaires de l'Eglise du Burundi. Le thème central de ces veillées était: « Marie Etoile de l'évangélisation».

Partant du thème du Pape pour le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire qui était: « Baptisés et envoyés : L'Eglise du Christ en mission dans le monde » ; L'Eglise Catholique du Burundi a voulu exploiter ce thème pendant une période de trois mois pour montrer aux fidèles que le mandat missionnaire de Jésus ressuscité est encore actuel.

B) Premier Congrès Missionnaire au Burundi

Du 23 au 28 Septembre 2019, la Conférence des Evêques Catholiques du Burundi à travers la Commission Episcopale pour les Missions et son bras opérationnel (les OPM Burundi) a organisé un Congrès Missionnaire au Grand Séminaire Saint Jean Paul II de GITEGA dans le cadre de la célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire.

Le thème général du Congrès Missionnaire était : « Baptisés et envoyés : Eglise de Jésus Christ en mission au Burundi et dans le monde ». Au cours de ce dernier, différentes activités étaient organisées, citons entre autres des Célébrations Eucharistiques, des conférences, un panel, des chapelets missionnaires, des adorations missionnaires, des travaux dans des groupes appelés carrefours, une veillée missionnaire et une Messe de clôture du Congrès.

C) Célébration de l'octobre 2019

Dans le cadre de la célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire différentes activités ont été organisées et accomplies : des visites entre différents groupes acteurs dans l'Evangelisation, des rencontres de prières et d'enseignement, des veillées de prière et de partage des témoignages de la mission, des pèlerinages missionnaires, etc.

Le 20 octobre 2019, jour proprement dit de la célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire dans les diocèses du Burundi : cette journée a été marquée par des célébrations eucharistiques préparées et animées par des chants et des symboles missionnaires dans tous les diocèses, ça a été

une journée de collectes des fonds pour la mission et au cours de l'Eucharistie dans tous les diocèses on a lu publiquement le message du pape destinée à cette journée.

Pour clôturer le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire, dans tous les diocèses du Burundi, on a donné la place aux jeunes qui ont préparé des concerts d'animation missionnaire par des chants missionnaires, des sketches, des poésies et d'autres éléments culturels adaptés sur des thèmes missionnaires

Pour clore, dans toutes ces activités organisées en vue de la célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire, on remarque une participation active de toutes les catégories de personnes de l'Eglise famille au Burundi. Quant aux fruits de ce Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire, on voit qu'on a réussi à conscientiser et redynamiser l'esprit missionnaire au niveau de l'Eglise catholique du Burundi et cela se remarque par des conférences et des réunions qui sont en train d'être tenues par les différentes communautés et associations religieuses œuvrant dans le pays.

Direction Nationale des OPM, BURUNDI

CAMEROUN

RAPPORT DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE D'OCTOBRE 2019

Le mois d'Octobre 2019 a été décrété le mois missionnaire extraordinaire par le pape François. C'était à l'occasion du centenaire de la lettre Apostolique *Maximum Illud* du pape Benoît XV (30 novembre 1919). La lettre à laquelle le pape a voulu redonner un nouveau souffle à la mission de l'Eglise. Notre présent rapport très succinct aura deux points à la une : la présentation de la cérémonie d'ouverture du mois missionnaire et les activités menées autour dudit mois.

En effet, le mois d'Octobre 2019 sous le thème « *Baptisés et Envoyés : l'Eglise du Christ en Mission dans le Monde* » s'est présenté comme Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire par décret du Pape François afin d'alimenter l'ardeur de l'activité évangélisatrice de l'Eglise dans le monde. La Direction Nationale s'est donc vu animé tout au long de ce mois, c'est-à-dire du 05 au 27 Octobre 2019 à travers les Œuvres pontificales missionnaires par des activités d'Évangélisation, par l'envoi en Mission, de Partage avec les plus démunis, de Lutte contre toute forme de discrimination et de participation active au développement sous la coordination du Directeur National des OPM, l'Abbé Manfred EJONG NOKWE.

La Lettre du Saint père, le Pape François du 22 octobre 2017 nous est parvenue. Dans cette Lettre le saint Père, annonçait la célébration du Centenaire de la Lettre apostolique *Maximum Illud* au mois de novembre 2019. Cette lettre a été multipliée par le Directeur National des Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires et a été transmise aux Evêques, Directeurs Diocésains, aux curés de paroisses, associations, mouvements et confréries, au président du comité diocésain pour les laïcs. Une large diffusion de ces deux grands événements de l'Église a eu un large écho auprès de tous les fidèles du Cameroun.

Du retour de Rome, tout a été transmis aux Evêques du Cameroun qui ont sorti un cahier de charges pour le Mois Extraordinaire Missionnaire octobre 2019.

La Direction Nationale a sorti les Affiches pour Annoncer le Mois Extraordinaire, les portes clés, et les Tee-shirts ont été confectionnés et envoyés dans tous les diocèses du Cameroun.

Le Lancement du mois extraordinaire d'octobre a eu lieu le 6 octobre 2019 dans tous les diocèses du Cameroun.

Le Directeur national a mis son bâton de pèlerin en marche. D'abord, il s'est rendu dans le Diocèse de Batouri pour le lancement du mois Extraordinaire. La messe de l'envoi du peuple de Dieu en mission était célébrée par l'Evêque du Diocèse Mgr Marcellin-Marie NDABNYEMB. Le Directeur National des Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires, le Révérend Père Manfred EJONG

NOKWE a organisé dans le Diocèse de Batouri une séance de formation, d'animation et de sensibilisation sur les Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires. En outre, il a animé tous les prêtres sur l'importance de la Lettre apostolique *Maximum Illud*.

Le Directeur National est allé tour à tour dans les Diocèses d'Obala, de Bafia, de Mbalmayo, d'Edéa et l'Archidiocèse de Yaoundé. Ne pouvant pas se rendre dans les 26 Diocèses que compte le Cameroun, il s'est tout de même rassuré auprès des Evêques de la parfaite organisation pour ce mois.

A Mbalmayo, La messe solennelle et pontificale a eu lieu en la Cathédrale Notre Dame du Rosaire de Mbalmayo présidée par Mgr Joseph- Marie NDI- OKALLA l'ordinaire des lieux. Il y a eu une bonne préparation lointaine. Ainsi le même jour avait eu lieu dans tout le Diocèse dans ses paroisses la messe de lancement du mois missionnaire extraordinaire présidée par les cures sous la demande du Père Evêque. A l'occasion de ces célébrations Eucharistiques d'ouverture du mois missionnaire, chaque pasteur devait annoncer les couleurs et le caractère particulier de ce mois tel que voulu par le Saint Père.

Vivre la rencontre personnelle avec Jésus Christ vivant dans son Eglise à travers l'Eucharistie, la Parole de Dieu et la prière en communauté. Le Directeur National a beaucoup insisté sur ce point en recommandant qu'à chaque Eucharistie les prêtres ont le devoir d'expliquer le thème du mois missionnaire : « Baptisés et Envoyés : l'Eglise du Christ en marche dans le monde. » La deuxième chose sur laquelle le Directeur a tenu d'appliquer c'était de formuler à chaque messe domicile une intention dédiée à la mission universelle. En fin, la lettre apostolique MAXIMUM ILLUD était lu dans des églises et communautés.

La Messe de clôture a eu lieu à Edéa avec Mgr Jean Bosco NTEP, Président de la Commission Episcopale pour l'Evangélisation des Peuples sous la supervision du Nonce Apostolique.

Voilà en quelques mots le bilan des activités menées pendant le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire d'oct. 2019 au Cameroun. Comme vous le constater le Cameroun est loin d'être en marge des consignes du Saint Père, nous les avons plutôt respectés en respectant aussi les réalités de notre Pays. De manière générale, les fidèles du Cameroun ont vécu avec enthousiasme, le Mois Extraordinaire de la Mission. Par-dessus tous les Fidèles ont pris conscience de leur rôle Missionnaire au sein de l'Eglise famille de Dieu dont chacun en est un membre capital.

Nous remercions les Secrétariats Internationaux pour leur soutien pour le bon déroulement de ce Mois Extraordinaire d'octobre 2019.

Direction Nationale des OPM, CAMEROUN

CANADA FRANCOPHONE

BILAN DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE

Préparatifs importants

Interpellés par le pape François le D.M.M.2018, à se préparer durant toute l'année (Nov. 18-sept.19) au MME 2019 et encouragés vivement à le faire à deux reprises par le cardinal Filoni, les évêques ont été rapidement informés du décret d'un MME et les OPM du Canada francophone ont collaboré aux préparatifs importants par deux lancements officiels via Facebook- live Stream dès le printemps 2018 et en février 2019. Il fallait interpellier nos évêques et les responsables de la pastorale diocésaine de 28 diocèses à entrer en action par la formation de comités, etc. Ceci nous a permis d'aller parler du MME à l'assemblée des évêques du Québec (28 évêques) en mars 2019, et une invitation du président des OPM de Rome, Mgr Dal Toso, à la CECC (conférence épiscopale catholique canadienne réunissant 90 évêques) pour offrir la conférence d'ouverture de leur assemblée annuelle. Celle-ci donnait l'occasion de clarifier le thème de la Mission d'évangélisation des peuples et la formation de disciples-missionnaires et de communautés de disciples-missionnaires, mais aussi de rappeler à l'épiscopat canadien leur responsabilité envers la Mission ad gentes et le service d'animation missionnaire que sont les OPM, en plus d'être un soutien spirituel et matériel de la Mission universelle. Les OPM sont comprises comme œuvres du Pape et les évêques se montrent très peu conscientisés que ce sont aussi les œuvres des évêques et de tout le peuple de Dieu. Ils ont leurs œuvres locales ou autres à faire valoir et à voir au soutien financier, vite priorisées. Il fut aussi question de l'accueil et de l'intégration de prêtres arrivant de d'autres pays en aide à nos églises locales en manque de prêtres.

Notre site web. www.missionfoi.ca a progressivement et sans tarder offert des ressources pour aider les églises locales à se préparer : réflexions théologique et biblique sur le thème, réflexions des 3 derniers papes, suggestions de modèles canadiens de la mission ad gentes, méditations d'un rosaire missionnaire avec François, suggestions de célébrations d'ouverture et de clôture, heure sainte et veillées de prière missionnaire inspirée de nos modèles canadiens, une neuvaine : Baptisés et envoyés, la production d'une vidéo : le cœur missionnaire, avec présentations de témoignages sur la Mission. Pour les jeunes, une publication : moi... Missionnaire? Dès la fin mars, tout cela était accessible sur le site et dès le début mai 2019, notre guide d'animation annuel était envoyé aux paroisses pour les éveiller au MME approchant et pour y faire commande de matériel imprimé tel : dépliants explicatifs du MME, l'affiche du MME et une affiche souvenir avec la prière du MME et François(question de se donner une visibilité à long terme), prière du MME (95,000 copies) , la carte

postale du MME avec intentions de prière pour tous les mois de oct.2019 à sept.2020. On constate les commandes arrivant de plusieurs nouvelles paroisses montrant de l'intérêt.

Réalisations diverses durant le MME

Durant tout le mois de septembre, j'ai constaté comment plusieurs diocèses ont choisi de prendre ce thème du MME pour toute l'année pastorale. En fin septembre, au conseil national réunissant tous les directeurs diocésains, ma surprise fut de constater comment ce MME suscitera des initiatives des plus diverses d'une église locale à l'autre, au-delà des célébrations d'ouverture ou de clôture (envoi missionnaire) qui furent assez répandues. Certains diocèses ont mis l'accent sur l'écoute de témoignages sur la Mission chez nous et Ad gentes. (La mission ici et partout...) Des enregistrements de ces témoins continueront durant toute l'année dans certains site web. diocésains ou t.v. communautaire. Je fus demandé comme personne-ressource à des lancements diocésains prenant le thème ou celui de : Disciples-missionnaires ensemble. Radio-Vatican, Fides et la T.V.: Sel et Lumière (Canada) m'ont invité à parler de la Mission et du MME durant octobre, et les entrevus furent demandés par la radio catholique de Montréal (Ville-Marie) et avec E.C.D.Q. du diocèse de Québec, pour faire un retour sur le MME et un bilan des fruits attendus et déjà visibles dans nos églises locales. Dans ce sens, je constate une plus grande demande de ressources et d'animation missionnaire des OPM. Notre service www.animissio.ca tente de répondre à cette demande de petits groupes tels : parents des enfants en catéchèse en paroisse, catéchètes, diacres avec épouses et personnes retraités, enseignants et agents de pastorale des écoles et diocèses catholiques d'Ontario(3), retraites aux prêtres sur le thème : SORTEZ (messages de François aux évêques, prêtres, diacres, de 2015-2019) données à trois reprises.

Les contrastes chez nous sont évidents, dépendamment des ressources ou des personnalités diocésaines. Autant le grand diocèse de Québec et son archevêque le cardinal Lacroix est entré dans une année complète avec le thème du MME et un lancement de celui-ci avec plus de 1500 personnes (prêtres, agents de pastorale, groupes religieux ou laïcs impliqués dans l'évangélisation et la transmission de la foi, communautés religieuses missionnaires, etc.), autant le grand diocèse de Montréal a souffert de l'absence d'un directeur diocésain des OPM et n'a eu que quelques activités régulières pour les prêtres et agents de pastorale sur : Ensemble, la Mission (2e année du thème) et une activité pour soutenir la Mission chez nous (diocèses du nord canadien et pastorale des innus) qui fut un échec. Autant le diocèse d'Ottawa s'est préparé par des ressources demandées et notre animation sur le thème et a tenu plein de célébrations (Ouverture-clôture, etc.), autant le diocèse tout proche de Gatineau a un évêque qui fait réfléchir sur la Mission par son leadership et ses écrits (ex » : Appelés et envoyés, Novalis 2019) mais n'a peu tenu d'évènements soulignant le MME. C'est la

mission chez nous qui semble plus une urgence (nouvelle évangélisation) que la Mission universelle, et ce, dans plusieurs diocèses du Canada francophone. Une autre pauvreté à signaler : les communautés religieuses missionnaires étant très vieillissantes, seulement deux se sont marquées par une animation missionnaire : les Franciscains et les Prêtres des missions étrangères.

Enfin, la campagne numérique mondial pour le MME fut l'occasion de plusieurs baptisés de témoigner de : Ma mission est... Environ 15 diocèses y ont participé et continueront de le faire dans les diocèses qui ont un thème missionnaire ou celui du MME. C'est un succès médiatique qui va en progression, comme si la flamme missionnaire reprenait comme jamais dans le cœur des nôtres avec une force et une audace d'en témoigner dans une culture très sécularisée, en mots, en gestes, en engagements de toutes sortes, effets multiples de la prise de conscience des baptisés, de la Mission.

Direction Nationale des OPM, CANADA FRANCOPHONE

CHILE

MES MISIONERO EXTRAORDINARIO OCTUBRE 2019 IGLESIA EN CHILE

Contexto

El Mes Misionero Extraordinario, octubre 2019, se vivió en Chile de cara a dos situaciones contextuales muy puntuales y que ciertamente condicionaron inmensamente su celebración: 1) la situación dramática y compleja de los abusos de parte del clero; 2) el estallido social que ha irrumpido con toda su fuerza de protesta y clamor, especialmente de parte de los jóvenes, en el país a raíz de las inmensas desigualdades e injusticias. Ambas situaciones han llevado a la Iglesia a una profunda revisión de su presencia evangelizadora en la sociedad chilena, en un momento en que el índice de credibilidad en el conjunto de las instituciones es el más bajo en los últimos años. El papa Francisco visitó el país (2018) en medio de esta realidad de desafección a la Iglesia católica y de sus líderes.

Las actividades realizadas se sitúan en el tiempo previo al inicio propiamente tal del MME, es decir, desde marzo hasta la primera quincena de octubre 2019.

Asamblea Plenaria de los Obispos chilenos

Fueron dos instancias en donde se reflexionó junto a los obispos chilenos el significado y los alcances del Mes Misionero Extraordinario. En estas instancias se presentaron las cuatro acentuaciones que el Papa Francisco quiso darle a este tiempo, los insumos para vivir este tiempo fuerte; se vieron las oportunidades que nuestras iglesias locales tienen para volver a despertar la conciencia misionera del Pueblo de Dios y su compromiso con la Misión Universal. Nuestros obispos tomaron la decisión de dejar en libertad a cada diócesis a fin de buscar caminos e iniciativas según la realidad propia para vivir el MME.

Diócesis

En la mayoría de las diócesis hubo encuentros de animación y formación misionera para con el clero local, Comunidades religiosas y con agentes pastorales. Para este efecto la Comisión de Misiones en conjunto con OMP Chile acompañaron y colaboraron con distintos recursos para promover la vida misionera en las comunidades locales.

IAM Chile

Los niños de la Infancia Misionera y sus familias, con sus animadores y asesores, tuvieron un gran protagonismo en este tiempo fuerte del MME, con diversas actividades: Congresos diocesanos,

marchas en los espacios céntricos de las ciudades; intervenciones urbanas; actividades en los colegios; festivales.

Encuentros formativos

OMP Chile y la Comisión de Misiones de la Conferencia Episcopal organizaron 3 encuentros muy significativos en el contexto del MME a fin de generar espacios formativos en la teología y espiritualidad misionera:

1. *Encuentro Nacional de los Directores de OMP Chile*, el cual se realizó en el Seminario Pontificio San Rafael de la diócesis de Valparaíso. En esta oportunidad los participantes reflexionaron sobre la actualidad y proyecciones de la Encíclica *Maximum Illud* y la apuesta misionera del Papa Francisco.
2. *Simposio de Misionología*, realizado igualmente en el Seminario Pontificio San Rafael, con representantes de la mayoría de las 26 diócesis del país. En esta oportunidad se contó con la participación del padre Leonardo Rodríguez, actual director OMP Uruguay y coordinador OMP para América, quien ofreció los desafíos misioneros a la luz del Concilio Vaticano II hasta el Magisterio del Papa Francisco y sus proyecciones en el proceso que vive la Iglesia en Chile.
3. *Presentación de las Orientaciones Misioneras para la Iglesia en Chile*. Se trata de un documento orientativo para acompañar la reflexión de las comunidades locales elaborado por la Comisión de Misiones y OMP Chile a fin de posibilitar que nuestras iglesias locales tengan una mayor profundización en la comprensión teológica y pastoral del camino de la misión evangelizadora hoy de cara a una compleja realidad contextual latinoamericana y chilena.

Medios de Comunicación y Redes

A fin de dar una máxima difusión al MME se usaron los medios radiales, especialmente Radio María con la puesta en el aire de un ciclo de 7 programas y una serie de cápsulas radiales, con el propósito de entregar contenidos sobre la riqueza del magisterio misionero de la Iglesia, acompañado de testimonios; igualmente desde la Comisión de Misiones y OMP Chile se preparó un ciclo de cápsulas radiales animacionales con temáticas misioneras breves las cuales fueron difundidas por ARCA (Asociación de Radiodifusoras católicas). Se procuró también que en todas las plataformas digitales de las diócesis pudiesen colocar materiales referidos al MME.

La Misa del Domingo Universal de las Misiones fue transmitida a través del Canal estatal TVN lo cual posibilitó con su señal que llegase a todo el país.

Dada la situación compleja en la convivencia social, iniciada el 18 de octubre, muchas actividades preparadas propiamente en el MME fueron suspendidas, especialmente el DUM, dado que no estaban las condiciones de seguridad en los recintos religiosos. Durante este tiempo de manifestaciones muchos de los templos han sido saqueados y otros simplemente quemados.

Dirección Nacional de las OMP, CHILE

COLOMBIA

RESEÑA SINTÉTICA MES MISIONERO EXTRAORDINARIO EN COLOMBIA Conferencia Episcopal de Colombia y OMP de Colombia en preparación y celebración del MME

Se hizo un trabajo conjunto en donde los señores Obispos aprobaron preparar y celebrar el Mes Misionero Extraordinario con una misión evangelizadora, se diseñó una propuesta, un subsidio para que todos los obispos promovieran en sus parroquias la preparación y realización de esta misión, teniendo en cuenta los cuatro aspectos dados por el Papa Francisco para dicho Mes Misionero Extraordinario, que eran los siguientes:

1. El Encuentro con Jesucristo vivo en la oración, la palabra y los sacramentos.
2. Los testimonios de los Santos canonizados y no canonizados universales y locales.
3. La formación misionera.
4. La caridad misionera.

En general se preparó un estilo de misión popular que contaba con el visiteo puerta a puerta, la preparación previa de los misioneros, y la realización de dicha misión, la mayoría de las diócesis y parroquias la realizaron en el mes de octubre.

Algunas diócesis y obispos promovieron encuentros diocesanos con sus agentes evangelizadores, algunas peregrinaciones a lugares Marianos o de los mártires que tenemos en Colombia, y también algunos lograron hacer una misión en conjunto por ejemplos grupos de parroquias que se unieron para hacer misiones en sus respectivas parroquias.

A nivel general fue una iniciativa muy buena que ha despertado espíritu misionero, ha generado grupos de misioneros, y ha despertado un interés por continuar en la línea evangelizadora, grupos de oración o fortalecer los grupos apostólicos que ya hay e iniciar nuevos caminos eclesiales que la Iglesia ya tiene.

OMP desarrolló una campaña de comunicación digital para promover el DOMUND 2019 y MME con el fin obtener mayor alcance y posicionamiento se crea la campaña teniendo en cuenta algunas acciones digitales, como la creación de una sección para Donaciones, donde incluyen testimonios de misioneros.

Se creó una sección para un Blog con temáticas misioneras propias del DOMUND y del Mes Misionero Extraordinario

Se crearon recursos multimedia como videos con las siguientes temáticas: Obras Misionales Pontificas, Rosario Misionero, Bautismo, misión, donación, testimonios de laicos. Y también generamos contenidos atractivos para nuestras redes sociales.

Se realizó una transmisión multiplataforma de tres Rosarios misioneros, conociendo más las Obras Misionales Pontificas y su accionar en la Iglesia, El departamento de Animación Misionera de la Conferencia Episcopal de Colombia y por último un invitado especial el padre Fabián López mxy y su testimonio misionero en Afganistán, India y África. También, oramos por la liberación de la Hna. Gloria Cecilia Narváez Argoty.

Y para clausurar el mes de las misiones y el Mes Misionero Extraordinario, se realizó como clausura en el seminario Intermisional de Bogotá, el 31 de octubre, un Foro Misionero, con la participación de dos obispos que fueron padres sinodales en Roma, se trató el tema de la Amazonía y el de la misión motivando a los seminaristas a seguir alimentando el espíritu misionero y también ofrecerse a evangelizar por un tiempo sea en su año pastoral o parte de ese año o una vez ordenados unos dos o tres años, en un territorio de misión de uno de los Vicariatos Apostólicos.

Dirección Nacional de las OMP, COLOMBIA

CONGO BRAZZAVILLE

RAPPORT D'ACTIVITES RELATIF AUX MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE OCTOBRE 2019

Les activités relatives au mois missionnaire extraordinaire d'octobre 2019 se sont déroulées suivant les instructions données par la Congrégation pour l'Évangélisation des Peuples, la Présidence, les secrétariats généraux des OPM et la Conférence des Evêques du Congo. Le présent rapport résumera les activités menées tant par la direction nationale que par les directions diocésaines des OPM.

I. LES ACTIVITES DE LA DIRECTION NATIONALE DES OPM

Les activités de la direction nationale des OPM de la République du Congo sont essentiellement liées à la tenue de l'assemblée nationale des directeurs des OPM, à la visite sur le terrain, à la participation aux rencontres diocésaines et à la célébration solennelle de la Journée Missionnaire Extraordinaire d'octobre 2019.

L'assemblée nationale annuelle des directeurs des OPM du Congo Brazzaville a eu lieu du 19 au 23 septembre 2019 sur le site des grands séminaires de philosophie et de théologie de Brazzaville. Le thème de cette était naturellement : « Baptisés et envoyés, l'Église du Christ en mission dans le monde ».

Le but de cette rencontre était de préparer les directeurs diocésains des OPM à vivre et animer la Journée Missionnaire Extraordinaire. Ce faisant, avec la participation de deux évêques et huit conférenciers, la direction nationale des OPM a pu approfondir ce thème ; et, d'une certaine manière, répondre au désir du Pape François : « que le mois missionnaire extraordinaire soit une occasion de grâce intense et féconde pour promouvoir des initiatives et intensifier de manière singulière la prière – âme de toute mission –, l'annonce de l'Évangile, la réflexion biblique et théologique sur la mission, les œuvres de charité chrétienne et les actions concrètes de coopération et de solidarité entre les Églises, afin que se réveille et ne nous soit jamais volé l'enthousiasme missionnaire » (cf. Congrégation pour l'évangélisation des peuples, Lettre du 22 octobre 2017).

La messe de clôture de cette assemblée a eu lieu à la paroisse Saint Michel de Ngangouoni à Brazzaville, le dimanche 22 septembre 2019. La communauté paroissiale, quelques invités et tous les directeurs des OPM présents ont pris part à cette célébration présidée par S.E. Mgr Louis PORTELLA MBUYU, Évêque-Président la Commission épiscopale pour les Missions au sein de la Conférence des évêques du Congo.

La direction nationale des OPM du Congo a également organisé des rencontres d'approfondissement du thème de la Mission : « Baptisés et envoyés, l'Église du Christ en mission

dans le monde » soit de sa propre initiative, soit sur invitation d'autres personnes ou groupes. Ainsi, dans le but d'intéresser les futurs prêtres de notre Eglise locale, une rencontre réunissant tous les grands séminaristes de philosophie et de théologie du Congo, une Conférence a été organisée dans la Chapelle du Grand Séminaire Cardinal Emile Biayenda de Brazzaville. Tous les formateurs des deux grands séminaires, quelques professeurs externes et les religieuses en service au séminaire ont pu participer à cette rencontre animée par le Directeur National des OPM.

Sur invitation de la Conférence des Supérieur(e)s majeur(e)s des Congrégations religieuses présentes au Congo, le Directeur National des OPM a entretenu ses membres sur le rôle des religieux et religieuses dans la Mission et leur collaboration à la pastorale des diocèses où ils œuvrent. Cette rencontre a eu lieu le 13 juin 2019 à Djiri, un quartier de Brazzaville.

Dans la suite de cette réunion, le Directeur national des OPM a animé une journée de recollection pour des religieux et religieuses en la Chapelle de Javouhet des Sœurs de Cluny à Brazzaville le 6 octobre 2019.

Le directeur national des OPM a aussi été invité à participer à la Session pastorale annuelle du Diocèse de Ouesso. A cette occasion, S.E. Mgr Yves Marie MONOT, évêque du diocèse l'a invité à présenter les grands axes de la préparation du Mois missionnaire extraordinaire d'octobre 2019. Tous agents pastoraux, les religieuses, les catéchistes, prêtres et diacres du diocèse étaient présents.

Enfin, pour une large visibilité, la direction nationale des OPM a invité une chaîne de Radio-Télévision afin de retransmettre à l'échelle nationale le début et la fin de ses assises, la messe d'envoi en mission.

II. LES ACTIVITES DES DIRECTIONS DIOCESAINES DES OPM

En application des résolutions de l'assemblée nationale annuelle des directeurs des OPM, chaque diocèse du Congo a mis en œuvre les directives de la Conférence des Evêques du Congo. Dans sa lettre pour la célébration du mois missionnaire d'octobre 2019, celle-ci indiquait des actions qui devraient être réalisées dans chaque pour marquer cet évènement. Ainsi, à l'issue de la session ordinaire de la Conférence épiscopale du Congo, une célébration nationale d'ouverture du mois missionnaire extraordinaire a été organisée début octobre; tous les diocèses ont également célébré l'ouverture et la clôture du mois missionnaire extraordinaire.

En outre, pour mettre un accent particulier sur la prière, que le Pape François a qualifié d'âme de la mission, les rapports des diocèses montrent que chaque jour du mois d'octobre des intentions et prières missionnaires ont été incorporées à celle du mois marial. Chaque jour, ces moments de prière ont aussi été suivis d'enseignements ponctuels et circonstanciés s'inspirant du Guide conçu par la Congrégation pour l'Evangelisation des Peuples et la Présidence des OPM.

Dans plusieurs diocèses, la décision a été prise pour que l'élan donné par la célébration du mois missionnaire extraordinaire ne se perde pas. C'est pourquoi les programmes d'activités des mouvements d'apostolat, c'est-à-dire des associations de laïcs très actives dans les diocèses et paroisses du Congo, intègrent des formations et un apostolat qui rendent toujours compte de la responsabilité missionnaire de chaque baptisé congolais. En particulier, les recollections de l'ouverture et clôture de l'année pastorale, des temps forts de l'Avent et du Carême tendront à raviver la conscience missionnaire de chacun.

Direction Nationale des OPM, CONGO BRAZZAVILLE

COSTA RICA

INFORME MES MISIONERO EXTRAORDINARIO 2019

Asumo mis funciones como nuevo Director Nacional a un mes de iniciar el Mes Misionero Extraordinario.

Como primer paso fue reunir al Consejo de OMP, quienes coincidieron en la necesidad de hacer cosas extraordinarias para resaltar el carácter extraordinario del mes. Al carecer de un presupuesto extraordinario, procedí a readecuar las diferentes cuentas para poder generar un monto que permitiera planificar las actividades sugeridas por el Consejo.

Acciones realizadas

1. La primera actividad implicó evidenciar la celebración del MME, pues resultaba desapercibido, para ello:
 - a) Elaboración y difusión de un video, en el cual participaron varias de las personas que comúnmente sirven en las OMP.
 - b) Participación en la Romería en honor a la Virgen de los Ángeles, patrona de Costa Rica. Donde aprovechamos para distribuir un brochure con la información del MME y a la vez se insto a orar por un misionero costarricense específico. En dicha actividad participaron cerca de 110 personas, de las cuáles la mayoría pertenecen a la Juventud Misionera.
 - c) Se hizo coincidir además el Encuentro Nacional de la IAM con las fechas del MME, aprovechando la visita de la Hermana Roberta, para así animar también desde ahí a la celebración del mes. También se aprovechó el encuentro anual de la UEM en la diócesis de Tilarán-Liberia. Además tuvimos un Retiro Misionero para Jóvenes y el Curso de Misionología con el tema: Parroquia Misionera.
2. Luego se consiguió motivar a los Obispos de la Conferencia Episcopal para animar y despertar la importancia de celebrar el Mes Misionero Extraordinario en cada diócesis. La Conferencia Episcopal cedió dos espacios importantes, uno en una reunión ordinaria, y otro en una extraordinaria de casi una mañana entera. En dichas reuniones se explicaron los objetivos y actividades necesarias para llevar a cabo la celebración del Mes Misionero Extraordinario. La respuesta fue muy satisfactoria. En cada Diócesis se realizó la inauguración y la clausura del MME, así como también se desarrollaron varias actividades. La celebración del DOMUND de este año fue concelebrada por la Conferencia Episcopal y el Secretario del Nuncio, así como por los Directores Diocesanos, con la participación de colaboradores de todas las OMP, en el Santuario Nacional del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. Dicha misa fue televisada. Se

- aprovechó además ese día para hacer un almuerzo con todos los colaboradores más directos de las OMP.
3. El resto de los domingos del mes se transmitió misa televisada: una centrada en la IAM, otra en el Unión de Enfermos Misioneros, otra como promoción vocacional y en apoyo de la OSPA.
 4. Al lado de estas actividades cada domingo del mes se realizó lo que llamamos “Feria Misionera de la Vida”, en varias parroquias de diferentes diócesis, con el fin de dar a conocer y promover cada una de la Obras Misionales. Se visitaron cuatro lugares. La ferias comprendieron: pasacalles, circo misionero, rosario misionero, visita a enfermos de la comunidad y reunión con los Ministros extraordinarios de la Comunión, sesión Alpha jóvenes, promoción vocacional, y celebración de la Santa Eucaristía. Todos los cooperadores de las OMP se vieron involucrados y quedó la experiencia como modelo para otras parroquias lo estén solicitando. Para apoyar se confeccionaron camisetas y gorras.
 5. Por otro lado, se logró conjugar con el Seminario para que los seminaristas hicieran coincidir la misión que ellos normalmente realizan anualmente con el Mes Misionero Extraordinario. Se logró motivar así a los seminaristas.
 6. Se aprovechó para realizar un encuentro misionero con el clero de la Arquidiócesis de San José, junto con los seminaristas. Lo animó el sacerdote comboniano Padre Moschetta, quien compartió su testimonio misionero. Con estas acciones buscamos reactivar la PUM en Costa Rica.
 7. Además se realizaron dos eucaristías en el Seminario Nacional, una presidida por el Secretario Nacional de la IAM y otra por mi persona. Con esto se logró reactivar la Comisión permanente de misiones en el Seminario, y a la vez animar a los seminaristas en la misión ad-inter gentes como paradigma.
 8. A nivel académico conseguimos introducir la cátedra de misionología dentro del pensum del seminario, la cual que no existía. Esto podría inspirar carismas misioneros Fidei donum.
 9. En las reuniones con los obispos se expuso la importancia de facilitar a los sacerdotes que así lo deseen poder ofrecer su servicio en diócesis de misión por tres años, respondiendo así a la Fidei donum.
 10. Se generaron varios materiales como por ejemplo un subsidio “Volver al primer amor”, que consiste en encuentros semanales de Lectio Divina. El otro material adaptado para este año fue muy didáctico, el cual logró integrar el elemento testimonial y formativo.
 11. Se inicia la renovación de la página Web. La difusión en las redes sociales ha aumentado. La visita a la página de Facebook de OMP Costa Rica, muestra un incremento en 400%. Además

de ensayar otros medios de recaudación para el DOMUND. Todo bajo la perspectiva de que la misión es un rostro, no una mera actividad, y así presentando a los misioneros costarricenses y a todos aquellos que realizan misión y la animan en el país.

Logros importantes:

1. Se decreta por parte de los Obispos la Gran Misión Nacional en Costa Rica para el año 2022. En el año 2020 se elaborarán materiales, se tendrá el Congreso Nacional de la IAM. Para el 2021 se procederá a tener el Congreso Nacional Misionero y se procederá a la formación y distribución de la misión Nacional.
2. Contamos con Director Diocesano en todas las Diócesis.
3. Constitución de la Comisión Nacional de Juventud Misionera conformada por el momento por cuatro Diócesis para promover un proyecto nacional.
4. Conseguimos un espacio fijo en Radio María de Costa Rica, los lunes a las 7:00 pm, con retransmisión tres veces a la semana.

Junto a esto, se realizaron las actividades ordinarias que se hacen cada año: animaciones misioneras en parroquias, visita a presbiterios (esta vez para presentar el tema Misión y Trinidad, y un documento sobre el origen del DOMUND y su sentido y razón de ser. Elaboración de afiches y estampas, y material didáctico para trabajar en las comunidades.

Considero que se logró el objetivo original: hacer algo extraordinario junto con lo ordinario.

Dirección Nacional de las OMP, COSTA RICA

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

LES ACTIVITÉS DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE AU PLAN NATIONAL

Pour commémorer le Centenaire de la Lettre apostolique du Pape Benoit XV, « *Maximum Illud* du 30 Novembre 1919 », célébrée cette année 2019 par le renouvellement de notre conscience missionnaire en nous rappelant l'urgence et l'importance de la mission dans l'Eglise, Sa Sainteté le Pape François a décrété le mois d'octobre 2019 comme Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire.

Ici en Côte d'Ivoire, elle a été marquée par deux axes majeurs :

1 - Le lancement officiel

Il a débuté par une formation missiologique le Samedi 05 Octobre 2019, donnée par Mgr Marcellin Yao Kouadio, Evêque du Diocèse de Daloa, Président de la Commission Episcopale pour l'Evangelisation des peuples et des OPM. Cette formation portait sur le thème : « l'animation missionnaire, réalité et défis en Côte d'Ivoire ». Elle a réuni tous les catéchistes du Diocèse de Yamoussoukro, quelques-uns venus du Diocèse d'Abengourou et des membres du bureau national de la catéchèse, les Directeurs diocésains des OPM et des prêtres du diocèse de Yamoussoukro.

La Messe d'ouverture et le lancement officiel du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire ont eu lieu le Dimanche 06 Octobre 2019, présidée par Mgr Alexis Touably Youlo, Evêque d'Agboville et Administrateur Apostolique de Yamoussoukro, à la Basilique Notre Dame de la Paix, en présence du Père Lucas Marabese, Chargé d'Affaires à la Nonciature Apostolique en Côte d'Ivoire.

2 - La clôture du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire

Elle a été meublée par les phases finales des concours de chant, de théâtre et de poésie, portés sur le thème du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire : « Baptisés et envoyés, l'Eglise du Christ en Mission dans le monde », organisés durant tout le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire. Ces finales ont eu lieu, le Samedi 26 Octobre à la Cathédrale Saint Augustin de Yamoussoukro avec la participation de plus de cinq cent jeunes venus des diocèses qualifiés (Abidjan, Agboville, Daloa et Yopougon). La Messe Solennelle de clôture a eu lieu le Dimanche 27 Octobre dans ladite cathédrale.

Dans un discours d'action de grâce et de remerciement, le Révérend Père Jean-Noël Gossou, Directeur National des Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaire en Côte d'Ivoire a relevé le caractère inaliénable du baptême en lien avec l'esprit missionnaire. C'est pourquoi, nous devons tous conjuguer nos efforts pour trouver les moyens nécessaires, pour soutenir et financer cette mission par le don de soi d'abord, ensuite par la contribution efficace et effective aux collectes instituées dans l'Eglise à travers les OPM afin d'assurer l'autonomie financière et sociale de notre Eglise pour la mission.

En témoignant sa reconnaissance à Dieu pour le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire, le Directeur national des OPM a exhorté les fidèles chrétiens à être des missionnaires de l'Évangile du Christ engagés dans les familles, dans les quartiers, dans les villes et villages, dans les écoles, dans les universités, dans les lieux de travail, dans leurs Diocèses et dans leurs paroisses pour annoncer le règne du Christ à tous les niveaux de notre vie.

Bilans diocésains des activités du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire

Ces propos ne sauraient être complets sans remercier les diocèses pour leur disponibilité depuis l'ouverture jusqu'à la clôture du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire. Nous avons fait appel à leur esprit d'initiative et de créativité à l'élan missionnaire lancé par le Pape, pour que chaque chrétien de Côte d'Ivoire soit imprégné par cet appel pressant. Les diocèses de notre pays ont célébré le Mois Missionnaire selon leur inspiration, guidée par l'Esprit Saint. C'est le cas du diocèse de Bondoukou qui a étendu la célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire sur toute l'année pastorale. Pour le diocèse de Man, l'Évêque a mis en place des Œuvres de miséricordes corporelles en faveur des pauvres, des malades, des démunis dans les quartiers et des visites aux non chrétiens. Quant à Korhogo, il a été marqué par une série de recollections, d'évangélisations et d'offrandes dans tout le diocèse. Les autres diocèses ont célébré le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire selon leur réalité.

Direction Nationale des OPM, COTE D'IVOIRE

CZECH REPUBLIC

EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019 (EMM OCT2019)

Handbooks and subjects for preparation for Extraordinary Missionary Month 2019

In pursuance of preparation for EMM OCT2019 PMS National Office in the Czech Republic published several inspiring materials with instructions and subjects how to prepare for EMM properly:

- A handbook for preparation for EMMO – for each month of the preparative year there was one topic determined. It was elaborated into four parts: a) a suggested biblical text, b) life witness of a significant saint or missionary – martyr, c) a topic for reflecting and prayers connected with it, d) an offer of concrete mission activities according to the principles of PMS. They are not obligatory recommendations but suggestions to choose from. It was also possible to choose another one depending on local needs or possibilities.
- Preparative handbook for work with children – besides above mentioned it contains stories about saints – missionaries.
- Inspiring supplement of the Missionary bulletin – a four-page-leaflet with practical tip show how to spend Extraordinary Missionary Month.

Religious preparation

- A prayer card with the official prayer MMR2019 was available to all parishes in the Czech Republic.
- Translation and promotion *Maximum Illud* – this apostolic letter has not been officially translated to the Czech language yet, that is why PMS in the Czech Republic made it available to the public on their website in unofficial translation at least. The document was promoted in media in the form of large text focused on circumstances of its origin.
- Meditation for Missions – originally Philippine material with every day reflections was translated and published as a handbook for religious preparation for Extraordinary Missionary Month. It met with a wide acceptance. These reflections were also prepared for mobile applications with operational system Android. These reflections were used in a lot of parishes as sermons or reflections for prayer groups of priests or lay people.
- Missionary Stations of the Cross for children in mission countries – a small booklet with texts of mission stations with meditations on sufferings of children in mission countries. The prayers are accompanied by photographs.

- The Missionary Rosary – a small book where this beautiful prayer is described step by step. You can find here explanation of particular colours of the rosary and prayers for individual continents.
- An animated calendar for children – published for Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 so that even the smallest ones can prepare well for Mission Sunday and spend the whole October intensively. The calendar can be used for work with children in Little Mission Clubs, in religious education, in families and various communities. After fulfilling the tasks children can paint particular days and go through the given topics with their parents, grandparents, catechists as well as leaders depending on their capabilities. It was published in the painted and white-black version, too.

TV broadcasting, documentaries

- Mission documentaries
 - Philippine Rugby** – at the occasion of beginning of preparations for Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 there was a medium length documentary from missions called „Philippine Rugby – The Fate Play“ presented in 16 towns and several schools to the Czech public in October 2018 together with discussion about need of missions in the 21st century. The first night in the Czech Republic was shown at the occasion of celebration the day of Holy Childhood. Now it is available online on independent website of Mission cinema
 - The Open Soul of Mexico** – at the beginning of this year a documentary about work of the Czech missionary P. Jiří Brabec among Mayan aborigines in the jungle of Yucatan Peninsula was broadcast. It is the first film which we managed to put on the statewide broadcasting. It shows all the aspects of life of a missionary among aborigines nowadays.
- TV broadcast „Missio magazin“ – the monthly periodical of PMS has been broadcast for five years. This is approximately 50-minute-long programme broadcast by Christian TV NOE. It brings interesting information from the world of missions and inspiration for work with children. Since autumn 2018 in pursuance of preparations for Extraordinary Missionary Month October the children have been cooperating on the section The Saint missionary. The children from Holy Childhood first get acquainted with a significant figure of Christian history and then they paint pictures which accompany the saint’s autobiography on TV display. This section became very popular and influenced a lot of meetings of mission groups (Little Mission clubs) to create special events or weekend programs for children inspired by the life and deeds of the given saint.

- An integral part of the Missio magazin is Missio interviews by the help of which PMS have been making the public familiar with mission subjects through interviews with missionaries operating abroad.

Promotion spots

- Besides ten parts of Missio magazin PMS in the Czech Republic produced some other particular audiovisual works to promote Extraordinary Mission Month October 2019. One of them is the spot „Baptized and sent“, which was set up from authentic photographs from missions. It wants to say that nobody is excluded from preaching the Gospel although each of us has got different gifts and capabilities. The spot was set during the year in the national Christian television NOE and on social websides.
- The Czech translation of the film „Baptized and sent“ which was officially published by Congregation for evangelization in Rome met with acceptance as well. PMS cooperated with the Slovak national office of PMS, television LUX Slovakia and television NOE on its translation
- During Extraordinary Mission Month itself was the film adaptation of „Prayers of Extraordinary mission month October 2019“ put on television broadcast. The message of this two-minute-long video is „Just now is the right time“ (to leave one’s comfort zone and preach the Gospel in peripheries).
- The videos, spots, news reports and trailers are available on the official Youtube chanel MissioCZ and all the printed documents on <https://www.missio.cz/mimoradny-misijni-rijen-2019>.
- Radio broadcast – four programmes as minimum were devoted to the topic of Extraordinary Mission Month October 2019 on the national Christian radio station Radio Proglas.

Mission activities and lectures

- The mission bridge of prayer – on Friday evening October 18, 2019 Czech bishops invited believers to common praying in parishes
- The lectures of the national director and diocese directors – in persuance of the preparative year and during Extraordinary Mission Month the national director gave a lot of lectures round all the Czech Republic. He made the youth and adults acquainted with PMS through mission films from various countries. Some diocese directors made lectures during all the year as well.
- The mission congress – on October 5, 2019 the seventh National Mission Congress of children from Holy Childhood in archbishop Mons. Jan Graubner’s presence took place in Kroměříž.

This event was a culmination of the all-year-preparation of children for Extraordinary Mission Month October. There were more than 300 participants coming from the whole Czech Republic.

- The Mission Day 2019 – on September 21, 2019 the tenth Mission Day took place, this time in Proseč near Skuteč. This national event was meant not only for the children of Holy Childhood but for adults, too. During this event several children were accepted by the national director of PMS to Holy Childhood. All the missionaries renewed their commitments following the motto „Baptized and sent“.
- In the course of the whole year there were local mission activities for children and adults following the motto „Baptized and sent“ going on.
- Particular parishes organized their own events either traditional (Mission fair, Mission cake...) or individual ones with mission contents. For example the mission activity in the diocese České Budějovice helped to rise an animation course for mission work with children.

PMS National Direction, CZECK REPUBLIC

ECUADOR

INFORME MES MISIONERO EXTRAORDINARIO OCTUBRE 2019

Para la Celebración del MME se propuso dos acciones, una de preparación desde enero 2019 y otra de celebración durante todo el mes de Octubre con las siguientes actividades:

Preparación:

✓ *Formación de Asesores de la IAM*

Desde el mes de Enero de 2019 se realizó formación misionera de tres días por Zonas, el Ecuador tiene 24 jurisdicciones eclesíásticas, divididas en cinco zonas pastorales, las Zonas en las que mayor formación tuvimos fueron: Zona Sur, Zona Costa; Zona Centro, Zona Amazonía, en total 950 animadores de la IAM, para la preparación de la Misión puerta a puerta en las jurisdicciones, en la Zona Norte, no logramos realizar la formación como zona, se trabajó con algunas jurisdicciones de la zona.

✓ *Fortalecimiento de equipos misioneros*

Se impulsó en las Diócesis de Babahoyo, Machala, Esmeraldas, Arquidiócesis de Portoviejo la formación de los temas del MME

✓ *Visitas a los colegios*

Durante los meses de Enero a septiembre realizamos visitas de animación misionera en los Colegios de todas las jurisdicciones, cada director Diocesano visitó los Colegios con el material, videos, afiches, estampas para hacer conocer el MME.

✓ *Programa en Radio Católica Nacional*

Conducimos el Programa Senderos Misioneros, durante todo el año se dio a conocer la Carta Apostólica *Maximun Illud*, el contenido del libro Bautizado y enviado, el mensaje del Papa Francisco y las diversas cartas del Cardenal Filoni y Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso.

Celebración:

Primera Semana: Promover Tu oración

Se realizaron manifestaciones públicas de fe por las calles de las Parroquias orando por las misiones y los misioneros, con Adoración al Santísimo con preparación de altares para el recorrido, Rosario misionero y peregrinaciones a los Santuarios Marianos. Estas actividades se realizaron con la presencia de los Niños y animadores de la IAM, niños y jóvenes de la Catequesis, pastoral juvenil y movimientos apostólicos.

Segunda Semana: Ofrecer tu sacrificio

En la Misión puerta a puerta se entregó el tríptico y estampa impresos a las familias, haciendo la oración del MME y la oración de Consagración a la Virgen.

Tercera Semana: Tu ofrenda Económica

Se realizó la colecta DOMUND, visitas de los niños de la IAM realizando la colecta en los alrededores de las Parroquias.

Cuarta Semana: Acción de Gracias

Se realizaron festivales misioneros y Eucaristías campales. En algunas jurisdicciones las actividades se extendieron durante el mes de Septiembre, los simposios misioneros y las visitas a las Escuelas y Colegios.

La situación política y económica del país durante once días del inicio del mes de octubre, no permitieron realizar algunas actividades programadas por el estado de excepción y toque de queda, a pesar de la crisis vivida que causó pérdidas humanas hicimos jornadas de oración por la situación vivida ofreciendo nuestras oraciones por el Mes Misionero Extraordinario.

Dirección Nacional de las OMP, ECUADOR

EL SALVADOR

INFORME SOBRE OCTUBRE MES MISIONERO EXTRAORDINARIO

Las Celebraciones del mes Misionero Extraordinario en El Salvador fue celebrado por las 8 Diocesis del país en cada una de ellas se realizo misa de Inauguración entregando a cada Vicaria la Cruz como signo de la misión, por este medio llegó a todas las Parroquias.

El documento base para realizar todas las actividades, retiros, congresos, capacitaciones, encuentros, vigiliias, Festivales Marianos, programas de radio y televisión fue el Libro Bautizados y Enviados, es un documento con mucha riqueza espiritual y teológica. Las Obras Misionales Pontificias de El Salvador, mandó a imprimir, 2000 ejemplares y además se estaba publicado en la pagina web, se imprimio 20,000 tripticos “Bautizados y Enviados”

Hubo una gran participación de la Infancia y Adolescencia Misionera en todo el país, en peregrinaciones hacia los santuarios Marianos, de la misma forma la Juventud Misionera, y la Unión de enfermos Misioneros.

En El País en cada Municipio se Celebran las Fiesta Patronales en honor a un Santo estos espacios estaban enfocados al mes misionero extraordinario, desde el ornato en las Parroquias con los colores misioneros

Hubo programación de Jornadas Misioneras en todo El Salvador mediante un visiteo casa por casa, esta dinámica se realizó con las comunidades, fue un mes que se sintió el Impulso Misionero En todos los bautizados y seguimos con esa dinamismo con mucha más fuerza, se ha logrado despertar la conciencia misionera en los agentes de pastoral.

En las Escuelas y colegios católicos también fue recibido el mensaje “Bautizados y Enviados” y a los jóvenes se les dió mucha animación Misionera.

Se dieron a conocer las cuatro dimensiones que nos Indico el Papa Francisco, El Encuentro Personal con Jesucristo vivo en su Iglesia,

Testimonio de los Santos, mártires de la Misión y los confesores de la fe, (San Oscar Arnulfo Romero). Formación Misionera y La Caridad Misionera.

Se realizaron Jornadas de Unción de los enfermos y Visitas a hospitales.

En la publicidad del Domingo Mundial de las Misiones para esta año se publicó la oración del Mes Misionera asi como también las cuatro dimensiones.

Las Obras Misionales Pontificias de El Salvador Organizó un encuentro Misionero Sacerdotal a nivel Nacional los participantes Fueron los vicarios Foraneos este encuentro fue muy aceptado por todos los participante, ellos solicitaron que este evento se realice cada año.

Ademas se enviaron a las radios católicas del País, Capsulas Misioneras para

Que Cada día fueron difundidas. En el Seminario Orientación de la Arquidiócesis en los 4 domingos del mes de octubre fueron publicadas las Homilías del libro Bautizados y Enviados y también las catequesis hechas por Dr. En Misiología.

Al final del mes hubo una Clausura del Mes octubre Misionero.

Dirección Nacional de las OMP, EL SALVADOR

ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT ON EMM 2019

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for this Extraordinary Month of Mission was as follows:

“Today a new impulse to the Church's missionary activity is needed to face the challenge of proclaiming Jesus and his death and resurrection.

Reaching the peripheries, the human, cultural and religious settings still foreign to the Gospel, this is what we call the *missio ad gentes*.

We must also remember that the heart of the Church's mission is prayer.

In this EMM, let us pray that the Holy Spirit may engender a new missionary 'spring' for all those baptised and sent by Christ's Church.”

In this call to prayer by Pope Francis he succinctly expresses his intention for the EMM as a whole. Our missionary Pope is acutely aware that things cannot remain as they are and that unless the Church is permanently in a state of mission, we risk compromising our identity as a people sent out by Jesus Christ, to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. He abhors institutional self-absorption.

EMM was always intended to be a springboard from which the whole Church would be propelled into an uncertain and somewhat hostile future with confidence and joy, knowing that the Kingdom of God must be proclaimed.

The Church's mission is to make known God's love in all the nations, creating a world made whole, where justice and peace are at home.

Missio is responsible to the Universal Church for encouraging all its members to reflect upon, pray for and recommit to the mission Jesus entrusted to it.

In spite of showing all the signs of autumn-cum-winter – declining church attendance, societal marginalisation, and damaged moral authority – there is still considerable interest in missionary work abroad and in the development of young and flourishing Churches, as well as empathy with those who suffer for their Faith in countries of repression and oppression.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

During the EMM in October 2019, Missio England and Wales encouraged Parishes, Schools and individuals to reflect and take part in the Church's mission to make known God's love in all the nations, creating a world made whole, where justice and peace are at home.

Missio toured parishes and schools during EMM2019 to encourage all Catholics to reflect upon, pray for and recommit to the mission Jesus entrusted to them. We have been truly inspired by the faithful's commitment to Mission which has been joyful and humbling.

Communication with all Parishes and Missio Volunteers in Parishes

- EMM and WMS packs sent to all Parish Priests, Deacons, Religious Communities and Chaplaincies
- Mission Today's (EMM special edition) and EMM prayer cards were sent to all our Parish volunteers for distribution
- Emails were sent to parishes and individuals inviting them to join in the digital campaign and the prayer chain.

St Teresa's church in Lexden, Brentwood Diocese was among the first to launch its parish program for EMM2019. Among the brilliant #MyMission statements we saw, was 'to remember that no act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted'.

St Patrick's in Langley Moor, Hexham and Newcastle Diocese, held Holy Hours and daily meditations throughout EMM2019. The parish invited other Christian Churches in the area, who joined for a light lunch and a Sunday afternoon of prayer for all missionaries of their respective churches. A truly special time for mission.

Our Parish Volunteers always go above and beyond to promote and support Missio. We loved the personal #MyMission pledges the group came up with at a Local Secretaries training session in Leicester, which included a pledge to 'help children around the world' and 'to guide and inspire others through Christ'.

In the Parish of Our Lady, Star of the Sea and St Bernard of Clairvaux in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, Missio Coordinator, Miss A Denney, had two cakes made to celebrate EMM2019. The parishioners made donations to Missio for a slice of the delicious cake to go with their tea and coffee after Mass. Everybody enjoyed the cake and we are so grateful for the fundraising!

Events

- Reception with key donors and the Apostolic Nuncio at Missio offices on 9 October
- Reception hosted by His Eminence Cardinal Nichols in the Throne Room on 15 October

Publications

- EMM special edition of the magazine Mission Today which reached a readership of 200,000.
- EMM prayer card made available to all parishes and individuals

Diocesan Masses and events:

Deanery Masses, Mission Celebrations and Masses with the local ordinary were celebrated in 16 of the 22 dioceses of England and Wales.

Westminster Archdiocese produced a special booklet for small group reflection in the diocese as well as a Pastoral Letter from the Cardinal and hosted missionary speakers for the World Mission Sunday masses.

Missio's MISSION TOGETHER**Postcard Competition for pupils aged 5 – 14**

Pupils were given the challenge to design a postcard with the theme: 'Our Mission: To Share God's Love with the Whole World'. The 4 winning entries were professionally made into postcards and handed out at Schools' Masses and school visits during the month.

Resources for Primary School

EMM Prayer abridged for children and made into prayer cards which were distributed at special school Masses and during school visits

Downloadable materials:

- EMM Calendar with activities for every day
- Little Way Week Assembly (based on St Therese of Lisieux)
- Saint John Henry Newman Assembly
- Mission Rosary Assembly
- Children helping Children Assembly (stories from around the world to show how children are 'children helping children')

Resources for Secondary Schools - downloadable

EMM Reflections x 4: Understanding Mission, Inspired by Mission, Supporting Mission, Friendship and Mission

EMM Prayer abridged for young adults

Schools' Masses and visits:

We estimate that 6,000 pupils and 200 schools have taken part in EMM activities including diocesan Masses for schools, school assemblies and special prayer times to join the Holy Father and the whole Church in praying for Mission through the Mission Rosary and EMM prayer.

Talks/ Presentations:

- Talks on EMM were delivered to Religious Inspectors and Advisers and Diocesan Education Departments
- CMU Retreat (Catholic Missionary Union)

- Presentation to Catholic Chaplains in Education
- Workshop with the Knights of St Columba for Young Catholics
- Primary School Advisors

SOCIAL MEDIA

Tweets and Instagram posts throughout EMM have demonstrated how schools, parishes and individuals have been using our materials, fundraising and praying and have been involved with the ‘#My Mission/# Our Mission’ campaign.

People around the world have been adding their personal #MyMission and #OurMission statements to our global online campaign. Over World Mission Sunday, we shared that Mission groups in the Antilles were reaching out to their community to bring help and light to people in need. At the same time, young people from Mary Immaculate & St Gregory the Great Parish in High Barnet shared their pledge to bring light to their community, while St Philip & St James in Bedford pledged to reach out to homeless people in theirs. It was a beautiful example of how we are all connected – wherever we are in the world – by our common goal to bring the light of Jesus to those who need it.

CONCLUSION

We believe that EMM has created a better understanding in all the faithful that everyone deserves to hear the Gospel: the Good News that God loves them. The future will present us with many ongoing and new challenges. We take St Paul’s encouraging words to heart: “Never slacken in doing good; for if we do not give up, we shall have our harvest in due time. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of everyone, and especially of those who belong to the household of the faith.” (Gal. 6:9-10)

PMS Missio England and Wales

INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL INITIATIVES FROM EMM2019

The Fundraising Committee of the Pontifical Mission Societies organised a Fundraising Conference in November 2018 on the theme of 'Animation and Fundraising in the Digital World'. The Conference was attended by 37 National Missio/PMS Offices from different countries. Many good ideas were shared, and a decision was made to share three international actions which would be carried out during the Extraordinary Month of Mission in October 2019: A Digital Campaign, A Prayer Chain and a Song.

International Digital Campaign #MyMission #OurMission

Missio Switzerland created EMM2019 posters which were shared with all offices and could be adapted by each office with their own local logo, in addition to the Baptised and Sent logo.

From the beginning of August, people around the world shared their personal mission on social media, through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, with the hashtags #MyMission and #EMM2019. The objective of this worldwide social media campaign was to reignite our missionary spirit and share this spirit with our sisters and brothers around the world.

On 1 October, the campaign moved from individuals to groups. Groups shared their mission on social media using the hashtags #OurMission and #EMM2019. #OurMission asked schools, organisations, religious orders, dioceses, parishes and communities to step up and let the world know their collective mission. This enabled communities and groups to tell the world how God calls them to reach out and share His love to celebrate that, no matter where we are, our faith connects us as one Church family.

Many countries took part in this global campaign, for example: The Antilles, Australia, Canada, England and Wales, Dominica, Germany, India, Ireland, Kenya, Malta, Scotland, Slovakia, Spain, South Africa and Switzerland. <https://missio.org.uk/emm/social-media-campaign/>

Missio Germany produced an instructional video to promote and explain the #MyMission – #OurMission Digital Campaign. This was made available to all the offices for them to translate into their own local languages.

Prayer Chain

When we pray together, we share in God's love and are inspired to make the world a better place. During October we invited everyone to join the Universal Prayer Chain, in solidarity and love for all people to connect the whole Church family and give us strength to live our Catholic mission.

The objective of this action was to create a virtual prayer chain for world mission – encouraging people to say the EMM2019 prayer every Friday in October, after the Angelus. In addition to this, Missio England and Wales created Tweets from the reflections in the EMM2019 handbook which were made available to different Missio/PMS offices.

Song for Baptised and Sent

Missio Malta took on the task of creating the music and lyrics of a song which included the refrain Baptised and Sent. This was made available for people to translate into their local language, if they wished to do so.

PMS Missio England and Wales

ESPAÑA

MES MISIONERO EXTRAORDINARIO

1. PREPARACIÓN

Organización

En la Asamblea nacional de OMP de 21-23 mayo de 2018, los directores diocesanos de OMP reflexionaron sobre el MME, escucharon una ponencia del teólogo Eloy Bueno y trabajaron propuestas por equipos. Se recogieron todas las propuestas, entre las que destacaba la celebración de un congreso nacional de misiones.

Posteriormente se convocó un grupo de trabajo más reducido, para que pudiera ser operativo, en el que estuvieran representadas todas las instituciones misioneras colaboradoras de OMP. El equipo estuvo formado por José María Calderón, en aquel momento subdirector nacional de las OMP, y hoy director nacional; Eloy Bueno, profesor de la Facultad de Teología de Burgos; Juan Carlos Carvajal, profesor de la Universidad San Dámaso; la hermana María del Prado Fernández, del Servicio Conjunto de Animación Misionera (SCAM); José M^a Sainz, de la Coordinadora de Asociaciones de Laicos Misioneros, (CALM) Antonio González-Mohino, del Instituto Español de Misiones Extranjeras (IEME); por Francisco José González, director diocesano de OMP en Coria-Cáceres, y Justo Amado, de la Dirección Nacional de OMP.

En la primera reunión de este equipo en noviembre de 2018 se elaboró un primer programa de fechas y actividades en las que el Mes Misionero estaría presente. Recogía los hitos de la preparación hasta octubre de 2019. Además, se decidió estructurar el MME en cuatro semanas, dedicadas respectivamente a cada una de las dimensiones marcadas por el Papa Francisco para el Mes: oración (1^a semana), testimonio de los misioneros (2^a semana), formación (3^a semana), y caridad (4^a semana). Con esta estructura se buscaba dar unidad en la diversidad de todos los actos diocesanos.

Actos Previos

En los meses previos al MME, se fueron sucediendo varios acontecimientos, que prepararon el MME.

En noviembre de 2018, monseñor Giampietro Dal Toso, presidente internacional de OMP, intervino en la Asamblea Plenaria de la Conferencia Episcopal Española, para presentar ante los obispos el MME, y animarles a celebrarlo en sus diócesis. Su intervención fue muy bien acogida y movió a los obispos españoles a involucrarse en la celebración del MME. Así lo percibió él mismo, y así se ha mostrado posteriormente en octubre. Aprovechando su estancia en España, OMP le entrevistó, y colgó la entrevista en su canal de Youtube.

Varias universidades de Teología se volcaron con el MME. En marzo, el Simposio Anual de Misionología de la Facultad de Teología de Burgos se dedicó al MME, con la participación de Fabrizio Meroni, secretario general de la Pontificia Unión Misional. Asimismo, en mayo, la Jornada Académica de la Cátedra de Misionología de la Universidad San Dámaso se dedicó al tema. En julio, la Semana de Misionología de Burgos se centró en el centenario de la *Maximum Illud*. En septiembre, las XX Jornadas de Teología del Instituto Teológico Compostelano se centraron también en esto. Las tres últimas contaron todas con la participación de monseñor Giampietro Dal Toso.

Comunicación

OMP España pidió la colaboración de una agencia para diseñar una estrategia de comunicación del MME. Se creó el concepto creativo de “Cadena de Bondades”, que mostraba la misión de la Iglesia como una gran cadena, en la que todos los cristianos están unidos por el hecho de estar bautizados, y en el que cada uno aporta algo esencial a la misión desde su posición. Es una traducción en estilo más periodístico para explicar el lema del MME “Bautizados y Enviados”. Sobre ese concepto se creó una imagen y un manual de identidad corporativo. La imagen del MME fue asumida por todas las diócesis españolas, de forma que todos los actos y materiales diocesanos guardaron una unidad visual, lo que ayudó mucho a comunicarlos de una forma unitaria.

Además, se decidió que para lanzar el MME en España se haría un vídeo motivador, que invitara a la gente a unirse a esta gran cadena de bondades. Se eligió el formato de videoclip de un rap. Dos grupos de raperos católicos –Grilex y Not From This World– colaboraron gratuitamente para crear e interpretar este rap, que se presentó ante los medios de comunicación en julio. La monetización generada por las escuchas y los visionados del rap en plataformas como Youtube y Spotify se destinó a OMP. De esta forma se animaba a que la gente compartiera el vídeo, no sólo para contagiarse del espíritu misionero sino también, para colaborar con las misiones.

Más allá de todo esto, se creó una sección específica sobre el MME en la web institucional de OMP, y en la página principal se puso de una forma muy destacada.

2. ACTO A NIVEL NACIONAL DEL MME: CONGRESO NACIONAL DE MISIONES

Aunque el protagonismo del MME correspondió a las diócesis, se decidió celebrar un gran evento que hiciera visible la importancia de esta iniciativa del Papa Francisco. Se decidió que tuviera lugar en septiembre, para dejar el mes de octubre libre para las diócesis. Se celebró un Congreso Nacional de Misiones, que reunió a más de 400 personas –con una gran representación de obispos españoles, tanto de las diócesis españolas como de los territorios de misión–, en Madrid para reflexionar sobre la misión ad gentes. El congreso aportó ideas innovadoras en el ámbito misionero,

y fue un ejercicio de comunión de las diversas instituciones misioneras. Con él se dio el pistoletazo de salida del MME.

El secretario internacional de San Pedro Apóstol, el P. Guy Bognon, lo inauguró, y tuvieron voz los obispos misioneros, teólogos, representantes de nuevas realidades de la Iglesia, profesionales que hablaron de su relación con las misiones desde un punto de vista civil, etc. A través de cinco ponencias, once comunicaciones y tres mesas redondas, el congreso ha recogido, desde diversos puntos de vista, argumentos sobre la actualidad de la misión. Todo fue retransmitido por streaming.

3. OCTUBRE 2019

Actos en las Diócesis

El protagonismo del MME estuvo en las iglesias locales. Las OMP agradecen el impulso que los obispos españoles han dado en sus diócesis, ya que, además de promover múltiples iniciativas, se implicaron personalmente en muchas de ellas. Cada delegación diocesana de OMP dio forma a las cuatro semanas, con creatividad. Más de 380 actos se celebraron por toda España: cerca de 180 Eucaristías y encuentros de oración misionera, 10 exposiciones, 50 conferencias y mesas redondas, 3 pregones, 9 conciertos y festivales misioneros, 5 marchas... Incluso un safari misionero, o un concierto de boleros. Actividades para todos los públicos –todas las edades y condiciones eclesiales–, que han tenido como principales protagonistas a los misioneros, y como único objetivo recordar que todos los bautizados son misioneros. Cada Dirección Diocesana de OMP se ha encargado también de visitar parroquias y colegios con misioneros, que daban su testimonio.

OMP nacional recogió en un calendario la gran mayoría de estos eventos, y lo publicó en la sección de la web del MME. Como actos “unitarios” del MME, se consiguió en la mayor parte de las diócesis que la apertura del mes se hiciera un encuentro de oración, presidido por el obispo en la mayoría de los casos, el día 1 de octubre, festividad de Santa Teresa de Lisieux. Fue un acontecimiento de oración especial que unió a todas las diócesis en el inicio del MME. De igual manera, el MME terminó en muchas diócesis con un envío misionero diocesano, que unió *missio ad gentes* y pastoral ordinaria, también presidido en muchos casos por los obispos.

Campaña de Comunicación a nivel Nacional

Aunque cada diócesis trabajó en la comunicación de sus iniciativas particulares, desde la Dirección Nacional se trabajó con mucha dedicación a nivel nacional.

Se convocó una rueda de prensa –como es tradicional– para presentar el Domund a los periodistas en el marco del MME. Además de la intervención de una misionera, que dio su testimonio, destacó la participación de un representante del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, que explicó los

puntos de colaboración que pueden ponerse en marcha para proteger y ayudar a los misioneros españoles.

Además, se trabajó en la relación directa con los periodistas. Se contactó con todos los medios de comunicación –televisiones, radios, agencias, periódicos-, para ofrecer noticias del MME y del Domund, tal como se hace todos los años. Se consiguió que todos los medios religiosos y generalistas “cercaños” hicieran un especial dedicado al MME. Destacan especialmente los reportajes que hizo Ángel Expósito, locutor de la cadena nacional COPE –propiedad de la CEE-, en Camerún, donde entrevistó al nuncio de Su Santidad y a una decena de misioneros españoles. También destaca Radio María, que emitió durante todo el mes, en varios momentos del día, un micro-programa con el comentario del Evangelio del día, en clave misionera, de la mano del director nacional de OMP España, José María Calderón.

El MME sin embargo no tuvo mucha presencia en otros medios generalistas, porque coincidió con acontecimientos políticos difíciles en España –sentencia del Tribunal Supremo para los políticos presos independentistas de Cataluña y revueltas violentas en Barcelona, exhumación del Franco...-, que dejaron sin espacio a otros temas.. El tema les interesaba, pero la actualidad “robó” todo el tiempo.

Además de hablar del MME en todas las publicaciones de OMP España (Gesto, Supergesto, Misioneros, Iluminare, Enfermos Misioneros, OMPress), OMP ha aumentado su presencia con programas propios. En Radio María se ha duplicado la periodicidad del programa Iglesia Viva lo que se suma al programa semanal de José María Calderón Iglesia en Misión. Por otro lado, en TRECE se estrenó en esos días el programa de televisión Tú eres misión, presentado por el director nacional de OMP, José María Calderón. Este programa se suma al programa Misioneros por el mundo, con el que OMP colabora desde hace cinco temporadas.

En cuanto a lo digital, se hizo una campaña muy fuerte en redes sociales. Fue posible gracias a una estrategia de paid media, a creatividades muy visuales, y al vídeo del Domund de este año.

En cuanto a la publicidad, se consiguió de una forma gratuita que los centros comerciales más importantes de España tuvieran un anuncio del Domund y del MME. También hubo publicidad gratuita en la radio (en COPE y Cadena 100, dos cadenas muy importantes de España, cercanas a la Conferencia Episcopal), y banners en diversos medios de comunicación.

Autobús del Domund

Para mantener la presencia del Domund y del MME en la calle, se lanzó la iniciativa del Autobús del Domund. Cedido por una empresa de transportes, OMP viniló un autobús, que recorrió 6 ciudades españolas en la semana del Domund, para dar visibilidad. El bus paró en varios puntos de

las ciudades, y a su lado se establecieron grupos de voluntarios que informaban a los viandantes y pedían colaboración económica para OMP, también con huchas electrónicas.

4 POSTERIOR

“No es momento aún de hacer balance ni de hacer proyectos de futuro ingenuos o utópicos, sino de comprobar que ‘algo nuevo está naciendo ¿no lo notáis?’ (Is 43,19): el deseo de que Cristo sea conocido y amado por todos”, explica José María Calderón, director nacional de OMP de España al finalizar esta iniciativa mundial. “El Mes Misionero Extraordinario se acaba, pero lo que no puede acabar es el ímpetu que el Espíritu Santo ha puesto en el corazón de los cristianos. La misión ha dejado de ser -si es que alguna vez lo fue- algo de unos pocos y de un determinado momento. Ahora lo es de todos los cristianos y en todo momento”.

Dirección Nacional de las OMP, ESPAÑA

ETHIOPIA

On Extra-ordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 Preparation

PMS in Ethiopia in collaboration with Catholic Pastoral Team for Mission Animation in Ethiopia have tried to animate and revive missionary spirit of the Catholic Church in Ethiopia with special attention to Extra Ordinary Missionary Month of October 2019. On the issue, with the celebration of World Mission Sunday 2018 and of its message, the need of extra-ordinary missionary month of October 2019 was stressed and in few ecclesiastical jurisdiction took also the occasion to transmit the message. The basic concept with the logo, the theme for EMM OCT2019 and meaning of PMS with their historical background was translated in to Amharic language, printed 2000 copies of brochure and distributed to all ecclesiastical jurisdictions so that they may share to the catholic faithful accordingly.

1) Mission and Vocation Animation Activities

Mission animation and vocation promotion activities have been one of the main pastoral priorities to be undertaken for PMS in Ethiopia by Catholic Pastoral Team for Mission Animation taking the opportunity of Extra Ordinary Missionary Month of October 2019. Mission animation and vocation promotion activities have been intended as preparation for the celebration of the extra ordinary missionary month of October 2019.

a. Translation, printing and distribution animation materials

PMS in Ethiopia with Catholic Pastoral Team for Mission Animation gave due attention for extra ordinary missionary month of October 2019 in all its messages, translation and printing and distribution activities. In the regard, in the pre-preparation faith the following activities were undertaken by PMS national Direction with Catholic Pastoral Team for Mission Animation:

- ❖ translating of Pope Francis' Message for 2019 World Mission Celebration in Amharic distributed to all Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions in advance with thank you and announcing extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 which can be seen in the report. Pope Francis message both in English and in Amharic, the national director and the pastoral team messages in Amharic have been printed and distributed to all ecclesiastical circumscriptions.
- ❖ printing of posters, banners, calendar with mission prayer and distributed to almost to ecclesiastical Jurisdictions and the prayer for mission have been conducted on the whole of October 2019 in some parishes like St. Joseph Cathedral parish in the Apostolic Vicariate of Hosanna;

- ❖ PMS national direction with its pastoral teach have also printed the logo and the theme of extra ordinary missionary month of October on a bag as animation material and sent to some jurisdiction with cost recovery mechanisms (500 gabs).
- ❖ The bag has become an important promotion tools in some parishes like in the Apostolic Vicariate of Hosanna in which parishes have bought them and given them to the catechists that they may carry Bible.

b. Animation on Mission and Vocation conducted

PMS with Catholic Pastoral Teach for Mission Animation in Ethiopia have used all possible means to promote mission and vocation collaborating in the programmes organized the national pastoral commission and diocesan levels and even in some events of the gathering some associations. Accordingly the PMS National Direction and the Team have done the animation:

- ❖ To Our Lady Priests' Association, priests coming from all ecclesiastical jurisdictions organized in Addis Abeba on the Theme of Extra ordinary missionary month of October, 2019 referring to the reality of the local church of Ethiopia;
- ❖ To pastoral coordinators of the dioceses who are also diocesan directors organized by National Pastoral Commission on Mission and how our lay catholic faithful be active and dynamic in the mission and the life of the local church;
- ❖ The copies of *Evangelii Gaudium*, Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis were distributed to all the parishes in Apostolic Vicariate of Hosanna and made use of it in their programme during the extraordinary missionary month of October.

2) Celebration of Extraordinary Mission Month of October 2019

This year making use of the great opportunity given with extra ordinary missionary month of October some of the Eparchies, Vicariates were able to organize big activities and workshops for youth, religious, clergy and laity in very creative way with a lot of initiatives beyond World Mission Sunday that was celebrated in many parishes of the respective ecclesiastical circumscription.

During the celebration of World Mission Sunday, some parishes in Apostolic Vicariate of Hosanna, right after the celebration of the Holy Mass used for fund raising moments to support the mission. In fact, the parishioners were so moved to support the evangelizing mission of the church and presented some sacred objects like Holy Bible for bidding.

PMS National Direction, ETHIOPIA

FRANCE

MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE, OCTOBRE 2019 EN FRANCE

1. Du point de vue de l'Union Pontificale Missionnaire

27-28-29 septembre 2019 : Congrès mission à Paris. De nombreux participants, surtout des jeunes (5 à 6000 ?). De nombreux passages dans le stand des OPM. Les responsables des OPM présents durant le Congrès ont assuré un temps d'accueil, de rencontres pour faire connaître les OPM et l'importance de la mission universelle de l'Eglise. De nombreuses personnes découvrent les OPM, la dimension universelle de la Mission et la mission ad gentes.

30 septembre, chez les Missions Etrangères de Paris (MEP) : Présentation du livre du directeur des OPM, Mgr Michel Dubost, *La mission aujourd'hui. Une lecture pratique des Actes des Apôtres*, Paris, Ed. Mame, 2019. Présentation de l'ouvrage par Pierre Diarra, le père Dominique Sterckx (ocd) et débat avec l'auteur. Le livre a été conçu pour aider à vivre le mois missionnaire extraordinaire d'octobre 2019 et engager les lecteurs dans un dynamisme missionnaire. C'est un ouvrage original et enthousiasmant, faisant apparaître un double commentaire, littéral et pastoral, des Actes des Apôtres, qui répond au souhait du Saint-Père de lire et de méditer le livre des Actes des Apôtres pour préparer et vivre le mois missionnaire extraordinaire. Très bon accueil des MEP, verre de l'amitié après la présentation, pour permettre la quarantaine de participants d'échanger un peu sur la mission en France, dans le monde, et sur les OPM. Ce fut une très bonne rencontre avec vente et dédicace des exemplaires de l'ouvrage de Mgr Dubost, comme ce sera le cas à Lyon, le 18 octobre.

1er octobre : Journée d'étude à l'Institut Catholique de Paris, organisée par l'Institut de Science et de Théologie des Religions (ISTR) et les OPM (représentés par le père Emmanuel Pisani et Pierre Diarra) ; 200 à 250 personnes ont pris part à la journée de réflexion, avec divers intervenants. Ce travail va faire l'objet d'une publication (avec les textes des colloques de Lyon et Marseille), soutenue par les OPM, aux éditions du Cerf (sans doute dans la coll. Patrimoines).

4-5 octobre : colloque à l'Institut Catholique de Méditerranée (ICM – ISTR), sur L'Eglise et le monde : la mission en question. Annonce, évangélisation, dialogue. Les conférences et les ateliers ont rassemblé entre 150 et 200 participants qui ont bénéficié de bonnes interventions sur le dialogue interreligieux en lien avec la mission. Les textes des conférences et peut-être quelques introductions à des ateliers feront partie des Actes des colloques (Paris, Marseille, Lyon).

14-15 octobre : rencontres et soirées missionnaires dans le diocèse de Montpellier animées par Pierre Diarra. Une émission sur Radio Chrétienne Francophone (RCF) du diocèse de Montpellier sur le thème du mois missionnaire : « Baptisés et envoyés. L'Eglise du Christ en mission dans le monde. Mois missionnaire extraordinaire, octobre 2019 ». La soirée du 14 octobre, consacrée au thème du

mois missionnaire a rassemblé une trentaine de personnes et, le lendemain, avec les responsables du service de coopération missionnaire et mission universelle du diocèse, la discussion a été ouverte au jumelage (notamment avec le Mali), aux échanges entre Eglises, sans oublier l'animation missionnaire dans le diocèse. La vente du livre de Mgr Michel Dubost (La mission aujourd'hui. Une lecture pratique des Actes des Apôtres) et des exemplaires du numéro de Spiritus n°236 (septembre 2019, avec un dossier sur « Dans un monde qui change : quelle formation ? » et un ensemble d'articles sur « La mission ad gentes aujourd'hui » écrit par Mgr Dubost, Luc Lalire et Guillaume Nicolas, Joseph Herveau, Pierre Diarra et Gilles Vidal) ont introduit la réflexion sur la question de la formation missionnaire.

17 octobre : colloque, à l'Université Catholique de Lyon, sur « Les Actes des apôtres. Modèle ou inspiration des communautés chrétiennes missionnaires ? » De nombreux étudiants et autres participants, 200 à 250 personnes, avec de bonnes interventions et de riches échanges en ateliers.

Des émissions sur la Mission, pour se former, s'engager et animer : sur KTO et Radio Notre-Dame à Paris, mais aussi sur RCF à Lyon et dans les autres diocèses, tout ce qui a été fait grâce à Magnificat.

2. Du point de vue de l'animation missionnaire

2 octobre : Journée de réflexion sur l'animation missionnaire en France, en synergie avec la mission ad gentes, à la Maison des Evêques de France, avec pour thème « De l'envoi à l'échange : nouvelles perspectives missionnaires ». La cinquantaine de participants, après avoir écouté les intervenants principaux, père Carlos Caetano (directeur du Service national de la Mission universelle de l'Eglise), Mgr Laurent Dognin (évêque de Quimper et Léon, président de la Commission épiscopale pour la Mission universelle de l'Eglise), Catherine Marin (sur le contexte historique de Maximum illud) et Sœur Marie-Hélène Robert (sur le Zèle missionnaire ou prosélytisme : une frontière mouvante ?) ont échangé et travaillé en ateliers les diverses manières de stimuler l'animation missionnaire et les échanges entre Eglises en France, sans oublier de soutenir la mission ad gentes.

16 octobre : Une Emission de 40 mn à Radio Notre Dame, à Paris, a été assurée par Pierre Diarra sur le thème du mois missionnaire extraordinaire, avec Maxime Dalle, comme les années précédentes en ce qui concerne la Semaine Missionnaire Mondiale.

18 octobre : Une émission à Radio Notre Dame, à Paris, entre 21h30 et 00h, avec un Père Blanc, un Spiritain, deux Spiritaines, une Sœur de l'Annonciation de Bobo-Dioulasso, Catherine Marsili (au téléphone), animée par Auxile et Pierre Diarra, mais aussi par quelques auditeurs qui ont discuté avec les personnes présentes à l'émission, sur le thème du mois missionnaire extraordinaire.

Durant le mois d'octobre : prières, rencontres et animations missionnaires, des textes et réflexions dans les hebdomadaires, des temps d'échange dans les diocèses de France et visitation des reliques.

Des rencontres missionnaires et des soirées de prières pour la mission dans les diocèses, à Lorette (Lyon), à Lourdes, avec des témoignages de baptisés en lien avec le service de communication des OPM-France, des vues et des publications sur le site des OPM, des partages sur Facebook etc.

Visitation des reliques : Les reliques de Saint François-Xavier et de Sainte Thérèse accompagnées du chapelet de Pauline Jaricot ont visité une vingtaine de lieux dans 10 diocèses de France (Paris, Tours, Vannes, Versailles, Nancy, Strasbourg, Lyon, Moulins et Clermont-Ferrand.)

Différents temps forts, de prières et de rencontres missionnaires : Congrès mission, veillées de prière, forum mission et fêtes des peuples, rencontres avec les enfants de la catéchèse, soirées réconciliation, témoignages de missionnaires, conférences, offices, chapelets. Plusieurs évêques ont présidé des célébrations missionnaires (notamment à Vannes, Nancy, Strasbourg, Lyon...). Le service diocésain de la catéchèse de Vannes a réalisé une vidéo (<https://youtu.be/doUD8kqg3YY>). A Clermont, un rosier a été planté. Des conférences sur la mission chrétienne ont été organisées en France ; notons celle du Cardinal Lacroix qui a rassemblé de nombreuses personnes à Lyon.

Expositions de figures missionnaires

Durant le mois missionnaire extraordinaire d'octobre 2019, diverses figures missionnaires ont été mises en relief dans les diocèses de France. Pour soutenir ce dynamisme missionnaire, environ 200 expositions ont circulé dans différents lieux, pour faire connaître Irénée de Lyon, François-Xavier, Thérèse de Lisieux, Pauline Marie Jaricot et Madeleine Delbrêl. Quelques aspects missionnaires de ces figures sont indiqués sur une grande affiche avec une interpellation comme :

- Et toi comment dis-tu l'amour ? (Irénée de Lyon)
- Et toi, pries-tu par amour ? (Pauline Jaricot)
- Et toi, où l'amour t'envoie-t-il ? (François-Xavier)
- Et toi, jusqu'où aimes-tu ? (Thérèse de L'enfant Jésus)
- Et toi, as-tu déjà rencontré l'Amour ? (Madeleine Delbrêl)

Direction Nationale des OPM, FRANCE

GABON

L'Eglise du Gabon a célébré cette année ces 175 ans d'Évangélisation c'est dans cette ambiance jubilaire que nous avons vécu le mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire Octobre 2019.

Le 29 septembre a eu lieu la clôture du jubilé, la messe a été présidée par le Président des Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires (O.P.M), son Excellence Monseigneur Dal TOSO. Et au cours de cette messe, il a ordonné 16 prêtres. C'est le signe que la mission ensemencée au Gabon il y a 175 ans porte beaucoup de fruit.

Le 30 septembre, a eu lieu la messe d'action de grâce pour la clôture du jubilé et en même temps la messe d'ouverture de MME octobre 2019 présidée par son Excellence Monseigneur Basile MVE ENGONE, Archevêque de Libreville.

Cette messe a été précédée par une recollection des prêtres au cours de laquelle le Directeur National des OPM du Gabon a expliqué de manière pratique comment vivre le MME.

Préalablement pendant le mois de juillet et août 2019, il y a eu la distribution du matériel d'animation dans tous les diocèses, la sensibilisation des agents pastoraux. Egalement, les émissions radio dans les diocèses de Port –Gentil, Libreville et Oyem.

Une conférence débat a été organisée par le mouvement des cadres chrétiens et dirigeant (MCCD) sur le MME et le Directeur National était l'intervenant.

Au cours de la messe d'ouverture du MME Octobre 2019, il y a eu la rénovation de foi la baptismale et l'envoi en mission de tous les prêtres.

Il a été demandé à chaque prêtre de procéder au même rituel à chaque messe de rentrer pastorale dans leurs paroisses respectives.

Le MME octobre 2019 étant aussi le mois du rosaire, dans chaque paroisse tous les groupes du rosaire recevaient d'abord un enseignement sur les O.P.M et des explications sur le MME, et au terme de chaque prière était récitée la prière officielle du MME.

Les Evêques durant ce mois ont célébré chacun dans son diocèse et le message était centré sur le thème du mois MME « Baptisés et Envoyés : l'Eglise du Christ en Mission dans le monde ».

La clôture a eu lieu le jeudi 31 octobre 2019 avec la clôture du mois de rosaire et chaque Evêque a célébré dans sa cathédrale.

Direction Nationale des OPM, GABON

GERMANY AACHEN

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

The activities and events of missio Aachen for the Extraordinary Missionary Month had the aim of creating awareness on the theme of “Mission” amongst Catholic parishes and their members and to invite them to consider the missionary commitment of every one of us.

Exhibitions, ideas for carrying out church services, campaigns with strong public outreach effects and impulses for discussions on this theme were organized in the lead-up to the month of October. In the month of October itself many faithful and religious communities accepted the invitation to participate in a prayer chain; recommendations for sermons were made for all Sundays in October.

The initiative of Pope Francis has led to increased attentiveness towards the theme of mission and the missionary responsibility of every baptised Catholic. This year it was easier for missio to be noticed and to generate conversations about the concerns of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Above all the cooperation with the national PMS Offices and the joint realization of the #mymission campaign raised awareness on the global dimension of the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies and their global networking.

Details of some of the activities:

1. Exhibition “You are mission”

On eight large-scale roll-ups expressive portraits are combined with quotes of Pope Francis from *Evangelii Gaudium*. The statements invite each one of us to question, renew and reconfirm our own faith. Mission is not only the task of church representatives but of each and every one of us.

2. Social Media Campaign “#mymission”

Many Christians responded to the call “What is your mission?” by sharing their personal mission on social media, or with their fellow parishioners after church services or events, or sent a short description of their mission on a postcard to missio.

3. Alternative City Walk “Touring Mission”

Inspired by the north-east Indian Touring Sisters the city walk “Touring Mission” broached the subject of two central aspects: mission and reaching out. Mission not only takes place in distant countries but also beyond our own door. Touring Mission invites us to go out and rediscover our surroundings.

4. Prayer Intentions for October

In October the leaflet “Prayer is Mission” accompanied its readers through their daily lives with prayer impulses. It also invited them, by means of a meditation and the Angelus, to join in a prayer chain with Pope Francis every Friday.

5. Brochure “Why Mission?”

In several essays the brochure dedicates itself to the theme of Mission, answering questions and dealing with prejudices. This working aid was published in cooperation with the Steyler Missionaries, with the aim of inspiring parishes and solidarity groups anew for the support of missionary work.

6. Banner “You are Mission”

With a size of 3 x 5 m the banner is visible from a distance and invites the beholder to consider his or her own personal mission.

PMS Missio Aachen

GERMANY - MUNCHEN

ABSCHLUSS DES AUSSERORDENTLICHEN MONATS DER WELTMISSION 2019

Nach einem mehrtägigen Festprogramm haben das katholische Hilfswerk missio München und die Erzdiözese Bamberg mit einem Pontifikalamt im Bamberger Dom den Sonntag der Weltmission (27. Oktober 2019) gefeiert. Gemeinsam mit hochrangigen Gästen aus der Region Nordostindien – unter ihnen der emeritierte Erzbischof von Guwahati, Thomas Menampampil – schlossen der Bamberger Erzbischof Ludwig Schick und missio-Präsident Monsignore Wolfgang Huber damit die mehrwöchigen Aktionen zum Außerordentlichen Monat der Weltmission ab.

Im Mittelpunkt stand in diesem Jahr der Nordosten Indiens, der an China, Myanmar und Bangladesch angrenzt. Auch in dieser Region ist der in ganz Indien wachsende Hindu-Nationalismus spürbar. Damit haben zunehmend auch die Christen, die dort eine stärkere Präsenz haben als in den übrigen Landesteilen, zu kämpfen. „Populismus ist Dummheit“, warnte Erzbischof Schick während des Fest-Wochenendes in Bamberg. „Populismus bedeutet, dass man nicht wissen will, was der andere denkt.“ Voneinander zu lernen sei der einzige Weg zu einem Miteinander.

In der heutigen Zeit setze eine erfolgreiche Missionsarbeit einen ganzheitlichen Ansatz voraus, sagte Erzbischof Schick und betonte: „Eine vom Geist des Evangeliums missionierte Gesellschaft zeichnet sich aus durch ein Parlament und eine gute Regierung, die demokratisch gewählt wurden und die sich um das Gemeinwohl kümmern.“ Es müsse in ihr eine gut funktionierende Polizei und Justiz existieren. Sie brauche eine gute Verwaltung, ein gutes Bildungswesen sowie ein Wirtschaftssystem, das jedem Menschen Arbeit und Auskommen sichere.

Die Region Nordostindien liegt zwischen Bangladesch, China und Myanmar und ist über einen schmalen Korridor mit Zentralindien verbunden. Sie ist von einer ethnischen, sozialen und religiösen Vielfalt geprägt: Indigene Stämme, die sich selbst als „Tribes“ bezeichnen, leben dort neben Bengalis und Einwanderern aus den angrenzenden Nachbarländern. Separatistische Bewegungen und Auseinandersetzungen zwischen den Gruppen sorgen immer wieder für Unruhen.

Die 46 Millionen Einwohner sind überwiegend Hindus und Muslime. Unter den 17 Prozent Christen bilden „Tribals“ die Mehrheit. In entlegenen Bergdörfern leben diese meist in großer Armut. Die Region ist vom Tee-Anbau und der Kultivierung von Jhum geprägt, aber auch vom Raubbau von Kohle.

In vielen Regionen Indiens steigt die Verschmutzung von Luft und Wasser, die Straßen sind vom Verkehr verstopft. Auch die bislang weitgehend intakten Waldgebiete in den Bergen des Nordostens sind zunehmend gefährdet. Kommerzielle Abholzung, illegaler Bergbau und unkontrollierte Brandrodung bedrohen die Natur und den Lebensraum von Mensch und Tier.

missio-Präsident Monsignore Wolfgang Huber mahnte: „Gerade an der Region Nordostindien zeigt sich, wie wichtig es ist, verantwortungsvoll mit der Schöpfung und den Ressourcen unserer Erde umzugehen. Die katholische Kirche spielt eine wesentliche Rolle dabei, sich vor Ort gegen den Raubbau an der Natur stark zu machen und den Menschen zugleich Perspektiven für ein wirtschaftliches Auskommen und somit ein besseres Leben zu ermöglichen. Es ist ein wesentliches Ziel von missio München, für die Menschen vor Ort aus dem Evangelium heraus Lebensqualität zu schaffen.“

Den Festgottesdienst am Sonntag der Weltmission im Bamberger Dom zelebrierte Erzbischof Schick gemeinsam mit missio-Präsident Monsignore Huber und Kurienerzbischof Protase Rugambwa, dem Sekretär der vatikanischen Kongregation für die Evangelisierung der Völker. Die Khublei Dancers, eine Tanzgruppe aus dem Ökospiritualitätszentrum der Franziskaner in Orlong Hada, präsentierten in dem Gottesdienst liturgische Tänze.

Die Gäste aus der Schwerpunktregion Nordostindien waren in den vergangenen Wochen in Bayern und im Bistum Speyer unterwegs. Sie berichteten bei Veranstaltungen über die Situation in ihrer Heimat. Allein im Erzbistum Bamberg gab es mehr als 130 Veranstaltungen.

Der Sonntag der Weltmission und die missio-Aktionen standen unter dem Motto "Getauft und gesandt" und waren eingebettet in den "Außerordentlichen Monat der Weltmission", den Papst Franziskus für 2019 ausgerufen hatte.

Um weltweit neues Bewusstsein für das Thema "Mission" zu schaffen, hat Papst Franziskus unter dem Leitwort "Getauft und gesandt: die Kirche Christi missionarisch in der Welt" einen Außerordentlichen Monat der Weltmission ausgerufen. Das Gebet, das Zeugnis der Gläubigen und die Reflexion über die zentrale Bedeutung der *missio ad gentes* stehen bei dem außerordentlichen Weltmissionsmonat im Mittelpunkt.

Gemeinsam mit Papst Franziskus engagiert sich missio München für die Stärkung des Glaubens und unterstützt die katholische Kirche in Afrika, Asien und Ozeanien. Durch die Zusammenarbeit mit unseren Projektpartnern tragen wir dazu bei, dass das Evangelium als Quelle weltweiter Solidarität erfahren und bezeugt wird.

Der Weltmissionssonntag ist die größte Solidaritätsaktion der Katholiken weltweit. Um die im 19. Jahrhundert entstandenen missionarischen Initiativen besser zu koordinieren, rief Papst Pius XI. 1926 erstmals den Weltmissionssonntag aus. Jedes Jahr wird seither in rund 100 Ländern für die soziale und pastorale Arbeit der katholischen Kirche in den 1.100 ärmsten Diözesen der Welt gesammelt.

Der Weltmissionssonntag 2019 wurde am 27. Oktober gefeiert. Dieses Jahr stand NORDOSTINDIEN im Mittelpunkt der Pfarrei- und Gemeindearbeit. missio München feierte den

Monat der Weltmission mit zahlreichen Aktionen vor Ort: Knapp vier Wochen lang waren im Oktober 2019 in den bayerischen Diözesen sowie im Bistum Speyer Projektpartner aus Nordostindien zu Gast. Sie berichteten bei Veranstaltungen und Vorträgen unter anderem von der Situation der Christen in ihrer Heimat.

PMS Missio München

GHANA

REPORT ON THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

The report covers highlights of activities that were carried out by way of preparations towards the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019, the EMM October 2019 itself and the way forward of mission in Ghana.

Preparation: At the end of December 2018, the National Council of the PMS held a meeting to put together the plan of activities of (EMM) throughout the year with special emphasis on the month of October.

National Launching: At the February meeting of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference in Accra, the EMMOct.2019 was launched at the National Catholic Secretariat. The programme of activities was outlined and out doored; copies were given to all the Bishops for their Diocesan launching subsequently.

Diocesan Launching: The Archdioceses and Dioceses had their launching at different times depending on the pastoral exigencies. The launching was done at the Parishes as well to involve all lay faithful.

Activities: The PMS National Director gave talks on (EMM) *Missio ad Gentes* to the Diocesan Priests during their 39th Biennial Congress in Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese. This was to sensitize and raise awareness among the priests. Other planned activities that were implemented included:

Implementations:

1. Pastoral rallies on – “Our Mission, Our Vocation” for the youth in the parishes. This was to sensitize and help the youth in discernment of their vocations. Youth reaching out to the youth health walk for evangelization was organized in parishes.
2. Missionary Outreach – “Our Mission, our love for the poor” – Outreach to homes, hospitals, orphanages, refugee camps, prisons were organized at the parishes.
3. “At the feet of the Lord encounter” – Biblical and theological teachings and Seminars / Workshops for catechists and societal leaders at the parishes on the theme: “Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on mission in the World” were also undertaken to deepen the spirit of mission among the People of God.
4. Seminars and workshops for the Clergy and Religious in Arch/dioceses on EMMOct.2019 with the theme: “Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on mission in the World” took place in Dioceses.

5. Blessed Virgin Mary: Model of Mission – Parishes undertook spiritual pilgrimages to Diocesan / Parish Grottoes to pray for the grace to be on mission.
6. Parishes visited the homes of the founding fathers and mothers of the local churches in towns and villages and donated gifts to them in appreciation for their sacrifices and faith.
7. Children helping Children: in Parishes, Missionary children undertook outreach to street children to share with them the love of the Gospel in songs and donated clothes, footwear, toys etc.
8. Climax of EMMOct.2019 – Pope Francis’ World Mission Sunday message translated into ten (10) local languages was read in all the parishes and outstations.

The National Catholic Secretariat (NCS), Accra marked the EMM with missionary outreach activities to street children and a symbolic Eucharistic celebration held at the Secretariat’s chapel on Wednesday, 9th October, 2019. The PMS National Director, Rev. Fr. Isaac Ebo-Blay led the entire staff of the Secretariat in a unique celebration in which the Paschal Candle was lighted reminding the staff of their Baptismal call and obligation to mission.

In the parishes, and outstations there was “Exchange of Pulpit”: priests celebrated the Holy Mass in another parish other than their own parish to encourage the lay faithful for mission; the Holy rosary was prayed in the communities throughout the month of October. As part of the celebrations, special songs in both English and local languages on EMMOct.2019 were composed for the dioceses.

The reports from the Dioceses indicated that missionary crusades were organized. Parishes gathered parishioners for vigils at the end of September to usher in the EMMOct.2019 and local theologians (priests) were invited to give input on the theology of mission to the lay faithful, clergy and religious. During the EMM, two Major Seminaries – St. Paul’s Seminary, Sowutuom, Accra; St. Peter’s Regional Seminary, Pedu, Cape Coast invited the PMS National Director to give talks and workshops for the Seminarians during their Student’s Week. The interaction with the seminarians was enlightening and encouraging.

Missionary Animation Materials on EMMOct.2019

The PMS National and Diocesan Offices in collaboration with the Pastoral Ministry and Evangelization Department prepared a number of missionary animation materials with baptized and Sent logo embossed which included: - Booklets, flyers, stickers, banners, T-Shirts, Caps, Exercise Books for school children, Mugs. Others are: Rosaries, small prayer leaflets, holy pictures etc.

In some Dioceses, a ceremony was organized on *Missio ad Gentes* specially for priests who were going to other countries and Dioceses in Ghana on “Fidei Donum” and those who were returning from other countries.

In all the Dioceses and parishes, Vigils, Eucharistic adoration were organized in thanksgiving for the success of the celebration of the EMM.

Special fundraising was embarked upon in all parishes for the Universal Solidarity Fund.

The Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference in line with the theme of the EMM, chose the theme: "Baptized and Sent: living our Mission in Ghana today" for the 2019 Plenary Assembly. The Bishops said the theme for their Plenary Assembly was inspired by the Universal call of Pope Francis to the Church to make a renewed commitment to mission.

In fact, the venue for the Plenary offered the Bishops the opportunity to pay missionary visit to places of historic significance for the Catholic faith in Ghana, such as the Elmina Castle, the St. Joseph Minor Basilica and the Dutch Cemetery where many of the early missionaries and the pioneers of our faith in Ghana are resting in their graves.

As part of this missionary renewal, the Church in Ghana concluded the celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 on a very positive note of maintaining and sustaining the momentum of our missionary call. This will be done through inter-Provincial meetings and inter – Diocesan seminars and workshops, capacity building of agents of mission such as: Missionary Animators, Catholic teachers, Catechists, Clergy and Religious on Diocesan and Parochial levels. The Diocesan Pastoral Offices and the PMS Diocesan Offices will periodically do evaluation of the mission undertakings of each Diocese and present reports to the Secretary General of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference for the Bishops for implementation.

PMS National Direction, GHANA

INDIA

REPORT ON THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

The Church of Christ on mission in the world

INTRODUCTION:

We are happy to share that the Pontifical Mission Organizations (PMO) INDIA has had a fruitful Extraordinary Missionary Month (EMM) celebrations, following our uniquely diverse culture and rich traditional practices that have been built over the years. As has been the case in recent times, it is not October alone, but November as well that has dedicated Mission Sunday celebrations. With our Holy Father's messages and the worldwide emphasis ringing strong in the hearts and minds of the faithful, we were able to witness robust participation across our nation, amidst all ages.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE:

For better administration PMO INDIA follows the same system of 14 Regions with 174 Dioceses as per the CCBI (Conference of Catholic Bishops of India) operational statutes. The Regions are Agra, Andhra Pradesh, Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, North, North East, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West.

Each Region has a Regional Director appointed by its Regional Bishops Council. Together, the Regional Directors form the National Leadership Team which is led by the National Director who reports to the President of the CCBI, who is also the Chairman of the PMO Board of Trustees. All Programmes for the EMM celebrations were co-ordinated by the National Office of the PMO together with the Regional Directors so as to reach the grass-roots of every Diocese through the Diocesan Directors.

EMM PLANNING SESSION:

After deliberations amongst our National Leadership Team, we extended our regular Regional Directors Meeting in February 2019 to include key Commission Secretaries of the CCBI, lay leaders and faith scholars related to the apostolic letter *Maximum Illud* and New Evangelization.

Bishop Dr Raphy Manjaly, Chairman, Commission for Proclamation, CCBI, along with Fr Dr John Bosco SMA and Fr Dr John Baptist, Executive Secretary, Commission for Bible, were among the speakers. Fr Dr Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General, CCBI, Fr Sagaya John, Director, National Biblical Catechetical and Liturgical Centre (NBCLC), Fr Panneer Selvam, Executive Secretary, Commission for Proclamation, CCBI and Director of the National Centre for New Evangelization (Suvarta Kendra), Fr Faustine Lobo, Director, Karnataka Regional Pastoral Centre

and Bishop Vijay Kumar Rayarala PIME, were among the resource-persons who helped facilitate the final Action Plan for our nation.

NATIONAL DIRECTION:

The National Director then sent out a capsule of the programme's goals along with key decisions taken, to all venerable Bishops in the Episcopacy, which included the following (quoting from letter):

1. Action plans to be formalized at the National, Regional, Diocesan and Parish levels.
2. Videos and literature of the Saints from India are to be capsuled as testimonies and used as models for proclamation of the GOOD NEWS.
3. The four Pontifical Mission Societies are to be highlighted in the four weeks of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019, using also the four characteristics of personal encounter, testimonies, formation and charities, as the four modules of the celebration.

A list of suggestions and ideas that were shared by the National Leadership Team was also shared, so as to help facilitate local celebrations. Some of them are quoted below:

1. Organize a diocesan or national celebration for the Opening of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019.
2. Celebrate the Missionary Vigil, focusing on the theme given to us by the Holy Father.
3. Celebrate the Most Holy Eucharist at the diocesan level on World Mission Sunday.
4. Propose that small groups of people or families gather in each other's houses to pray the Holy Rosary for the missionary work of the Church, drawing inspiration from the original intuition of Venerable Pauline Jaricot, foundress of the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith.
5. Promote a pilgrimage to a Marian shrine or to that of a missionary saint or martyr.
6. Promote the collection of funds to support the apostolic work of the *missio ad gentes* and missionary formation.
7. Propose a public activity by which young people are involved in proclaiming the Gospel.
8. Organize a diocesan or national celebration for the Closing of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019.

After discussions with the Board of Trustees, Archbishop Dr Filipe Neri Ferrao, Chairman of the Board and President of CCBI, sent out a circular to the Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Provincials and Superiors, along with the rationale of the EMM OCT2019 programme, its theme, logo, four dimensions, suggestions and preparation, in the context of our national celebrations.

DIRECT EVANGELIZATION INSTRUMENTS DISTRIBUTION:

Further to this we ensured an early completion of our annual Direct Evangelization Instruments in 8 languages so as to reach parishes much before the EMM began. These included our World Mission Sunday EMM OCT2019 posters, envelopes, wall and book-mark calendars that we had specifically designed to reflect the four dimensions involved with the theme “Baptized and Sent.”

As the official EMM OCT2019 brochure was made available in the Vatican website, several Dioceses and Religious-Houses found it easier to download them so as to customise the message for distribution among the faithful. We received samples of these and explanation-articles posted in parish or diocesan News Letters, for e.g., in Telugu, Bengali, Tamil, Hindi, Konkani, Malayalam languages. We posted such formats onto our website and in the newly developed Pontifical Mission India App for smart-phones.

Our bi-monthly magazine for missionary animation, PROCLAIM, carried snippets of EMM OCT2019 with inputs for celebrations all through the 2019 publications with a grand culmination in the September-October issue having 40 pages instead of the regular 24.

We had begun designing the Pontifical Mission India App for smart-phones earlier-on as a News dissemination channel for our four Pontifical Mission Societies. As several youth programmes were being organized in the July – September time-frame, we customised it to include EMM OCT2019 Programmes and our National Director launched it formally at the Karnataka Regional Youth Convention in Bellary together with the pastoral team gathered there.

In collaboration with Atmadarshan TV that transmits New Evangelization Programmes primarily in our national language Hindi and reaching most of North India from the Diocese of Indore in the Region of Madhya Pradesh, PMO produced capsules of our mission with direct focus on the EMM OCT2019 Programme, which our National Director conveyed as his message to all the faithful. This was translated and customised by region in the Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi and English languages.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR VISITS FOR PROGRAMME ORIENTATION:

The National Director also visited some regional centres to establish the correct orientation of the importance of *Maximum Illud* and the EMM OCT2019 celebrations programme for India that included the theme, logo, four dimensions, prayer, funds collection methods etc. With all of these activities in place, the result was a well net-worked robust EMM OCT2019 from across our nation, with several clips of the laity participation placed in the Youtube.com channels from Archdiocesan, Diocesan and Religious Houses. The Syro-Malabar Church helped network the Fiat Mission involving prominent speakers and well-known missionaries for the EMM OCT2019 proclamation.

Some enjoyed it as a “Mission Expo” while some others propagated it in the traditional “Convention” format, yet the missionary zeal and fervour was unmistakably the same.

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES FROM ACROSS 14 REGIONS:

Following are key highlights from the Programmes conducted specifically with regard to EMM OCT2019 in 14 regions comprising of 174 dioceses:

1. Programme orientation from the National Leadership Team, when the National Director, Regional and Diocesan Directors, Commission Secretaries, Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Religious and Lay Leaders went about educating the faithful on the FOUR DIMENSIONS involved in the EMM OCT2019 Programme.
2. Publication and release of Direct Evangelization Instruments, when books and booklets were printed in regional languages to sound the importance of the characteristics of *Maximum Illud*, especially that of being missionary disciples.
3. Nationwide posters and calendars (also Direct Evangelization Instruments) distribution in at least 8 languages, when the designing was completed as a team of ideas coming together, when indents were streamlined with our printers and the finished products in 8 languages reached the faithful in different corners of our nation.
4. Four dimensions week-wise themed celebrations, when parishioners enjoyed being creative about attesting their “personal encounter” with Lord Jesus living in His Church, when coagulating them became a new version of “formation” for catechesis, when “testimony” and “charity” raged the missionary enthusiasm among the faithful, week after week.
5. Four dimensions oriented pastoral guidelines and catechesis, when the Clergy tilled fertile faith with “New expressions, New zeal and New methods” to gain on enriched New Evangelization feeds for Christ’s flock.
6. Archdiocesan, diocesan and parish charity programmes mobilization, when enthusiastic creativity competed with the faith of the faithful to ensure that there was maximum “giving” for a wider and far-reaching mission for The Church of Christ in India.
7. Open-air Holy Eucharist Celebrations upholding Indian traditions, when the Sacrifice of Christ took over the mission and consecrated it with immense, intense love into His Body and Blood, in a renewal of togetherness amongst the faithful in an environment that fused culture with the natural and open to the skies.
8. Large scale prayer meetings, rosary intercessions and adoration, when the faithful gathered in hubs to offer their prayerful participation with a one-ness in spirituality, for the well-being of our nation and for The Church of Christ on mission in the world.

9. Active participation from pious associations and lay organizations, when the mission of Christ living in His Church became priority above individual or group goals, when the missionary spirit fanned interesting debates and catechetical activities.
10. Anecdotal depiction of the lives of Saint-missionaries, when their perseverance and sacrifices became a topic for study and inspiration, when their zeal fuelled courage to overcome our challenges, when their lives became spiritual goals especially amongst our youth and children.
11. Proclamation in public places through posters and prayerful processions, when our prayers in public places became a blessing for onlookers, when our posters became a source of curiosity and questions to want to learn more about Lord Jesus, the One Who we were singing praises to and saluting with energetic litanies upholding His Glory for all to see, especially from those of other faiths.
12. Appreciation and recognition of missionary discipleship culture, when efforts of the faithful were understood and cajoled, when love flowed as a communion of fellowship, when hearts were opened to joyfully pronounce “you must increase O Lord Jesus, I must decrease...”

REPORT COLLATION AND PROGRAMME CONCLUSION:

As we came to a close of the EMM OCT2019 we found several Shepherds making it a formal closure with a grand Holy Eucharist celebration, capsuling all that they did in this Mega World-wide Programme. Sometimes it was a day-long event and at times it was a culmination of a two- or three-day festival bonanza, when the Prelate would review with his team of Deans their respective reports from deaneries, followed by an Action Plan summation for subsequent missionary programmes. Many such events were televised or were taped into colourful albums as a symbolic presentation of an event that memorably percolated right into the grass-roots of the Church of Christ on mission in the world.

Although the World Mission SUNDAY event took place on the 20th and 27th of October specifically, while the month of October was dedicated to EMM OCT2019, several parishes continue to hold events such as Meena Bazaar, Food Fetes, Auctions, Games and Sports events during the weekends and Sundays of November, the collections of which will be collated into the MISSION SUNDAY contributions from the subcontinent.

All in all, we did see an upsurge of enthusiastic participation in the EMM OCT2019 Programme, all over our nation. Colourfully customised posters with the familiar “Baptised and sent” logo along with eye-catching missionary slogans were seen in most parish surroundings and shared over social-media by the young and the old in a manner of attesting their missionary stamp over their

faithfulness. We hope to keep aflame this fervour following it up with advanced versions of the same in the near future.

PMS National Direction, INDIA

ITALIA

EVENTI PIÙ SIGNIFICATIVI RIGUARDANTI IL MESE MISSIONARIO STRAORDINARIO

Il tema del mese Missionario Straordinario indetto da Papa Francesco “Battezzati e inviati, la Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo” è stato al centro di una intensa attività di animazione e formazione promossa dalla direzione italiana delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie durante tutto l’anno pastorale 2018/2019.

Attraverso tre numeri della rivista “L’animatore missionario”, stampata in più di 30.000 copie, oltre alle parrocchie italiane sono state raggiunte comunità religiose maschili e femminili, case di cura, scuole, istituzioni culturali.

I sussidi formativi annuali destinati alle diverse componenti del Popolo di Dio (bambini, giovani, adulti, sacerdoti, religiosi, religiose, seminaristi), scaricabili dal sito www.missioitalia.it, hanno offerto ai Centri missionari diocesani e agli animatori parrocchiali approfondimenti, percorsi e strumenti di animazione.

Dall’8 al 10 marzo 2019 è stato organizzato a Roma un incontro nazionale di formazione per gli incaricati diocesani della Pontificia Opera dell’Infanzia Missionaria - Missio Ragazzi.

Dal 2 al 5 maggio 2019 è stato organizzato in Assisi un convegno nazionale per i seminaristi.

Un lungo lavoro di riflessione ha coinvolto il Consiglio missionario nazionale in vista della 73° Assemblea Generale della Conferenza Episcopale Italiana, che si è tenuta dal 20 al 23 maggio 2019 e che ha avuto come tema centrale “Modalità e strumenti per una nuova presenza missionaria”. La segreteria generale della CEI ha voluto che in ognuno dei gruppi in cui si sono divisi i Vescovi fosse stato presente un missionario.

“Battezzati e inviati” è stato anche il tema della 17ma edizione delle Giornate nazionali di formazione e spiritualità missionaria che si è svolta in Assisi dal 29 agosto al 1 settembre.

Una delegazione di Missio ha partecipato in San Pietro ai Vespri del 1 ottobre, inizio del Mese Missionario Straordinario, presieduti dal Santo Padre, così come una delegazione ha partecipato alla recita del Santo Rosario presieduta da S.Em. il Cardinale Fernando Filoni nella Basilica di santa Maria Maggiore.

Missio ha inoltre curato il dossier centrale del numero di ottobre 2019 della rivista “Vita Pastorale” che viene inviata a tutti i parroci d’Italia.

Il direttore nazionale delle POM ha incontrato gran parte delle Commissioni missionarie regionali d’Italia, ha visitato diocesi e predicato ritiri al clero sul tema del Mese Missionario Straordinario.

A conclusione del mese di ottobre, dal 28 al 31, si è infine tenuto presso la Fraterna Domus di Sacrofano un Forum Missionario sul tema “La missione fa la Chiesa: battezzati e inviati per la vita del mondo” al quale hanno partecipato circa 300 delegati provenienti dalle varie diocesi italiane.

Direzione nazionale POM, ITALIA

KAZAKHSTAN

WORLD MISSION MONTH IN KAZAKHSTAN

October 2019 was announced to be the month to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*. Pope Francis chose the theme for the month: 'Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World.' The bishops in Kazakhstan were very keen on the idea that this month should also be celebrated in Kazakhstan, the ninth largest country in the world. Kazakhstan has a population of 18 million, the great majority of whom are Sunni Moslems. The largest Christian group belongs to the Russian Orthodox Church. Roughly one per cent of Kazakhstan's population comprises Catholics. The national convocation for priests and nuns provided the opportunity for a substantial preparation for the World Mission Month, during the course of which the PMS National Director gave lectures, covering topics such as the real significance of the month, the contents of *Maximum Illud* and the tasks of a missionary within our context. In their various contributions, other speakers including, in particular, Paul Maria Siegel, the founder of the Community of the Family of Mary, expanded on the theme of Mission.

One important missionary initiative involved offering courses in Kazakh, which are obligatory for all the priests and nuns and which commenced at the beginning of October. In this way we are able to open ourselves up to the very large Kazakh community, who at the moment often regard the Catholic Church merely as the Polish or the German Church. The courses are held in every deanery and are led by Kazakhstani teachers. Even our Carmelite nuns are learning Kazakh. While they remain seated behind the cloister grille, they receive instruction from a female Kazakhstani teacher, who at the same time teaches the other priests and nuns from the deanery, sitting in front of the grille.

The highlight of the Mission Month was a pilgrimage we arranged in the middle of October to travel to the north eastern part of the country. In the town of Pavlodar there is a Catholic parish, which is dedicated to Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who is the patroness of the World Mission even though she had "only" lived within the walls of a Carmelite convent. We set up a "Missionary Team" with the Sisters of the Community of the Beatitudes, who are based in the town of Kokshetau, roughly 300 km to the north of the capital Nur Sultan. They arranged an evening of prayer together with a presentation on the missionary life of Saint Thérèse. We had to drive through a seemingly endless steppe to reach our pilgrim destination

Our first overnight stay was in the coal town of Ekibastuz where we were hosted by Father Jan Radon, a giant of a man with a height of 209 cm. He entertained us for many hours by telling us about his seven years of life in the most eastern parts of Russia. The following day we all drove

together into the wild steppe of Kazakhstan where we came across an area called Bayanaul – with its huge, uniquely shaped granite cliffs, lakes and forest ... Kazakhstan is vast and beautiful!

In the evening we arrived at the rectory in Schalbaktiy, a town near the Russian border. After the celebration of Holy Mass in the “most beautiful church in Kazakhstan” (according to Bishop Athanasius Schneider), in which Pater Stefan Linder SJM gave the sermon, we received generous hospitality from the sisters of the Family of Mary who carry out missionary work there. The community has created a wonderful parish where they selflessly care for the young and the old. Finally we reached Pavlodar, a town situated on the Irtysh (the famous Siberian river). We were lucky with the autumn weather as the temperature was generally just above 20 degrees and we enjoyed bright sunshine. We said evening prayers with the Sisters of the Community of the Beatitudes and the prayers continued on into night adoration. Pilgrims coming not only from the surrounding area but also from everywhere else joined in our prayers. Many people (including us) had to travel several days to arrive at this event. After morning prayers, I was able to give a talk to the pilgrims on the World Mission Month, but also, more importantly, on missionary work as such. During the celebratory mass our archbishop, Thomasz Peta, made the point that real missionary work begins with our own conversion as Christians within our own hearts – this point made a deep impression on many pilgrims.

Holy Mass was followed by a very interesting concert in which a variety of groups from different ethnic backgrounds performed on stage in their traditional costumes and sang in their respective languages: Kazakh, Russian, Ukraine, German and Polish. It was all very colourful and joyful. The closing lunch was also a truly Catholic lunch in every sense of the word: every table presented its own national cuisine. Everyone was invited to go from table to table and to sample the various dishes and at the same time to make new acquaintances.

At the end of the missionary pilgrimage we found that we had covered around 2000 km and also that we had many beautiful memories to take home with us. Our final summing up of the mission with the sisters and archbishop was wonderful and we hope to repeat the experience next year.

Our numerous meetings with the missionaries when carrying out their daily tasks were particularly memorable as were our memories of many people living in very remote areas who had to endure extreme difficulties for their faith. Unfortunately we saw that many young people had left their home country, but there is a justifiable hope that they will become Christian missionaries in the countries where they have begun a new life, whether it be in Poland, Russia or Germany.

About two weeks after the missionary pilgrimage, two missionary conventions for young people took place. In Petropavlovsk, in the northern part of Kazakhstan, we met up with students in order to join them in prayers, to celebrate Holy Mass and to share our thoughts on our vocation as

missionaries. Both at the university and in the vocational colleges, the students bore courageous witness to their faith. A few days later another youth convention took place, this time in Baravoe, a beautiful nature park in central Kazakhstan.

In a very serene, joyful and relaxed atmosphere the young people deepened their Christian faith and thought about their vocation in life. In his talk P. David Sladek explained the significance of the anointing every Christian receives at baptism (and afterwards at confirmation). To be a Christian means: to be anointed in order to become another Christ.

On the whole, the World Mission Month was extremely important for us in Kazakhstan not only on account of the events that took place both at diocesan and national levels but also because of our greater awareness that every Christian is a missionary, or, as Pope Francis says: “Each of us is a mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God’s love” (Message of Pope Francis for the World Mission Day 2019). Another positive effect was that a team had been formed which had worked well together in carrying out the World Mission Month program and which had also made plans for the future. The very idea of a missionary pilgrimage which took place on World Mission Sunday proved to be very effective and hopefully will be continued in the future.

The missionary work in Kazakhstan is often difficult and is sometimes a delicate balancing act. May God make this work continue to succeed for the greater glory of God and to proclaim the Gospel in the vast steppes of central Asia.

PMS National Direction, KAZAKHSTAN

KENYA

REPORT OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH OCTOBER 2019 ACTIVITIES

Preamble

The Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops made the extraordinary Mission Month a year long event launching it at the National Prayer day celebration in Subukia on the 5th October 2018. A road map of events to be undertaken on a monthly basis was drawn and distributed to all the dioceses and parishes. Among other items distributed was the prayer card that was translated to Kiswahili and an animation pamphlet on Baptised and Sent: The Church in Kenya on the Move.

Animation work done in the year

A plan of action reflecting on the four dimensions given by the Pope was developed as follows:

1. Gather: so as to break bread, read the scriptures and pray together.
2. Talk: about the faith boldly as a witness in the footsteps of the saints and martyrs.
3. Form the conscience to opt for the good and shun evil guided by the spiritual, doctrinal, catechetical and biblical teachings.
4. Do works of mercy and charity by giving generously and selflessly.

With these we were able to develop a training programme in PowerPoint form to animate and educate the people of the need to be missionaries to the ends of the earth, the challenges of Mission and how to be true witnesses of the Gospel according to the teachings of the Encyclical Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV of 1919.

Out Reach Programmes

Dioceses were able to launch the programmes during PMS Diocesan functions with the prayers distributed to all parishes to recite after all liturgical functions

Training forums were conducted for pastoral coordinators, pastoral agents, youth and key leaders of the ecclesial groups were trained.

Emphasis was placed on a collaborative approach towards Mission work to avoid a parallelism and fragmentation of the idea of mission belonging to the Church rather than the PMS structures.

Pilgrimages to Holy sites in Holy Land of Israel, to Lourdes in France and to Fatima in Spain. 500 pilgrims undertook a journey of faith on foot from Kenya to Namugongo in Uganda to celebrate the Uganda Martyrs day on 3rd of June 2019 as part of the preparation for the Baptised and Sent.

The theme for the year celebration of the National Prayer Day was Baptised and Sent: Proclaim and Witness which brought together close to 50,000 Christians to celebrate and be commissioned by the Bishops.

Encouraged the old parishes in the country to write their history and share with our office as well as the missionaries who evangelized Kenya were encouraged to write their story and have it documented for future purpose and reading.

Animation Materials

1. Social medial platforms and Radio
2. Banners, T-shirts, billboards and fliers
3. Seminars and talks at parish levels
4. Dialogue forums for Ecumenism and Interreligious dialogue in Garissa Diocese
5. Sports and Games by Children and national choir festivals in the country
6. Internally arranged discussions by faculty members in Catholic University of Eastern Africa and Tangaza University College
7. Production of two Booklets for animation for the year called Mission of the Catholic Church and a second pamphlet that had readings and reflections for the Month of October 2019.
8. Boards, cards and pictures of missionary works.
9. We prepared flags and banners for each diocese to use in animating the year of Mission

Learnt lessons from the experience for future use

- a. Evangelization and Mission work is still the prerogative of the ordained ministers and the laity feel uncomfortable to engage in the arena of mission.
- b. Most Christians have a shallow knowledge of their faith hence they cannot defend the faith and what they believe in.
- c. There is a gap in faith matters because there is no ongoing formation of the Christians after receiving Confirmation.
- d. There is a great lapse and laxity among our faithful in following matters of faith that has resulted in a lapse of family being centres of faith and mission.
- e. Family catechesis has collapsed in many parishes in Kenya and the priests are not involved much in the catechetical formation of candidates to the Sacraments.
- f. Church Administration and Church matters are still in the hands of the priests making him unavailable for the Mission to the periphery in the diocese or even parish.
- g. Most parishes do not make contributions towards the societies because the Parish Priests are not aware of the societies and the importance of the contributions to the societies of PMS.

Way Forward

- i. Family apostolates be enhanced and catechetical programmes revised to meet the needs of the people and make it speak to their minds and hearts.

- ii. Make priests and the religious men and women aware of their role as agents of evangelization and so make mission an option for their pastoral programmes.
- iii. Make the small Christian communities active in missionary work of prayer and charity.
- iv. Create more forums and seminars of engaging the priests and religious men and women to understand the importance of the societies and the need to support PMS in her activities of faith raising and fund raising in support of the young churches that need much support.

Conclusion

The Extraordinary Mission Month October 2019 that was raised to the year of Mission in Kenya has been an exciting event as well as lesson learning experience. It was well received in Kenya and the animation has been able to foster a new spirit of mission among the people of God. It's our desire that we shall maintain the spirit and tempo began so that mission started by Christ which is far from completion may find new and efficacious expressions in our daily works as baptised and sent Christians with a deeper understanding of *Missio ad Gentes* for the greater glory of God.

PMS National Direction, KENYA

KOREA

EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH 2019

Pope Francis announced October 2019 as the "Extraordinary Missionary Month", commemorating the 100th year of proclamation of Pope Benedict XV's missionary encyclical *Maximum Illud*. The theme of the Extraordinary Missionary Month is "Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on mission in the world", and we are invited to renew our missionary commitment with faith.

In this context, the Pontifical Mission Societies in Korea (PMSK) have prepared and proceeded initiatives regarding the Extraordinary Missionary Month at universal church's request as below:

1. February, 2018 – The PMSK sent biography of the late Cardinal KIM Sou-hwan by the request of the Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood, as a report about local witness of the *missio ad gentes*.
2. August, 2018 – Delivered the official document of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples about the Extraordinary Missionary Month to dioceses, congregations, seminaries and Catholic Lay Apostolate Council of Korea through the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea. Also, encouraged them to arrange various practice guidelines and events which could arouse the missionary mandate.
3. March, 2019 – In the Spring General Assembly (25~29th), the Bishops' Conference advised all the Christians to participate in 'prayer for evangelization' during the Extraordinary Missionary Month. Also the Conference decided to hold a holy hour on first Thursday of each month regarding the theme that Pope Francis announced, which will be autonomously selected and carried out by each diocese. Therefore, the PMSK has been actively promoting these decisions through missionary booklet and home page.
4. October, 2019 – Fr. Thomas A. KIM Joon-chul, the national director of the PMSK, visited Daesadong parish in diocese of Daejeon in commemoration of the World Mission Day (19~20th). This opportunity was to inform the meaning of the Extraordinary Missionary Month and inspire missionary consciousness.
5. Each diocese of Korea Catholic Church initiated various programs and prayer campaigns in commemoration of Extraordinary Missionary Month.

Archdiocese of Seoul: Celebrated opening Mass presided by Cardinal Andrew YEOM Soo-jung, Archbishop of Seoul at Myeongdong Catholic Cathedral on October 1st. Archdiocese of Seoul gave ‘cross necklaces’, which were made for celebrating the Extraordinary Missionary Month, to 12 representatives of laity, religious and clergy who are performing missionary mandate. Also, diocesan pastoral department gave an ‘action plan’ to faithfuls with the prayer of the Extraordinary Missionary Month included. Action plan is for 5 weeks and it includes prayers, activities for catechumens and tepid Christians, activities of justice·peace·integrity of creation.

On 19th of October, ‘the overseas mission day’ was held to seek the meaning of overseas mission, to remember and pray for diocesan missionary priests who are assiduous in mission territories. Participants watched a 20-minute video about activities of diocesan missionary priests pastoring in several countries including Guatemala and Taiwan. They also watched a documentary film which projected the great mission journey of Bishop Barthelemy Bruguiere, the first vicar apostolic of Joseon dynasty.

Archdiocese of Daegu: Celebrated opening Mass presided by Auxiliary Bishop John Bosco CHANG Shin-ho at Kyesan Catholic Cathedral on September 29th. Collected missionary faith memoirs for layperson and chose prize-winner of diocese mission contest on November 9th. Celebrated closing Mass presided by Archbishop Thaddeus CHO Hwan-kil.

Archdiocese of Gwangju: Celebrated opening Mass presided by Auxiliary Bishop Simon OK Hyun-jin at Imdong Catholic Cathedral on October 1st. Also revealed remains of Saint Therese of Lisieux, which was donated by the monastery of the Carmel of Lisieux in France. Celebrated closing Mass presided by Archbishop Hyginus KIM Hee-joong on October 31st. Archbishop also proclaimed the year 2020~2022 as ‘diocesan extraordinary missionary years’ and stressed that during this period, all organizations and parishes of archdiocese take contents suggested to be practiced during ‘Extraordinary Missionary Month’ as a pastoral guidelines of Diocesan Bishop. Also requested to pass these years with unity of all diocesan Christians by prayer, reflection and action, coordinating with realistic situation of diocese.

Diocese of Daejeon: During October, faithfuls participated in the prayer of the Extraordinary Missionary Month and Mass every week with intentions of 1) for the peace of the Korean Peninsula, 2) for re-evangelization of people of God in diocese, 3) for catechumens, newly baptized and tepid Christians and diocesan missionaries. On 31st, it celebrated Mass presided by Bishop Lazzaro YOU Heung-sik and hosted the word concert. The word concert was about sharing Pope Francis’s messages

and words with the play of chamber. Also there were ‘explanation of the word of the Extraordinary Missionary Month’ by Auxiliary Bishop Augustinus KIM Jong-su and ‘praise concert.’

Diocese of Incheon: On March 19th, Bishop John Baptist JUNG Shin-chul proclaimed Baekryeongdo parish as a diocese’s pilgrimage site of martyrdom devotion, following counsel of Pope of which designated this October as the Extraordinary Missionary Month. Baekryeongdo was in a major route to enter Joseon for missionaries in the age of persecution. Distributed 4 videos of mission and leaflet treating helpful contents for faithful life (common knowledge of doctrine, prayer, history of diocese of Incheon, etc) and leaflet for non-Christians and tepid Christians in September. On 19th of October, the 10th ‘day of missionary’ event was held with sharing missionary experience of five missionaries.

Diocese of Jeonju: The ‘mission advance contest’ for Legio members of each parish of diocese was hosted in Iksan gymnasium by Legia, mother of Fatima of Jeonju. The purpose of the contest was to support Legio members, who are leading role of preaching, to recover the passion of gospel and fulfill missionary mandates. About 5,200 members participated. Bishop John KIM Sontae presided Mass with presbyterium. During homily, bishop stressed that “This year is an 100th anniversary of proclamation of Pope Benedict XV’s missionary encyclical *Maximum Illud*. This great assignment means the missionary mandate for evangelization, which is the reason of church’s existence.” Also he requested to “bring one Christian and one new family to church as a campaign.”

PMS National Direction, KOREA

LESOTHO

1. INTRODUCTION --- Lesotho: A country landlocked by the Republic of South Africa

It is divided into ten political districts but four Catholic Church Dioceses. It operates on the arrangement of one National PMS Director and four Diocesan PMS Directors, and PMS teams in their infancy. We wish that Local Ordinaries do encourage their respective parish priests to actively engage in PMS Activities.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The administrative structure (though in its preliminary stage) of the life of PMS in Lesotho is as follows: President of Lesotho Catholic Bishops' conference-National director for PMS-Four diocesan PMS directors-PMS National Team-Deanery PMS teams-Parish PMS teams.

With this arrangement, a proper handing over with organized orientations and induction sessions will be given to the newly appointed national and Diocesan PMS Directors to ensure continuity.

3. ACTIVITIES AND MISSION PROMOTION

PMS Teams and committees comprise priests- Dioceses PMS, religious men and women, and the lay faithful. The activities carried out are as follows: translation of EMM Official prayer and message of the Holy Father Pope Francis for the EMM 2019 into local language Sesotho. Songs were composed on the Theme of the "Baptised and Sent": e.g Altar servers, Church Choirs, Religious Congregations, one Catholic Musician on Compact discs. Banners of different sizes, golf-shirts, caps, sun hats, and were printed and sold out with the theme of the "Baptised and the Sent".

Meetings in preparation of the 20th of October in different areas were attended with a tremendous good team Spirit. Each time meetings were held members brought a little something to share (BRNG AND SHARE) for meals. Disseminating messages from the Holy Father on the THEME: "The Baptised and Sent; EMM 2019"; and strengthening the understanding of the faithful about the Pontifical Mission Societies on media such as RADIO MARIA and the Weekly Catholic Church Paper- Moeletsi oa Basotho.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS in preparation for the EMM2019

Inauguration of the EMM 2019 program at diocesan level were conducted each marked or honoured with a special event such as commemoration of bishops 10th anniversary in their episcopate. The First pre-school going kids held a Special Fatima pilgrimage; Fatima pilgrimages

with the Spirit of the “Baptised and Sent” were celebrated at four levels: preschool kids where they recited poems, # tag commitments, drama on the Fatima apparitions. Adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist for the month of the Mission on Thursdays/ Sundays in the parishes and in convents were attended. Baptisms at all parishes on the 20th of October added up to 2348 throughout the country. On the same Sunday, some parishes collected money and gifts for the needy members of their parishes.

5. CHALLENGES

The materials produced to support this event are not enough due to lack of funding, lack of office equipment, of human resource, such as personal secretary/office clerk to keep the office operating in the absence of the National director. Inadequate, dysfunctional communication systems, in some cases it is due to insufficient finance to buy data or to pay for Wi-Fi. Transport for the animation and planning by members of the teams is a major challenge. Dysfunctional political systems that affected flow of school sessions prevented (the teachers strike throughout the year) us from reaching out to schools for satisfactorily spreading the EMM 2019 and the activities of PMS in general.

6. PROJECTION FOR THE FUTURE

A simple strategic plan needs to be in place whereby in five years from now the suggested organizational structure would be in full operation in all the four dioceses. We want to engage retired approved Catholic professionals (including religious Congregations) knowledgeable in translations to help translate the materials to be disseminated. There is a need to explore means to instill the spirit and understanding of PMS in the heart of the Catholic church in Lesotho Catholic Parishes, schools, Health Centres by travelling throughout the country empowering young PMS growing/ weak/ teams in those places. We want to get permanent human resource for translation and dissemination of information and for fundraising.

PMS National Direction, LESOTHO

LIBAN

A l'occasion du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire (octobre 2019), le Bureau National des Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires au Liban a commencé depuis Mars 2019 à communiquer des extraits du Guide du MME via mails, aux Évêques, Pères et Mères Supérieurs des Congrégations, Écoles, Universités et Mouvements Apostoliques Catholiques pour la motivation, formation et préparation au MME. Le Message du Pape (en trois langues : arabe français et anglais), les Affiches et la prière ont été distribués comme chaque année à toutes les paroisses et Éparches (Diocèses), Universités et Écoles Catholiques du Liban, ainsi qu'aux paroisses des pays de l'expansion libanaise dans les 5 continents.

Dans ce cadre, le Père Rouphael ZGHEIB, Directeur National des OPM-Liban, et pour la deuxième année consécutive, et grâce à la générosité de l'Union Pontificale Missionnaire, a pu soutenir des projets de formations pastorales et missionnaires en collaboration avec l'Université Saint Joseph ISSR, le CREDO, la Commission pour la Pastorale de la Femme et une formation des Pères Franciscains sur le « Futur de l'Existence des Chrétiens à Tripoli ».

Cette année aussi, la formation à Mina - Tripoli a été ouverte le 6 octobre par une messe à l'occasion du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire, annoncé par le pape François sur le thème «Baptisé et envoyé: l'Église du Christ en mission dans le monde», au couvent des Pères Franciscains intitulée par la «Journée de la fraternité humaine à Tripoli». Cette formation qui parle de l'avenir des relations entre chrétiens et musulmans, après la mission du Pape François à Abou Dhabi, a été soutenue par l'Union Pontificale Missionnaire et les Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaires au Liban. L'événement est organisé en collaboration avec le Conseil Religion et Sécurité, Dialogue pour la Vie et la réconciliation et le Réseau durable des chefs religieux du Nord du Liban. Cette formation devait être clôturée la « Journée mondiale des missions» le dimanche 20 octobre mais à cause des incidents dans le pays nous l'avons clôturée le dimanche 24 novembre.

De nombreux organismes et ONG se sont également présentés comme partenaires de cette importante initiative interreligieuse, tels que Caritas-Liban, la Chambre de commerce de Tripoli, l'Agence de développement économique local du Liban-Nord, le Club des entrepreneurs de Tripoli, le Comité de la jeunesse maronite de l'Archvêché de Tripoli, le Comité patriarcal de la jeunesse Grecque Melkite, Maronite Ehden-Zgharta, Pastorale des jeunes, Institut de recherche et d'études stratégiques du Moyen-Orient, Volez pour la jeunesse libanaise, Association Mousawat et Utopia.

Les travaux ont compris un forum interreligieux de jeunes et un forum interreligieux de leaders. Le Forum interreligieux de la jeunesse a réuni une délégation de 50 étudiants et jeunes professionnels issus des communautés sunnite, alaouite et chrétienne de Tripoli et du Liban-Nord. Le

Forum interreligieux des dirigeants ainsi a réuni des personnalités religieuses chrétiennes et musulmanes, dont le Grand Mufti de Tripoli et Mgr Joseph SPITERI, Nonce Apostolique au Liban.

Dans l'esprit du Document sur «La fraternité humaine pour la paix dans le monde et vivre ensemble» signé à Abou Dhabi par le pape François et le grand imam d'Al Azhar, Sh. Ahmad El Tayyeb, la «Journée de la fraternité humaine à Tripoli», a pour objectif de promouvoir le dialogue interreligieux et la coopération entre chrétiens et musulmans, en vue de faire progresser la coexistence pacifique et l'harmonie sociale à Tripoli et dans le nord du Liban.

Pour répondre à l'appel du pape François visant à faire revivre la *missio ad gentes* et à renouveler les efforts d'évangélisation des chrétiens du monde entier, le programme de formation vise à renforcer l'identité missionnaire, la conscience et les compétences des jeunes chrétiens participants, en les préparant à s'engager activement dans la société civile, la société et la vie communautaire dans le contexte interculturel et interculturel de Tripoli. Dans ce contexte, le programme de formation examine le rôle spécifique des chrétiens et de leur mission face aux grands problèmes locaux, tels que le travail et le chômage, la pauvreté et les efforts caritatifs, la protection de l'environnement, les droits des femmes, l'œcuménisme, la consolidation de la paix et les conflits.

Direction Nationale des OPM, LIBAN

LITUANIA

Introduzione

Le Pontificie Opere Missionarie non erano presenti in Lituania fino a quest'anno, e la nomina del direttore è avvenuta ufficialmente soltanto a metà di luglio 2019. A inizio giugno il direttore ha avuto la fortuna di partecipare al corso di formazione per i nuovi direttori POM. In Lituania ha dovuto prendere contatto con i referenti nelle 8 diocesi lituane (non esistono gli uffici missionari diocesani) e ha dovuto cercare varie collaborazioni di amici e collaboratori. Molti sforzi sono stati messi nell'approntare materiale di reclamizzazione e implemento per la celebrazione del Mese missionario straordinario. Il tutto è stato fatto in concomitanza con lo svolgimento degli altri suoi incarichi, con i centri estivi per ragazzi, colonie estive, pubblicazione della rivista di cui è il redattore, e le attività pastorali della sua parrocchia. Vista la peculiarità della diocesi di Vilnius, il materiale è stato preparato in lingua lituana e anche in polacco. I costi di produzione e diffusione del materiale sono stati coperti da offerte *ad hoc* di benefattori e non è stato chiesto nessun contributo alla Conferenza episcopale lituana. Il denaro raccolto nella domenica missionaria mondiale è stato trasmesso dalle singole diocesi direttamente alla nunziatura apostolica in Lituania. Per l'anno prossimo si prevede di creare un ente giuridico lituano di diritto ecclesiastico, che avrà anche il conto bancario, e provvederà alla raccolta delle offerte dalle diocesi.

DIFFUSIONE STAMPA

Nei mesi di settembre e ottobre il direttore nazionale POM ha partecipato a 4 trasmissioni radiofoniche nazionali su Radio Maria Lituania di presentazione e approfondimento sul MMS. Oltre a questo, ha celebrato 3 Messe di tema missionario ad ottobre trasmesse in diretta da Radio Maria. Anche per l'apertura del MMS il 1 ottobre è stata celebrata una S. Messa nella cattedrale di Kaisiadorys, con la partecipazione di tutti i vescovi della Lituania, e grande accorso di sacerdoti, religiosi e laici. Ha preso parte a una trasmissione televisiva internet di presentazione del MMS. Ha anche scritto 2 comunicati stampa per agenzie nazionali della stampa, notizie brevi per canali internet cattolici. Ha preparato 4 articoli per altrettante testate cattoliche nazionali che sono stati pubblicati. Brevi comunicati stampa per agenzie cattoliche estere. Conferenze nei due seminari della Lituania sul MMS e sulla missionarietà.

Ha partecipato all'incontro mensile con tutti i sacerdoti di 4 diocesi per la presentazione del MMS, due incontri pubblici di catechesi missionaria, tre conferenze in altrettante congregazioni religiose maschili e femminili.

MATERIALE PRODOTTO

1. Doppiaggio in lituano del film di presentazione del MMS. È stato messo in youtube attraverso un canale cattolico che si è reso disponibile. Traduzione del logo MMS in lituano.
2. Creazione della pagina web dell'Ufficio Missionario Nazionale – POM. Al suo interno oltre a vario materiale tradotto, sono stati inseriti alcuni filmati missionari in lituano, il video di presentazione, presentazione del MMS, testimonianze. Tutto il materiale inviato alle parrocchie in forma cartacea era anche accessibile sul sito web. Creazione di un indirizzo e-mail legato alla direzione nazionale POM.
3. Redazione e produzione delle Omelie domenicali per le 4 domeniche di ottobre (in lituano e in polacco). Oltre che sul sito web le omelie sono state inviate direttamente a tutti i sacerdoti attraverso le curie diocesane. La diocesi di Kaunas ha anche tradotto le omelie per i giorni feriali e le ha liberamente condivise in internet. Le omelie domenicali erano di uso obbligatorio in tutte le parrocchie.
4. Poster per il MMS, con una fotografia originale prodotta a cura del direttore nazionale POM. Il poster è stato mandato attraverso le curie a tutte le parrocchie e a tutti gli insegnanti di religione delle scuole statali. (3.000 esemplari).
5. Pubblicazione di un libretto per la preghiera quotidiana del rosario in tutte le chiese e i gruppi ecclesiali nel mese di ottobre. Nel libretto era pubblicato anche il messaggio del S. Padre per la giornata missionaria mondiale 2019. Per ogni giorno era proposta anche una citazione dell'esortazione apostolica *Evangelii Gaudium* sull'attualità della missionarietà nella Chiesa. (12.000 copie in lituano, 3.000 in polacco).
6. Immaginette per la giornata missionaria mondiale. Foto dall'Ecuador con diritto di utilizzo. 120.000 esemplari in lituano, 30.000 in polacco. Era la prima volta che veniva distribuita un'immaginetta per la GMM.
7. Pubblicazione di calendari 2020 da tavolo, distribuiti a novembre con messaggio missionario post MMS. I parroci li hanno distribuiti gratuitamente alle famiglie presso le quali a novembre e a dicembre hanno visitato le case per benedirle. 45.000 esemplari in lituano, 5.000 in polacco.
8. Preparazione di alcune decine di souvenir di ringraziamento per tutti i collaboratori, i vescovi, i referenti diocesani, con i simboli del MMS.
9. Concorso a premi di disegni missionari per classi di religione a scuola, classi di catechismo nelle parrocchie, e per gli insegnanti/catechisti sul MMS. Sono state ricevute fotografie da 400 classi di bambini. Sul sito web sono stati inclusi due Power Point sulla missionarietà

nella Chiesa da utilizzare nelle classi. Insieme vi erano anche delle proposte di approfondimento e di prove di abilità per i ragazzi a seconda dell'età.

10. Concluso il MMS, è stato proposto un tema missionario durante la celebrazione molto frequentata della festa patronale della Madonna dell'Aurora di Vilnius. Nella giornata dedicata ai bambini alcuni missionari che lavorano in Lituania hanno incontrato i piccoli partecipanti (alcune centinaia). La Messa è stata celebrata dal direttore nazionale POM con un'ottica catechistica missionaria.

Compilando un breve bilancio, occorre riconoscere che la "notizia" del MMS è passata ed è stata recepita dalla comunità ecclesiale in Lituania. È stato provvidenziale che quest'anno si celebrasse il mese missionario come straordinario. In questo modo vi è stata una bella occasione per iniziare a diffondere il messaggio della missionarietà, che fino ad ora non era molto conosciuto.

Direzione Nazionale POM, LITUANIA

MALAWI

REPORT ON THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OF OCTOBER 2019

Introduction

Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 in Malawi was well celebrated in all the Dioceses and parish communities. There was a period of preparation from 1st Sunday of Advent 2 December 2018 and the actual celebration in the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October.

1. Preparations

In Malawi, there were some activities which were undertaken in preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary month 2019 as the Church celebrates 100 years of *Maximum Illud* and works of missionary renewal (renewing the real sense of *Missio Ad Gentes* of the Church):

- a) The Bishops Conference issues a pastoral statement to mark the preparation of the EMM 2019 from 1st Sunday of Advent 2 December 2018 to 30 November 2019.
- b) With the period of Dec 2018 to September 2019 was the time of creating awareness, formation of the people of God and preparation of materials for the celebration.
- c) Choosing one parish which will be a model parish where the PMS National Office shall focus for the celebration of EMM 2019: St. Pius in the Archdiocese of Balntyre was chosen and as lead parish.
- d) PMS Directors and Pastoral Coordinators from Dioceses with guidance from the Bishops Conference, lined up some pastoral activities within the preparation time. The activities were based on the four Dimension which the Holy Father, Pope Francis had proposed. Thus the following were some of the activities proposed and some in most of the Dioceses in Malawi.

2. Activities in the EMM 2019

Most of the Dioceses in Malawi opened the Extraordinary Missionary Month on Sunday 29 September 2019. Most Parishes opened the EMM 2019 on the 1st October 2019 with Eucharistic celebration and the offering of the Rosary Prayers with the special intentions for mission as guided by the Malawi Bishops Conference.

At St. Pius Parish which was the model parish for EMM lead by the National office of PMS. The opening was ceremony started with the Marian process and offering prayers of the rosary and then Eucharistic celebration presided over by the National Director of PMS Malawi.

Dimension 1: Encounter Christ in the Church: in Eucharist, word of God & prayer

- a) Adoration/benediction in all parish churches every Thursday and other preferred days by the local community with simple reflections on various topics on mission (Praying for elections,

Family, Youth and environment). People of God in the communities had the opportunity to encounter Christ. This activity started in some communities' way before October 2019 and many parishes took up in the month of October 2019.

At. St. Pius Parish which was model parish, adoration was done twice in a week: Thursdays and Saturdays. At. St. Pius, there was also daily prayers of the holy rosary in every Christian community. Each of the thirty five small Christian communities had Rosary Prayers. These prayers were Air live on Radio Maria Malawi which has a national coverage. These Prayers were also on Facebook Page of the Archdiocese of Blantyre live.

Diocese of Mangochi had an extraordinary arrangement of a special day adoration when the whole diocese had a 24 hours adoration and each parish was given an hour and they took it in turns in their community. This means the whole diocese through the all the 25 parishes had an encounter with Christ for the special 24 hours of the day.

There were also some reflections and animation on Radio Maria Malawi on the Eucharist and Adoration. In some parishes adorations were broadcasted live on Radio Maria Malawi.

- b) Pastoral visits by pastoral agents (Bishops, priests and the religious, catechists and lay people) to allow mission bring Christ to the people. Diocese of Karonga had a unique approach in sending eighteen (18) lay people as 'Ad Gentes Missionaries.' They sent them to remote communities that are cut off from other communities because of geographical features and these are communities that priests do not reach and some have never seen a catholic priests. These Ad Gentes Missionaries brought extraordinary experience of people who live in the periphery of life and hunger for word of God and need spiritual care and cannot get it because they are in remote places. The Bishop of the diocese will continue to send these 18 lay missionaries in other parts of the diocese in the coming year 2020 in March (after the rains) so that they go to other new places and later will go back into the first communities to follow up and continue giving pastoral care to these communities.

Archdiocese of Lilongwe also organise pastoral visits to some remote parish to animate the communities. The visits where done by the leaders of lay associations accompanied by some priests, religious sisters, the Archbishop and his Vicar General. Some visits and animation has reawakened the faith of the people in these areas.

- c) Special outreach to lapsed Catholics.
- d) Sacrament of confession as preparation for Eucharist (More time of confession in the parishes).
- e) Print some Bible reflections prepared by Vatican and special rosary intentions and reflection for the month of October 2019, which were used in October 2019.

Dimension 2: Reflections and celebration of the missionary saints & martyrs

- a) Each Church community was encouraged to dig its history of mission and recognize and honor the giants of their history of mission in building the faith community. Some communities organised special celebration and memorials, preferably on the day of their patron.
- b) Animation on Radio Maria Malawi on the life of saints and martyrs of the day to help the people of God learn, reflect and pray with them.

Dimension 3: Ongoing missionary Formation on missionary: Catechetical, liturgical, Biblical and theological formation.

Ongoing missionary formation were organized for different groups/associations with themes of missionary taking the central stage. Some different groups and small Christian Communities organised retreats, recollections and pilgrimages reflecting on mission. Some pilgrims who went to the Holy Land and others to Rome and Lourdes in France, were also given missionary formation.

Dimension 4: Missionary Charity

- a) Communities to be encouraged to make special sacrificial offerings for missionary work especially for the World Mission Sunday within the EMM 2019. The model parish of St. Pius in the Archdiocese of Blantyre, has made special collections for the World Mission Sunday. They had arranged special fundraising strategies for the sake of increasing their offering for the missionary work. They also made big missionary sacrifices in preparing for the EMM 2019 National Celebration which was held at their parish on World Mission Sunday 2019.
- b) Promotion and encouragement of economically stronger parishes/churches/small Christian communities in supporting needy ones. St. Kizito Parish of the Archdiocese of Lilongwe had arranged missionary charity visits to some economically weak communities to animate them and share with them some materials for the missionary work. In the Diocese of Karonga, some remote communities that were visited by Ad Gentes missionaries, received some basic necessities that members lack for their welfare: prayer materials and food.

Conclusion

Though there were challenges in animation and formation of the key pastoral agents like Priests and Catechists, still the communication made to these and people of God through meetings and Radio Maria Malawi, had a big impact.

Thanks to all the eight Bishops in Malawi who took personal initiatives to publicise and encourage the pastoral agents to prepare for the EMM 2019.

Special thanks to St. Pius Parish community and their Parish Priest Fr. George Kaliyati for the great sacrifice, creativity and availability to conduct all the prayers and related activities.

From the feed-back and personal experiences of people aired on radio Maria Malawi, the EMM 2019 has helped some people and some communities in Malawi to understand their baptismal missionary obligations. As such, we can confidently say, EMM 2019 has achieved its objectives of renewing missionary commitment in the hearts of some baptised members of the Church.

PMS National Direction, MALAWI

MALI

RAPPORT SYNTHETIQUE DES ACTIVITES REALISEES POUR LA PREPARATION ET LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE OCTOBRE 2019.

Pour bien animé et bien vivre au Mali, le mois missionnaire extraordinaire –octobre 2019 à l’occasion des 100 ans de « Maximum illud », grâce à la très précieuse collaboration des directeurs diocésains et particulièrement grâce à celle de nos trois participants à la formation au CIAM sur le thème de ce même mois, entre autres les activités suivantes ont été réalisées :

- a) Le début d’information, de sensibilisation et de prise de dispositions par rapport au mois extraordinaire pour la Mission- Octobre 2019- 100 ans après la lettre apostolique MAXIMUM ILLUD du Pape Benoît XV, pendant notre conseil national du 24 au 28 janvier 2018 à Sikasso.
- b) Rencontre nationale le 18 et 19 mai 2019 à San des directeurs pour le compte rendu de la formation reçue au CIAM et pour la mise au point de la programmation des activités à réaliser.
- c) La confection de Posters, de livrets d’animation et de dépliants
- d) L’insertion du logo universel du mois missionnaire extraordinaire sur le pagne du pèlerinage national à Kita.
- e) L’insertion du logo universel du mois missionnaire extraordinaire sur le calendrier liturgique du Mali.
- f) Une formation et pèlerinage à kita du 26 au 30 juin 2019 aux pieds de Notre Dame du Mali, d’animateurs OPM des paroisses du Mali sur le thème du mois missionnaire extraordinaire et les cent ans de « Maximum illud ».
- g) La composition d’un chant OPM pour le mois missionnaire extraordinaire (utilisable pour les autres animations missionnaires.)
- h) Formation nationale préparatoire au mois missionnaire extraordinaire à Koulikoro des religieux et religieuses du Mali, du 9 au 18 septembre 2019 avec le soutien financier de l’UPM.
- i) La célébration solennelle d’entrée dans le mois missionnaire extraordinaire et mois du rosaire le 29 septembre 2019.
- j) Des émissions catholiques tous les samedis et dimanches du mois à la télévision et les dimanches à la radio nationale sur le mois missionnaire extraordinaire avec des bandes passantes d’annonces à la télévision. Le programme de ces émissions a tenu compte du contenu de notre livret d’animation OPM 2019-2020. Le contenu a porté essentiellement sur le contexte des 100 ans de « Maximum illud », le thème mondial, le thème pour le Mali, la

sensibilisation et l'appel à la prière et à l'animation en faveur de chacune des quatre œuvres pontificales missionnaires pendant une semaine déterminée, l'importance de l'animation continue des O.P.M après ce mois missionnaire extraordinaire au niveau des paroisses, des mouvements, des écoles et des séminaires - groupes vocationnels.

- k) Le thème mondiale a été légèrement modifié et utilisé en ces termes : « BAPTISÉS ET ENVOYÉS : NOUS SOMMES EN MISSION AU MALI ET DANS LE MONDE ». Nous avons décidé de poursuivre notre animation avec ce même thème jusqu'en septembre 2020.
- l) Des conférences sur le thème du mois missionnaire extraordinaire et les cent ans de Maximum illud au niveau des diocèses.
- m) La journée mondiale des missions, le 20 octobre 2019 a été spécialement marquée par une procession solennelle et un envoi en mission dans les différentes communautés.
- n) En plus de ces activités, les différentes initiatives prises au niveau des diocèses ont été d'une très grande importance mais nous partagerons ces initiatives prises lors de notre prochain conseil national du 22 au 26 janvier 2020.

Nous venons de présenter ainsi de façon succincte nos quelques activités programmées et réalisées dans le cadre du mois missionnaire extraordinaire d'octobre 2019. Notre prochain conseil national nous permettra de rallonger cette liste d'activités à partir du partage des initiatives particulièrement prises au niveau des différents diocèses du Mali.

Ci-joints quelques photos des participants à la formation nationale préparatoire au mois missionnaire extraordinaire et les images du logo au Mali et du logo sur les pagnes du pèlerinage national.

Direction Nationale des OPM, MALI

MARRUECOS

EL MES EXTRAORDINARIO MISIONERO OCTUBRE 2019

Hemos terminado el Mes Misionero Extraordinario “Bautizados y enviados, la Iglesia de Cristo en misión por el mundo”, convocado por el Papa Francisco para toda la Iglesia para reavivar la pasión misionera de todos los cristianos. En Marruecos se han celebrado varios actos en dos diócesis: Rabat y Tánger.

La misión ha resonado con fuerza en Marruecos en este Mes Misionero Extraordinario, en el que se ha implicado toda la Iglesia. A nivel nacional con la preparación del material misionero en dos lenguas: francés y español se ha ayudado a todos en concientizar este gran evento.

En cada diócesis se han celebrado las Eucaristías y encuentros de oración misionera, las exposiciones sobre la presencia cristiana en el país musulmán, como lo es Marruecos en 99%, varias conferencias y mesas del diálogo interreligioso, los conciertos de la música sagrada, las manifestaciones en los colegios católicos. Se llegó proclamar con la vida que todos los bautizados son misioneros.

El deseo de que Cristo sea conocido y amado por todos resuena hasta los confines del mundo. El Mes Misionero Extraordinario se acaba, pero lo que no puede acabar es la pasión del Espíritu Santo que ha puesto en nuestros corazones la alegría de ser cristianos. La misión comunión con los creyentes musulmanes es construir un mundo más fraterno y humano.

A lo largo del año de preparación del Mes Misionero Extraordinario hemos orado silenciosamente en nuestros lugares de presencia. La visita apostólica del Santo Padre Francisco en Marruecos (30-31 de marzo de 2019) ha traído un nuevo Pentecostés a nuestra misión. SOMOS MISIONEROS DE LA MISERICORDIA DEL SEÑOR PARA TODO EL SER HUMANO, PARA TODA LA CREACIÓN.

El viernes 4 de octubre tuvo lugar la vigilia de oración de los jóvenes africanos migrantes en la Catedral de Tánger. Ellos protagonizan cada día el deseo de entregar todo al Señor. Su vida sin Dios no tiene sentido. Su camino peregrino se convierte en el camino misionero. A cada lugar llevan su fe y su fuerte sentido de Dios que ama a todos.

Las dos diócesis han organizado conjuntamente ENCuentro de los misioneros – testigos de la presencia del amor al prójimo en las tierras del Norte de África. Resaltaron muchos testigos mártires de los primeros siglos del cristianismo y los últimos de Argelia, beatificados recientemente en Oran. Ellos nos transmiten el mensaje de Amor y Comunión hacia nuestros hermanos musulmanes.

Afirma el papa Francisco en el Mensaje para la Jornada Mundial de las Misiones de este año que “la *missio ad gentes*, siempre necesaria en la Iglesia, contribuye así de manera fundamental al proceso de conversión permanente de todos los cristianos”.

Todas las actividades que se desarrollaron a lo largo del Mes Misionero Extraordinario, especialmente con misioneros y misioneras dedicados a la misión ad gentes, nos ayudaron a descubrir el sentido misionero de nuestra fe en Cristo para un empeño más profundo con la misión universal de la Iglesia.

Las Obras Misionales Pontificias en Marruecos promueven desde siempre el rezo del rosario misionero, en el que, por intercesión de María, se pide a Dios por las intenciones y necesidades de las misiones en todo el mundo. Hemos rezado los cinco misterios del rosario teniendo presente a los cinco continentes, y pidiendo por la evangelización y los cristianos de cada uno de ellos. Las adoraciones del Santísimo Sacramento nos ayudaron a permanecer a los pies del Señor en la misión tan específica como la nuestra en Marruecos.

“Cada bautizado es un enviado” – es el lema del Mes Extraordinario Misionero del año 2019. Nuestra misión del enviado no es diferente de la misión de Jesús mismo. La misión comienza con un encuentro personal con Cristo.

La *missio ad gentes* conserva toda su relevancia, incluso en territorio como Marruecos, donde todos sus habitantes son de la fe musulmana.

Entrando en los detalles de la vida de nuestra Iglesia de Marruecos hemos vivido en el Mes Extraordinario Misionero la nominación de nuestro pastor Mons. Cristóbal López Romero al servicio del cardenal en la Iglesia Universal.

Agradecidos por todos los signos que nos acompañaron y tantas iniciativas de los carismas de nuestras congregaciones presentes en Marruecos invitamos a la Iglesia misionera a venir a esa porción de la viña del Señor.

Dirección Nacional de las OMP, Marruecos

MÉXICO

ACTIVIDADES DESARROLLADAS EN EL MES MISIONERO EXTRAORDINARIO OCTUBRE 2019

La oración, el testimonio y la caridad, así como la lectura de los Hechos de los Apóstoles, fueron los elementos indispensables para la preparación del Mes Misionero Extraordinario (MME 19). Las OMPE México se propusieron, en conjunto con los directores diocesanos de misiones, una ruta de trabajo para que la Iglesia que peregrina en nuestro país, bajo el lema «*Bautizados y enviados: La Iglesia de Cristo en misión en el mundo*», redescubrieran y asumieran su compromiso con la propagación del Evangelio.

Esta ruta de trabajo consistió en una serie de actividades informativas, formativas y vinculantes durante todo el año; haciendo uso de los distintos medios como TV, RRSS, revista e impresos y formas de difusión:

- Materiales informativos: Folletos (digitales e impresos) para informar el objetivo y naturaleza del MME 2019.
- Se aprovecharon los distintos espacios en las revistas *Sembradores* y *Ad gentes* donde se profundizaron en cada uno de los objetivos del MME.
- Se realizó una serie de catequesis mensuales donde las reflexiones tuvieron como punto de referencia Hechos de los Apóstoles. También se aprovechó el espacio «Biblia y Misión», dentro de la revista *Ad gentes*, para dar difusión a estas catequesis.
- Materiales vinculantes: se aprovechó cada una de las Jornadas, Congresos, Cursos y eventos para relacionar de manera visual las actividades correspondientes con el MME.

Unas de las primeras actividades fue la celebración del *50 aniversario* de la revista misionera *Ad Gentes*, del 2 al 3 de octubre de 2018, y donde tuvimos la muy grata visita de S.E. Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso, Presidente General de Obras Misionales Pontificias. En el evento también se realizó la inauguración y bendición de la *Biblioteca Misionera S.S. Pablo VI* y se presentó la edición conmemorativa del libro: *Magisterio Misionero Pontificio Contemporáneo*, del Concilio Vaticano II a *Evangelii Gaudium*, una edición bilingüe latín – castellano.

El 2 de octubre fue dedicado por completo a dicho festejo mediante una jornada de carácter histórico-pastoral. Nos honraron con su presencia diversas personalidades, entre ellos: S.E. Mons. Alfonso Miranda Guardiola, Secretario General de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano (CEM), S.E. Mons. Fabio Martínez Castilla, Responsable de la Dimensión Episcopal de Misiones y Arzobispo de Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mons. Jorge Arturo Mejía Flores, director nacional de OMPE de 1994 a 2004 y el Padre Ricardo Colín Negrete, director nacional de OMPE de 1990 a 1994; además de alrededor de

80 participantes entre directores diocesanos de misiones, superiores de casas religiosas y rectores de universidades católicas a los cuales se les obsequió el primer y último número de la revista *Ad gentes*.

También se llevó a cabo, ese mismo día, un panel histórico sobre la revista *Ad Gentes*, en la que se hizo un recorrido histórico sobre la misma, así como la escucha de testimonios de personalidades que tuvieron a su cargo la coordinación de la edición y contenido de la revista. Se presentó, por último, un análisis del contenido para proyectar con mayor compromiso y seriedad el futuro de nuestra revista misionera.

El día 3 de octubre se organizó para que Mons. Dal Toso tuviera la oportunidad de encontrarse, primeramente, con el Consejo Permanente de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano, donde se plantearon los siguientes compromisos:

1. *Fomentar la cooperación misionera de la Iglesia mexicana a la misión ad gentes.*
2. *Hacer más énfasis de la formación misionera en los seminarios y casas de formación con apoyo de la Dimensión Episcopal de Vocaciones y Ministerios.*
3. *Que los santuarios de nuestro país, y en especial la Basílica de Guadalupe, sean centros que promuevan las vocaciones misioneras ad gentes en comunión con la Dimensión Episcopal de Santuarios y Piedad Popular.*
4. *Establecer vínculos entre la opción por una Iglesia misionera y evangelizadora del Plan Global de Pastoral de la CEM con el Mes Misionero Extraordinario 2019 propuesto por el Papa Francisco.*

En un segundo momento, se realizó el encuentro con los diocesanos de misiones y Mons. Dal Toso, donde se sostuvo un diálogo fraterno, en el cual se informó sobre la actividad misionera que realizan las OMPE en el país. Al final agradeció por el trabajo que realizan los directores de misiones en sus diócesis e insistió en aprovechar el octubre misionero 2019 como una ocasión que se nos presenta como Iglesia para despertar el sentido misionero y universal en todo el Pueblo de Dios.

La Jornada Mundial de las Misiones 2018 y 2019 fueron una magnífica oportunidad para proyectar la gran labor evangelizadora, social y humanitaria que realiza la Iglesia en todo el mundo. Por tal motivo, las Obras Misionales Pontificio Episcopales de México prepararon el MME octubre 2019 con diversas actividades de animación misionera y subsidios formativos, para despertar la conciencia misionera *ad gentes* en todo el Pueblo de Dios, a través de una amplia sensibilización en las iglesias particulares, en los institutos de vida consagrada y en las sociedades de vida apostólica; así como en las asociaciones, los movimientos, las comunidades y otras realidades eclesiales.

Como parte del programa de animación misionera para el DOMUND 2019 se realizó, en comunión con la dirección de misiones de la Arquidiócesis de México, las siguientes actividades:

- Vigilia de oración el sábado 19 de octubre: Rosario Misionero y Eucaristía para pedir por todos los misioneros *ad gentes*.
- El domingo 20 de octubre, día del DOMUND, se realizó una Expo-Vocacional-misionera en el atrio del recinto, con la participación de 19 Institutos Misioneros de Vida Consagrada con carisma *ad gentes*.

El objetivo fue animar al Pueblo de Dios en el marco del Mes Misionero Extraordinario en el espíritu de la misión *ad gentes*. Al evento se invitó a los fieles laicos de la Arquidiócesis de México (parroquias, colegios e institutos misioneros), así como demás fieles que visitaron la Basílica de Guadalupe esos días.

Dirección Nacional de las OMP, MÉXICO

MOCAMBIQUE

RELATÓRIO DA PREPARAÇÃO E CELEBRAÇÃO DO MME

As celebrações do Mês Missionário Extraordinário (MME) começaram justamente com a visita efectuada no mês Julho 2018 pelo Pe. Fabrizio Meroni, Secretário-geral da PUM na qual para além de ouvir os desafios e perspectivas da nossa Igreja Local partilhou com todos os directores diocesanos das OMP e os directores dos secretariados de coordenação pastoral de todos as dioceses de Moçambique as razões, o programa e expectativas em torno da celebração do MME. Daquela partilha as Dioceses incluíram nas suas agendas pastorais do ano 2018/2019 actividades concernentes a Celebração do MME.

Ao longo do ano 2018 recebemos também o material electrónico e impresso da preparação das celebrações do MME e as dioceses tiveram tempo suficiente para adaptar este material à realidade local de cada Diocese.

IAM E AS CELEBRAÇÕES DO MME

A IAM foi muito envolvida nestas celebrações. A temática central do ano 2019 para IAM era mesmo Baptizados e enviados: a Igreja de Cristo em missão no mundo para estarem em comunhão com a espiritualidade que a Igreja Universal vivia. Na carta do papa dirigida ao cardeal Fernando Filoni por ocasião do centenário da carta apostólica *Maximum Illud* sobre a actividade desenvolvida pelos missionários no mundo diz ao falar dos objectivos “ E com estes sentimentos que, acolhendo a proposta da Congregação para a Evangelização dos Povos, proclamo um Mês Missionário Extraordinário para Outubro de 2019, com o objectivo de despertar mais a consciência da *missio ad gentes* e de retomar com novo impulso a transformação missionaria da Vida e da pastoral. Também nos poderemos preparar convenientemente para o mesmo aproveitando o mês missionário de Outubro do próximo ano, a fim de que todos os fiéis tomem verdadeiramente a peito o anúncio do Evangelho e a transformação das suas comunidades em realidades missionarias e evangelizadoras; e de que aumente o amor pela missão, que é uma paixão por Jesus e, simultaneamente, uma paixão pelo seu povo”. A paixão por Cristo começa desde a infância, com a espiritualidade e vida de IAM. Desta forma não quisemos deixar à margem as crianças na vivência deste Mês Missionário Extraordinário. Por isso colocamos um acento tónico nos trabalhos com IAM neste ano 2019 guiada pelo tema do ano: “Baptizados e enviados: a Igreja de Cristo em missão no mundo. Propusemos, vivenciamos evidenciando as dimensões propostas pelo Cardeal Fernando Filoni na carta enviada aos bispos:

1. ENCONTRO: Objectivo – ajudar as crianças e Adolescentes a encontrar Jesus vivo na Palavra, oração e Eucaristia (Jo. 4,1-42 – Mulher Samaritana ou Lc. 24,13-35 – Os discípulos de Emaús)

Nesta dimensão destacamos a centralidade da pessoa e missão de Jesus Cristo. A missão nasce do encontro com Jesus que dá novo horizonte à vida. O encontro com Jesus Cristo vivo em sua Igreja é pessoal: Eucaristia, Palavra de Deus, oração pessoal e comunitária. – As crianças foram ajudadas a encontrar Jesus nas suas orações pessoais, orações comunitárias, seus encontros em grupos, Celebrações da Comunidade (Palavra, Eucaristia, Adoração, terço)

2. TESTEMUNHO E VIVÊNCIAS: Objectivo – conhecer a história dos que deram a Vida por Jesus – Santos e mártires

Conhecer a vida e história dos padroeiros das missões, Santa Teresa do menino Jesus e São Francisco Xavier. Um dado novo é que as crianças foram dadas a conhecer a história dos mártires do Centro Catequético de Guíua.

3. FORMATIVA: Objectivo – Perceber o baptismo como fonte originário da missão. Para esta dimensão as crianças foram introduzidas por meio da leitura orante da bíblia a reflectirem a identidade missionária de todo povo de Deus e delas como o futura presente da Igreja. Nela nesta reflexão foram tocados duas fontes da bíblia e do magistério.

4. CARIDADE MISSIONÁRIA: - Objectivo – incentivar as crianças a serem solidárias com os necessitados.

Nesta dimensão as crianças foram levadas a compreender o sentido do confrinho da IAM, assim como a saberem partilhar o que tem com as outras crianças. Colecta de roupas, visitas aos Infantários ou Asilos onde estão os anciãos, às pediatrias dos hospitais e às crianças doentes nas suas casas para serem solidárias com os que sofrem como cumprimento do mandatado em Mt.25, 31ss . Cada grupo da IAM decidiu, segunda a sua condições própria fazer acções concretas para a sua caridade missionária.

5. COOPERAÇÃO: Objectivo – partilhar o ser missionário com os outros

Nesta dimensão as crianças foram estimuladas a saber ajudarem-se com acções missionária concretas, dentro e fora dos seus ambientes. Os grupos de IAM fizeram visitas domiciliaries para rezar o terço missionário nas famílias, fizeram troca de experiencias com crianças de outras Comunidades e Paróquias.

6. CELEBRATIVA: - objectivo – viver a alegria de ser baptizado e missionário:

Em cada Diocese e Paróquia houve celebrações vivas o mês da IAM, Junho assim como o mês de Outubro Extraordinário Missionário 2019.

PROGRAMA NACIONAL DO MME

O programa Nacional no Outubro ficou assim estruturado e aprovado pela Conferencia Episcopal:

1. Cada Mês devia se toma e reflectir sobre dos temas apresentados no livro preparado para este evento.
2. No Próprio mês Outubro cada Diocese devia fazer uma abertura oficial
3. Celebrar efusivamente o Domingo Mundial das Missões (Jornada Mundial das Missões)
4. Em cada semana do Mês de Outubro agendamos estes temas comuns:
 - 1ª Semana - Outubro Missionário (Objectivo, logotipo, dimensões)
 - 2ª Semana - Os aspectos relevantes da Carta Apostólica *Maximum Illud* (contexto, temáticas e implicações na missão hoje)
 - 3ª Semana - Missão e desafios da sociedade multicultural e multirreligiosas e a Missão dos leigos na Igreja em saída
 - 4ª Semana - *Missio Ad Gentes* no livro dos actos dos apóstolos (Estrutura da missão, o mundo de então, a missão de Paulo e Colegas e os desafios do tempo)
5. O encerramento do MME foi feito igualmente em Diocese no Domingo 26 de Outubro de 2019 com vigílias Missionárias.

CONSIDERAÇÕES FINAIS

Durante a preparação da celebração do MME tivemos a alegria de acolhermos a Santo Padre, papa Francisco que veio revitalizar a Igreja Católica em Moçambique e não só, mas toda a nação.

Ficou consensual que o MME passou, mas as reflexões e alegria vivida deve continuar a iluminar a nossa pastoral, devem estar presentes nos programas pastorais de cada Diocese.

Agradecemos o material disponibilizado via electrónica e impresso que nos ajudou muito para a preparação e celebração do MME, assim como Site das celebrações papais que nos colocou em comunhão com a Igreja Universal.

Direcção Nacional das OMP, MOÇAMBIQUE

MYANMAR

REPORT ON THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OF OCTOBER 2019 CELEBRATION

Glory and praise be to God! The enlightenment and inspiration of God the Father in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit propelled us to meaningfully celebrate the **Extraordinary Missionary Month Celebration** last October 2019. Empowered by His love, the faithful of the Church of Myanmar successfully actualized this special moment of grace.

The Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 was expressively celebrated by the whole local Church in the country. We started the celebration by conducting missionary formation course. With the PMU's kind contribution, the PMS National Office of Myanmar organized the said course and offered in two groups. The first course was hosted in the Diocese of Loikaw and was participated by 159 representatives (71 priests, 50 Women Religious and 38 lay people), from different Church groups in the Diocese of Loikaw, which house the biggest number of Catholics in the country. And the second one was conducted in the Archdiocese of Yangon and was joined by 70 participants representing the different dioceses across the country. This second group was comprised of 28 priests (16 PMS diocesan directors and their collaborators), 32 Women Religious and 2 Men Religious, and 8 lay people. The course adopted the theme, "**BAPTISED AND SENT, THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MISSION IN THE WORLD.**" The formation course followed closely the proposed suggestions in the Guidebook. Through the course, the participants were able to understand and appreciate the celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. It also helped in fostering capacity-building and enthusiasm to the participants in spearheading the celebration in their respective dioceses. The rich resources from the Guidebook also guided the participants in crafting commemorative events in creatively celebrating the extraordinary event in the grassroots. The formation course animated and strengthened the preparation of different stakeholders involved in this special celebration. Indeed, the PMS was elated for the positive results of the **EMM OCT 2019 Celebration** in the whole country because of the good preparation.

The PMS Myanmar also engaged in massive information dissemination. It translated and utilized the pamphlet "**Baptised and Sent**" published by CEP and PMS. It was translated to the local language and shared with the faithful. The **Prayer for celebration** was also translated to Burmese and used in all dioceses. The eight suggestions that were intended to facilitate the local celebration were actualized through publications such as the local monthly newsletters (**The Sower, the Herald, and the Missions**) and the web page specifically Facebook.

Most of the dioceses did the opening of the **EMM** celebration last October 1, 2019. However, in few dioceses, it was held at Parish level for some reasons. Every diocese creatively began the extraordinary celebration with various ceremonies and religious activities. The faithful's engagement was manifested in their active participation in the different activities conducted in parishes and dioceses. Most Opening celebrations were attended by the majority of Catholics in their respective localities.

Some dioceses utilized tarpaulin for information drive. They publicly posted important messages to draw people's attention and encourage participation. The posters aimed to convey relevant messages and information about the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 such as the following:

- The four dimensions specified by the Pope to live intensely the journey of preparation and implementation of the EMM OCT 2019 (i.e., A Personal Encounter with Jesus, Testimony of Missions, Missionary Formation, and Missionary Charity).
- The eight suggestions to facilitate the local celebration.
- The brief historical background and the missions of the four Pontifical Mission Societies.
- The photos on the evangelizing works of those missionaries who first evangelized the local people.
- The explanation of the October 2019 logo: Symbols and Colors.

The lay cooperation was also overwhelming. They were encouraged to pray the Missionary Rosary daily for the whole month of October. This was responded wholeheartedly by the faithful as evidenced by the evening gathering of the people in all ages to pray rosary in different villages in all the dioceses across the country. Missionary Rosaries were also utilized by the lay faithful. They all prayed for the missionary work of the Church. October 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was also a significant hallmark of the celebration here in Myanmar. Almost all Catholics joined in praying the Missionary Rosary on the said day. As per the decision made in the PMS-Asian Continental Meeting, Myanmar was entrusted two consecutive days to pray for the intentions of the thirteen Asian countries. It was faithfully carried out.

Myanmar Catholics also expressed their strong support and active involvement in the celebration through pilgrimages. Various Church groups, pious associations and parishioners made visits to different Marian Shrines. They also showed their appreciation in missionary activities by paying tribute to the missionaries by visiting shrines of missionary martyrs and historical mission places.

The local Church of Myanmar also joined the Universal Church in celebrating the World Mission Sunday. Masses were done in all local churches. Prayer intentions for the Church's mission were highlighted. All the mass collections were gathered and deposited to the **Universal Solidarity Fund**. Impelled by the spirit of missionary charity, there was specific collection meant for our impoverished people in IDP's camps in the northern part of the country.

The missionary impulse was heightened in the month-long celebration. Missionary theme was highlighted in preaching in various masses. Sharing of missionary life and experiences in missions were also done. Other activities include Song Writing Competition and various performances about the theme "Baptised and Sent."

For the great success of the Celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019, I owed a deep debt of gratitude to the International Secretariat of PMU for his generous support. I wished to thank also all the PMS Diocesan Directors and the Parish Priests, without whom there would not have been so much attention given to the Extraordinary Missionary Month.

PMS National Direction, MYANMAR

NAMIBIA

REPORT ON EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

1. Introduction

Mission, Evangelization and PMS in Namibia remains a reality and mushrooming in most parts of the country. In all the ecclesial geographical areas, Windhoek Archdiocese, Keetmanshoop Diocese and Vicariate of Rundu show signs of spiritual growth as the fruits of the missionaries and pastoral agents carried out in the country become apparent. Hence, the huge task ahead is to carry on with mission's promotion and animation by out-reach programmes, media evangelisation and other social-pastoral platforms available. Given this missionary background, this report shall present the PMS activities as active now and the future plan of action. The report includes the financial nature of PMS as well.

2. Mission, Evangelization and Pontifical Mission Society (PMS)

Knowingly, there has been leadership transition at National PMS Potofoli. The previous National PMS Director in Namibia, the then Rev. Fr. Willem Christiaans, OSFS, was appointed/named Bishop of Keetmanshoop Diocese in 2015. Fr. Mathias N. Tshithigona, OMI was named "NEW NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF PONTIFICAL SOCIETY" to succeed him (bishop Willem, OSFS). The appointment became effective on 04th April 2019. On 02 July 2019, 19 August 2019 and occasions, I received induction sessions from Bishop Willem Christians, OSFS, as a process of handing over the PMS portfolio and office to the new national direction. The sessions were very fruitful and successful. We discussed about the mandate and tasks of the four societies, the mission animations in forms of "MISSION OUT-REACH PROGRAMMES" to promote missionary works and evangelization.

3. Missions animation for the past Four months in PMS Office in relations to EMM2019

As Director, I came in office when Pope Francis had already pronounced and announced the extraordinary mission month of October 2019.

It was a challenge to organise and engage the three dioceses, parishes and religious houses to meaningfully celebrate October Mission month and Prayer the rosary as per the universal Church call in short time, with limited sources and Mission Animators. Apart these challenges experienced at PMS, we moved further to organise and prepare the Church in Namibia for the extraordinary mission month. Some of these actions were taken and implemented:

- We opened the “Facebook Page” called “Pontifical Mission Society PMS-Namibia.” Since its establishment, it has been accessible to the hundreds of Catholics, among others. Priests, religious and lay faithful have been encouraged to like it and contribute to the advancement of this page to evangelize through the Social Media. As a result, many people are following it and reading missionary information posted on this social media and information shared with Namibia Catholic Social Media Communications run by Fr. Varanus Shiimi under NCBC.
- In addition, on 23rd August 2019, I had an opportunity to address the Archdiocese Pastoral Council Meeting at Dobra in PMS and its functions, especially the extraordinary month of October. I also distributed some posters and leaflets in the name of PMS.

4. Celebration of extraordinary Mission month 2019

- On 19th October 2019, I addressed Soweto parish on PMS and extraordinary month at the invitation of the parish priest, Fr. Bainju. Approximately, 200 people participated in this meeting and as successful as well.
- Given that this year we celebrated extraordinary mission month, we printed 2000 mission prayer leaflets and 1000 extraordinary mission posters.

These posters have been dispatched to all dioceses. Although the distributions had been done at late stage, due to the insufficient time, the local church was engaged and conscientized about EMM as announced by the Holy Father. In addition, I maintained good communication with the priests, religious and the faithful through email, internet correspondence and Facebook page, particularly about the extraordinary mission month and the rosary prayer services.

- Many parishes and communities celebrated the month, with classic preparations as well. Society of the childhood led many congregations e.g. At Walvis Bay, Good Shepherd Parish, St. Mary’s cathedral, Corpus Christi Wanaheda, St. Mary’s Rundu Cathedral and more others. Ms. Irmgard Thibinyane, has been very active with Childhood society, with missionary children, in St. Mary’s, Wanaheda, Soweto and in Windhoek parishes. At Cathedral, she led the children in the official opening of the month of the mission and mission Sunday Mass. NCBC President of Pastoral Commissions, Bishop Willem, OSFS, also informed me that the Keetmanshoop Diocese had several extraordinary mission month activities, including all clergy meeting, held in Keetmanshoop in September.

5. Mission, Evangelization and Pontifical Mission Societies Requests to NCBC

Regarding the requests PMS can propose at this stage, could be:

- Computer and a printer for PMS Office.
- Bishops to kindly respond to National Director's Letter of 12th September 2019, asking for the appointment of the Diocesan Directors. And officially communicate to the National Direction office on this appointment. This will facilitate the PMS mission animations, to establish the PMS Council both at diocesan and parish levels in Namibia.
- There is a shortage of the Training Materials: SOMA I & SOMA II Books 1000x.
- Some Stationaries: Files, a Shelve+ Wall Word Map.

6. Future Plan and Plan of Action

PMS plans to reprint Lenten envelopes this year. As the Lenten season approaches, the Lenten envelopes have to be ready for distributions in the first week of December 2019. PMS has identified the Church Printing, Angelus Printing to do the printing work. The process to reprint the Lenten envelopes is on the table and we have already communicated with Angelus Printing through Mr. Mike Haidula. About fifty thousand (50 000) envelopes could be printed for all dioceses and vicariate.

It is also in pipeline to identify mission animators in parishes and offer them formative and educational workshops, countrywide.

7. Finance and PMS

Special Collections are normally sent to the Chancery Offices. Not directly to deposited into PMS Account. The Chanceries will distribute them accordingly. By correspondence and social media communications, I have reminded the diocesan parishes and communities in Windhoek archdiocese, Keetmanshoop Diocese and the Apostolic Vicariate of Rundu about this matter. My predecessor, Bishop Willem Christians, OSFS, raised this concern during the induction sessions as a matter to be reinforced in the local Church, given that this misconception continues to reoccurring.

8. Conclusion

Being just at the helm of Pontifical Mission Societies less than four months, I have observed that the missionary work of PMS is in abundance. Although a lot have been accomplished previously by National PMS Direction office in Namibia, there still a need to make PMS more relevant, known and visible in the Local Church in Namibia. With God's help, NCBC and the clergy in collaboration with the laity in parishes, PMS shall achieve its objectives and realise its missionary growth.

PMS National Direction, NAMIBIA

NEW ZEALAND

THE EXTRAORDINARY MONTH OF MISSION OCTOBER 2019

A. The Initial Preparation

The formal preparation began on 20 July 2018 with a group of religious men and women who belong to Religious Missionary Congregation in Wellington. This served as a think-tank group. Among the salient points discussed to serve as guideline were:

- To underline the inter-faith dimension of mission in New Zealand
- Get the current profile of how many Kiwi (New Zealander) Missionaries working overseas.
- Prepare materials to help develop the spirituality of mission today. May this assist to help in promoting the current understanding of mission according to recent documents of the Church.
- Promote spiritual items, e.g. rosary, and its use.
- Prepare a video to highlight Kiwi missionaries in foreign mission.
- Include lay people in the coming preparation meetings.

There were two more preparation meetings that took place in the month of August and September 2018. Six lay persons joined the group. Unfortunately, many of the original members and the lay started to become busier in their day jobs. The Missio-NZ Office was transferred to Auckland. It needed at least a month to transfer and settle down.

B. The Endeavours that follow

- Materials based on resources from Rome has been adapted for the use in New Zealand
- Newsletters, posters, prayer cards (Prayer for EMM) have been distributed to all parishes and all Catholic Schools in New Zealand. The Newsletter carry the Message of Pope Francis, and other stories from the missions.
- MISSIO-NZ held the 2 nights and 2 days Annual general Meeting with the Bishop Liaison for Mission, the Diocesan directors and invited lay leaders from each Diocese. The input, reflections and sharing centred on the Extraordinary Month of Mission.
- A 3-minute video under the instruction of the Catholic Bishops Conference of New Zealand was created. This was done in collaboration with the Catholic Enquiry Centre. Finance was shared. The video was distributed to all Parishes and Schools.
- PowerPoint Presentation on witnesses of the Gospel were produced and distributed to all parishes. The PowerPoint Presentations were on: Venerable Suzanne Aubert – her beatification process is ongoing. Fr Francis Douglas – a Columban Missionary to the Philippines who was martyred by the Japanese during WWII. Fr Emmet McHardy – a Marist

Missionary to the Solomon Islands who witnessed profoundly to the faith. Mother Cecilia Maher – pioneer of the Mercy Sisters in New Zealand. The PowerPoint contains short quotes from the outstanding mentioned witnesses. It was supposed to be played in silence before the Mass starts. This offers an option for people who come in early to have a moment of reflection and prayer using the quotes from the outstanding Witnesses. It may again be played in silence after communion.

- Religious Education Teachers have been encouraged to pray at least a decade of the Rosary with their classes everyday of the month. Related materials have been sent to all school principals to share with their teachers.
- The Columban Fathers organised a weekly reflection open to the communities in Wellington entitled “Call to Mission.”. The topics were reflections on Mission Today.
- MISSIO-NZ Office in collaboration with the lay supporters offered an information booth in an event of the Couples for Christ event participated by some 600 members at least.
- Reflections given by Fr Bernard, the National Directors, to various small groups in various parishes.
- A request from the MISSIO-NZ Office was sent to all the Bishops of New Zealand to encourage all the Parish Priests to truly promote the Extraordinary Month of Mission in their parishes. Also, there has been a request to celebrate a special Liturgy in the Cathedral of each Diocese.
- A special website was created for the Extraordinary Month of Mission (www.missio2019.nz) which carries all the materials that available.
- A Song for the Extraordinary Month of Mission was composed.
- Fr Bill Fletcher, a Kiwi priest from Auckland Diocese wrote Sunday Reflections on the readings and was circulated to all the priests and deacons of the 6 dioceses of New Zealand.
- Articles on the EMM were sent to the existing Diocesan Newspapers from the office of MISSIO-NZ
- A video clip of one minute on the importance of the EMM by Fr Bernard Espiritu was made through the courtesy of the Hamilton Diocesan Media Department. This was sent to all the parishes.

C. General Evaluation.

The MISSIO-NZ Office has explored all possibilities to promote the spirit of the Extraordinary Month of Mission. In general, there was a very average effort to promote the spirit of the month in many parishes. It will still be too early to have a more realistic evaluation of the month.

It will be an ideal opportunity to have a similar program over the coming years, a month-long period of time dedicated to the reflection of the missionary aspect of our Catholic life in New Zealand. I will suggest to the Bishops the possibility of making the month of October as a Month of Mission to help further the mission education of the faithful.

PMS National Direction, NEW ZEALAND

NIGERIA

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH OF OCTOBER 2019, CELEBRATED BY THE CHURCH IN NIGERIA.

Preamble

The celebration of the Extraordinary Mission Month, EMMOCT 2019, by the Church in Nigeria was very unique and it further brought to fore the collaborative unity among the country's Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), Priests, Religious and Lay faithful of the country in terms of the evangelization apostolate of the Church.

Primarily, 2019 Mission Month of October, was indeed extraordinary for the Universal Church, as a result of the celebration of the centenary anniversary of the epoch-making Apostolic Letter of Pope Benedict XV, *Maximum Illud* (1919) on the Propagation of the Faith throughout the world. The document, which came into limelight immediately after the First World War (1914-1918), emphasizes the need for a more evangelical approach to missionary work of the Church all over the world.

To mark the anniversary, the Holy Father, Pope Francis on October 22nd, 2017, declared his intention to choose the month of October for the celebration of an Extraordinary Mission, with the theme: Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World. The purpose of this celebration is to reawaken our awareness of the mission *ad gentes* and working with new impulse to further the missionary transformation of life and pastoral activity. Missionary activity, according to Pope Francis, renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Our reflection on our missionary responsibilities as baptized persons offers us the opportunity to see how far we have come, where we are today and our prospects for a better and more effective missionary Church.

Celebration Focus and Programmes

The celebration by the Church in Nigeria centred on the four dimensions articulated by the Holy Father Pope Francis. The four-thrusts-dimension of the celebration are: 1) Personal Encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, Word of God and Prayer; 2) Witness of Missionary Saints and Martyrs, canonised or not; 3) On-going formation on the Bible, Catechism, spirituality and theology; and lastly, 4) Missionary charity.

Following the directive of the Vatican, the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) in Nigeria organized various spiritual and pastoral activities for all segments of the Body of Christ – the Church in Nigeria. The programmes put in place took place in all the Archdioceses and dioceses of the country

at the diocesan, provincial and national levels; as approved by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria. The programmes included celebration of the Mass, recitation of the Rosary, prayers, adoration workshops, lectures, talks and animation of priests, religious, catechists, the affiliate bodies of PMS and the various societies and groups of the laity, with emphasis on the charism of each group and how to make them more vibrant and effective in their evangelization apostolate.

Activities marking the celebration started all over the country in June 2019 and lasted till the month of October with the Mission Sunday celebration and collections in all the dioceses. However, the celebration culminated at the National level with the celebration of the Fourth National Mission Congress held in Benin City, Edo State, from October 22 to 26. Lectures, talks, workshops and other training and pastoral activities were facilitated by experts in the respective sub-themes chosen by each of the Archdioceses and dioceses; in relevance to the general theme of the celebration as adapted by the Church in the country in conformity with the general theme of the Universal Church. Other activities carried out at of the celebration in the Archdioceses and dioceses included:

- Singing competition and other activities by HCA members
- Home to Home Visitation, to share the word of God and evangelize.
- Visitations, especially to the sick and the elderly, at home and in the hospitals
- Prison apostolate
- Care for and visit to Orphanages in some dioceses.
- Parish and public evaluation of the missionary activities and contributions of the various pious societies, groups, bodies and associations in all the parishes.
- Daily attendance to morning mass and praying of mission rosary in the families.
- "Donation" (of selves and resources) for missionary services in the parishes and possible commissioning as; Catechism instructors, HCA animators, Church wardens, Choristers, Mass servers, Alter Girls, etc.
- Lectures and Talks on the Extra Ordinary Mission Month.

National Grand Finale

The Extraordinary Mission Month celebration was rounded up in the country with the 4th National Mission Congress and the Celebration of the Extraordinary Mission Month in Benin City, Edo State. It was presided over by the President of the Bishops' Conference and Archbishop of Benin City, Most Rev. Augustine Obiora Akubeze and lasted from 22nd till Saturday, Oct 26th. It featured: the celebration of the opening Mass, presentation of papers by experts on different relevant sub-themes of the major theme of the Mission month celebration and Mission Exhibition. It was attended by about 40 members of the Bishops' Conference, while the closing Mass was graced by the

international President of the Pontifical Mission Societies from the Vatican, Archbishop Giampietro Dal Toso and the Papal Nuncio to Nigeria, Antonio Guido Filipazzi. Also, at the grand finale celebration, late Vivian Ogu of Benin Archdiocese and Blessed Michael Iwene Tansi were acknowledged and celebrated as two outstanding Nigerian Heroic Missionaries.

Conclusion

The Extraordinary Mission Month celebration in Nigeria was indeed very remarkable as the desired objective of reawakening the missionary zeal and apostolate of the faithful of the Church in the country was realized as indicated by the enthusiasm of all the participants in all the activities of the celebration and their avowed promised to be more articulate in their evangelization activities. Also, the collaborative support received from the country's Bishops' Conference and active participation of the Bishops in most of the activities at all levels indicated a versatile commitment of the hierarchy of the Church in enhancing the evangelization apostolate of the Church by exemplary means in the country. Furthermore, the notable increase in the membership of all the affiliate bodies of PMS, especially the Holy Childhood Association (HCA); as well as the interest by many lay faithful in the activities of PMS in the country was another pointer to the successful outcome of the celebration.

Worthy of mention was the extra ordinary Mission Sunday Collection in Lafia diocese. In view of the above, the office of the National Director of PMS is currently putting in place plans to sustain the interests and enthusiasm of the lay faithful in the missionary activities of the Church in Nigeria. We are really grateful for the prayers and invaluable support of the Holy Father, the CBCN, as well as the cooperation of the entire faithful of the Church in Nigeria for the new and encouraging landscape of the evangelization apostolate of the local Church, by the celebration of the Extraordinary Mission Month.

PMS National Direction, NIGERIA

PAKISTAN

SUMMARY REPORT OF EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH OCTOBER 2019

Pope Francis announced to the whole Church his intention to designate an Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 to celebrate the 100th anniversary Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*. It has been 100 anniversary since Pope Benedict XV issued the apostolic letter *Maximum Illud* which His Holiness Pope Francis describes as a milestone in the evolution of the Church's missionary activities.

The EMM was a very special month to prayer and strengthen our missionary vocation. It was an opportunity to encourage all to reflect on and pray for the mission of the Church.

The EMM was taken to the heart of Pakistani Church. It has provided an opportunity to the local Church to deepen their understanding and reinvigorate their missionary zeal. The national office had played a vital role to highlight the importance of EMM and it was felt to have this extraordinary missionary month with great missionary zeal.

The national and local PMS teams met several times and planned different activities on national and diocesan level. The PMS national team met many times and charted out all activities for the local church on national level. Many activities were planned and organized for all sphere of life.

The National office organized two national programs and diocesan directors were asked to arrange activities regarding EMM in their respective dioceses. The focus of all activities to rekindle and revolutionize the missionary commitment. A national program was organized for the young animators who are involve indifferent activities of the Church and specially those who have been closely working with PMS. Nearly 60 animators and teachers from all over Pakistan came along with their diocesan directors and their collaborators. His Excellency Samson Shukardin, Chairman of PMS and The Apostolic Nuncio H. E. Christophe Z. El Kassis graced this occasion and offered deep reflections on Church's mission.

Another program was arranged for priests on missionary formation. The priests from all dioceses came to attend the program. We were blessed with the presence of His Grace Archbishop Joseph Arshad, His Grace Archbishop Sebastian Shaw, His Excellency Benny and His Excellency Samson Shukardin. It was well attended and all priests showed a great interest by sharing this views about mission.

The national director and diocesan directors visited many Church and shared about the importance of having extraordinary Mission Month. The different leaflet, brochures, missionary prayer cards and other printing material regarding EMM were distributed in all dioceses to explain the intention of Holy Father and emphasize on missionary activities of the Church.

All dioceses had official opening of the missionary month. On this occasion special Mission Mass and programs were organized in all the dioceses. Different programs like seminars for teachers, animators, catechists, priests and religious and prayer services held in different dioceses.

The various groups in the dioceses prepared for the Extraordinary Missionary Month to organized different programs. The different ways can be summarized in communion, faith sharing, discernment and proclamation. One theme that ran through many of these ideas highlight the local connection to mission. There were variety of events planned, special Mission Mass with priests, religious and faithful. The religious communities were invited to share and celebrate their mission stories of enculturation, how their witness to the Gospel took root in the countries they served.

Sharing faith is a strong desire to tell the story of mission especially there is a strong connection locally to that story. Finally, the local church see the “periphery” – people in need – coming to our cities; how do we welcome into our communities the strangers. One diocese used the Extraordinary Missionary Month to launch a whole year of activities to encourage and accompany parishes as they become more intentional about their “missionary impulse.” PMS is reaching out to people to share how they respond to the call to mission through prayer, fasting, and other spiritual works.

At the heart of EMM, the faithful are invited to consider how they are living their call to mission. For some, it will be spiritual activities – the mission rosary, encouraging others to consider mission, and welcoming the missionary. For others, it will involve their time and talent. Finally, the Holy Trinity is moving within each person’s heart, prompting them to move beyond themselves, step outside their comfort zone, cross some type of border, risk a personal encounter with a complete stranger, and do it all as a witness to Jesus.

Celebrating this month helped us first to rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ, a faith graciously bestowed on us in baptism. The objective of celebrating the Extraordinary Missionary Month is to awaken the awareness of the spirituality and importance of baptism and proclamation in our life as Christians.

At the end I would like to thank all bishops, priests, religious, catechists and lay faithful for their generous collaboration and support for making this Extraordinary Mission Month a landmark for Pakistani Church.

PMS National Direction, PAKISTAN

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH IN PNG/SI

Everything in 2019 was connected with the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019. From January till now the PMS Office has been sending all kind of reflections, “things for thought”, leaflets about baptism and mission, “Baptised and Sent Bulletin”(11), meditations, etc. in order to foster some “missionary thinking”. All our activities this year were connected with the motto: “Baptise and Sent”.

In August, we were blessed to have here with the visit Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, PIME, the General Secretary of the PMU, from Rome. We visited many places in PNG and SI and reminded many lay and religious people about their missionary responsibilities coming from their baptism. It was a good time for us to remind everybody about the EMM2019 and what they can do to foster missionary spirit in communities and dioceses.

The second big event connected with the EMM2019 activities, was the first Missiological Symposium in Bomana (Port Moresby) which was from 25th to 26th September 2019. The symposium was well attended, (around 300 people) and was well accepted by many participants, laity and religious. The speakers were from Malaysia, Fiji, Philippines and PNG and they gave a lot of insides on the mission of the Church from different points of view. We looked at the change in understanding of mission in the teaching of the Church in the last 100 years. We looked at mission from the point of view of lay people from Fiji, man and women, and we looked at the new ways of evangelization in our “global village”/ world. At the end we looked at our mission in the parish, as a field of evangelization. During the discussions after the main talks, all participants had a chance to deepen their understanding of mission and situated it in their own lives. The PMS Office in PNG was a main organizer of this event, through the great financial support from PMU, Rome.

The PMS office was not informed yet about all mission activities in PNG/SI during this extraordinary month and the effect of these activities in different dioceses or parishes. We just heard about some initiatives by some dioceses and parishes: eg. the Alotau Diocese had the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress with the motto; “Baptised and Sent”. The whole diocese was involved in praying and reflecting on mission and Eucharist. They had even produced the liturgical vestments with the motto and logo - “Baptised and Sent”. Some other dioceses had a big celebration (Kundiawa, Rabaul, Madang), other were concentrating more on parish celebrations.

As usual the PMS Office produced a poster and various materials to help to facilitate different activities in each dioceses, parishes and schools. The mission materials were distributed to all bishops, priests, religious, different congregations, coordinators and different offices of lay people. The special

mission reflections/mediations on each day of October were sent via electronic means as “WhatsApp” and Messenger etc. that many people could read, reflect and meditate on the mission mandate and their responsibilities using their own phones.

We believe all these activities helped to open minds and hearts of many people to the universal mission of the Church and our responsibility for in it.

The part of the EMM2019 program is the three years Pastoral Program of the PNG/SI Church. This year was dedicated to the holiness of the laity. The coming year (2020) is dedicated to “Our Catholic Laity: Holy and FORMED for MISSION, as the Pastoral Letter of CBC stated. The PMS office is very much involved in this Pastoral Program. That is what I have been trying to do for the last 11 years as the PMS Director.

The PMS office will be even more involved in “forming for mission. The office will prepare more materials for the “domestic church” (help parents, help children, help all families, help different associations, movement, devotional groups, etc.) to be more mission minded.

We will be ready to give some guidelines for professionals and non-professionals to help them to be missionaries in their own “world”.

We already start to do so. At the end of November (26th-29th November 2019) the PMS Office together with the expert from EAPI Manila will be running the Workshop for the Diocesan Lay Coordinators. The formation for mission of laity will be the main theme. It is the continuation of Missiological Symposium – “Baptised and Sent” and in the line of the three years Pastoral Plan of the PNG/SI Church. This workshop is again sponsored by the PMU, Rome and local PMS Director is very much involved in it.

Many more programs are prepared to follow up the EMM2019 but the challenge is how the people (bishops, priests and others) will be open to invite, organize and sponsor all these activities.

PMS National Direction, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PERÚ

INFORME DEL MES MISIONERO EXTRAORDINARIO OCTUBRE 2019

En el Perú se tomó la iniciativa desde las Obras Misionales Pontificias de escribir una carta el 7 de marzo de 2018 al presidente de la Conferencia Episcopal Peruana, Mons. Miguel Cabrejos sugiriendo que el Año 2019 será declarado para la iglesia en el Perú un Año Misionero con énfasis al MME octubre 2019 tal cual han hecho otros países en América y en el mundo. Lamentablemente no había respuesta a esta propuesta. En el Perú no hay un plan pastoral episcopal como referente para toda la acción misionera. Solo dos meses antes del MME recibí una invitación de parte de Mons. David Martínez, presidente de CENAMIS (Centro Nacional de Misiones) para participar en reuniones de coordinación en vista del MME.

Las OMP en Perú quisimos mantener el objetivo general del Mes Misionero Extraordinario en línea de lo que quiso el Papa Francisco: Mantener viva la conciencia misionera universal de la iglesia para que todos llevemos en el corazón el anuncio del evangelio y la conversión misionera y evangelizadora de nuestras propias comunidades. Que crezca la pasión por Jesús y por su pueblo.

Como líneas de programas también hemos considerado el compromiso de la conversión personal y comunitaria a Cristo crucificado, resucitado y vivo en su Iglesia. Primero a través de la oración y crecimiento espiritual fomentando un encuentro personal con Jesucristo, renovado desde la Eucaristía, la Palabra de Dios, oración personal y comunitaria. Luego resaltar el testimonio de vida especialmente de misioneros, santos y mártires de la misión. También aprovechamos la oportunidad para fortalecer la formación bíblica y misionera impulsando la cooperación generosa de la caridad solidaria con las Iglesias más necesitadas.

Animación y renovación misionera:

Desde el mes de enero 2019 las obras misionales pontificias del Perú hemos coordinado y organizado la visita de un periodista Paolo Annechini que vino desde la Santa Sede al Perú con la finalidad de filmar experiencias de vida contemplativa y promover la oración como el alma de la misión. Se elaboró un documental La oración: Es alma de la Misión. La oración es el alma de la Misión 3 (youtube.com). Hemos filmado las Madres Nazarenas Carmelitas Descalzas del Santuario del Señor de los Milagros con algunas vistas de la casa donde vivió Santa Rosa de Lima y comentarios del director nacional OMP comentando la importancia de la oración como uno de los pulmones que mueven misión. Este documental estuvo casi todo el año colgado en la página oficial de la Santa Sede MME.

Al inicio del año también se organizó un concurso de Canto Misionero para jóvenes y adultos y también un concurso de dibujos misionero para niños y adolescentes con la finalidad es concientizar en todos los Niños y Adolescentes, la importancia de nuestro bautismo y descubrir que a partir de este sacramento somos misioneros, enviados por el mismo Jesucristo a anunciar el evangelio. (Mt. 28, 19). Como publicamos las bases a través de la página web participaron también grupos de diferentes países. El concurso musical tuvo su culminación con la presentación del Ministerio de Música Jésed, grupo musical mexicano que vino al Perú para hacer presentaciones musicales con el lema: Bautizados y enviados en diferentes parroquias, y centros comerciales clausurando el Mes Misionero Extraordinario. El mismo grupo Jésed compuso también una canción exclusiva con el lema misionero.

Se organizó un retiro para profundizar la formación de las FAMILIAS MISIONERAS desde 30, 31 agosto 1 setiembre en la Casa José De Piro en Magdalena. Con el apoyo de un equipo de dos parejas de Familias Misioneras de Paraguay se ofreció este retiro “Familia Bautizada Familia Misionera” para fortalecer la FAMIS y formar parte de la renovación misionera de nuestra iglesia a participar en el retiro para familias misioneras. Participaron veinte parejas.

Se realizó el VII Congreso Nacional Juvenil Misionero 13 al 15 setiembre de 2019 en la Prelatura de Chuiquibamba en la ciudad de Camaná. El tema principal fue: “Llamados por el bautismo a ser los misioneros de Jesús”. Unos 2,000 jóvenes de diferentes jurisdicciones eclesíásticas del Perú participaban en oración, charlas, talleres y una marcha misionera en las calles principales. El objetivo general fue de despertar en los jóvenes el compromiso misionero adquirido desde el bautismo para ser testigo de la misericordia y la alegría anunciando el Evangelio a los que viven apartados de Cristo en el mundo de hoy.

Elaboración de Rosarios Misioneros:

El siete de setiembre hemos hecho el lanzamiento del Concurso del Santo Rosario Misionero. Es una iniciativa especialmente dirigida a los centros educativos para promover la creatividad en elaborar rosarios misioneros de diferentes materiales con el lema ‘Bautizados y Enviados. Fines de setiembre se organizó la conferencia bíblica misionera en el auditorio de las OMP. Esta conferencia fue dirigida especialmente a profesores de colegios, y animadores de las OMP en diferentes parroquias. La finalidad fue de transmitirles el fundamento bíblico de la misión universal de la iglesia y nuestra corresponsabilidad desde el bautismo de participar en la extensión del evangelio a todos los pueblos. Así se explicó el Mes Misionero Extraordinario octubre 2019 con un documental preparado “ad Hoc”. También en la segunda parte hemos dado información sobre todo el material audio visual

misionero disponible y la programación de las actividades misioneras durante el mes de octubre. Participaron unas 150 personas.

Octubre Misionero:

El primero de octubre se inauguró el mes misionero extraordinario celebrando la fiesta de Santa Teresita del Niño Jesús en el Santuario del Señor de los Milagros. Allí con la participación de los niños de la Infancia Misionera resaltamos la importancia de la dimensión contemplativa de la evangelización. También se organizó el sábado 5 de octubre un rosario misionero público por la vida, la familia y la paz con la participación del Nuncio Apostólico Mons. Nicola Girasoli y una gran multitud de diferentes colegios y parroquias.

Redes sociales y medios de comunicación social:

Hemos aprovechado también las redes sociales y los medios de comunicación para difundir el MME. Se publicó la Revista Perú Misionero con artículos relacionados al mes misionero de octubre. También se produjo spots audio y visual pregonando el MME y también el DOMUND. Se grabó y se repartió a diferentes medios un mini mensaje espiritual misionero diario en diferentes emisoras católicas u otros. Además, tuvimos programas de una hora en la mañana todos los sábados de octubre en Radio María. Atraves de estos programas hemos explicado las cuatro obras misioneras y el MME. Explicando el MME terminando con un open day toda la mañana del sábado 26.

Aprovechamos la amistad de algunas empresas para anticipar el MME con mensajes gratuitos en paneles led. El viernes cuatro de octubre en el auditorio de la sede central de las OMP se hizo la presentación del libro Fe la llave de los Milagros. Es una compilación de diferentes experiencias de vivencia de fe de diferentes personas y el protagonismo laical en la tarea de evangelizar. Se destacó en esta presentación la vocación misionera laical. En este libro; Fe, la llave de los Milagros, el autor nos enseña que cuando permitimos que el Espíritu Santo actúe en nuestra vida nos movemos a predicar el evangelio con poder. Predicando en más de 22 países Gustavo narra cómo es posible volver a vivir la alegría de la primitiva iglesia que en nombre del Resucitado y movidos por el Espíritu restauraban a todos los que se sentían debilitados en cuerpo y alma. Se exhortó para que el MME sirva para que nuestras comunidades parroquiales tocados por el Espíritu Santo pueden renovarse para vivir una pastoral más Cristo céntrica y menos clerical. Los laicos desde el bautismo tienen el deber derecho de ser evangelizadores. El Papa Pablo VI nos dijo claro: “Ama a las misiones quien de verdad ama a Cristo y a su iglesia”. El Santo Papa Juan Pablo II complemento esto diciendo “El verdadero misionero es el Santo”.

Hemos elaborado junto con el Centro Nacional Episcopal de Misiones un dvd en el cual entregamos detalles de formación y animación misionera para organizar Semana Misionera Parroquial durante el MME. Se organizó también con la Conferencia de Religiosos un Simposio Misionero: Misión y Ecología: camino de evangelización los días 15 al 17 de octubre.

Se convocó una conferencia de prensa en el auditorio de la Conferencia Episcopal Peruana, el jueves 10 de octubre, con motivo del el Mes Misionero Extraordinario octubre 2019 y lanzamiento de la Campaña Mundial a favor de las Misiones – DOMUND 2019 que tiene como lema: “Bautizados y enviados a anunciar el evangelio”. Participaron un buen número de medios de comunicación como también representantes de congregaciones religiosos, religiosas y laicales.

En la víspera del DOMUND se hizo la vigilia misionera en todas las jurisdicciones eclesíásticas publicada en la Revista Perú Misionero agosto-octubre 2019. En la mañana del DOMUND hicimos una jornada de ayuno y oración de 9.30am hasta las 3.00pm en el atrio del Templo del Señor de los Milagros. El ayuno tenía como finalidad ser solidarios con los miles de niños que mueren anualmente por el hambre. A las 5.00pm se celebró una Misa de Acción de Gracias en el Santuario del Señor de los Milagros por la santidad y perseverancia de todos los misioneros anunciando el evangelio en los lugares más difíciles.

Los días jueves 24 y viernes 25 se hizo la colecta publica pro misiones. En estos dos días tenemos permiso del Ministerio del Interior para salir en las calles a lo largo y ancho del Perú y realizar la colecta solidaria con las misiones. Muchos centros educativos han apoyado con sus estudiantes. Con diferentes formas creativas y talentos logran a llamar la atención y conseguir la cooperación misionera. Las OMP colocamos carpas en lugares estratégicas como centros de acopio y para apoyar a las personas que promueven la colecta. Terminamos las actividades misioneras con la celebración de una Misa en el Santuario del Señor de los Milagros, por la salud de los bienhechores vivos y el descanso eterno de los difuntos.

POS MME octubre 2019:

Tal cual nos indicó Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso en su mensaje hemos pensando en buscar iniciativas permanentes para que siga la formación y animación misionera después del MME.

Iniciativa 1: Durante el mes misionero en forma espontánea nació la iniciativa de la adoración Eucarística por las vocaciones misioneras en la capilla de las OMP todos los días jueves. Esta iniciativa sigue durante todo el año.

Iniciativa 2: Se inició un esquema de bienhechores permanentes que hasta ahora tienen una buena acogida.

Iniciativa 3: La organización de Encuentros regionales Misioneros. Está previsto el Encuentro Misionero Regional del Sur en agosto 2021.

Agradecer a Dios por todos los beneficios derramados con esta iniciativa MME

Dirección Nacional de las OMP, PERÚ

PHILIPPINES

SUMMARY REPORT ON EMM

We praise the good Lord for inspiring the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to declare October 2019 as Extraordinary Missionary Month (EMM).

Preparation

Communication During the 2018 Annual General Assembly of PMS Diocesan Directors, a.k.a Diocesan Mission Directors, PMS – Philippines requested Bishop Arturo Bastes, Chairman, Episcopal Commission on Mission, to remind and encourage the Assembly to prepare for EMM by drawing up mission program and organizing mission-related activities. On January 15, 2019 we wrote all of them about the matter as a “follow-up”.

Providentially, in celebration of 2019 as the Year of the Youth in the nine-year itinerary towards 2021 when we celebrate the 500th Year of Christianity in the Philippines, the Episcopal Commission on Youth has adopted as its theme “The Filipino Youth in Mission: Beloved. Gifted. Empowered.” Thus, the youth formation program and activities this year dovetailed with EMM. PMS – Philippines has had many opportunities to work with different youth groups in relation to mission formation.

On March 4, 2019 we promoted the EMM website by sending an email on the matter to all Local Ordinaries and / or Diocesan Chanceries, Diocesan Mission Directors, Superiors of Religious Congregations and of Societies of Apostolic Life (both members and non-members of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines), Executive Secretaries of Episcopal Commissions, Committees and Offices of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines, Catholic schools, contemplative communities, Secular Institutes, lay organizations, movements and associations, seminaries and houses of formation.

On March 14, 2019 upon our representation Bishop Bastes wrote all the Local Ordinaries reminding and encouraging them about EMM. Some bishops issued respective circular letters on the matter.

Animation PMS – Philippines was invited to give talks on mission and on EMM in fourteen ecclesiastical jurisdictions on the arch/diocesan level or the level of the Prelature or Apostolic Vicariate. The PMS – Philippines staff was also invited to do the same in thirty-three different parishes, schools and offices. Other Diocesan Mission Directors got other available resource persons. Our 2019 General Assembly’s theme was that of EMM’s and we had the following as resource persons: Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, Papal

Nuncio, and Bishop Socrates Mesiona, former PMS – Philippines National Director, among other speakers.

Publication Our office had the following printed and distributed nationwide: The Missions Newsletter featuring EMM, poster on EMM, and a daily mission reflection booklet for the month of October 2019. The soft copy of this booklet was shared to all PMS National Offices worldwide. Many of them responded with appreciation. We also reprinted the EMM brochure published by Rome and distributed it to thousands and thousands of people.

Media Both mass media and social media were employed to promote EMM. Two different secular national newspapers (Philippine Sunday Inquirer and Philippine Star) carried news items on EMM.

Teasers prepared by our office were aired by Radio Veritas 846, TV Maria and by one secular radio station, DWLL 94.7 FM. We were also interviewed live on the air four times by Radio Veritas 846, once by another church radio station, DWBL 91.9 Bright FM, and three times by a secular combined radio and tv stations, DZMM Teleradyo Patrol 630. Once, the PMS National Director's talk on EMM was broadcasted live on the air by Radio Veritas 846.

PMS – Philippines reposted in its social media accounts EMM updates from Rome. Its own prepared teasers were posted in its own social media accounts, as well.

Prayer Parishes, church communities and individuals were reminded and encourage to pray for EMM and to pray the EMM prayer. Based on the agreement among the Asian PMS National Mission Directors we also prayed for a couple of days for the particular intentions of a particular Asian country.

Celebration

Different ecclesiastical territories celebrated EMM in different ways. Some had mission assemblies involving priests, religious, lay and youth leaders. Others highlighted the role of the catechists. Still others re-launched the Holy Childhood Association and / or the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Many had mission as the theme or focus of their respective monthly recollection for the clergy, the religious and the different lay organizations, movements and associations.

On October 18, 2019 the Archdiocese of Manila and the Pontifical Mission Societies - Philippines organized the *Pista ng Misyon* (Feast of Mission) in celebration of EMM. It was held in Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City. The gathering featured musical performances, testimonies, interviews and prayers. It was capped with the Holy Mass attended by bishops, priests, the religious and lay people from all walks of life. At least 8,300 participants, performers, sharers and volunteers turned

out for the event. Those who gathered represented 28 arch/dioceses and Apostolic Vicariates in the Philippines. Aside from His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, the celebration was also graced by the presence of the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Gabrielle Caccia, as well as by Archbishop Romulo Valles, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and nine other bishops. At least, 7,525 World Mission Rosary beads were distributed. The whole celebration was covered live both by Radio Veritas 846 and TV Maria.

PMS – Philippines arranged to have three World Mission Sunday Masses broadcasted live on the air:

October 20, 2019 - 6:00 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Mandaluyong City, live on Radio Veritas 846;

October 20, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord, SM Megamall, live on CNN Philippines;

October 20, 2019 - 5:00 p.m. Mass at the Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord, SM Megamall, live on Radio Veritas 846 and TV Maria.

Even after October 2019 PMS – Philippines has other invitations for mission animation in different ecclesiastical territories and communities. Indeed, over and beyond promoting, preparing for and celebrating EMM, we need to live it out as individuals and as a Church.

PMS National Direction, PHILIPPINES

POLONIA

RAPPORTO SULLA PREPARAZIONE E L'IMPLEMENTAZIONE DEL MMS OTT 2019

La direzione nazionale delle POM in Polonia per il Mese Missionario Straordinario ottobre 2019, ha invitato a cooperare tutti gli ambienti missionari del paese e la sezione della missiologia presso la facoltà teologica della Università Cardinale Wyszyński di Varsavia.

La direzione nazionale delle POM ha preparato delle attività in diversi campi come:

- la formazione globale attraverso i mass media
- la formazione concreta di sacerdoti, suore e chierici, catechisti laici
- la pubblicazione dei sussidi di formazione secondo le esigenze delle parrocchie

Le principali attività per il Mese Missionario Straordinario sono state:

1. Attraverso la direzione nazionale abbiamo spedito ed abbiamo fatto recapitare ad ogni diocesi e congregazione religiosa la Guida del MMS ottobre 2019 pubblicata dalla CEP/POM.
2. È stata scritta una lettera pastorale dalla Conferenza Episcopale Polacca che annunciava il MMS e invitava a partecipare alle iniziative preparate e proposte. Questa lettera è stata letta in tutte le parrocchie e cappelle in Polonia.
3. L'Assemblea Nazionale delle POM è stata dedicata a presentare ed impostare la direzione del lavoro missionario nelle diocesi durante il MMS.
4. La Commissione Missionaria della Conferenza Episcopale Polacca ha discusso la possibilità di approfittare del MMS per una più ampia sensibilizzazione alle iniziative delle POM. Il direttore nazionale che fa parte di suddetta Commissione ha informato sullo stato di avanzamento dei lavori preparatori.
5. Abbiamo preparato dei sussidi con le letture speciali e meditazioni del rosario missionario per tutto il mese d'ottobre che sono state proposte alle parrocchie e alle case religiose (diffusione di 8.000 copie).
6. Abbiamo preparato le Meditazioni di ogni giorno alla Liturgia della Parola e le meditazioni del rosario missionario pubblicate in collaborazione con la casa editrice Edizioni Paoline.
7. Il Bollettino liturgico dell'Ottobre 2019 pubblicato dalle Edizioni Paoline è stato preparato dall'Ufficio nazionale delle POM.
8. È stata scritta una lettera agli Ordini Contemplativi che li invitava ad unirsi nella preghiera con la celebrazione del MMS.
9. È stata scritta una lettera ai sacerdoti in pensione, residenti nelle Case di Riposo, chiedendo la preghiera e l'offerta della loro sofferenza per le missioni e il MMS.

10. I sussidi per le celebrazioni missionarie pubblicate sistematicamente ogni anno dalle POM, nel 2019 hanno assunto la forma di una novena in preparazione al MMS, e sono state inviate alle parrocchie per un numero di 8.900 di copie.
11. Abbiamo preparato una Novena speciale (Nove mesi della preparazione) indirizzata alle congregazioni e ai conventi femminili sulla base di citazioni della Lettera di Papa Francesco che annuncia il MMS. Per la Novena abbiamo preparato nove poster speciali.
12. Si sono svolte diversi ritiri spirituali per sacerdoti e catechisti laici sulla base del MMS.
13. Sono stati preparati alcuni argomenti presi dalle indicazioni del Santo Padre, presentati nella rivista bimestrale *Missioni d'Oggi*.
14. È stato pubblicato un numero speciale del giornale missionario per bambini *Mondo della missione*.
15. Nell'anno di riferimento, la direzione nazionale ha preparato 2 video (con sottotitoli in 3 lingue), spiegando il MMS e la sua importanza.
16. Su gentile richiesta della direzione nazionale delle POM, il Nunzio Apostolico in Polonia, arcivescovo Salvatore Pennacchio ha preparato un video messaggio alla Chiesa in Polonia sull'importanza della buona esecuzione del MMS.
17. Nel Santuario Nazionale di Jasna Góra hanno recitato ogni giorno la preghiera di Papa Francesco per l'Ottobre 2019. Questa preghiera si trasmetteva ogni sera via TV Trwam e Radio Maryja.
18. Ogni domenica dell'Ottobre 2019 sono state celebrate le Sante Messe trasmesse dai media nazionali, soprattutto per i malati e gli anziani rimati a casa. In ogni Eucaristia sono stati discussi gli argomenti del MMS.
19. I sussidi liturgici e pastorali per la settimana missionaria, a motivo del MMS, sono stati arricchiti includendo la Preghiera di Papa Francesco, la preghiera missionaria per i bambini, una proposta di preghiera dei fedeli per ogni giorno e gli schemi delle catechesi scolastiche (11.000 copie).
20. È stato preparato un calendario murale che presenta i Patroni del MMS e le idee principali di questo evento (30.000 copie).
21. Sono stati preparati 31 cortometraggi con delle testimonianze dei missionari polacchi che ogni giorno sono stati trasmessi sui social media.
22. Per le esigenze del reparto promozione e social media, sono stati pubblicati segnalibri, borse e immagnetite con logo del MMS.
23. Sulla pagina principale delle POM è stato collocato un banner informativo occasionale e dei link dedicati ad eventi relativi al MMS.

24. Ogni giorno sui siti Web e social media abbiamo fatto comparire le immagini e i testi del Santo padre o di Pauline Jaricot.
25. Abbiamo proposto a tutti i seminari maggiori in Polonia di organizzare una conferenza di inaugurazione del nuovo anno scolastico su questioni missionarie o di missiologia.
26. Secondo la nostra proposta, l'Unione delle Superiori Maggiori delle Congregazioni Femminili presso la commissione della Conferenza Episcopale Polacca hanno discusso il tema dell'esperienza del MMS in ogni casa religiosa.
27. L'Assemblea delle POM e di altri ambienti missionari che si svolge ogni anno a Czestpchow, questa volta è stata dedicata al tema della partecipazione per il MMS nelle diocesi e nelle parrocchie.
28. È stata creata una piattaforma virtuale sulla quale le diocesi polacche hanno condiviso i loro eventi nelle loro chiese diocesane.
29. È stato preparato un piano per coordinare le attività dei media e della stampa in tutta la Polonia.
30. La direzione nazionale POM ha organizzato una conferenza stampa per il lancio del MMS cui hanno partecipato oltre 20 rappresentanti di agenzie di stampa, d'informazione e giornalisti.
31. È stato preparato un Simposio Missionario Internazionale in collaborazione con la sezione di missiologia della Università Cardinale Wyszyński a Varsavia.
32. La Direzione Nazionale ha raggiunto tutti i maggiori settimanali cattolici, in modo che gli articoli missionari e gli argomenti sul MMS fossero pubblicati periodicamente.

Secondo le nostre conoscenze, le forme più popolari di celebrazione del MMS nelle diocesi sono state:

Congressi diocesani, forum missionari, simposi, celebrazioni solenni presiedute dal vescovo diocesano, concorsi artistici per bambini, giochi sul campo per i giovani, rosario missionario nei santuari diocesani, programmi radiofonici e televisivi, incontri occasionali, etc.

Direzione Nazionale POM, POLONIA

PORTUGAL

TODOS, TUDO E SEMPRE EM MISSÃO

“Acolhendo com alegria a proposta do Papa Francisco de um Mês Missionário Extraordinário para toda a Igreja, nós, Bispos portugueses, propomo-nos ir mais longe e celebraremos esse mês como etapa final de um Ano Missionário em todas as nossas Dioceses, de outubro de 2018 a outubro de 2019”.

Com estas palavras da Nota Pastoral para o Ano Missionário e o Mês Missionário Extraordinário: “*Todos, Tudo e Sempre em Missão*” estava dado o arranque para que em todas as Dioceses se fizesse a experiência de missão.

Todas as 21 Dioceses de Portugal abriram o Ano Missionário extraordinário com uma celebração presidida pelo bispo local no início de outubro de 2018. Cada Diocese fez essa abertura à sua maneira: Umas com o símbolo da talha acesa, que percorreu toda a Diocese e que as famílias levaram para suas casas, lembravam que a fé é uma chama que não podemos deixar apagar mas que temos de comunicar a todos. Outras com os símbolos da Sagrada Escritura, a Cruz e o Círio Pascal percorrendo os diversos arciprestados foram sendo ocasião de diversas catequeses missionárias que apelavam a uma maior consciência do cristão ni mundo. Outras fizeram o anúncio da abertura do Ano Missionário enfeitando as portas principais das Igrejas e fazendo ressoar os sinos de todas as Igrejas da diocese à mesma hora que se fazia a celebração oficial de abertura do Ano Missionário. Outras tiveram como símbolo uma cruz que foi dada a cada paróquia e que podiam colorir, enfeitar segundo a arte e a criatividade de cada comunidade.

Ao longo do Ano fizeram-se diversas atividades com as crianças, jovens e adultos.

Fizeram-se experiências de missão. Saindo, indo até outra paróquia, uma outra diocese, um outro país, envolvendo as comunidades.

O Voluntariado Missionário teve um grande impulso com algumas famílias (pais e filhos) que partiram por um ano, dois anos para moçambique, Timor-Leste, Guiné Bissau.

As crianças da Infância Missionária realizaram o primeiro encontro interdiocesano em Aveiro. Estiveram presentes uma boa centena de crianças e de famílias missionárias onde de Aveiro, Braga, Guarda, Vila real, Porto e Algarve. O ponto alto desta animação da IM foi a peregrinação de umas 70 crianças e adultos a Roma para celebrarem com o Santo Padre o Dia Mundial das Missões neste contexto do Mês Missionário Extraordinário.

Houve entrevistas na Televisão e Rádio de diversos missionários. A *MissãoPress*, que reúne todos os órgãos de comunicação dos Institutos Missionários ad Gentes e de que faz parte, também, a *Missão OMP*, foi publicando ao longo do Ano artigos e entrevistas missionárias.

Os Institutos Missionários ad Gentes realizaram uma exposição missionária intitulada “Pelos caminhos do mundo”. A exposição é composta por três núcleos, sendo o primeiro composto por um conjunto de 12 roll-ups que apontam para Deus, que “faz caminho com as pessoas”; o segundo núcleo integra 34 objetos que abrem ao encontro de culturas e religiões e, o terceiro núcleo é uma espécie de jogo (jogo da glória) e convida à aventura de correr os caminhos do mundo e da missão.

O encerramento oficial do Ano Missionário e Mês Missionário foi feito no dia 20 de outubro de 2019 com uma Peregrinação nacional ao Santuário de Nossa Senhora de Fátima para comemorar, também os 175 anos do Apostolado de Oração em Portugal. Apesar da chuva que se fez sentir, todos os Bispos de Portugal e um bom número de sacerdotes juntamente com centenas de milhares de peregrinos viveram esse dia com muita alegria aos pés de Nossa Senhora com uma celebração no recinto do Santuário onde no final da celebração os nossos bispos renovaram a consagração de Portugal ao Coração de Jesus.

Na tarde desse dia realizou-se uma tarde missionária que congregou uns milhares de pessoas à volta de testemunhos missionários, danças de diversos países e oração.

O tema: “Batizados e Enviados. A Igreja de Cristo em Missão no mundo” fez com que Portugal se sentisse mais missionário, crescendo em todos o sentimento de se sentir “uma missão na terra” não apenas num período determinado mas Todos, Tudo e Sempre em Missão.

Direcção Nacional das OMP, PORTUGAL

REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

RAPPORT DES ACTIVITES DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE.

Du 12 au 17 mars 2019, s'est tenu le conseil national des OPM. Huit diocèses sur neuf étaient présents. Ce fut l'occasion de lancer officiellement le Mois Missionnaire (MME) Extraordinaire sur le plan national. Ainsi les activités menées pour ce mois sont :

- Le conseil national
- Les visites des diocèses, les rencontres de formation et de sensibilisation.
- La composition des chants avec le thème du MME : « Baptisés et envoyés ».

1. Le conseil national et l'ouverture officielle du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire.

Du 12 au 17 mars, le conseil national s'est tenu au monastère des Béatitudes en présence de Mgr Jean José AGUIRRE évêque président des OPM. C'est à cette occasion, que nous avons été tous formés sur le thème : Baptisés et envoyés l'Eglise du Christ en mission dans le Monde par Mgr Don Natale, chargé d'affaires à la nonciature apostolique Centrafrique -Tchad. Dans sa conférence, il nous a tous invités comme disciple missionnaire, à expérimenter une vie d'intimité et de famille avec le Christ comme les douze apôtres. La messe de clôture a été présidée par le vice-président de la CECA Mgr Richard APPORA et concélébrée par l'évêque président des OPM Centrafrique et de nombreux prêtres. Cette messe était également l'ouverture officielle du MME. Après la communion, il y eut la cérémonie d'envoi en mission des directeurs diocésains et de tous les prêtres, religieux et religieuses présents. Les directeurs diocésains ont reçu chacun une Bible et les autres des chapelets missionnaires. Un rafraîchissement a été offert à tous les invités dans le jardin du presbytère de la cathédrale.

2. Les visites des diocèses, les rencontres de formation et de sensibilisation.

Plusieurs initiatives pour la formation ont été vécues dans les diocèses, les paroisses et les communautés religieuses. Nous avons dans un premier temps commencé à lire la lettre du Pape adressée au Cardinal Filoni et celles du Cardinal Filoni adressées à chaque groupe de chrétiens afin qu'ils en prennent connaissance et s'imprègnent des objectifs dudit MME. Des groupes et mouvements se sont organisés pour recevoir la formation sur le thème du MME. et la lettre du Pape Benoît XV : « Maximum illud ». C'est ainsi que nous avons eu à parler aux jeunes de l'archidiocèse de Bangui réunis pour un camp organisé par les pères du monastère des Béatitudes. Les jeunes ont partagé leur engagement baptismal selon le charisme de leur groupe d'appartenance. L'un d'eux nous a raconté l'histoire de Catherine Labouré patronne des jeunesses mariales vincentiennes. La deuxième

rencontre a eu lieu à Boali avec les jeunes de la paroisse Saint Benoît de Petevo durant leur premier forum paroissial. La visite de la deuxième mission « Djoukou » dans le diocèse de Kaga Bandoro, dans la semaine sainte, nous a permis de vivre la joie de Pâques avec les chrétiens de cette localité et de leur parler du MME et des points saillants de la lettre « Maximum illud ».

Nous avons également présenté à Bangassou les objectifs du MME aux groupes charismatiques de ce diocèse venus des différentes paroisses le 7 septembre 2019. Signalons que les diocèses de Bouar, Berbérati et Bossangoa ont été visités lors des ordinations presbytérales. Ce qui nous a permis de rencontrer de nombreux chrétiens et de leur parler du MME pendant la messe, avec la remise des guides du MME aux doyens (cas de Berberati) et le lundi, rencontre des agents pastoraux (ordinaires du lieu, prêtres, religieux et religieuses).

3 La composition des chants missionnaires et concert de dédicace.

L'Eglise de Centrafrique a beaucoup de compositeurs, prêtres et laïcs. Pour le Mois missionnaire trois albums de chants missionnaires sont sortis pour aider les chrétiens à intérioriser le thème du MME : « Baptisés et envoyés : l'Eglise du Christ en mission dans le Monde ». Nous avons désormais l'hymne des OPM que l'Abbé Arsène a fait sortir parmi ses compositions. Une vidéo a été également réalisée et chanté par les enfants pour déplorer devant Jésus la situation des enfants de Centrafrique : « Yaya Jésus » « grand frère Jésus ».

Voici les titres des chants missionnaires qui ont été composés :

1. OPM, OPM, OPM, donnons pour soutenir la mission d'annoncer l'Evangile aux nations.
2. E Wara Bapteme Awe, E ga Awatokwa ti Christ (en langue sango), : Baptisés, nous sommes envoyés par le Christ.
3. Mbi Yeke Watokwa ti Christ (Sango) : Je suis l'envoyé du Christ.
4. Missionnaire de la Paix
5. L'esprit du Seigneur est sur moi.
6. Baptisés pour la mission
7. Frères et sœurs baptisés
8. Que grandisse l'amour pour la mission
9. Qu'ils sont beaux, sur les places, les pas de ceux qui annoncent le salut et la paix.
10. I Goue na ndo kwe (sango) : Allez dans le monde entier.
11. Nzoni ye so Nzapa a sala na mbi (sango) : Le bien dont tu m'as comblé.

Ces chants ont été exécutés lors des quatre concerts donnés par la chorale « les Acteurs de la mission.

Le Pape François a eu raison de décréter ce MME avec ce thème « baptisés et envoyés : l’Eglise du Christ en mission dans le monde. A travers les rencontres de formation et sensibilisation dans les diocèses et les paroisses, beaucoup de baptisés ont pris conscience de leur vocation missionnaire. Les chants composés avec le thème du Mois Missionnaire resteront comme un héritage musical de ce MME à transmettre de génération en général pour se rappeler de notre responsabilité de « disciple missionnaire ».

Nous remercions les secrétariats généraux pour les subsides reçus grâce auxquels les activités du MME ont été possibles.

Direction Nationale des OPM, REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

RAPPORT DE LA CELEBRATION DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE 2019

INTRODUCTION

La Direction Nationale OPM-RDC a bien célébré le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire, décrété par Sa Sainteté le Pape François, à l'occasion du Centenaire de la Lettre Apostolique « Maximum Illud » du Pape Benoît XV, en vue de redynamiser l'ardeur missionnaire.

Le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire a connu deux moments essentiels, notamment le temps des préparatifs et celui de célébrations proprement dites.

I. PREPARATIFS DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE 2019

En vue de bien célébrer le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire à travers les quarante-sept diocèses de l'Eglise Catholique en République Démocratique du Congo, les Evêques membres de la Conférence Episcopale Nationale du Congo(CENCO), ont demandé à la Commission Episcopale de l'Evangélisation, en collaboration avec la Direction Nationale des OPM, de préparer un Guide des activités du mois missionnaire. Cela a été fait.

Du 08 au 22 juin 2019, la Révérende Sœur Roberta Tremarelli, Secrétaire générale de l'Œuvre Pontificale de la Sainte Enfance (OPSE), a passé deux semaines entières au pays.

A Kinshasa et ailleurs, plusieurs autres célébrations eucharistiques, notamment l'adoration du Saint Sacrement pour les missionnaires, le chapelet missionnaire, les jeux-concours,...ont été organisés pour bien célébrer le mois missionnaire.

La Direction Nationale OPM-RDC a aussi imprimé des Affiches, des foulards, des t-shirts, des calicots,... sur le thème « Baptisés et envoyés ». Tous ces supports d'animation missionnaire ont été expédiés dans les différents diocèses du pays.

II. CELEBRATION PROPREMENT DITE

1. Enfance Missionnaire

La Sœur Roberta Tremarelli, Secrétaire générale de l'Enfance Missionnaire, a visité le pays et a animé trois sessions de formation sur le thème « Baptisés et envoyés » pour les encadreurs et encadreuses des enfants missionnaires dans trois Provinces ecclésiastiques, notamment Bukavu, Kananga et Kinshasa.

Tous les participants aux différentes sessions de trois à quatre jours ont été honorés par des certificats d'engagement. Un bon nombre de diocèses ont organisé des concours de chants et de danses demandés par le Secrétariat international. Mais le résultat escompté n'était pas satisfaisant.

La clôture du Mois Missionnaire par les enfants de nos diocèses et archidiocèses a été impressionnante.

2. *Saint Pierre Apôtre*

La Direction Nationale a organisé quelques sessions de formation sur le thème du Mois Missionnaire « Baptisés et envoyés. L'Eglise du Christ en Mission dans le monde » pour les Postulantes et Novices de quinze congrégations religieuses autochtones et missionnaires à Kimwenza (Diocèse de Kisantu) et dans l'Archidiocèse de Kinshasa. Environ trois-cents membres ont participé.

3. *Propagation de la Foi*

Les catéchistes, les laïcs et les membres des congrégations missionnaires ont été formés (Province Ecclésiastique de Kinshasa-Kinshasa- et de Kisangani-Isangi)

Le Directeur National a célébré la Journée Mondiale de la Mission au diocèse rural d'Isangi (Province ecclésiastique de Kisangani).

Par rapport à la coopération missionnaire, le Directeur National a pris part au Colloque théologique de Lusaka/Zambie (fin juillet-début août) et de Nairobi/Kenya sur l'évangélisation en Afrique Hier, Aujourd'hui et Demain.

Du 18 au 22 novembre 2019, le Directeur National était invité à parler des OPM et du MME à la conférence internationale « Omnes Gentes » organisée par Leuven et Louvain La Neuve en collaboration avec Missio Belgique.

Il ya eu au niveau paroissial des témoignages missionnaires, l'adoration du Saint Sacrement pour les missions, le partage biblique, sans oublier les concerts religieux et les jeux-concours.

Mondialisation oblige, la Direction Nationale a eu recours aux mass-médias pour atteindre un grand public en temps réel. Il s'agit des émissions radiophoniques et télévisées coordonnées par la CENCO (dans son émission « Le Jour du Seigneur ») et diffusées sur cinq chaînes de radios et télévisions locales, autour du thème « BAPTISES ET ENVOYES. L'Eglise du Christ en Mission dans le monde ». Les réseaux sociaux ont été d'un grand apport également pour atteindre beaucoup plus les jeunes, notamment Facebook, WhatsApp, Viber,...Ce sont là tous des supports importants dans l'animation missionnaire.

La célébration nationale d'Accueil et d'Envoi des Missionnaires qui se fait habituellement au mois de septembre de chaque année pastorale et missionnaire a été célébrée lors de la journée mondiale des missions, le dimanche 20 octobre 2019.

Une dizaine de missionnaires expatriés ont été accueillis en mission en RDC et une trentaine de compatriotes (prêtres, frères et sœurs, même laïcs) ont été envoyés en mission.

Ici et là, il ya eu d'autres initiatives qui n'ont pas été signalées au bureau national des OPM.

III. CONCLUSION ET REMERCIEMENTS

Le MME 2019 a été bien célébré malgré quelques difficultés logistiques et financières rapportées au bureau national.

De manière générale, les chrétiens ont été bien sensibilisés dans l'ensemble de 47 diocèses pour vivre en état permanent de la mission et contribuer davantage aux fonds de solidarité universelle des OPM internationales.

Néanmoins, beaucoup reste encore à faire en termes de défis à relever pour ne pas baisser l'ardeur missionnaire prise au cours de la célébration du MME 2019.

Nous remercions de tout cœur S.E. Mgr Giampietro Dal Toso et tous les quatre Secrétaires généraux des OPM pour les orientations reçues en vue de bien célébrer le MME et pour toutes les rencontres de formation y afférente au niveau international et national visant à redynamiser les OPM.

Direction Nationale OPM, RDC

ROMANIA E REPUBBLICA DI MOLDAVIA

ATTIVITÀ SVOLTE PER IL MMS, OTTOBRE 2019

In Romania, sono state svolte diverse attività per vivere al meglio il Mese Missionario Straordinario. Nel mese di settembre si è svolto l'Incontro Nazionale dei Direttori Diocesani delle POM, presso il Centro di Spiritualità Manresa di Cluj-Napoca. Il tema dell'incontro è stato Addestramento missionario e organizzazione del Mese Missionario Straordinario (MMS), ottobre 2019. L'incontro è stato aperto lunedì, 16 settembre con la presenza di S.E. Florentin Crihălmeanu, vescovo greco-cattolico di Cluj-Gherla, che, dopo la parola di benvenuto e una breve meditazione, ha benedetto i presenti, augurandogli buon lavoro con risultati benefici per il rinnovamento della missione della Chiesa. Hanno partecipato anche tre rappresentanti della Repubblica Moldava, della diocesi di Chișinău e Isabella Matulli, Direttrice diocesana del POM di Faenza (Italia), che ha condiviso la sua esperienza missionaria e secolare all'interno dell'AMI (International Missionary Association). Durante la celebrazione della Santa Messa, il Vescovo Florentin Crihălmeanu ha inaugurato il Mese Missionario Straordinario, ottobre 2019, a livello nazionale, con la partecipazione di tutti i direttori diocesani, nella cattedrale greco-cattolica di Cluj- Napoca.

L'apertura del MMS a livello diocesano è stata celebrata all'inizio di ottobre, ogni diocesi avendo la libertà di decidere la data più adatta ad essa. Ogni diocesi della Romania e della Repubblica di Moldavia, sia quelle di rito latino che bizantino, hanno presentato le loro attività alla sede centrale delle POM, accompagnate da foto e video.

La celebrazione dell'apertura del MMS a livello parrocchiale è stata invece fissata per tutti, nella prima domenica, il 6 ottobre 2019.

In quanto riguarda la veglia missionaria, è stata svolta in tutte le diocesi, sia in quelle di rito latino che in quelle di rito bizantino, sabato, 19 ottobre, con il tema proposto dal Santo Padre per il MMS: Battezzati ed inviati. La Chiesa di Cristo in missione nel mondo.

La celebrazione eucaristica in occasione della Giornata mondiale delle missioni è stata organizzata da ogni diocesi, nella domenica del 20 ottobre 2019. Ogni diocesi ha preparato delle tematiche specifiche del luogo, cercando di sensibilizzare la gente alla missione, coinvolgendo tutti i fedeli nella preghiera.

Il rosario missionario è stato trasmesso online via Radio Maria, il 16 ottobre, a livello nazionale, in qui sono state coinvolte 5 diocesi che hanno rappresentato i cinque continenti. L'evento ha coinvolto tutti i fedeli, anche quelli che non sono stati in grado di partecipare fisicamente, in particolare gli anziani e i malati, che sostengono inequivocabilmente le missioni, dopo l'intuizione di Pauline Marie Jaricot e l'intenzione di Papa Francesco che inviti credenti a pregare per i missionari

dei paesi di missione. Ogni mistero è stato dedicato a un particolare continente, simboleggiato da un colore specifico, mentre l'intenzione della preghiera è quella del Santo Padre - il rinnovamento dello spirito missionario nella Chiesa universale.

In quanto riguarda i pellegrinaggi missionari, ricordiamo quello organizzato dall'Archidiocesi di Bucarest, nella chiesa di Santa Elena e quello al santuario mariano di Scăiuș, organizzato dall'Eparchia di Lugoj.

Un altro evento importante del MME è stato il Simposio Missionario, con il tema "La Chiesa a servizio della Missione", che è stato svolto nell'Aula Magna della Facoltà di Teologia Romano-Cattolica di Bucarest, giovedì 17 ottobre 2019.

Attività missionarie a favore degli uomini senza tetto, attenzione agli anziani, ai malati, offrendo aiuto e pregando insieme a loro, sono state svolte nelle diocesi di Iasi e di Chișinău.

Intenzioni di preghiera, buone azioni e piccole offerte, coordinate dai bambini dell'Infanzia Missionaria che riflettono il motto I bambini aiutano i bambini;

Visita ai bambini abbandonati per offrire loro conforto e farli conoscere bambino Gesù.

Celebrazione eucaristica di chiusura del MMS presieduta di Mons. Miguel Maury Buendía, Nunzio Apostolico in Romania e Repubblica di Moldavia, nella Casa dei Frati della Carità di Fundeni, Bucarest, insieme ai poveri, 31 ottobre.

Nel periodo 15-17 novembre 2019, presso il monastero I Missionari Oblati di Maria Immacolata di Mărăcineni (provincia di Argeș), si è svolto il primo incontro dei bambini missionari in Romania, con il tema CON GESÙ IN MISSIONE. Il corso ha avuto un carattere formativo attraverso delle attività educative, sessioni di formazione missionaria, momenti di preghiera e di comunione, ma anche di ricreazione, atelier di musica e teatro, tutti mirati a sviluppare nei bambini lo zelo e la passione per la missione. Durante la Messa di domenica 16 novembre, tre bambini hanno fatto la preadesione missionaria, nella presenza di molti altri bambini missionari e anche di don Eugenio Blaj, direttore nazionale delle POM in Romania. Durante l'offertorio, i bambini hanno donato tanti giochi per i bambini poveri. Si è organizzata anche una lotteria, attraverso la quale i bambini hanno ricevuto donni e diplomi per la partecipazione. Lo scopo di questo incontro è stato quello di approfondire il significato delle parole Battezzati e inviati, proposte da San Francesco per il mese missionario straordinario. Anche i bambini sono chiamati a dare significato alla loro vita e a diffondere il vangelo di Gesù in qualità di battezzati ed inviati.

In occasione del MMS, sono stati preparati dei materiali sussidiari per l'animazione missionaria per tutte le diocesi, in lingua romena, ungherese e russa, per l'aiuto di tutte le altre etnie presenti in Romania e Moldavia.

Vorrei menzionare anche la visita in Kenya, nel mese di agosto. Don Eugenio Blaj, direttore nazionale, insieme ad alcuni amici, hanno svolto dei workshops nelle missioni di Maikona e Hurri Hills, diocesi di Marsabit. Insieme alla formazione cristiana è stato il Mese Missionario Straordinario. In un contesto di grande difficoltà per la gente quel deserto (Chalbi), non solo insegnamento, ma anche il cibo provveduto in quella occasione, è stato una consolazione per i bambini.

Retro guardando le attività missionarie di quest'anno, veramente il Mese Missionario Straordinario, Ottobre 2019, è stato un grandissimo dono per la Chiesa. Tutte le comunità cristiane hanno preso coscienza della loro missionarietà. Speriamo che questa coscienza non diminuisca, ma cresca nella mente e cuori della gente. AMDG.

Direzione Nazionale POM, Romania

RWANDA

RESUME DES ACTIVITES REALISES EN VUE DE LA CELEBRATION DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE

Le mois missionnaire extraordinaire, octobre 2019, proclamé par le Pape François, a été vécu et célébré joyeusement par les chrétiens catholiques au Rwanda. A part les activités de préparations lointaines et prochaines de ce mois , les événements principaux ayant marqué cette période d'octobre missionnaire 2019 au Rwanda sont les suivants : l'ouverture de ce mois dans tous les diocèses et paroisses du pays, l'animation missionnaire aux différentes catégories des fidèles sous l'influence du thème de ce mois, méditation de la parole de Dieu en référence à l'appel des baptisés d'être des missionnaires , neuvaine de prières , célébration du Dimanche mondiale missionnaire et la clôture du mois au niveau national et diocésain .

Etant donné que le mois d'Octobre a commencé le jour de la semaine, le jour de lancer toutes les activités en vue de ce mois a eu lieu le premier Dimanche du mois d'Octobre dans tous les neuf (9) diocèses du Rwanda et 200 paroisses dans le pays. Pour chaque diocèse, l'Évêque diocésain ou son délégué se sont unis aux chrétiens de la première paroisse créée dans le diocèse. On a célébré la messe pour l'Évangélisation. C'est lors de cette messe que chaque paroisse a publié les activités à réaliser tout au long du mois.

Durant les quatre semaines du mois d'octobre 2019, dans toutes les paroisses du pays, on a organisé les séances d'animation missionnaire aux différentes catégories des fidèles : le premier Dimanche a été consacré aux enfants, le deuxième aux jeunes, le troisième aux familles et le quatrième aux catégories spécialisées. L'animation portait toujours du thème du mois et il y'avait le moment d'expliquer le pourquoi de la mission et le rôle de chacun pour sa réalisation au niveau locale et internationale. Les groupes animés ont eu le temps d'aller en mission en approchant les gens avec tendance de quitter ou abandonner l'Église malgré leur baptême.

Les neuf jours précédents le Dimanche Mondiale des missions ont été marqués par une neuvaine de prières en rapport avec la mission. La neuvaine a été organisée au niveau des communautés Ecclésiales de Base, les communautés religieuses et les écoles. Le jour du Dimanche mondial missionnaire, on a médité sur le message du Pape pour cette journée et on a fait une collecte pour Contribuer au Fond Universel de solidarité missionnaire.

Pour clôturer les activités du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire, les membres de l'Equipe nationale d'animation missionnaire ont fait un pèlerinage à la paroisse de SAVE comme première paroisse fondée au Rwanda en 1900. Dans chaque diocèse on a eu le moment des activités réservées à la clôture du mois qui fut le temps de se fixer les objectifs en vue de pérenniser les bonnes pratiques

de ce mois pour le bien de la mission. Certains diocèses ont décidé d'instaurer une maison d'archives des documents et outils en rapport avec l'activité missionnaire de l'Eglise.

Les chrétiens rwandais se sont réjouis de ce mois extraordinaire missionnaire, surtout le thème choisi qui a aidé à réveiller la conscience des fidèles à se sentir responsables de la mission suite à leur Baptême. La prière du Pape pour le mois missionnaire extraordinaire a été traduite en langue locale le Kinyarwanda et était récitée et méditée lors de toutes les célébrations liturgiques durant tout le mois d'octobre 2019.

Direction Nationale des OPM, RWANDA

SCOTLAND

EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH 2019

Missio Scotland embarked upon a number of initiatives during the Extraordinary Mission Month which were as follows:

#MyMission – OurMission

We participated in the worldwide campaign “#MyMission is..” using video footage and photographs of clergy and lay people to explain what they considered their mission to be. We then shared them via our social media outlets. Individuals and groups, including religious congregations were encouraged to join in the campaign, and it was picked up by Scottish Catholic primary schools in particular. Our focus then shifted to the follow-up campaign of “#OurMission is..” whereby we asked groups to consider what their collective mission is and to share it accordingly. Such was the popularity of the two campaigns that we might consider asking individuals and groups to undertake them again next year.

Resources for celebrating EMM2019

EMM2019 packs were distributed to every parishioner in Scotland. The pack contained information and resources such as the EMM Prayer and other prayers, the #MyMission cards, information about projects which had been funded and quotes from the Holy Father.

Primary Schools

Our main focus in terms of interaction with the primary schools centred around using EMM2019 as the launchpad for what will be an annual Missionary Children Mass, which will take place on the first Friday of October. This was celebrated in a number of schools, parishes and at a diocesan level. To assist in this regard we produced three different Mass for Missionary Children PDFs which were sent out to each Catholic primary school and made available via our website. We also provided PDFs online of the EMM2019 Prayer and a Mission Month Prayer Calendar, which proved popular in the school communities.

A **National Mission Sunday Mass** was organised by Missio Scotland in conjunction with the missionary congregations which have communities in Scotland.

Following on from a successful visit to Scotland of the relics of **St Therese of Lisieux**, we produced schools' resources centred on the Patroness of the Missions, including the **Little Way Week** assembly and activity as well as an information sheet about her life and also distributed a lesson for secondary schools.

EMM2019 also provided us with the opportunity to hold our inaugural **Pope's Charity Cup** football tournament, which saw 24 schools from the Archdiocese of Glasgow take part in a knock-out competition during September and early October, with the final taking place the weekend after World Mission Sunday. It was backed by the Archbishop of Glasgow, Philip Tartaglia and proved extremely popular among the schools in the Archdiocese and we hope to build on its success in the years to come.

PMS Missio Scotland

SENEGAL

RAPPORT SUR LE MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE OCTOBRE 2019

Le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire Octobre 2019 promulgué par le Pape François a été un ‘‘kairos’’, qui a permis à l’église du Sénégal et de la Mauritanie, de renouveler sa conscience missionnaire reçu par le baptême. ‘‘Baptisés et envoyés, l’église du Christ en Mission dans le monde’’, ce thème proposé a été exploité dans sa préparation et sa célébration, en tenant compte de ses quatre dimensions :

- La rencontre personnelle avec Jésus Christ vivant dans son Eglise : Eucharistie, Parole de Dieu, prière personnelle e communautaire
- Le témoignage : les saints, les martyrs de la mission et les confesseurs de la foi, expression des Eglises répandues dans le monde
- La formation missionnaire : Ecriture, catéchèse, spiritualité et théologie
- Charité missionnaire

I. Dans la phase préparatoire

1. Le Conseil National des OPM, tenue du 22 au 24 janvier 2019 dans le diocèse de Kaolack, a proposé à l’église du Sénégal et de la Mauritanie un canevas pour préparer et célébrer cet Evénement Extraordinaire :

- Imprimer et distribuer des supports d’animation sur les OPM et le MME : dépliants, banderoles, livrets, images prière, Lettre Apostolique ‘‘Maximum Illud, Bandes dessinées, t-shirts, polos,
- Confectionner un objet symbole de la mission (croix à relayer dans les paroisses par exemple), des gadgets, chapelets missionnaires,
- Organiser un colloque sur ‘‘Maximum Illud’’,
- Témoigner sur des figures missionnaires de l’Eglise du Sénégal : Père Daniel Brottier, Sœur Anne Marie Jahouvey, Mgr Aloys Kobès
- Mettre en valeur le rôle du catéchiste : pèlerinage national et décoration des catéchistes
- Faire des grandes célébrations de l’Eglise des moments favorables à l’animation missionnaire : Clôture du Centenaire de la Congrégation des Sœurs de Saint Joseph de Cluny, le Cinquantenaire du diocèse de Thiès, le Cinquantenaire du Diocèse de Thiès,
- Faire une animation missionnaire dans chaque paroisse : neuvaine...
- Choisir un diocèse pour une célébration nationale du MME

- Célébrer dans la paroisse où les missionnaires sont arrivés pour la première fois au Dimanche des Missions de Octobre 2019
 - Ouvrir et clôturer le MME par une célébration diocésaine
 - Echanges de célébrants entre paroisses pour sensibiliser sur la mission
 - Diffuser la récitation du Rosaire Missionnaire par la Légion de Marie,
 - Projeter un film sur la mission ou les grandes figures missionnaires pour les enfants, faire un montage sur la mission (photos, vidéo), témoignages des spiritains sur la mission au Sénégal
 - Témoignages des musulmans sur l'impact de la mission de l'Eglise
 - Impliquer les Mouvements d'Action Catholiques et Associations dans la célébration du MME
 - Créer un site internet OPM, ou une page OPM dans les sites internet diocésains
 - Utiliser les radios, les télévisions et les réseaux sociaux pour informer sur les OPM
 - Célébrer l'Evénement tout au long de l'année pastorale 2019/2020
2. Les évêques de la province ecclésiastique ont été saisi et informés sur ces propositions.

II. Phase de célébration

- Les supports d'animation missionnaire ont été mis à la disposition des fidèles diocésains : livret, 'le compagnon d'Emmaüs', l'ordo liturgique, chapelets missionnaires, autocollants, t-shirts, polos, affiches, images prières, calendriers
- Dans chaque diocèse une messe d'ouverture et de clôture du Mois Missionnaire extraordinaire a été célébrée soit en paroisse, soit en diocèse.
- Une animation télévisée sur la mission, les OPM a été conduite par l'Emission 'Jour du Seigneur.
- Dans chaque diocèse, selon la disponibilité des moyens de communication, des émissions à la radio sur le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire et les OPM ont été diffusées,
- Avec les réseaux sociaux, l'Evénement a été vécu et célébré,
- Un colloque sur Maximum Illud a été convoqué par la province ecclésiastique du Sénégal et organisé conjointement par le Grand Séminaire de Sébikotane et le Centre Saint Augustin des religieux du Sénégal, avec le thème : 'la dimension missionnaire dans la formation sacerdotale et religieuse au Sénégal.
- La célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire doit toucher toutes les forces vives des diocèses, c'est pourquoi pendant toute l'année pastorale 2019/2020, les enfants, les jeunes et les adultes vivront l'appel du Pape au renouvellement de la conscience missionnaire.
- Les enfants le vivront d'une manière intense à l'Epiphanie, Journée dédiée à l'Enfance Missionnaire. Dans chaque diocèse, un pèlerinage des enfants au sanctuaire diocésain sera

organisé comme d'habitude, mais avec un cachet spécial en matière de sensibilisation sur la mission des enfants et sur les OPM.

III. Phase post célébration

Le Conseil National des OPM se réunira du 14 au 16 janvier 2019 pour évaluer et proposer des perspectives. D'autres célébrations sont prévue au cours de l'année pastorale 2019/2020.

Direction Nationale des OPM, SENEGAL

SLOVAQUIE

RAPPORT SUR LE MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE D'OCTOBRE 2019

Chemin de la Croix des Missionnaires martyrs et témoins de la foi

Les stations du chemin de la croix présentent les destins des personnes qui se sont mises au 20ème et 21ème siècles au service des pauvres ou se sont opposées à des régimes autoritaires et ont perdu leur vie dans les circonstances tragiques. A part des noms très connus comme Oscar Romero ou frère Roger de Taizé, il y a aussi quatre personnalités de la Slovaquie qui est un pays généreux en ce qui concerne les missionnaires ou les volontaires de la mission. Il s'agit de la soeur religieuse Veronika Rácková (†2016), du père Ján Hermanovský (†2005), de la volontaire dans le développement Danica Olexová (†2019) et de l'ethnologue Emília Biháriová (†2019) qui ont rempli par leurs vies quatre stations du chemin de la croix. Leur perte apporte cependant du fruit pour le nouveau monde du Royaume de Dieu et de la Résurrection et leur exemple de vie nous aide dans notre élan missionnaire lors de l'annonce de la joie de l'Évangile.

Toucher les plaies – film

Voilà le nom d'un nouveau film de la société de production catholique LUX Communication qui présente des histoires de vie des enfants qui se sont retrouvés dans la rue et ont trouvé ensuite un nouveau foyer dans le Centre Saint Antoine à Nyanza. Les auteurs ont présenté ce nouveau film en première dans la centrale des OPM à Bratislava.

Les membres de l'équipe des OPM ont visité le Rwanda en janvier 2019. Dans la ville de Nyanza, le Centre Saint Antoine sert depuis des décennies à accueillir des enfants pauvres de la rue. Actuellement, il y a un responsable slovaque - père rogationniste Vlastimil Chovanec RCJ. Les auteurs de LUX Communication sont partis pour l'Afrique à la charnière des mois de mars et d'avril. Ils sont restés à Nyanza pendant 10 jours et ils ont réussi à tourner un film d'une demi-heure.

"Le film est un témoignage d'un missionnaire qui connaît personnellement les histoires des enfants qui vivaient avant dans la rue. Le père Vlastimil est un missionnaire de coeur et dans le film, on remarque bien son temperament d'un ancien folkloriste lié à la région de la Slovaquie de l'Est d'où il vient", dit Ivan Knaze, Directeur national des OPM.

"Le film m'a très ému car même que j'ai rencontré ces enfants en personne, je n'avais pas connu leurs histoires de vie difficiles. Ils représentent pour moi un témoignage de la foi vivante. Après avoir vu le film, les gens restent en méditation silencieuse et beaucoup d'entre eux se voient inspirés à aider les missions. Je suis très heureux que le Centre présenté par le film est soutenu aussi par les OPM en Slovaquie", ajoute Ivan Knaze.

Marek Polacek est le metteur en scène du film. "Le missionnaire Vlastimil Chovanec et un homme amiable au grand coeur. Lors de notre travail cinéaste, cela aide beaucoup. Quand il y a une bonne ambiance et vous devenez amis, il n'y a pas de problème de parler des choses plus intimes. Les cinéastes l'apprécient beaucoup car comme ça, ils arrivent à sortir de la personne une odeur de l'homme, quelque chose de profondément humain. Et avec père Vlastimil, c'était le cas. En plus, il travaille avec des enfants de la rue qui portent avec eux les histoires très fortes, des fois même épouvantables – et ainsi, le sujet du film est claire bien en avant", dit Marek Polacek.

Prière du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire d'octobre 2019 – elle a été publiée sur la page web, elle a été imprimée (60 000 pc) et distribuée aux paroisses.

Les idées pour les homélies et les méditations pour chaque jour du mois ont été publiées sur la page web.

#MyMission – activité des OPM au niveau mondial dédiée au MME

Les personnes individuelles, des écoles, des organisations ainsi que des ordres religieux s'y sont joints. Les chrétiens du monde entier partagent leur mission adoptée par le baptême. Nous avons également fait faire la maquette du pape François pour la prise des photos et pour motiver les gens par la question "Quelle est ta mission?"

Vidéos

Nous avons traduit et doublé les spots dédiés au MME.

Hymne

Les OPM en Slovaquie ont publié le texte et la mélodie de la chanson qui exprime l'idée principale du mois Baptisés et envoyés. La chanson a été composée et enregistrée par M. Jozef Grecik avec sa famille. Voilà son introduction: "Dieu nous bénissait lors de l'enregistrement – nous avons commencé le jour de la fête de Marie, Mère de Dieu, et nous avons terminé le jour de la fête du Batême du Seigneur. Mon épouse Elena m'a aidé avec la 2ème strophe et notre fille Klara a chanté avec moi les refrains. Nous espérons que la chanson plaira et que les gens pourront s'approcher, par l'intermédiaire de la musique, du Seigneur." Le texte et l'enregistrement de la chanson se trouvent sur la page web.

Emmaüs

Conférence pour prêtres sur évangélisation en paroisses – discours, workshops, témoignages, soirée des laudes

Discours: "Etre missionnaire chez soi et évangéliser d'une façon évangélique"

(p. Jozef Selinga)

Discours: "A l'écoute des premières communautés chrétiennes – Cor Unum" (Act 4,32)

(p. Ambroise Kinhoun, recteur du séminaire au Bénin)

Workshop: "Une paroisse en République tchèque" (p. Vojtech Koukal)

Workshop: "Paroisse du village et paroisse en quartier de ville" (prêtres slovaques)

Workshop: " L'église en Europe a besoin de la mission au lieu de la frustration"

(p. Karl Wallner, directeur national OPM Autriche)

Direction Nationale des OPM, SLOVAQUIE

SLOVENIA

EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH OCTOBER 2019 (EMMO) REPORT

In the frame of EMMO, the Missionary Center of Slovenia started with its activities with so-called “travelling missionary exhibition”. This is an exhibition, which is circulating around Slovenia and is stationed for one month in a certain place, then we move it to another place. The exhibition presents all Slovenian missionaries since the beginning of the 14th century to this day, as well as many exhibits from around the world that missionaries have brought home. There is a lot of interest in the exhibition as all the terms from July 2019 to June 2020 are fully occupied.

We thought it would be more than appropriate to present to the people the fact, that the Slovenian nation has a truly rich heritage in the field of missionary work. Namely, in the past, our nation – which is not very numerous – has given an extraordinary number of missionaries (over 600 in total). The exhibition therefore aims to prepare Slovenian believers and the Slovenian Church, that the directives, given by Pope Francis, to overhaul the Universal Church in missionary spirit, should not represent too much difficulty, since mission activity is truly an integral part of Slovenian consciousness.

Otherwise, EMMO 2019's main events began with the “opening ceremony of the EMMO” at Svete Višarje (Monte Lussari) on September 28th. The choice of this location is no coincidence, as this mountain (1766 m) is of a great symbolic importance. It is located on the territory of the Republic of Italy, on the border between Slovenia, Italy and Austria. As such, it presents an important meeting point between three cultures – Slavic, Italian and Germanic. At this place, our ancestors erected a church of “Višarske Matere Božje” (Mother of God of Višarje), which is an important pilgrimage place that brings together people of all three cultures.

The “inauguration” which began with a solemn Mass, was led by Bishop Msgr. Metod Pirih and was followed by lectures with missionary content by Dr. Juhant and Mr. Kopeinig. These lectures also represented an introduction to the missionary symposium, whose central part took place in Ljubljana on October 12th.

On the Rosary Sunday on October 6th, in the village of Škocjan (Dolenjska region – SE part of Slovenia), birthplace of our missionary giant Dr. Ignacij Knoblehar, meeting with missionary Danilo Lisjak took place. Danilo is a Salesian priest who works in Uganda in the "Atede" parish, which is located near the missionary activity of Knoblehar – the founder and pioneer of the Sudanese mission. After his death, his mission was succeeded by St. Daniele Comboni.

Meeting began with a holy Mass in the church of the Mother of God of the Rosary (in Stopno, small village near Škocjan), where young Ignacij and his mother often made pilgrimages. In the

sermon, Danilo emphasized the importance of prayer, especially the rosary prayer, which is a prayer to the almighty intercession of Mother Mary, for Mary represents the Path that leads us to Jesus. In this church, young Knoblehar “was filling” himself with energy, before going to the missions. Knoblehar is therefore a vivid display of the fact, which was recently pointed out by Pope Francis, that “prayer is the heart of the missions”.

After the Mass a movie was displayed at the parish in Škocjan. Movie, with the title »Žetev ob Nilu« (Harvest along the Nile), was accompanied by Danilo`s rich commentaries. At the end of the presentation, we were all unanimous that the harvest is indeed plentiful, as the Church where Danilo works is spiritually rich, young and full of life, albeit financially malnourished. And this is the harvest that is the direct result of the sowing of Ignacij Knoblehar, his comrades and other Sudanese missionary pioneers.

Finally, on October 12th, the Institute of St. Stanislav hosted the fourth all-Slovenian Missionary Symposium. It represented the substantive culmination of all our events in the frame of EMMO. It was organized in order to start looking for directions, which the Slovenian church should start to follow, so that it would be overhauled in the missionary spirit – as it is the intimate wish of Pope Francis. As such Slovenian Church will be more courageous, more “in the exit” and more capable to cope with the challenges of today`s world.

Introductory greetings and speeches of Bishop Msgr. Method Pirih and the Apostolic Nuncio of Slovenia Jean-Marie Speich, was followed by the first part of the symposium, which was more “academic in nature”. It consisted of four lectures with different topics and discussions that followed each lecture.

The second part of the symposium was a conversation with missionaries – active, former and laymen – who presented their experiences and visions of missionary work in missions. Their presentation was of a great importance for all of us since it gave us deeper insight into reality, which the missionaries live.

All the lectures with accompanying discussion and the extract of the “conversation with missionaries” will be compiled into the "Collection of lectures", which will be published shortly.

On October 16th, a student missionary Mass was celebrated at the Franciscan Church of the Annunciation of Mary in Ljubljana. It was led by the aforementioned missionary Danilo Lisjak, who is working in Uganda in the Atede parish. He reiterated the importance of Ignacij Knoblehar, whose 200th anniversary of his birth is celebrated this year and whose work is now being continued by Danilo. The result of his work and the work of all previous missionaries since Knoblehar is, that the Church in Uganda is making great progress, being alive and youthful, especially in spirit.

The same could also be said for the areas in Brazil, where missionaries s. Agata Kociper and s. Metka Kastelic work. They are working in an area with a high birth rate and after the Mass they took the opportunity and presented their work to the students on video projection.

On Sunday, October 20th, a central celebration of Mission Sunday took place in Murska Sobota, a city in the NE part of Slovenia. This celebration represented the liturgical culmination of the events organized by the Mission Center of Slovenia within the EMMO. In the sermon, Bishop Msgr. Štumpf with reference to the second letter to Timothy: “preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine” (2 Tim 4,2) enhanced, that “patience is the essential attribute of a good missionary. In order to successfully accomplish our mission, we need to have `strong spiritual muscles`, to be constant and to persevere in patience, as mission is a place of extreme patience.”

On this occasion, we have also sent several materials (booklets, prayers ...) to all Slovenian parishes. This is the material which we usually send every year, but this year`s material was really rich in missionary content, especially on the topic of EMMO. To that “material” plenty other animation material was added, such as a CD with missionary songs. The CD of fourteen mission songs was issued as a result of the initiative by the Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood. Songs with sheet music and lyrics are also available on our site.

PMS National Direction, SLOVENIA

SOUTH AFRICA BOTSWANA AND ESWATINI

REPORT ON THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

PREPARATION:

For the past almost two years the MISSIO SACBC National Office has been working on informing, motivating and educating the Dioceses with regard to the Extraordinary Month October 2019 called by Pope Francis and to help motivate them to become committed and creative in working on preparing activities for the EMM, in this regard the Guide and EMM Website were also promoted as essential tools.

The OUR MISSION Newsletter, a digital PDF publication, which is produced and emailed by the National Office to subscribers and to all the dioceses at least 4 times a year (the dioceses in turn are responsible for sending it to all Clergy, Religious and committed laity) continually updated the readers with regard to EMM and informed them on the latest news and activities and initiatives from the General Administration in Rome.

With regard to our FACEBOOK profile, Missio SACBC, a lot of time was spent posting articles, news, images, etc relating to EMM initiatives and activities not only in South Africa, Botswana and eSwatini but also throughout the world to motivate and inform our friends and followers. The profile became so popular that it quickly reached its limit of 5000 friends.

The MISSIO / PMS Liturgical Calendar remains very popular, it is not only a liturgical calendar but it is also a Missionary Discipleship formation tool giving information and formation to those who purchase it. The calendar theme for 2019 was “You will be my Witnesses...” presenting for each of the 12 months the exemplary life of someone that lived their Missionary Discipleship, the persons chosen represented different continents, races, age groups, Clergy, Religious, Laity, men, women and even children – to bring home the message that all are called to live as Missionary Disciples.

The Poster that was produced for the EMM used the EMM Logo and the slogan “Baptised and Sent” as its focal point. The theme – “The church of Christ on Mission in the World” was displayed across the top and then on the sides “Baptised and Sent” was translated from English into 16 other languages widely used in the liturgy in South Africa. It was however no small task to get the slogan translated into the other 10 official languages of South Africa!

A full page advertisement was published in the Southern Cross, the only national Catholic newspaper, the week before Mission Sunday. The Southern Cross also cooperated with Missio SACBC with a front-page Article in its issue of September 25 to October 1, 2019 entitled: “What SA

will do for Mission Month 2019” which featured an interview that they did with the PMS National Director.

The official prayer for the EMM was redesigned and distributed it in 10 different languages and sent to all the dioceses, for diffusion and printing according to their specific needs.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Many of the dioceses had special programs and initiatives to celebrate EMM, many took the form of a procession where the Missionary Rosary was prayed and the Parishes, Sodalities and groups came displaying their EMM banners, this was usually followed by the celebration of the Eucharist – launching the EMM in the specific Diocese. The Diocese of Manzini in eSwatini has decided to have an Extraordinary Missionary Year (EMY) and will have planned various activities until October 2020.

The National Director was requested to form part of the steering committee for the preparation of the EMM in the Johannesburg Archdiocese and together the committee prepared an “EMM Package” that was distributed to each parish in the Archdiocese – the package was designed to inform and educate all groups and sodalities in the parish and in particular to get all involved in praying the Missionary Rosary. Pamphlets explaining how to pray the Missionary Rosary were produced with short missionary reflections.

There was a tremendous amount of interest from the Laity in particular in getting their Missionary Rosary and praying it, not only in the Johannesburg Archdiocese but also from friends and followers on Facebook.

The Archdiocese of Johannesburg also held a Synod this year and one of the four topics addressed was Missionary Discipleship; the National Director was also involved in the whole process and one of the facilitators at the Synod.

The National Director gave a workshop to about 700 Catechists of the Johannesburg Archdiocese with the topic “Catechists as Missionary Disciples”. The Catechists were very happy to learn about their missionary responsibility in the Church and the practical ways in which to live it. They were eager for more information and formation.

The MISSIO SACBC National Director did a number of interviews on the only Catholic Radio station in South Africa – Radio Veritas, before and during EMM – where he explained to the listeners the reasons behind, the preparations and the living out of EMM October 2019 and practical things each one could get personally involved in.

The Diocese of Klerksdorp held a Gala Dinner and requested National Director to be the guest speaker for the evening with the topic – “The Extraordinary Missionary Month”.

The Missionaries of Africa working in South Africa invited the National Director to give a day of Recollection to their Assembly with 2 inputs, one a spiritual and another a formative, both relating to the *Missio ad gentes*. Also at the Comboni Missionaries Provincial Assembly in South Africa he was requested to give an input on the Extraordinary Missionary Month to all the participants.

The Missio National Director was the Main Celebrant at the St John Vianney Major Seminary in Pretoria for the closing of the EMM and was able to speak to the Formators and Seminarians about their commitment and responsibility to the *missio ad gentes* and the role of PMS.

At the many Eucharistic celebrations where the MISSIO SACBC National Director was asked to supply in various parishes, shrines and in Religious houses, he also made use of the opportunity to inform them of EMM and invite them to get involved. The Lay people in general showed a hunger for more information and a deep desire to live out their Missionary Discipleship. The whole concept of all the Baptised being Missionary Disciples is something which the majority were previously not aware of and still a tremendous amount of work needs to be done in order to open the Church in Southern Africa to its *Missio ad gentes* responsibility.

PMS National Direction, SOUTH AFRICA, BOTSWANA and ESWATINI

SRI LANKA

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AND IMPLEMENTED IN LIEU OF THE DECLARED EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

The activities organized and carried out in Sri Lanka in lieu of the declared EMM-2019 as mentioned here below, have been very successful. The many programs have been highly appreciated by everyone all over the Island. The Bishops in Sri Lanka have provided their fullest support and guidance towards the successful conduct of the programs and activities. The PMS National Director takes this opportunity to sincerely thank the Bishops, Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, Rev. Brothers and the Lay faithful who contributed in a big way for the conduct of the activities at National, Diocesan and Parish levels.

The PMS Diocesan Directors and the Diocesan Directors of the Catholic National Commission for Missionary Activity together with Parish Priests and the faithful did support the smooth conduct of the said activities.

- ❖ Proclamation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month was done on Sunday 29th September 2019 in all the Churches.

The official proclamation notice was prepared at the PMS National Office and was sent to every Church to be read out by the celebrant of the Holy Mass of the day – Bishop or Parish Priest.

- ❖ The launching of activities commenced on Tuesday 1st October, 2019, the feast day of St. Therese of Lisieux, the Patroness of Missions. The Eucharistic celebration took place in all the Churches accordingly this day.

The relevant printed materials were prepared and done at the PMS National Office. These were sent to the Churches through the PMS Diocesan Directors.

- ❖ A Banner was displayed in all the Churches. This was requested to be displayed from 29th September 2019. This is kept displayed right throughout the year or years, reminding the people of their Baptismal call.

The Banner was accepted as the one, to be used all over the World and we are proud of our efforts. The Banner too was prepared at the PMS National Office and sent for distribution along with other printed materials (especially made for the use in the Extraordinary Missionary Month – October 2019) to the PMS Diocesan Directors for distribution among all the Churches.

- ❖ Day of Eucharistic adoration – Friday, 4th October 2019 (First Friday of the Month of October) which culminates with the Holy Mass, was organized by the Sacred Heart

Confraternity. Due to this day being a Friday the conduct of the Eucharistic celebration was entrusted to them.

- ❖ Day to remember the Saints and Martyrs – Sunday, 13th October 2019 (the mission of St. Joseph Vaz was highlighted based on the Sunday readings).

On this day at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist priority was given to the life of St. Joseph Vaz, the Saint of Sri Lanka and was categorically highlighted.

- ❖ World Mission Sunday – Sunday, 20th October 2019 the organizing and conduct of the Holy Eucharistic celebration was entrusted to the active participation of Youth and Children in the liturgical celebration. The Bishop of the diocese celebrated Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral of the diocese in giving more meaning to this special day of celebration.

The Poster, Mass leaflet, Envelopes and other printed materials prepared and readied at the PMS National Office were sent for distribution among the Churches to the PMS Diocesan Directors.

- ❖ Recitation of the Rosary before or after the Holy Mass on Sunday, 27th October 2019, the last Sunday of EMM - 2019. Culmination of the Marian devotion in the month of October. Eucharistic celebration was organized by Vincent de Paul Societies, since the day is earmarked for charitable work. Practical acts of charity too were organized accordingly. Common intercessions were prepared by the PMS National Office and sent to all the Churches. The co-ordination and distribution of materials were done by the Diocesan Directors of PMS & the Catholic National Commission for Missionary Activity.

Above were the activities carried out at the National level.

In addition to above, the under mentioned Seminars were held. The said programs were organized by the PMS National Office and with the collaboration of the Directors of the Family Apostolate and the Youth Apostolate, Sri Lanka.

Details of the special programs held are as follows;

➤ PMS Coordinators Training Seminar 2019

Dates : 29th, 30th & 31st July, 2019

Venue : National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka, Ampitiya, Kandy

Theme : “Baptized and sent”

Participants : 155

This is a Training Seminar organized and conducted by the PMS National Office especially for the Religious/Clergy (Rev. Fathers, Rev. Brothers and Rev. Sisters only) selected from all 12 dioceses which is held annually. The aim is to train 500 Coordinators in a period of five years time,

for the smooth conduct of the PMS Mission in every diocese. This in fact, was the third such Seminar which was held on the above mentioned dates and venue according to plan. The specialty of this Seminar was that, it was held under the theme of “Baptized and sent” which was introduced with the declaration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month – October 2019 by His Holiness Pope Francis. This Seminar was conducted giving priority to the said theme and all lectures and talks delivered were based on the said Theme. We are proud to say the Training Seminar was truly, very successful, with 155 participants, more than expected from all 12 dioceses. The Chief Guest at the Seminar was His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, Chairman of the Catholic National Commission for Missionary Activity and Bishop of the Diocese of Kurunegala. The Keynote Address was delivered by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Valence Mendis, Chairman of the Catholic National Commission for Education, Catechetics & Bible Apostolate, Bishop of the Diocese of Chilaw.

Many other fruitful talks were delivered on different topics as here below;

- You are a mystical gift of God.
- You are precious to me and to my people.
- Baptized and sent.
- Mission of the PMS and need of Holy Childhood today.
- Chosen to be sent.

All in all the PMS Co-ordinators Training Seminar – 2019 for Clergy/Religious was a very successful one to the happiness of all – Organizers and Participants as well who according to the evaluations of them have been greatly benefitted and have appreciated the way the Seminar has been organized and conducted.

Our sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, Secretary General of the Pontifical Missionary Union, Rome for the financial assistance and guidance provided to us for the smooth conduct of the Training Seminar.

➤ *The Family Apostolate – The National Family Convention*

Dates : 20th, 21st & 22nd September, 2019

Venue : St. Anne’s Shrine, Talawila

Theme : “Call to Holiness in Daily Life”

Participants : 2,850

It was decided to hold this Three day Family Convention in lieu of the Extraordinary Missionary Month – October 2019. This Family Convention was supervised and directed by Rev. Fr. Basil Rohan Fernando, National Director, Pontifical Mission Societies and conducted by Rev. Fr. Claude Nonis, National Co-ordinator, Family Apostolate Services, Sri Lanka.

The program was held according to plan and was highly successful. Even though 3,000 to 3,500 were expected to participate we are happy that around 2,850 participated.

In organizing the National Family Convention the prevailing situation of the country at that time was taken into consideration and it was deemed essential that a Program for Families be held.

They were made aware of the reason for the declaration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month – October 2019. The services of 78 Rev. Fathers and Rev. Sisters were obtained as Resource Persons. The Convention was held in Two languages – Sinhala & Tamil. Fruitful Talks were held by the Resource Persons who provided their service voluntarily, as they too appreciated the Program.

Adults, Youth (20+), Youngsters (15-19), Children (8-14) and of Creche age (7 and below) were addressed separately under relevant topics. Many speakers did use Power Point Presentations and Video Clips. Rev. Fr. Claude Nonis, too addressed the Participants and spoke about the present challenges of the Society and explained methods to overcome these issues that affect the family life in general.

Many activities were held such as – Group discussions, entertainment sessions/ Game Sessions, providing of Spiritual guidance, Penitential Rites, Confession & Counseling, Prayer & meditation sessions and reciting of the Rosary and the celebration of Holy Eucharist by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Norbert Andradi O.M.I., Bishop of the Diocese of Anuradhapura. His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. J. D. Anthony Jayakody, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Colombo too officiated at the Convention and addressed the gathering.

Judging by the evaluation results of the Program by the Participants it was learnt that they did experience positive changes of their lives and requested that this Family Convention be held in the future as well, to enable more Families to attend and make use of it. They were all satisfied with the Food and accommodation provided and appreciated the way the program has been organized and conducted.

➤ *The Youth Apostolate – The National Youth Convention*

Dates : 25th, 26th & 27th October, 2019

Venue : St. John Paul 11 Center, Ma-Eliya, Ja-Ela

Theme : “Arise Youth, Give Life to God’s Love”

Participants : 450

The National Youth Convention is the Third one organized in lieu of the Extraordinary Missionary Month – October 2019. This year 2019 is named as the Year of the Youth. The Three day Program was successful and was conducted according to plan. In the aftermath of the devastating suicide bomb blasts which caused many deaths and disturbances in Sri Lanka it was considered

essential and timely that the Youth be addressed separately in updating them about the declaration of the EMM-OCT 2019. It was initially decided to hold Five, Three day Conventions but, due to the prevailing situation in the country at that time a single Convention could be held for the Youth of all 12 Dioceses.

Talks were delivered on the topics of;

- Christian Vocation of a Youth in the Modern World
- Missionary Spirituality of the Youth in reference to Mission Ad Gentes
- Attractive methods to bring the joy of the Gospel to the Youth of today and their future Mission
- Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment
- How to face the today's challenges as a Young Missionary

His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith along with Rev. Fr. Basil Rohan Fernando, PMS National Director too officiated. The Youth Convention was directed and conducted by Rev. Fr. Malcolm Perera, Archdiocesan Youth Director of the Catholic Youth Centre. The program included - sharing of Life experiences, prayer & meditation, group activities/group discussions, presentation of the group discussions sessions. Reciting of the Rosary and celebrating Holy Eucharist too were in the plan. Everything went according to plan and we are happy about the outcome results.

According to the Participant Youth it was learnt that they were well taken with the Program and have been updated with many important and valuable facts with regard to their Youth. It was well participated with 450 Youth. They were addressed with special Talks as mentioned above, which were delivered based on the main theme of "Baptised and sent" - the Theme selected for the Extraordinary Missionary Month. This too was a very successful event and the Youth were greatly benefitted by it.

Food & accommodation too were provided for them with which the Youth were satisfied, they appreciated and was full of praise of the way this has been conducted.

➤ *Ongoing formation for Holy Childhood Active Animators*

Dates : 27th, 28th & 29th September, 2019

Venue : Centre for Vocational Discernment, Model Farm, Galmuruwa, Madampe.

Theme : Let's go on a journey from the Deep Sea to Depth, not only from the Shore to the Deep Sea

Participants : 91

This Three day Seminar too was organized and conducted solely by the PMS National Office also in lieu of the declared Extraordinary Missionary Month – October 2019. The Participants were presently active Animators of the Holy Childhood Society of Sri Lanka. It was held on the above mentioned dates and venue. The resource persons for this program were Rev. Fathers of the Archdiocesan Faith Animation Team and Rev. Fr. Roy Clarence, Director, Family and Laity Apostolate of the Diocese of Kandy. This program was conducted especially under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Basil Rohan Fernando, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Every Animator who participated were handed a special Souvenir and a Certificate as a means of appreciating their presence. On the invitation of the PMS National Director, His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Christian Noel Emmanuel, Bishop of the Diocese of Trincomalee, the proclamation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month – October 2019 was made, officially at the Eucharistic celebration of this day. 91 active Animators took part in the Seminar, the conduct of which was highly commended and appreciated by them all. The PMS National Director was greatly supported by the active participation of the 12 PMS Diocesan Directors. 8 members of the staff of the PMS National Office inclusive of 2 Rev. Sisters too participated and the Seminar was a highly successful one.

All the above mentioned programs and seminars were organized under the guidance and direction of the PMS National Office by giving priority to the theme “Baptized and sent”.

We are so happy and praise God for the total success of the programs held. We are glad to announce that all the activities organized and implemented have been very successful and it brings us joy to note that Pope Francis's intentions of declaring the EMM-2019 have been able to be fulfilled. We will carry out the Mission continuously in future. It is no doubt God’s will and He provided the guidance for which we bow our heads with gratitude and thank Him.

PMS National Direction, SRI LANKA

SWITZERLAND

CONCLUDING REPORT EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

The present report describes the realisation of the extraordinary missionary month 2019 in Switzerland. Achieved goals are mentioned as well as the diverse activities throughout the missionary month and during its preparation.

The Pontifical Mission Societies – in Switzerland called Missio led the planning and organization of the missionary month. Due to the importance of this year's missionary month the Swiss Episcopal Conference decided to form a working group with members from Missio and other members who are doing important missionary work in Switzerland. The group was supported by three coordinators, each one for one language region in Switzerland: German, French and Italian.

1. MAIN EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

The two main events in Switzerland were the opening ceremony in Riva San Vitale and the World Mission Sunday. The sending celebrations were celebrated in different ways depending on the language region.

Official Opening Ceremony

On Tuesday 1 October 2019, some 40 representatives of the Catholic Church of Switzerland, including six bishops, gathered in Riva San Vitale around the oldest Christian building in Switzerland to celebrate the opening of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. The participants of this profound opening liturgy had the opportunity to renew their baptism by crucifying themselves with the water from the historic baptismal font, sprinkling their faces or hands.

Bishop Lovey invited everyone to take plenty of water from the baptismal font. At the end of the celebration, the participants were able to take the consecrated water with them in bottles to carry this celebration to their parishes, communities and dioceses.

The bishops personally presented each faithful with a letter from the Swiss Bishops' Conference addressed to all the faithful in Switzerland. In it they underlined the mission of each and every believer, which begins in their everyday life and in the place where they are living. It is a personal message signed by all the Swiss bishops.

World Mission Sunday

On World Mission Sunday, 20 October, the parishes were called to take up the theme "Baptised and Sent" in their divine services and to receive the collections for the Solidarity Fund of the World Church. Since this fund supports local churches which are worse off financially. Thus the

term "mission" has been extended from ones' own baptism to the world. The focus this Sunday was also on the worldwide church.

For the celebration of World Mission Sunday, extensive information and animation material from Missio was made available to the parishes and communities. Missionary testimonies from all over the world were gathered, suggestions were made for the organization of the divine services and participation in the prayer chain of Missio was made possible.

The celebrations were arranged differently according to language region and custom. Some parishes have invited missionaries to preach, others have had young people and children tell how they live their mission, others have joined forces with other language communities to celebrate World Mission Sunday. There were no limits to the way the theme could be dealt with.

Sending the faithful - German-speaking part of Switzerland

On Saturday, 26 October, people from many nations met in St. Gallen for exchange, worship and the Feast of Nations.

In table discussions, participants discussed their own understanding of mission with representatives from development cooperation, the Mission Benedictines and Salettine missionaries, youth ministry, city pastoral care and Caritas St.Gallen-Appenzell. In the following divine service with elements in different languages it became clear that the Swiss Church today is a diverse church in which people from all over the world belong together. After the divine service, everyone was invited to a feast of nations where food and drink from different countries were served. The occasion marked the end of the campaign for the Extraordinary Missionary Month in German-speaking Switzerland. It was a good mix between an examination of the concept of mission and an insight into today's missionary work.

Sending the faithful - French-speaking part of Switzerland

In the French-speaking part of Switzerland, with the support of the cantonal vicariates practical suggestions and ideas for all kinds of celebrations were made to the parishes.

The Bishops' Missionary Letter has generated a lot of positive feedback from pastoral teams and believers. Those who thought October was too short will continue the missionary activities for some time by, for example, organizing the sending celebration at the beginning of Advent. In a French-speaking canton, a cantonal pilgrimage will even be organized as a missionary celebration - in June 2020!

2. FURTHER EXAMPLES OF EVENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MISSIONARY MONTH

During the whole month of October and also in preparation for the missionary month, events on the subject of mission took place at various levels in the Catholic Church of Switzerland.

In September a day of workshops, discussions, exchange groups and brief lectures took place in Freiburg for those interested to get ideas for the Extraordinary Missionary Month and beyond. In Lausanne, too, the personal and universal dimensions were discussed for half a day in September.

At the beginning of the month, on October, 3rd, over 300 pastoral workers gathered in the most visited place of pilgrimage - Einsiedeln - to take part in an impulse day to which the abbot and the monks of the Benedictine Abbey had invited. Together the question was explored where there are new beginnings of renewal in Church and what they can mean in concrete terms for communities and communities.

On 10 and 11 October, the Freiburg Forum for the World Church took place in Freiburg. It traditionally deals with questions of the universal church, globalization, mission and religious encounter. This year the question was asked what it means in a time of radical change, characterized by religious pluralization, religious freedom, credibility crisis of the churches and the crisis of the missionary idea, when the church is "missionary by nature".

Other language communities in Switzerland and youth movements also took up the theme of this particular month.

On the last Saturday of October, the diocese of Chur invited their Church members to a Marian pilgrimage to Einsiedeln. With Pontifical Mass, Rosary Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration God was thanked for the evangelization in Switzerland. In the diocese of Basel, on the eve of World Mission Sunday, divine services were celebrated in various places in the diocese with members of the Bishops' Council who took up the theme of the missionary month.

3. CONCLUSION

This Extraordinary Missionary Month has found resonance on many levels. Parishes, religious communities, movements have taken up the theme. A renewed approach has been enabled to the central topic of mission.

After this month mission can be discussed in a faith-motivating way, also considering the different approaches "mission as world church", "mission as evangelization" and "mission as re-evangelization".

The theme "Mission" is interesting, fascinating, and it is also supported by the fact that Pope Francis has spoken about it since the beginning of his pontificate. Through the many encounters with church actors, it was possible to show the positive aspects of the concept of mission. The month was helpful to perceive mission as a positive concept in the Church.

The meetings on the spot have also shown that many faithful who are enthusiastic about mission would like to have concrete measures and aids in order to be on a missionary journey. A wish

to have a platform where it would be possible to exchange experiences and learn from each other has been articulated.

Media coverage was very positive in all three language regions of Switzerland.

4. OUTLOOK

The topic of mission is not finished after the end of the missionary month. We assume that the baptized have taken an initiative to deal with the issue of mission beyond the missionary month. The Swiss website for the Extraordinary Missionary Month remains online for at least another year.

After the burdened topic of mission has nevertheless met with a positive resonance, it is our concern to support this mood through further initiatives. There were a lot of ideas gathered on how to continue with the missionary work.

1960/1961 was a great missionary year in Switzerland, from which Fastenopfer grew. Why not make something of it in 2021, 60 years later, including the Second Vatican Council, which had not yet begun at that time: recognition of human rights and religious freedom and the Church's mission in and for the world?

As members of the working group, with the experiences of this special month in mind, we can say that Pope Francis' message has reached many baptized Christians. We hope and pray that it will bear rich fruit and we trust that God will let His missionary spirit blow wherever He wants.

PMS Missio Switzerland

TANZANIA

CELEBRATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

Apostolate of the National Office: The Extraordinary Mission Month of October 2019 was launched on the 19th January 2019 by Tanzania Episcopal Conference. It was launched early so as to give enough time to dioceses to launch on their own time, to offer enough time to Christ's faithfully implement spiritual renewal, to work on the issue of *Missio ad Gentes*, to meditate and to live the content of the Encyclical letter of Maximum Illud of Pope Benedict XV.

The PMS National Office did the following:

- Prepared and aired many Radio and TV interviews and discussion about the theme of the Extraordinary Missionary of October 2019. The aim was to reach many people in short time.
- Translated the Encyclical letter of Maximum Illud and brochure issued by Rome in Swahili language and distributed them freely to all parish priests of all dioceses as to enable read and understand them in order to explain them to Christ's faithful.
- Published posters and Papal Message of the World Mission Sunday (in Swahili language) and circulated it on radio, WhatsApp, emails and websites.
- Translated daily reflections of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019, which were given on the website of Vatican of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019.
- In cooperation with lay apostolate of the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam and Christian Professionals of Tanzania gave catechesis on selected topics /issues about our faith on radio in this Extra Ordinary Missionary Month of October 2019.
- Prayer which was given by the Holy Father for the EMMOCT 2019, Tanzania Episcopal Conference added special part to it which was covering the intention of the Conference. The prayer was translated and circulated to all dioceses.

The features, which characterized the celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 in most of the dioceses, were:

Spiritual activities in Dioceses; most of dioceses conducted seminars on spiritual renewal in the light of documents of *Missio Ad Gentes*, encyclical letter of Maximum Illud and other Ecclesiastical documents. The spiritual renewal was made through workshops, seminars, pilgrimages and retreats. The people who participated were: children of the Holy Childhood society, Tanzania Young Christian Students, Youths, Tanzania Movement of Catholic Students, lay associations, priests, sisters, brothers and Christ's faithful. These spiritual events were accompanied by the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. The events took place in almost all dioceses of Tanzania.

Going around with sacramentals in every family or Small Christian Community: Some dioceses like Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Kigoma, Iringa, Geita and Bunda, the Holy Bible and crosses or Bible and lighted candles were distributed. The meaning of the sacramentals were: The Cross indicates the sign of salvation and people need the crosses in order to bring about the fruits in missionary activities. The Holy Bible indicates revelation and the Word of God which is to be witnessed and preached. The burning Candle indicates that Jesus Christ is the Light of missionaries' initiatives.

In those dioceses the Christians were carrying them from family to family or from one Small Christian Community to another praying, singing and dancing. The idea behind was to exalt the Word of God, read and meditate it daily. Please see (photos and clips)

Celebration of Sacraments: In most of the dioceses, there was administration of sacraments for many people. The ceremonies including celebration baptism preceded by catechesis, nuptial celebration which embraced many pairs who have lived together for long time and celebration of confirmation preceded by catechesis. In some cases, it involved baptizing catechumens who embraced Christian Faith.

Praying the Holy Rosary; like in the past years, in the month of October, the families and Christian communities are encouraged to pray the Holy Rosary to obtain the intercession of Mary for their own needs and peace of the world. In the Extraordinary Missionary Month people were requested to add the intention of successful *Missio ad Gentes*. More still, the Children of the Society of the Holy Childhood of Tanzania prayed the Rosary via Radio Maria on the Vigil of the World Mission Sunday.

Song competition: In dioceses like Mbulu and Bunda diocese, apart from doing pastoral activities of spiritual renewal, there was song competition among the youth and children. The aim was to make the message of the motto of the Missionary Month understood to all people.

Congresses and Children visiting other parishes: In some dioceses like Njombe and Mtwara Dioceses congress of adults and children were organized for two or three days with the aim of making motto of baptized and sent understood to children and other people. In some dioceses, children with their animators have been visiting children of other parishes with aim of resuscitating the faith of others.

Novena and vigil: In some dioceses, they conducted a novena (adoration of the Holy Eucharist) before World Mission Sunday and some spent the whole night praying before closing the Extraordinary Missionary Month.

Activities of Charity: In some dioceses charitable acts were done by children and their animators including visiting the orphans, old people, children in the prisons and children affected by HIV aid.

Visit to non Christians: In many dioceses the Christians were advised to work on the idea of *missio ad gentes* by visiting those who have not heard Good News and tell them the joy of being Christians. Likewise, they were told to visit and talk with those who were baptized but were not practicing their faith so that they might continue living their faith.

Promotion of Solidarity Fund: The priests, religious and Christians were encouraged to contribute for the three societies in order to support evangelization.

In Moshi, the diocesan director dedicated his time to give seminar to priests, sisters and laity on the meaning of the Pontifical Missionary Societies and its importance. This amination bore fruits because the people contributed via envelopes. This diocese has never made such a big contribution.

Communities of prayer and adoration: Community prayers, private prayers and adoration of the Eucharist were conducted in small chapels. In many churches of Tanzania adoration of the Eucharist has been promoted. Hence many dioceses have set apart centres for the adoration of the Holy Eucharist.

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES AND LEGACY OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

- It was decided at the level of the Episcopal Conference that every year a novena will held before the World Mission Sunday.
- Increase of daily Mass attendance in some dioceses
- Promotion of the Solidarity Fund
- Participation in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament of Eucharist. (Benediction)
- Reflection on the importance of the Sacrament of Marriage and the formation of children.
- Prayer, especially the Holy Rosary for their personal and Missionary intentions.
- Retreats and pilgrimages within and outside the diocese were attended through groups of catholic Associations from different parishes.
- Solidarity with the poor and those in need. Some lay Catholic Associations and the holy Childhood supported the poor and the need materially and financially.
- Different hymns especially with the theme: BAPTIZED AND SENT were composed and used during Masses and other Liturgical celebrations. These will continue to be used in the liturgy.

TCHAD

EVALUATION DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE OCT.2019

Du 28 au 29 novembre 2019, il s'est tenu une rencontre à la Nonciature Apostolique du Tchad regroupant, autour du Chargé d'Affaires, le Directeur National et les Directeurs Diocésains des Œuvres Pontificales Missionnaire :

Mgr Mihaita BLAJ, Chargé d'Affaires ;

Abbé Barthélemy KIKINA, Directeur National des OPM ;

Abbé George MAOUNDODIGAM, Vicaire Général et Directeur de Doba ;

Abbé Jean Paul FAIDJOUA, Vicaire Général de Pala, représentant son Directeur ;

Abbé Dominique MBERMBAYE, Directeur de Moundou ;

Père Bernard ELIWO, Directeur de Mongo ;

Abbé Prosper MADJIOUDOU, Directeur de Goré ;

Abbé Parfait ALLAHAMDOU, Directeur de Laï ;

Abbé Barnabé REMADJI, Directeur de Sarh.

Après avoir souhaité la bienvenue à chacun, l'abbé Barthélémy a exprimé son sentiment de joie pour cette initiative, la toute première, qui lui a permis d'avoir autour de lui ses collaborateurs. Il a situé le contexte de cette rencontre dont l'intention première est de fraterniser, de partager les expériences, surtout celles du MME et se soutenir mutuellement pour avancer dans la même direction en mettant en exergue le charisme des Œuvres.

Prenant la parole à son tour, le chargé d'affaire a salué cette initiative louable et il a brièvement expliqué le fonctionnement des OPM au niveau de l'Eglise universelle avant d'inviter chaque directeur à partager avec les autres l'organisation et l'évolution des OPM au niveau des Diocèses.

En ce qui concerne le MME, les célébrations ont été vécues avec joie et ont historiquement marqué ce mois. Les conférences radio diffusées, les formations du personnel apostolique et des animateurs missionnaires, les pèlerinages missionnaires, les veillées de prières, les concerts, les célébrations eucharistiques et autres activités sont les moments forts qui ont positivement marqué ce mois missionnaire extraordinaire. Grace à l'appui des Evêques et du Directeur National qui a effectué des déplacements dans certains diocèses, aidés par les Directeurs diocésains.

Les résultats sont là. On a constaté l'augmentation remarquable des quêtes, l'enthousiasme des fidèles et la prise de conscience de l'activité missionnaire dans certaines paroisses. Beaucoup ont demandé de pérenniser ces initiatives et de les adopter pour les autres célébrations des œuvres pontificales à venir.

PERSPECTIVES D'AVENIR

Pour maintenir du dynamisme du MME, les activités ayant servies à cet effet sont à maintenir et améliorer.

Chaque année, il faut lancer solennellement le Mois Missionnaire avec une messe d'ouverture et de clôture en privilégiant durant tout le mois d'octobre les activités suivantes : pèlerinage, rosaire missionnaire, séances de prière missionnaire, faire l'animation avec la figure des témoins missionnaire, concours de composition des chants missionnaire... en se servant du matériel pédagogique d'animation et de visibilité (dépliants, t-shirt, casquette, chapelet missionnaire, banderole, etc.) ; tout en utilisant les mass-médias (radio, journal, site web, réseaux sociaux). Tout cela relayé par la formation du personnel apostolique, des catéchistes et des fidèles. Bref, des nouveaux acteurs d'animation missionnaire à la base (Ecole d'animation Missionnaire) ;

Adapter le contenu des livrets d'animation aux réalités ecclésiales concrètes basées sur les témoignages, les personnages bibliques, la vie des saints, des situations vécues par les communautés... et non sur les faits de vie fictif ;

Initier et encourager les expériences d'échange missionnaire inter-paroissiaux et interdiocésain ainsi que des caravanes missionnaires ;

Proposer une fiche de retraite de carême 2020 pour les diocèses qui le désirent à partir du thème du MME : « Baptisés et envoyés : L'Eglise du Christ en mission dans le monde » en mettant en exergue la mission du Christ, le lien entre la *Missio Ad Gentes* et les OPM, la figure de Marie Pauline Jaricot dans la mission, la mission du baptisé.

En ce qui concerne la connaissance et l'appropriation des Œuvres et de la *Missio Ad Gentes*, il a été proposé à l'Assemblée Générale Ordinaire de Evêque du Tchad (C.E.T) l'enseignement des OPM et la *Missio Ad Gentes* dans les Séminaires et les Institut religieux à la suite du cours de Missiologie ; et aussi voir les possibilités de les introduire dans la catéchèse et la formation des catéchistes. La Conférence Episcopale, les Recteurs des Séminaires et les différents acteurs sont favorables. Maintenant, il reste à voir les faisabilités. Pour cela le Directeur National proposera aux autorités compétentes des Séminaires, à partir des documents du Magistères, des formations reçues à Rome, des rencontres continentales, des colloques et surtout du guide du MME, un programme en tenant compte des réalités de l'Eglise locale et de la *Ratio Fundamentalis*.

Déjà, pour les imprégner de ce projet, certains responsables des séminaires ont participé au Conseil National des OPM-TCHAD en juin dernier sur invitation du Directeur National.

Pour pallier au problème d'écart entre les montants des quêtes annoncés et reçus, une fiche de traçabilité a été proposée pour les paroisses et les procures. La première signée par le curé et contresignée par un membre du comité de gestion et déposée avec montant à l'économat diocésain.

La dernière remplie par le Directeur diocésain signée par ce dernier, l'économe et contresignée par l'ordinaire du lieu et envoyée à la direction nationale ;

L'Assemblée Nationale des OPM-TCHAD propose que la célébration du Mois Missionnaire, Extraordinaire soit inscrite dans la dynamique de la célébration du Centenaire de l'évangélisation au Tchad qui se pointe à l'horizon d'ici 10 ans. Elle propose à ce qu'un Évêque soit désigné afin de constituer une commission pour les préparatifs de sorte que chaque année, on pourrait éventuellement célébrer un évènement. Le Guide du mois missionnaire extraordinaire pourrait servir à la préparation de cette célébration. L'objectif de cette proposition est de permettre aux fidèles de bien vivre les acquis de la mission afin de comprendre que chaque baptisé est un envoyé pour porter l'Évangile aux périphéries.

Le Directeur national participera au deuxième pèlerinage international des OPM pour le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire à Lourdes, du lundi 11 mai au jeudi 14 mai 2020 sur le thème : « Marie, première missionnaire : je suis l'Immaculée Conception ». Pèlerinage organisé par les OPM Belgique et France. L'information a été donnée à la l'Assemblée des Evêques. Il pourrait éventuellement avoir une participation des fidèles de l'Eglise du Tchad ;

Invitation des secrétaires internationaux des OPM au Tchad ; formation sur la *Missio Ad gentes* et les OPM qui pourrait être éventuellement financée par les OPM ;

Direction Nationale des OPM, TCHAD

TOGO

RESUME DE LA CELEBRATION DU M.M.E. OCT 2019

I. L'OUVERTURE : 06 oct.

Suivant le programme national, l'ouverture solennelle a été déclinée dans les diocèses à la date du 06 octobre 2019. En voici un échantillon de ces célébrations :

II. L'APOTHEOSE AVEC LA CELEBRATION DE LA CONFERENCE DES EVEQUES : 15 oct.

Les Évêques du Togo ont choisi le diocèse de Dapaong et le 15 octobre 2019 pour marquer l'apothéose du MME à travers une célébration nationale présidée par le Nonce Apostolique au Togo, S.E.R. Monseigneur Brian UDAIGWE.

III. LES FESTIVITES DE CLÔTURE ONT EU LIEU A TRAVERS LES DIOCESES : les 26 et 27 oct.

Toujours dans l'exécution du programme national, des concerts de chants liturgiques et des représentations théâtrales de scénettes d'apostolat missionnaire, impliquant aussi des groupes de l'Enfance missionnaire, ont meublé la veillée du dernier dimanche du mois d'octobre en prélude à la Messe solennelle de clôture :

IV. VIVOICI LE PROGRAMME CONCRETEMENT EXECUTE A CHAQUE SEMAINE :

1. L'ouverture solennelle nationale et la manifestation de l'apothéose nationale:

La célébration du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire (MME) a été solennellement lancée le dimanche 6 octobre 2019 dans les Eglises locales. Le choix du Diocèse de Dapaong a été retenu par la Conférence des Évêques du Togo pour célébrer l'apothéose du MME en présence du Nonce Apostolique, le 15 octobre.

Durant tout le mois d'octobre l'on a développé, dans toutes les paroisses et communautés, chacune des œuvres des OPM, l'une après l'autre, en guise d'approfondissement au profit des fidèles :

2. La première semaine d'octobre 2019 : 30 sep. au 06 oct.

- Une instruction sur l'Œuvre de la propagation de la foi. Le thème retenu à cet effet a été : le baptisé et l'annonce de la Parole de Dieu : l'exemple de Pauline JARRICOT, initiatrice de l'œuvre de la propagation de la foi. Éléments mis en relief : la Parole de Dieu « Malheur à

moi si je n'annonce pas l'Évangile » (1Cor 9, 16) ; la Prière (Jésus, modèle de l'orant : Lc 3, 21 ; 4, 1.42 ; 6, 12. Eglise primitive, modèle de Communauté orante : Ac 2, 42 et s.) ; l'Eucharistie (1Co 10, 16 et s. ; 11, 23 et s.).

- La procession et l'intronisation des Saintes Ecritures le dimanche 6 octobre 2019 dans toutes les paroisses des diocèses du Togo.
 - Des projections de films : exemples : le miracle eucharistique, Moïse et les 10 commandements etc.
 - La récitation de la prière du chapelet et la litanie de la Vierge Marie conclue par la prière circonstancielle pour ce mois d'octobre.
3. La deuxième semaine d'octobre 2019: 07 au 13
- Instruction sur l'Œuvre de la Sainte Enfance Missionnaire.
 - Le thème retenu : les témoins ou missionnaires sont de tous les âges : les saints tels que Ste Thérèse de l'Enfant Jésus ; St Dominique Savio ; St Kisito et les martyrs de l'Ouganda ; St François Xavier...
 - Des projections de films : exemple : sur la vie d'un Saint jeune.
 - Au niveau diocésain et national, l'on a présenté la mémoire des missionnaires et catéchistes qui ont été pionniers. Partage sur la vie des premiers missionnaires et des témoins locaux.
 - La récitation de la prière du chapelet et la litanie de la Vierge Marie conclue par la prière circonstancielle pour ce mois d'octobre.
4. La troisième semaine d'octobre 2019 : 14 au 20
- Instruction sur l'Œuvre de St Pierre Apôtre (Vocation et formation)
 - Le thème retenu : l'impact de la mission de l'Eglise sur la vie des chrétiens. Les questions qui ont servi aux débats : Y a-t-il une purification de nos cultures ? L'impact de la catéchèse et de la réflexion théologique sur nos mœurs et cultures.
 - Projection de film et/ou exposé de la vie de Ste Joséphine Bakhita.
 - Exposés et débats sur des sujets d'inculturation tels que la dot, le veuvage, les funérailles, les rites initiatiques, etc.
 - La récitation de la prière du chapelet et la litanie de la Vierge Marie conclue par la prière circonstancielle pour ce mois d'octobre.
5. La quatrième semaine d'octobre 2019 : 21 au 31
- Instruction sur l'Œuvre de l'Union Pontificale Missionnaire.

- Le thème retenu: l'annonce doit se faire charité. Le débat autour du profil du Prêtre et du Consacré ou de la Consacrée missionnaire a débouché sur la conclusion que : le témoin doit se faire proche des nécessiteux : cf. les actes matériels et spirituels de miséricorde.
 - Pour ce faire, les actes concrètement posés ont été : la visite aux malades, aux orphelinats par les Pasteurs, les membres des conseils diocésains et paroissiaux.
 - Des concours de composition de textes de chants inspirés de l'hymne à la charité (1Co 13) ont été organisés.
 - La récitation de la prière du chapelet et la litanie de la Vierge Marie conclue par la prière circonstancielle pour ce mois d'octobre.
6. Les activités de clôture :
- La clôture du Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire a eu lieu le dimanche 27 octobre 2019 par la messe épiscopale dans tous les diocèses.
 - Le samedi 26 octobre, il a été organisé en prélude, des soirées de concert de chants de chorales et d'artistes du gospel, de même que des manifestations chorégraphique et théâtrale des groupes de l'Enfance Missionnaire en vue de célébrer ladite clôture.

Direction Nationale des OPM, TOGO

TUNISIE

COMPTE-RENDU DU MOIS MISSIONNAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE 2019

L'Archidiocèse de Tunis s'est engagé avec joie et détermination, à la mesure de ses moyens, dans la célébration du mois d'octobre missionnaire extraordinaire voulu par le Pape François en 2019.

Eléments sur le contexte

Dans le contexte de la Tunisie, le concept et la réalité de la mission ad gentes sont centraux : sur onze millions d'habitants, 99% sont musulmans, et le nombre des chrétiens résidents n'excède pas 30000. Les catholiques sont d'environ 80 nationalités différentes. La moitié vit dans le contexte de familles islamo-chrétiennes. 32 prêtres, dont 6 incardinés (les autres étant Fidei Donum, Pères Blancs, Lazaristes, Salésiens, de l'Institut du Verbe Incarné et du PIME), frères, séminaristes et stagiaires (la moyenne d'âge étant de 53 ans et continuant à baisser), et 84 religieuses composent la communauté consacrée, répartie sur le territoire, essentiellement sur la côte et dans le nord. Faute de vocations, de nombreuses communautés consacrées ont quitté la Tunisie depuis les 20 dernières années, conduisant à une concentration progressive de la présence catholique dans les villes et sur la côte. De nouvelles congrégations sont arrivées, originaires d'Europe, du Moyen Orient et d'Amérique du Sud. Au croisement de l'Europe, de l'Orient et de l'Afrique, la communauté catholique de Tunisie s'est enrichie ces dernières années de la présence de nombreux jeunes subsahariens, pour la plupart étudiants, mais aussi, dans une moindre mesure, travailleurs ou migrants. La liberté de conscience, juridiquement garantie par la nouvelle Constitution de la république Tunisienne de 2014, consécutive à la « Révolution de Jasmin » de 2011, a favorisé l'émergence d'un embryon de communauté autochtone, composé de « nouveaux disciples » originaires de l'islam. Bien que la Tunisie jouisse d'une histoire chrétienne riche de plus de 1800 ans de présence, l'Eglise locale, y compris à la période patristique, a toujours été d'origine étrangère. La première évangélisation du pays reste inaccomplie, au sens de l'émergence et de la présence stable d'une communauté autochtone à peine naissante, ce qui situe l'Archidiocèse en totale situation de mission ad gentes. La présence et la mission de l'Eglise se vivent dans une dynamique quotidienne de « Visitation » par laquelle l'Evangile se donne par la vie. L'Evangile y devient pour une part ferment dans un cadre sociétal en pleine. La rencontre de l'autre au quotidien, le travail patient de l'éducation (le diocèse anime 9 établissements scolaires), la contribution à la consolidation d'une culture du débat à travers bibliothèques et centres d'étude, l'organisation de tables rondes sur des sujets de société, l'action commune dans le cadre social et associatif... tout cela participe d'un élan citoyen où l'Eglise s'efforce d'apporter sa pierre à la construction d'une société fière de son identité et riche de son pluralisme, en favorisant le

développement intégral de la personne, surtout des plus fragiles, dans une vision pluraliste de la société. Sur le plan religieux, on assiste aussi à l'émergence d'une nouvelle dimension du dialogue : non plus seulement entre chrétiens et musulmans, mais dans une position où l'Eglise est de plus en plus souvent appelée à « aider » des musulmans à dialoguer entre eux, dans un contexte où l'islam s'interroge jusque dans ses fondements (exégétiques, spirituels et juridiques). La Tunisie apparaît aujourd'hui comme un « laboratoire » d'approches novatrices à l'intérieur de l'islam (débat autour du mariage, de l'égalité et des libertés dans tous les domaines, y compris en matière d'héritage, approche historico-critique du texte coranique ...), provoquant de nombreux débats dans le monde arabo-musulman, avec des possibilités d'évolutions importantes sur de nombreux plans.

Le Mois Missionnaire Extraordinaire

La ligne pastorale définie par le diocèse pour le MME 2019 se voulait simple : aider tous les baptisés à (re)prendre conscience de leur appel et de leur responsabilité missionnaires en repartant de la Parole de Dieu mise en lien avec la vie, le service et la rencontre de l'autre.

Un livret diocésain a été réalisé pour aider toutes les communautés à une lectio divina missionnaire sur les dimanches du mois d'octobre, présentant également les quatre OPM (histoire, charisme, objectifs, interaction avec notre diocèse, moyens concrets par lesquels contribuer à leur action). Ce livret a été partagé sur le site des OPM.

La prière a été centrale dans le vécu diocésain du MME2019 : adorations, lectio, partages de la Parole, célébrations missionnaires au niveau paroissial... Mais aussi l'action : mission populaire, attention plus aigüe à nos « frères dans la foi » lointains ou isolés, action caritative renouvelée dans un sens missionnaire plus conscient à travers « l'apostolat de la bonté » (cf. Charles de Foucauld, qui a été au cœur de la retraite annuelle du clergé fin octobre)...

La collecte du Dimanche des Missions a dépassé toutes les espérances, avec un montant global qui, s'il reste modeste, a triplé par rapport à l'année précédente.

L'ensemble du diocèse a pu découvrir davantage la réalité des OPM – qui restait sans doute trop méconnue, et s'est développé un élan de prière pour en soutenir l'action et se sentir davantage partie prenante du réseau mondial formé par les Œuvres.

Les consacrés du diocèse ont marqué le MME2019 par une réflexion sur les enjeux actuels de la mission dans le contexte tunisien, à travers une relecture d'expérience et tentative d'actualisation à partir de la *Maximum Illud* de Benoît XV. L'un des constats est qu'il y a encore beaucoup à prier et à faire pour que les vœux exprimés par le pape à cette époque prennent davantage corps dans la réalité missionnaire particulière de la Tunisie, où la première évangélisation autochtone n'est pas encore advenue, où l'émergence d'une Eglise et d'un clergé locaux reste encore à venir. Le constat

et la prise de conscience verbalisés ensemble sont importants, restant ouverte la question d'une éventuelle évolution de la praxis missionnaire, dans ses objectifs ou dans ses moyens.

Devant le succès de ce mois missionnaire, ressenti par beaucoup comme trop court, le diocèse réfléchit actuellement à la manière de le prolonger en une « année missionnaire » (au moins), en poursuivant sur la lancée des initiatives prises pendant le mois d'octobre, et en discernant les moyens d'enrichir cette expérience.

Direction Nationale des OPM Tunisie

UGANDA

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EMM OCT2019

First and foremost, we are grateful for the providential time to be involved in the renewed fervor of mission inspired by Pope Francis on Mission Sunday 2017 when he announced the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 (EMM OCT019). The reading and study of the Apostolic Letter, *Maximum Illud*, promulgated by Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919) put the unprecedented scope of the mission of the Universal Church in a historical perspective.

We began with identifying areas of urgent need for mission awareness and animation. These included but not exclusively, the family, Small Christian Communities, Institutions of learning, workplaces, parishes and even refugee camps (since these are prevalent in many parts of Uganda). We also identified the agents who must carry on this mission: all priests, the religious men and women, catechists, Catholic professionals of all walks of life: teachers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, politicians, business men and women and other members of the laity. Qualification in this mission was and still is by virtue of baptism. Everyone received divine life in baptism and so every baptized was to claim mission and communicate this divine life as his or her responsibility and duty in continuing the mission of Christ, the mission of the Church. To this effect we wrote letters to the Diocesan Directors of the PMS and their collaborators in both pastoral and missionary ministries to re-awaken the missionary awareness of all the baptized in their preaching and administration of sacraments.

We had two workshops on two levels converging participants of two Ecclesiastical Provinces at a time, in two central dioceses: Kampala and Mbarara Ecclesiastical Provinces in Fort Portal Diocese; Gulu and Tororo Ecclesiastical Provinces in Lira Diocese. Both meetings were well-attended and the sharing was lively. In here we met with the diocesan bishops or their representatives, Diocesan Directors of PMS, Diocesan Pastoral Coordinators, Diocesan Education Secretaries, Representatives of Men and Women Religious, Head of the Catechists and their Formators, Representatives of Catholic Professionals in the dioceses, married couples and in some instances with mothers and children. We had lively exchanges and sharing of ideas on how to carry out mission in light of *Maximum Illud* and other pertinent Church documents like *Missio ad gentes* of Vatican II, *Evangelii Gaudium* of Pope Francis etc. Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, PMU Secretary General, came from Rome to listen to our views on mission and shared in the exchange of ideas. This sharing put special emphasis on the urgent need in every believing faithful for the unwavering conviction of faith, witnessing to the gospel in word and deed and insist on on-going formation at all levels of mission

animation and awareness in a constantly changing and globalized world. At the Uganda Martrys University (UMU) Nkozi, we took the urgency of mission to a Catholic Institution where we met and had a lively exchange with lecturers and students on the way forward to carrying on this mission by every baptized member of the Church, including university students. What kind of impact can a Catholic university make on the renewed sense and urgency of mission in the Church?

We published over 40,000 posters with the theme and log of the EMM OCT2019. These were distributed to all parishes, Institutions and communities in all the dioceses in Uganda. We requested that these posters reach down and stay in the families as well. In addition, we published the Letter of Pope Francis for the Centenary of the Promulgation of the Apostolic Letter, “Maximum Illud” on the activity of Missionaries in the world, and another letter from the National Director of PMS in Uganda (Fr. Pontian) on the message on the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019, in two Magazines: for the Uganda Martyrs Day 3rd June 2019 and for the magazine for the Golden Jubilee (50 years) of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) which took place from 22nd -28th July 2019 in Kampala, Uganda. Here the readership was widened to many bishops, priests and other delegates who come to this historical event from the entire continent of Africa!

As far as other activities within Uganda were concerned, we reached out to the animators and a few children from a refugee camp in Arua who made a pilgrimage to Munyonyo Uganda Martyrs Shrine in July 2019. The children and their animators shared their faith and knowledge of catechism and we affirmed them as Missionaries of Missionary Childhood in the refugee camp. We assured them of our prayers and gave to them rosaries and religious medals from our MCH office.

The EMM OCT2019 was supposed to be celebrated on the National level at the Uganda Martyrs Day on June 3rd 2019 at Namugongo where thousands of pilgrims gathered to honour the 24 Catholic and 24 Anglican Uganda Martyrs, their heroic witness to the gospel by the shedding of their blood as lay faithful who had just converted to Christianity. This is an example of local lay missionary saints (martrys), who even before they were killed, shared their faith and catechized others in the newly acquired faith. The foreign missionaries who had brought the faith to Uganda had been exiled but these neophytes and catechumens carried on the mission despite the danger to their lives! They are therefore worthy of imitation. PMS Uganda spiced up the celebration with posters containing the theme and log for the EMM OCT2019: Baptized and Sent; the Church of Christ on mission in the world.

All dioceses, through the diocesan directors of PMS working with their respective diocesan bishops, celebrated the EMM OCT2019 on diocesan level. The national director of PMS attended and participated in that of the diocese of Kiyinda-Mityana where 290 children received the sacrament

of Confirmation and 24 couples were joined in the sacrament of Matrimony. These were reminded to be like new missionaries, sharing their lives and faith with others driven by the theme “baptized and sent”, but as Confirmed and sent, Married and sent to share the divine life inborn in them from this day forward. In the diocese of Kotido, the bishop baptized a number of children and adults emphasizing the theme of being sent out to announce the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and actions. In the Archdiocese of Tororo, the Archbishop and diocesan director of PMS commissioned children to be missionaries to other children and adults. These children on their part and initiative gave out bedding to fellow children who were adversely affected by the destructive landslides in Bududa in the same Archdiocese. The office of PMS was represented on this function by the National Coordinator of MCH.

The office of PMS also animated the staff of the Uganda Catholic Secretariat and members of the Catholic Parliamentary Chaplaincy – representing a cross section of Catholic professionals. The results were overwhelmingly positive with very good support and contribution to the Universal Solidarity Fund for 2019. These two new initiatives for missionary animation and awareness concluded with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on a day designated as Mission Sunday and EMM OCT2019 participation.

As Pope Francis urges us in *Evangelii Gaudium*, “...the path of pastoral and missionary conversion cannot leave things as they presently are. Throughout the world, let us be permanently in a state of mission. Let us remain open always to the joyful newness of the gospel.”

PMS National Direction, UGANDA

UNITED STATES

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

Online Missiology Course

The profile of the modern learner (Kristie Greany, 2018) indicates that 76% of contemporary adult learners prefer online learning opportunities; 48% can only find time for personal and professional education in the evenings and on weekends, and 41% study at their desk during work breaks and lunch. Some even flex their commuting time, using their devices to study. Further, it is noted that 96% of contemporary adult learners turn to their phones first to seek information and learning – and they do so 10 times every hour. In addition, 76% of adults prefer online educational learning, while 90% want collaborative and student-driven courses. Contemporary communication and educational technology offer learners the ability to not just be passive spectators. Learners can research theories, interact with multi-media presentations, and engage with co-learners to solve problems wherever and however it is convenient. Online learning offers adults today the flexibility to direct their learning and schedule it accordingly. And since the adult learner, on average, takes just 7 seconds to decide if educational content is worth their time, content needs to be immediately relevant and accessible, offered in a way that is collaborative and active.

Leveraging this profile of today's learner, and celebrating the Extraordinary Missionary Month, the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States (TPMS) launched, on October 1, 2019, the first-ever online interactive and collaborative conversation-based learning experience on the theology of mission in the Catholic Church.

Created by the TPMS National Office, with the assistance of Boston College, this course is suitable for beginners or those with a background in faith formation.

A groundbreaking form of online education that:

- *invites* learners to explore the roots of the Church to see how its missionary identity developed in and from the early Church, and guides to an understanding of our part to play today.
- *offers* a mission paradigm that moves beyond the four walls of any parish and sends Catholics out to meet the world faithfully in ongoing dialogue and service.

On completion of the seven-lesson course (mission history, mission communities, mission dynamics, mission theology, mission spirituality, culture and inculturation, bringing mission home), learners will:

- understand the basics of the Church's mission theology
- earn a certificate from the Pontifical Missionary Union

- “visit” missionaries in the field through conversations with the MISSIO USA ChatBot on Facebook Messenger
- share their reflections and respond to the reflections of other participants from around the world
- learn how to insert mission theology into your ministry and daily life

The TPMS (Arch)Diocesan Network was offered free access in advance of the launch just before the start of EMM. The course is also being offered to U.S. catechists and religious educators on the My Catholic Faith Delivered (MCFD) platform, and a link to a special page on the course is included on the Resources Page of MISSIO.org. MCFD currently provides catechetical formation programs to some 80 dioceses and offers an important network for extending the reach of TPMS as a leader in mission formation.

National Gathering for EMM / the Synod

The TPMS National Office convened TPMS (Arch)Diocesan Leaders, along with collaborating mission organizations, for a three-day meeting in the nation’s capital of Washington, D.C. The program centered around an Advocacy Day of meetings with Congressional representatives about issues of significance for the Mission Church and related to the Synod for the Amazon, which Pope Francis connected to the EMM. These issues, all close to the work of TPMS, included climate change, ecology and the environment, immigrants and refugees, and religious persecution.

The April 30 to May 2 national conference was preceded by biweekly (Tuesdays and Thursdays) emails to prepare for Advocacy Day. The meeting concluded with a session facilitated by the Extraordinary Missionary Year Committee, formed from (Arch)Diocesan Mission Offices, which offered practical implementation suggestions for the EMM into parish and (arch)diocesan life, as well as shared ideas from (Arch)Diocesan Offices (gathered from an email survey of these offices).

Resources, Communications, and Events

TPMS expanded its Resources Page (missio.org/resources), adding a special page for the EMM, with age-appropriate digital learning materials for all grade levels, as well as materials for mission spirituality, and small group use, homily helps and backgrounders, and profiles of missionary witnesses (including a video on Pauline Jaricot). World Mission Sunday materials included the EMM, as well as the Synod for the Amazon, with particular focus on Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN as the “face” of the EMM for the United States.

Weekly communication with (Arch)Diocesan Mission Offices, as well as U.S. parishes and schools featured resources and background information for the EMM, information on their individual (arch)diocesan efforts, and notification about special events in Rome for EMM.

EMM events in (arch)dioceses were included in weekly communications. On the national level, the National Office promoted the Missionary Childhood Association Mission Song Contest, with the theme of the EMM, “Baptized and Sent,” and an EMM Media Award, encouraging all forms of media to tell the stories of missionaries today. Winners and information were posted to the EMM Resources Page.

PMS Missio USA

URUGUAY

MES MISIONERO EXTRAORDINARIO

Al recibir la convocatoria para la celebración del mes misionero extraordinario, en diálogo con la Conferencia Episcopal del Uruguay se tomó la decisión de NO realizar convocatorias en gran escala por dos razones de peso:

- 2019 es año electoral en el país, esto implica que se concretan cuatro llamados a urnas, y durante todo el año, desde el mes de abril se emprende las diferentes etapas de campaña electoral que envuelven la opinión general en un clima de controversia y contienda.
- La única convocatoria a nivel nacional que la conferencia realiza es para el domingo 10 de noviembre, celebración de la Virgen de los Treinta y Tres, patrona del Uruguay.

Sin embargo se establecen las siguientes directivas para el MME:

- Promover en el nivel comunitario (parroquias, grupos, colegios, movimientos), espacios de reflexión y oración en torno al tema propuesto.
- Realizar todas las instancias posibles de animación y formación misionera posibles a través de las radios locales.
- Fortalecer el DEPARTAMENTO DE MISIONES de la Conferencia Episcopal
- Reformar la web de las OMP Uruguay en un formato atractivo, interactivo, e integrando una plataforma de formación.

Lo alcanzado:

- En seis diócesis (de un total de 10) la Dirección Nacional desarrolló directamente instancias de formación y reflexión.
- El trabajo en conjunto con el Sector Palabra de la Conferencia Episcopal, donde participan los departamentos de: Animación Bíblica, Liturgia, Catequesis, P. Popular y Misiones hizo posible que se articularan tres meses de animación con el tema y lema del Mes Misionero Extraordinario:

Agosto – Mes Nacional de la Catequesis

Setiembre – Mes Nacional de la Biblia

Octubre – Mes Nacional de las Misiones

- Participamos en más de 30 emisiones de radios locales donde se propuso el tema del MME.
- En algunas comunidades religiosas se nos solicitó que propusiéramos jornadas de reflexión y oración (9 en total)
- En cuanto al Dpto. de Misiones de la Conferencia Episcopal, se ha logrado pasar de una representación mínima de 4 diócesis, actualmente están representadas las 10 jurisdicciones

existentes en el país. Con los nuevos miembros del Dpto., se ha realizado un trabajo inicial para introducirlos en la tarea de delegados diocesanos. Así mismo se ha decidido que la totalidad de los integrantes del Dpto. reciban una capacitación básica en teología de la misión, un curso de cuatro semestres en formato virtual, que dará inicio al comienzo del próximo año.

- La Web se está reformando, en diciembre estará lista, incluyendo la plataforma de formación a distancia que será un instrumento importante para proponer cursos breves para agentes pastorales.

A modo de conclusión, diría que el “legado” más importante del MME en Uruguay, es haber provocado un renovado interés por la dimensión misionera de la vida cristiana, que nos comprometemos a seguir acompañando y nutriendo.

Dirección Nacional de las OMP, URUGUAY

VIETNAM

SUMMARY REPORT EMM OCT 2019

Relying on four dimensions that specified by the Pope, to live more intensely the journey of preparation for and implementation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month – October 2019, the PMS-VN's Office would like to have Summary Report what the Church in Vietnam have done during the EMM as following.

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in his Church

- During the EMM almost parishes and congregations in all dioceses had Masses and Eucharistic Adoration with specific intentional prayers for missionary activities of the Church.
- Many churches and chapels opened the doors whole day for every faithful can come for silently prayers. And also, churches and chapels opened for 24 hours for the Lord.
- Almost dioceses in the country followed a schedule of prayers with intention for Asia, which was made by PMS's National Directors in Asia during the continental meeting in Taiwan (February 2019).
- We translated into Vietnamese the daily meditation of the Guide EMM OCT2019.

2. Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs, and confessors of the faith as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world.

- Distribution of Vietnamese Martyrs' books to some parishes and encourage the people to read.

3. Ongoing formation

- The PMS-VN organized two seminars of ongoing formation for superiors, professors and young priests/religious men/women with the theme: "Baptised and Sent: The Church in Vietnam on mission in the Nation".
- I, as the PMS-VN's National Director, had 10 opportunities to talk about "Topicality of Maximum Illud in the context of Vietnam today" and "Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World" in various dioceses and congregations in the Country.
- Particularly, I have written a letter (with an approval signature of bishop Alfonse, Chair of the Episcopal Commission on Mission in Vietnam) sending to all bishop of the Conference to ask for setting up the PMS in their diocese. Now we are following up this schedule.

4. Missionary charity

- The PMS-VN's Office start to support a program of training ethnic minority laity missionaries

PMS National Direction, VIETNAM

ZAMBIA

BRIEF REPORT ON THE PREPARATION AND CELEBRATION OF THE EMM OCT 2019

1. Introduction

Exactly one year after Pope Francis declared October 2019 as an extraordinary Missionary Month (EMM OCT 2019), the Church in Zambia formally started contemplating on the preparations and actual celebrations to mark the EMM OCT 2019. On 21st October 2018 the President of the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB), Right Rev. Bishop George Lungu announced the EMM OCT 2019 to the Church in Zambia. A letter dated 21st October 2019 addressed to all Parish Priests, Religious Men and Women and the Lay faithful was read on all Catholic Radio Stations in the Country and in Parishes.

After the official announcement of the EMM OCT 2019 by the ZCCB President, a joint meeting of PMS diocesan directors and diocesan Pastoral coordinators was organized in Lusaka. In December 2018, a group of 25 people comprising of Priests and Religious Sisters gathered for two days at the Catholic Secretariat in Lusaka to plan for the preparations and celebrations of the EMM OCT 2019. Each diocese and Archdiocese were represented through their diocesan Pastoral Coordinators and Diocesan PMS directors. The National office was represented by the National Pastoral Coordinator and the PMS National Director. The secretary General of the Conference was also in attendance.

Following the EMM OCT 2019 National planning meeting in December, each diocese was mandated to begin the preparations in their respective dioceses. On 13th July 2019, a big National celebration was held in Lusaka at the Cathedral of the Child Jesus to Launch the EMM OCT 2019 at the National level. After the National launch, it was left open to all the dioceses to launch the EMM OCT 2019 at diocesan level.

Each diocese prepared its own program of activities directed by their diocesan administration. However, there were a number of activities that were common to all the dioceses and which were spearheaded by the PMS National office. The following activities were coordinated from the National office; Holy childhood singing the Mission choir festival, EMM OCT 2019 Preparatory radio programs and the EMM OCT 2019 daily reflections radio programs.

In addition, before the actual month of October, the PMS National office conducted animation seminars to sensitize the religious and faithful on the EMM OCT 2019. Formation programs also took place at the national level which included an international theological formation program called EMM OCT 2019 Theological Colloquium held in Lusaka. Finally, to complete observing of the four dimensions of living the EMM OCT 2019; Prayer, Witnessing, Formation and Missionary Charity,

the National office organized a group of young people who went into shopping Malls to fundraise for Missionary Charity.

My report briefly presents the mentioned EMM OCT 2019 activities that were directly spearheaded by the PMS National Office.

EMM OCT 2019 ACTIVITIES AT NATIONAL OFFICE

2. EMM OCT 2019 National Launch in Lusaka

- a. On 13th July 2019 the EMM OCT 2019 national launch took place in Lusaka at the Cathedral of the Child Jesus.
- b. All the Bishops from the eleven dioceses participated in the Eucharistic Celebration.
- c. The Main Celebrant at the Eucharistic Celebration was the Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia His Excellency Archbishop Gianfranco Gallone.
- d. Diocesan Pastoral Coordinators and Diocesan PMS Directors from all dioceses participated in this EMM OCT 2019 National Launch.
- e. During the launch, the EMM OCT 2019 banners bearing the EMM OCT 2019 theme and logo were handed over to each PMS Diocesan Director by the Apostolic Nuncio and the PMS national Director as one of the tools to be used in the EMM OCT 2019 Animation.

3. EMM OCT 2019 Holy childhood Singing the Mission Choir festival

- a. In January a letter was sent from the PMS National office to the PMS Diocesan Directors to mark the beginning of the Holy childhood Singing the Mission Choir Festival.
- b. The Holy Childhood singing the mission Choir competition took place between January and July 2019 starting from Parishes, Deaneries, Dioceses up to the National level.
- c. Each PMS Diocesan Director coordinated the singing in their dioceses. After the competition at the diocesan levels, the winning song from each diocese was sent to the National office.
- d. In August a group of six (6) people sat in Lusaka to choose the winning song which was eventually sent to Rome.
- e. The Holychildhood from Monze diocese emerged winners followed by Chipata diocese and Kabwe diocese came third.

4. EMM OCT 2019 Preparatory Radio Programs, Animation Seminars and Formation Programs

- a. The National Office prepared a series of EMM OCT 2019 radio programs aimed at preparing the faithful for the celebration of the EMM OCT 2019.
- b. The EMM OCT 2019 radio programs were aired on the Catholic Radio Stations in August and September.

- c. The main focus of the program was to announce that Pope Francis has declared October 2019 as Extraordinary Missionary Month.
- d. The Programs also explained the Four dimensions of Preparing for, and living the EMM OCT 2019. (Prayer, Witnessing, Formation and Missionary Charity)
- e. We also conducted animation seminars to sensitize the religious and faithful on the EMM OCT 2019. Seminars were held for the following groups; Catholic Secretariat members of staff, Congregations of Sisters, Association of Diocesan Clergy, and seminarians at St. Dominic's major seminary and Emmaus Spirituality Centre.

5. EMM OCT 2019 Daily Reflections Radio Program

- a. Thirty-one (31) series of Radio reflections based on the daily reflections from the EMM OCT 2019 Guide were produced by the PMS National office in Zambia.
- b. These daily reflections were aired daily on all the 9 Catholic Radio Stations in Zambia, including the Catholic television.
- c. The daily reflections also circulated on social media platforms such as the ZCCB face book page and WhatsApp platforms.
- d. Coupled with the reflections were the invitation at the end of each reflection session to invite the people to recite the EMM OCT 2019 Prayer together.

6. EMM OCT 2019 Theological Colloquium

In Zambia we had a gracious moment to host the EMM OCT 2019 Theological Colloquium under the theme; Proclamation, Sacrament and Christian Witness in the *Missio Ad gentes* in Africa. 12 Scholars from 8 African English speaking countries presented their papers.

7. Fundraising for Missionary Charity

We formed a group of 9 young men and women who volunteered to go to the shopping Malls on daily basis during the Month of October to raise funds for Missionary Charity. In the process these young people interacted with people and shared the information about the EMM OCT 2019 and distributed the Missionary Prayer. As a small way of fundraising and animation we also produced the EMM OCT 2019 Chitenge which assisted so much with our visibility.

8. Conclusion

Indeed, the EMM OCT 2019 was a gracious moment to renew our Missionary vitality. This was observed in the lives of so many religious men and women and the lay faithful who responded faithfully to the call of Pope Francis. For instance, the number of our lay faithful and religious who adopted the EMM OCT 2019 logo as their display photo on their WhatsApp and Facebook pages is overwhelming. In addition, we received positive feedback on daily reflections and reciting of the

EMM OCT 2019 prayer from so many people who followed our program faithfully for the whole month of October. Singing the Mission choir competition for the Holy childhood also drew the interest of not only the Children but also their parents.

In conclusion, we all appreciated, as inspiring, the four dimensions presented to us as the way to, prepare for, and celebrate the EMM OCT 2019.

PMS National Direction, ZAMBIA

ZIMBABWE

EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

Activities 2019:

The whole of 2019 was mainly committed to the missionary nature of the Church in response to the Papal appeal that the Universal Church celebrates the Extraordinary Mission Month of October.

The PMS Director together with the National Pastoral Director of the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference organised a workshop in February this year for all Diocesan Pastoral Directors and Diocesan P.M.S representatives to discuss ways of celebrating the Extraordinary Mission Month.

The meeting resolved to engage in a number of activities in all dioceses throughout the year. Some of the activities include:

I. The Launch of the theme in June at Parish level.

II. Public Proclamation of Faith:

Parishioners in the entire 8 Ecclesiastical jurisdiction were encouraged to dedicate one day before the Mission Sunday as Public Proclamation of the Gospel. Among the activities recommended were visiting the Sick in Hospitals, visiting prisoners, Children's homes, Old People's homes and praying with them.

Some Parishes chose to publicly proclaim the Gospel by putting "Laudato Si –Care of our common home" into action. They spent a few hours cleaning public facilities like Shopping Centres, Health Centres etc.

III. Pilgrimages

Another way of celebrating this Extraordinary Mission Month was by visiting Holy Places local, Regional and International. Some Diocese organised guided pilgrimages to their local shrines as a Diocese and other Parishes went on a Pilgrimage to the Uganda Martyrs Shrine, and others visited the Holy Land.

IV. Congresses

The Missionary Childhood Society organise some Congress for the children on a diocesan level. At these Congresses, children brought some foodstuffs that were distributed to other needy children.

This same Society composed a hymn based on the theme of the Extraordinary Mission Month (Baptised and Sent) and music competitions were held at Parish, Diocesan and National levels.

The winning video will be sent to the International Secretariat.

V. Talks.

Various talks were organised and delivered by experts on Mission at Parish level, Deanery and Diocesan level.

The Regional Seminary organised a series of talks for the whole month of October covering many topics on Mission.

VI. Publication:

A series of five brochures were produced throughout the year covering a number of topics on Mission. Some of the topics covered were:

- a. What do we Evangelise
- b. Content of Evangelisation
- c. How do we Evangelise
- d. Evangelisation and Catechesis
- e. Baptism and Mission

All the topics covered will now be bound together into one Booklet which will be available to all Catholics.

VII. Campaign Material.

Posters, T-Shirts, and material with the Baptised and Sent Logo were printed distributed among the faithful. The regalia was the most popular especially among women as they made lovely dresses using the cloth material.

VIII. Commissioning.

Each Parish was asked to have a special commissioning of its parishioners before the Great Commissioning at Diocesan level held on the 19th of October 2019.

The celebration of Extraordinary Mission Month in October at Diocesan level was the climax of all the events with the Commissioning of the People.

PMS National Direction, ZIMBABWE

