

# Missionaries Write Us:

EXCERPTS FROM ACTUAL LETTERS  
OF MISSIONARIES AROUND THE  
WORLD ADDRESSED TO THE  
SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION  
OF THE FAITH

### FROM CAGAYAN DE ORO, PHILIPPINES:

Our Archdiocese has over 600,000 baptized Catholics scattered over 37 parishes. We have 57 priests in all, so that there is a ratio of about one priest for every 11,000 people. Most of our people here are so poor that only about half the parishes can support their priests. The Archbishop has to subsidize the rest. As you can well imagine the ordinary subsidy from the Propagation of the Faith is most welcome. Without it, it would be impossible to carry on.

Thank God our vocations are increasing. This is what we have all been working and praying for. It is an added burden, however, because most of these students have to be subsidized by the Archdiocese; but I know it is a burden that the Archbishop accepts very willingly.



"They Went And Saw Where He Lived..." (Jn 1:39)

Father is calling on one of his parishioners in La Paz, Bolivia. The poverty of the people, as well as the superstitious and hazy notions they have of their faith, challenge the persistence and ingenuity of missionaries. Please support them as they invite the world to Christ -- be generous on Mission Sunday, October 22nd.

### FROM ARUSHA, TANZANIA:

To beg for the upkeep of the missionaries and for their accommodation, we must turn to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for help. If the missionaries do not have decent accommodations and good wholesome food, they will not be of much use in spreading the good news of Christ.

The Society comes to the missionaries' aid in an area that many others do not even think about -- the support of the missionary.

### FROM CHUN CHEON, KOREA:

The Happy Family Movement is now a nationwide movement in Korea for the total sanctification of family life. Because of the prevalence of abortion and contraception here, the Movement places special emphasis on natural family planning. But this is only part of the program, which stresses all the family virtues.

### FROM SINTANG, INDONESIA:

Our diocese has just launched a program of evangelization among the Daya tribes living along the border with Sarawak. This is in keeping with the government's program to start social and economic education among those tribes to avoid and oppose Communist influence and infiltration.

These people have never been visited by a priest, not to speak of methodical evangelization. But by the good influence of some exemplary military personnel on duty there, a desire to become Catholic took root among them and several times they have applied for spiritual help. The great distance, however, which requires an expensive journey and the shortage of priest-missionaries make it very difficult to meet their demands.

However now we have the opportunity to start a missionary program entrusted to a team of catechists/pastoral workers, prepared by our Catechetical Training Institute. Two young men have received the mission to evangelize those tribes, to receive believers in the catechumenate, to guide the Catholics living there either as civil servants or as farmers coming from other regions. A native priest will accompany them. The whole program has been prepared by the Staff of the Catechetical Training Institute and the young missionaries have been instructed with regard to the method to be used. They will live among the people and after half a year will be relieved by three others.

As this program will be continued in the following years, building up a local Church, the catechists working there need a house where they can stay and pray together, leading a Christian life which radiates the Christian spirit. Annexed to this house we would like to build a modest hall, where the catechists can lead the prayers, give religious instructions, etc. and where they can perform the liturgical rites of the catechumenate.

"And He Took Pity On Them And Healed Their Sick." (Mt 14:14)

At a mission dispensary in Flores, Indonesia, this Brother administers nose drops to a little girl having a fever and runny nose. Medical assistance is a vital part of missionary work in areas where even an aspirin is hard to come by. Won't you have pity on them? Please pray for them and help them, especially on Mission Sunday, October 22nd.



"Where Two Or Three Meet In My Name, I Shall Be There With Them." (Mt 18:20)

In many areas of the world, priests are in short supply. But lay men and women gather together for prayer and spiritual reading to deepen their faith, and discover ways for self-help. They become the leaven in the mass, inviting the world to Christ. Please pray for them on Mission Sunday, October 22nd. (Vivant Univers photo)

