

# MISSION IS LOVE

2017

Reflections in preparation for World Mission Sunday

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### MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS

### for World Mission Sunday 2017

### Mission at the heart of the 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

I. 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. ls 55:10-11): Jesus Christ, who constantly takes flesh in every human situation (cf. |n 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,

lesus 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, I). 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).

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.

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 lesus on the cross: "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?" as

### 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 lesus 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



### The purpose of this booklet

The Church exists for mission, to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all. So each baptized person is a missionary carrying on the responsibility of bringing Jesus to those whom he or she meets. Every year, the Church celebrates World Mission Sunday in October. It is a time to take stock of the missionary activities done and to look at new mission fields. It is also a reminder to us of the task that Jesus Christ has entruested to the Church - bringing Good News to all strata of society. This resource is intended to help us prepare for World Mission Sunday and to continue with our missionary efforts thereafter.

There are four sessions leading up to World Mission Sunday and may be done in your NCCs, SCC, ministries or groups. You may also use it for individual reflection. You will be able to reap most from the reflections if you are able to share with others and do the actions suggested or arising from the reflections.

### PROCEDURE FOR THE SESSIONS:

- I. Everyone will pray the opening prayer and sing the opening hymn if one is chosen.
- 2. The scripture texts should be read at least twice.
- 3. The reflection is read and after some silence, those gathered will share on the scripture text and the reflection.
- 4. Someone should record the discussion in general terms and then email it to the members who are absent.
- 5. The session ends with a prayer being prayed by everyone in the group.
- 6. The time and place for the next meeting should be announced.

### Week I~ Jesus' command to love

### **PROCEDURE**

- I. Everyone will pray the opening prayer and sing the opening hymn if one is chosen.
- 2. The scripture texts should be read at least twice.
- 3. The reflection is read and after some silence, those gathered will share on the scripture text and the reflection.
- 4. Someone should record the discussion in general terms and then email it to the members who are absent.
- 5. The session ends with a prayer being prayed by everyone in the group.
- 6. The time and place for the next meeting should be announced.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

#### All:

Father, You have given us a wonderful gift of life through baptism when we were inserted into the life of Your Son. As we reflect upon the need to spread this gift of life may our works be pleasing to You. Grant Your blessings on those who are on mission right now with peace and perseverance to continue the work that You have given them through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### **W**ELCOME

Let us wish one another the peace of the Lord.

We spend a few moments asking everyone how their day was and if there were aware of anything which the Lord had done for them.

#### READINGS

We read *Jn 13:34* quietly and reflect on what the Lord is saying to us. When we have finished, we read *Jn 15:13* quietly and reflect on what the Lord is saying to us.

### **THOUGHTS**

No man can look with undivided vision at God and at the world of reality so long as God and the world are torn asunder. Try as he may, he can only let his eyes wander distractedly from one to the other. However, there is a place at which God and the cosmic reality are reconciled, a place at which God and man have become one. That and that alone is what enable man to set his eyes upon God and the world at the same time. This place does not lie somewhere out beyond reality in the realm of ideas. It lies in the midst of history as a divine miracle. It lies in Jesus Christ, the reconciler of the world.

### Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)

To bring Jesus Christ to others is an act of love. We often think of loving someone whom we know in our families or our friends and we think about how we can love them better or how we have failed to love them. Then we strive to love them better. However. we will not love someone better unless we strive to consciously bring Jesus to him or her. The Jesus that we have grown in relationship within ourselves is the Jesus that we should bring to not only the persons that we know but also the people who are waiting to hear about Jesus and the people who are not interested in hearing about lesus. Ours' is an action out of deep love for the Lord. To show this deep love for the Lord, we need to show love to our neighbour and the Lord sets the standard for loving as dying for the other. To die for the other is to die first of all to our pride and doubts. The Lord asks, no, commands of us to love.

### REFLECTIONS

As a Neighbourhood group or a ministry or a family or an individual talk about what struck you about the passages of scripture. Talk about what you understand about mission.

Think and discuss about the possibility of going aboard for a mission trip.

Some of us may not have the possibility of going abroad for a mission due to leave or monetary constraints. However this does not exclude the possibility of doing mission work within our neighbourhood. Identify and discuss the areas of missionary work that attracts you.

### TAKE HOME

True love is given away so that it may grow in your heart.

### Ad Gentes I

Divinely sent to the nations of the world to be unto them "a universal sacrament of salvation," the Church, driven by the inner necessity of her own catholicity, and obeying the mandate of her Founder (cf. Mark 16:16), strives ever to proclaim the Gospel to all men. The Apostles themselves, on whom the Church was founded, following in the footsteps of Christ, "preached the word of truth and begot churches." It is the duty of their successors to make this task endure "so that the word of God may run and be glorified (2 Thess. 3:1) and the kingdom of God be proclaimed and established throughout the world.

### week

### Doing your bit

Talk to another Catholic about the need to bring Jesus to everyone.



### CLOSING PRAYER

(Prayer of consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the New Evangelisation)

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ, we praise and thank God for His mighty works in you. O Blessed Mother, Star of the New Evangelisation; we consecrate the New Evangelisation for Singapore to your Most Immaculate Heart and implore your intercession for a mighty renewal of the Catholic Church in Singapore.

We entrust to you all priests, religious and laity. Guide our leaders to imitate your humility and obedience to God and to be docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May all hearts be converted and reignited with love for Christ and inflamed with evangelical zeal, so as to bear witness to God's loving salvation. Mary, Mother of the Church, unite us with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to be a people of communion in mission.

May your constant love and guidance be the light of refuge that leads us to your son, Jesus.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Amen

### **NOTES:**

Jesus'
command
to love

# Week 2~ Who is my mother, and who is my brother?

### **P**ROCEDURE

- I. Everyone will pray the opening prayer and sing the opening hymn if one is chosen.
- 2. The scripture texts should be read at least twice.
- 3. The reflection is read and after some silence, those gathered will share on the scripture text and the reflection.
- 4. Someone should record the discussion in general terms and then email it to the members who are absent.
- 5. The session ends with a prayer being prayed by everyone in the group.
- 6. The time and place for the next meeting should be announced.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### All:

Father, You have given us Your Son. Jesus mission was to make You known. As Jesus was sent, He sends us. Certain of this, we move forward with our lives as an offering to you in all that we say and do. In all things, may You be glorified. May our gathering here today be pleasing in your sight. Bless all missionaries with the grace, keep them safe and focused on You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **W**ELCOME

Let us wish one another the peace of the Lord.

We spend a few moments asking everyone how their day was and if they are aware of anything which the Lord had done for them.

### READINGS

We read *Mt 12:46-50* quietly and reflect on what the Lord is saying to us.

### **T**HOUGHTS

Instead of always being one of the chief bastions of the social status quo, the Church is to develop a Christian counter-culture with its own distinctive goals, values, standards, and lifestyle — a realistic alternative to the contemporary technocracy which is marked by bondage, materialism, self-centeredness, and greed. Christ' call to obedience is a call to be different, not conformist, Such a Church joyful, obedient, loving, and free — will do more than please God: it will attract the world. It is when the Church evidently is the Church, and is living a supernatural life of love by the power of the Holy Spirit, that the world will believe. John Stott (1921)

Jesus turns words that have a common meaning to something totally new. 'Mother'

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is commonly understood in biological terms and the connection is an intimate one. In the narrative that we have before us, Jesus says that those who carries out the will of our Father is his mother and brother and sister. The union that is brought about by the willingness to put into action the Word is profound. Last week in our time of reflection and sharing, we heard Jesus inviting us to love. Should we carry out that Word, we will enter into this profound relationship with Jesus. Once again, we are invited to die to ourselves so that we can put the Word into action.

#### REFLECTIONS

As a Neighbourhood group or a ministry or a family or an individual talk about what struck you about the passages of scripture. Talk about what you understand about mission.

Look at what attracted the group at the last session and try to make a decision as to whether you want to go abroad for a mission trip or do some missionary work in Singapore.

Next discuss as to how you are going to find out more about the mission field that you want to undertake for the month of October or at a later time of the year.

#### TAKE HOME

All of us are called to be missionaries.

### Ad Gentes 2

The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature, since it is from the mission of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she draws her origin, in accordance with the decree of God the Father.

This decree, however, flows from the "fount - like love" or charity of God the Father who, being the "principle without principle" from whom the Son is begotten and Holy Spirit proceeds through the Son, freely creating us on account of His surpassing and merciful kindness and graciously calling us moreover to share with Him His life and His cry, has generously poured out, and does not cease to pour out still, His divine goodness. Thus He who created all things may at last be "all in all" (I Cor. 15:28), bringing about at one and the same time His own glory and our happiness. But it pleased God to call men to share His life, not just singly, apart from any mutual bond, but rather to mold them into a people in which His sons, once scattered abroad might be gathered together (cf. John 11:52).







#### Doing your bit

Talk to another Catholic about the need to bring Jesus to everyone, including one non-Catholic.

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### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ, we praise and thank God for His mighty works in you. O Blessed Mother, Star of the New Evangelisation; we consecrate the New Evangelisation for Singapore to your Most Immaculate Heart and implore your intercession for a mighty renewal of the Catholic Church in Singapore.

We entrust to you all priests, religious and laity. Guide our leaders to imitate your humility and obedience to God and to be docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May all hearts be converted and reignited with love for Christ and inflamed with evangelical zeal, so as to bear witness to God's loving salvation. Mary, Mother of the Church, unite us with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to be a people of communion in mission.

May your constant love and guidance be the light of refuge that leads us to your son, Jesus.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Amen

### Week 3~ Where is the Holy Spirit guiding us?

### **P**ROCEDURE

- Everyone will pray the opening prayer and sing the opening hymn if one is chosen.
- 2. The scripture texts should be read at least twice.
- 3. The reflection is read and after some silence, those gathered will share on the scripture text and the reflection.
- Someone should record the discussion in general terms and then email it to the members who are absent.
- 5. The session ends with a prayer being prayed by everyone in the group.
- The time and place for the next meeting 6. should be announced.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### All:

Father, Your love for us is always present, for all we have to do is to stop and see. Father, You continue Your presence even through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit that was promised by Your Son. In this our gathering we avail ourselves to His inspiration so that we may build Your kingdom according to Your plan of salvation. Bless those who have laid their hands on the plough to not look back or think about the harvest but constantly looking at You who is guiding them through lesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **W**ELCOME

Let us wish one another the peace of the Lord.

We spend a few moments asking everyone how their day was and if they are aware of anything which the Lord had done for them.

### READINGS

We read Mk 2:13-14; Mk 10:17-22 quietly and reflect on what the Lord is saying to us.

### **THOUGHTS**

Much of our difficulty as seeking Christians stems from our unwillingness to take God as He is and adjust our lives accordingly. We insist upon trying to modify Him and bring Him nearer to our own image.

A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

Levi got up immediately to follow Jesus. Levi was occupied. He had a job to do. He was not sitting around idle. Yet when Jesus called him, Levi's response was immediate. What made this possible? Some would say it was the charismatic call of Jesus and others would say it was the personality of Jesus and the confidence Jesus had when he called. Drawn by Jesus, Levi made his response.

The rich young man obviously knew about Jesus and what Jesus taught and did. Jesus

# week three

attracted him. When he was told to leave everything, there began the problem or the problem became obvious to him. The rich young man was attracted more to his wealth than he was to Jesus. The rich young man had an attachment that Levi did not have and so he was free to respond to the call of Jesus. It is not enough to know about Jesus. We should move towards a personal relationship with Jesus so that we know whom He is who is calling us. Our response to an acquaintance and a friend is always different. We go that extra mile for that friend who is especially dear to us.

#### REFLECTIONS

As a Neighbourhood group or a ministry or a family or an individual Talk about what struck you about the passages of scripture.

Talk about what you understand about mission.

Now that you have made a decision to go on a missionary trip (locally or abroad) discuss what needs to be done for the trip. Decide on who is going to do what and the timeline for the actions.

### TAKE HOME

The Holy Spirit will guide us when we choose to be missionaries of our Father's love.

### Ad Gentes 4

Now, the Lord lesus, before freely giving His life for the world, did so arrange the Apostles' ministry and promise to send the Holy Spirit that both they and the Spirit might be associated in effecting the work of salvation always and everywhere.(8) Throughout all ages, the Holy Spirit makes the entire Church "one in communion and in ministering; He equips her with various gifts of a hierarchical and charismatic nature," a giving life, soul - like, to ecclesiastical institutions(10) and instilling into the hearts of the faithful the same mission spirit which impelled Christ Himself. Sometimes He even visibly anticipates the Apostles' acting,(11) just as He unceasingly accompanies and directs it in different ways.(12)

### Doing your bit

Talk to the same Catholics as you did in the previous week or another Catholic and ask them to join you in the trip that you are going to undertake.

week

three

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ, we praise and thank God for His mighty works in you. O Blessed Mother, Star of the New Evangelisation; we consecrate the New Evangelisation for Singapore to your Most Immaculate Heart and implore your intercession for a mighty renewal of the Catholic Church in Singapore.

We entrust to you all priests, religious and laity. Guide our leaders to imitate your humility and obedience to God and to be docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May all hearts be converted and re-ignited with love for Christ and inflamed with evangelical zeal, so as to bear witness to God's loving salvation. Mary, Mother of the Church, unite us with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to be a people of communion in mission.

May your constant love and guidance be the light of refuge that leads us to your son, Jesus.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Amen

### **NOTES:**

where is the Holy Spirit guiding



### Week $4 \sim$ The responses of others our response Procedure

- Everyone will pray the opening prayer and sing the opening hymn if one is chosen.
- 2. The scripture texts should be read at least twice.
- 3. The reflection is read and after some silence, those gathered will share on the scripture text and the reflection.
- 4. Someone should record the discussion in general terms and then email it to the members who are absent.
- 5. The session ends with a prayer being prayed by everyone in the group.
- The time and place for the next meeting should be announced.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

#### All:

Father, I thank You for calling me and for my baptism, which gives me a share in the life, death and resurrection of lesus, my Lord. In the Eucharist, You always bid us to go and proclaim Your love to all the world. May my life through my words and action proclaim Your love to all the world. Bless those who are on mission now with safety, peace and joy as they enthusiastically spread the Good News through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **W**ELCOME

Let us wish one another the peace of the Lord.

We spend a few moments asking everyone how their day was and if they are aware of anything which the Lord had done for them.

#### READINGS

We read **Acts 8:26-40** quietly and reflect on what the Lord is saying to us.

### **THOUGHTS**

It is possible for the most obscure person in a church, with a heart right toward God, to exercise as much power for the evangelization of the world, as it is for those who stand in the most prominent positions. *John R. Mott (1865-1955)* 

Philip wanted to do the work of the Lord. He availed himself and waited on the Lord. The Lord did not disappoint him. The Holy Spirit led him to instruct someone who had opened his heart to the Lord but required someone to help him understand. Philip did not hesitate when the Holy Spirit prompted him to meet the official. The difficulty that some have is the clarity to know if the Holy Spirit is instructing him or her. We often ponder is it the Holy Spirit or is it me talking

## week

### four

to myself. How will we know? This question points to a lack of prayer and a lack of a praying community. If we give ourselves to the Lord and ask Him what He wants. The Lord will come to us and direct us. It happened with Philip who was submissive to the Holy Spirit. When Philip has done the Lord's bidding, he was happy to move on as directed. Philip did not hang around as the urgency of spreading the Good News about lesus Christ was important to him.

### **REFLECTIONS**

As a Neighbourhood group or a ministry or a family or an individual talk about what struck you about the passages of scripture. Talk about what you understand about mission.

Now that you have made a decision to go on a missionary trip (locally or abroad) and have some concrete plans, approach your parish priest and discuss with him or inform him about your desire to do some mission work. You may approach the Archdiocesan organisation for assistance. You may want to publicise your intention and ask other parishioners to join you on the mission trip.

### TAKE HOME

Others had chosen to be missionaries. It is a matter of adhering more to the person of Jesus Christ than anything else.

### Ad Gentes 24

Yet man must respond to God Who calls, and that in such a way, that without taking counsel with flesh and blood (Gal. 1:16), he devotes himself wholly to the work of the Gospel. This response, however can only be given when the Holy Spirit gives His inspiration and His power. For he who is sent enters upon the life and mission of Him Who "emptied Himself, taking the nature of a slave" (Phil. 2:7). Therefore, he must be ready to stay at his vocation for an entire lifetime, and to renounce himself and all those whom he thus far considered as his own, and instead to "make himself all things to all men" (1 Cor. 9:22).

### Doing your bit

Tell as many people as possible about your decision to go on a missionary journey and inspire others to do the same.







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May your constant love and guidance be the light of refuge that leads us to your son, Jesus.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Amen

**NOTES:** 

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Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS) is the umbrella body for overseas humanitarian aid by the Archdiocese of Singapore. CHARIS is the sister organisation of Caritas Singapore.

Humanitarian situations cover natural disasters and other adverse circumstances faced by the poor and needy, especially in developing countries in the region.

Aid provided by CHARIS includes funding, medical aid and volunteers for immediate relief as well as the long-term support of those displaced and in need.

# Getting to know the Affiliates of Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS)





A Call To Share (ACTS)

began in 2007 by Church of Our Lady Queen Of Peace to bring Christmas joy to children of the Don Bosco School in Cambodia. It has since become a multiparish, multi-religious volunteer organisation and continues to provide medical and educational assistance to improve the lives of impoverished Cambodians. ACTS contributes to a "Food & Oil" programme for over 5000 children of the poorest families in

Battambang, Phnom Penh, the Philippines, Vietnam and Myanmar. It also contributes to the building of schools and educational facilities for the young. Today, over 650 volunteers make the annual mission trips.

acts29 started in 2002 with a group of Singaporean youths who went to the



Payatas Dumpsite of Quezon City, Philippines. It has grown to be a community of Singaporeans and Filipinos committed to simplicity, solidarity and engaged in a mission of love. Today acts29 builds communities and provides direct services to the areas they serve in and forms youths to transform communities. acts29's formation and volunteer houses are based in sub-urban, Montalban, Rizal, Philippines.



Barré is a voluntary group that has been working with underprivileged children in Southeast Asia since 2010. The group has provided support to refugee children at the borders of Thailand from Myanmar from 2010 to 2012. Since then, the group has started a new partnership with Kontum Missionaries and Friendship (KMF), working to support the underprivileged children of ethnic minority groups in South Central Vietnam.

The Canossian Daughters of Charity are engaged in ministries of charity to communicate God's love through



service to the poorest and bringing meaning to their lives. Their humanitarian work in Myanmar involves the formation of children and youth, training young women to be educators of children in villages and the setting up of a small vocational training centre to equip disadvantaged youth with hospitality skills so as to prepare them to finding employment. They share their mission with lay associates and volunteers who draw inspiration from the Canossian spirituality.



The Catholic Medical Guild (CMG) is a community of

healthcare professionals which aims to provide a Catholic

network and fellowship for its members and to encourage the ethical practice of science and medicine. CMG provides medical doctors for local free clinics, health talks, screenings and flu vaccinations for the clergy and religious. It also encourages and supports its doctors in medical humanitarian efforts.

The Catholic **Nurses Guild** (CNG) is an association of nurses which strives to uphold nursing competence according to Christian moral principles. It fosters and promotes professional and spiritual growth of its members. It also participates in pastoral and community programmes for the sick, handicapped and elderly. It actively supports the work of several Catholic institutions including the Catholic Aids Response Effort, the Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People (ACMI), and the free clinic in the Church of the Risen Christ.

#### Clare's Missionary



started in

2010, is based on the concept of Christ in the Marketplace. It embodies the twin spirit of service and evangelisation through education assistance as well as Bible story classes for non-Christian children on Sundays at Clare's Enrichment Corner in Yishun Street 72. For overseas outreach, it collaborates with the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Sabah and organises missions to indigenous communities in Sabah.



# Couples for Christ (CFC)

is a worldwide family renewal ministry that seeks to renew

and build strong Christian marriages and families within the parishes where it is present. Its two-fold mission is to build both the Church of the Home and the Church of the Poor. CFC Singapore runs the Christian

Life Programme in parishes and organises mission trips to facilitate family life programmes.



mission is to evangelise through mission awareness among the parishioners of the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM). It provides aid to poor communities in the Riau Islands in Indonesia through its Teach & Learn English programme and other educational courses with the long-term aim of uplifting the standard of living of its target beneficiaries.

Father
Damien
Society
(FDS)

is a lay apostolate social mission



ministry that started in 2009 at the Blessed Sacrament Church. FDS supports needy causes in Singapore and neighbouring countries. It has served the needs of the orphans and orphanage at Rempang, Batam. FDS also supports a kindergarten at Punggor, Batam. FDS is also helping with the education of the youth in Bagong Silang, Philippines. FDS has also been working closely with SILRA, a home for rehabilitation of lepers.



Focolare Movement is committed to

building unity of the human family

enriched by diversity. It has established several initiatives to support the livelihoods of people in parts of Indonesia such as the formation of an Indonesian cooperative to produce batik and other cultural products. Focolare has also set up social centres to support the education of children.

iCARE was formed by a group of Catholic Indonesians and Singaporeans



from different parishes with a

common purpose and passion. The group aims to care for the less fortunate, improve human rights and spread the faith in the region through actions. iCARE's mission is to focus on the poor and needy in Indonesia, providing them with free medical and dental services, bible sharing, Sunday school, conduct Mass, and distribution of ration.



## The Institute for World Evangelisation - ICPE Mission

is dedicated to the formation and training of Catholics so that they may become more effective evangelists. In Singapore, through its woman-to-woman ministry, the ICPE Mission reaches out to the less privileged. Also, the ICPE Mission through its community in the Philippines serves the poor where it provides faith formation, medical assistance, clothes, vitamin supplements, education sponsorship, small scale micro financing projects and training that empowers and provides skills for living.

## Jesuit Mission Singapore (JMS)

is an extension of the Society of Jesus Malaysia-Singapore that promotes poverty



alleviation and the establishment and ongoing development of the Society of Jesus in areas of great need. The three areas of interest are (1) fundraising for the mission of the Society of Jesus outside Malaysia-Singapore, (2) consciousness raising about the mission of the Society of Jesus in Asia-Pacific and beyond, and (3) establishing a volunteer base.



Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

is a worldwide Catholic

organisation with a mission to accompany, serve and defend the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people. JRS Singapore supports the projects of fellow JRS organisations in South East Asia such as income generating projects, educational programmes, pastoral care, humanitarian relief

and anti-human trafficking training. JRS Singapore's projects include the raising of awareness about human trafficking and provides support to the victims of human trafficking in Singapore.



Loveworks is a young adults group based in the Church of St. Mary of the Angels. They carry out overseas mission work, in participation with the existing works of the Catholic Church. They believe in making a difference in the lives of the people they reach out to by being an instrument of God's love, and in the process, be transformed by him.



Magdalene Mission Myanmar's (M3) mission is to provide basic needs and guide poor women, youths and children to find their identity, future and spirituality. M3 elevates the level of education

of poor children by funding and training soft and hard skills to young and single ladies to teach at Canossian boarding houses.

### Project Kyrie



believes that

everyone can make a difference in the lives of others. It assists busy, kind-hearted individuals to help the less privileged in Singapore and overseas. Overseas, it caters to people in Cambodia, Myanmar, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Poland and Ukraine through proposing projects like the feeding of people living with HIV/ AIDS amongst the poor in India to rebuilding of homes, toilets furnishing of kindergartens, supplying of Milo to children in Myanmar etc. Project Kyrie always works with trustworthy stable partners on the ground to carry out the projects and they do the due diligence for busy individuals who wish to support the projects at hand.



Project Micah

started after a group

of Singaporeans brought festive cheer to underprivileged children in the Southern Shan state of Myanmar and were moved to greater action to improve education and living conditions to break the cycle of poverty. Project Micah hopes that through their works of service, the children may share the love of learning and be inspired to give back to their communities.



#### Sowers in God's Name (SiGN)

is a Parish based overseas mission group from the Church of St. Francis Xavier, conceived on 5th September 2009, in the year of the Parish's 50th anniversary celebrations. Since then, they have sent numerous missions to Paitan in Sabah Malaysia in support the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. The mission work primarily centres on helping in the faith formation of children from villages around Paitan, and supporting kindergartens.



ANAK-Tnk. Incepted in 1998, and managed by Rev. F. Mathieu Dauchez, ANAK-Tnk is a non-profit organization, providing professional care for thousands of street and slum children as well as scavengers and mentally disabled children in Manila, Philippines. Catering to their health, nutrition and education needs, with the goal of reconciliation with their families, ANAK-Tnk hopes in giving them a second chance at life.

DATE	DURATION	LOCATION	BY	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF MISSION- ERS	REQUIREMENTS
10 - 17 Sep	10 days	Nepal	CHARIS	House-building	15	21 years & abv
10 - 16 Dec	7 days	Phang Nga, Thailand	CHARIS	Community building	01	21 years & abv
26 Nov - 2 Dec	7 days	Manila, Philippines	ACTS	Education	40	12 years & abv
1 - 7 Dec	7 days	Yangon, Myanmar	ACTS	Medical	15	15 years & abv
2 - 9 Dec	8 days	Chanthagon, Myanmar	ACTS	Education	15	15 years & abv
2 - 9 Dec	8 days	Battambang, Cambodia	ACTS	Medical	200	12 years & abv
7 - 14 Dec	8 days	Anisakan, Myanmar	ACTS	Medical	30	15 years & abv
9 - 16 Dec	8 days	Payatas, Quezon City & Ro- driguez, Rizal, Philippines	acts29	Exposure Immersion	15	NA
Sep., Nov, Dec	7 days	Kontum/Peiku, Vietnam	Barre	Education	5	٧Z
21 - 28 Oct	8 days	Thanlyin, Myanmar	Canossian Daughters of Charity	Maintenance & Education	12	Professionals in the medical & hospitality field are welcome to join
23 Jul - 12 Nov fortnight- ly, Sundays	l day	Riau Islands, Indonesia	Epiphany	Education	15	NA
Oct*	3 days	Tanjung Pinang, Indonesia	icare	Medical	20	12 years & abv
*^oN	2 days	Pulau Todak, Batam, Indonesia	icare	Medical	30	12 years & abv
*Dates yet to be	confirmed. Please	*Dates yet to be confirmed. Please check with organiser.				



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