



Mission Office
 Archdiocese of Los Angeles
 3424 Wilshire Boulevard
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MISSIONS LA

MISSION OFFICE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

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Los Angeles Children Recognized

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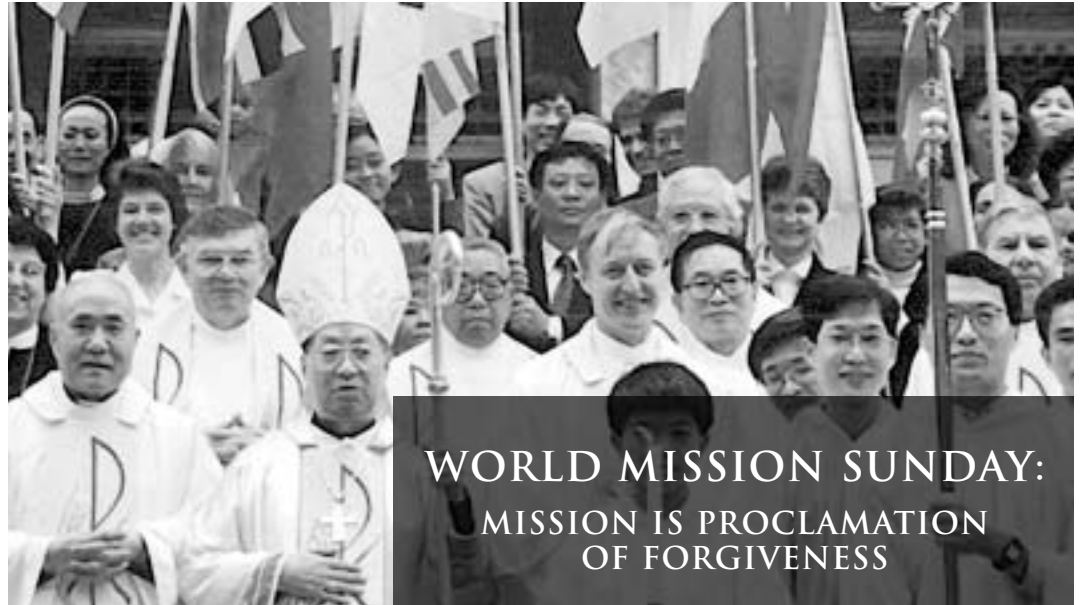


Volunteer Joins Crossing Borders

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The Church Mission



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: MISSION IS PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

October 20, 2002 World Mission Sunday is celebrated throughout the World.

In his message for the 2002 World Mission Sunday, Pope John Paul II calls upon us to discover the value of our personal and community vocation to reach out to our "least brothers." "Mission is Proclamation of Forgiveness," he says.

The Pope emphasizes that our missionary call is more urgent today than ever, because the number of those who do not know Christ and do not belong to the Church has almost doubled in less than 40 years since Vatican II ended. "When we consider this immense portion of humanity which is loved by the Father and for whom he sent his Son, the urgency of the Church's mission is obvious." Continuing that Christ on the cross reveals God's longing to share with mankind his very life, love and holiness, the Pope reminds us that God's love can heal the divisions, conflicts, economic imbalance, and violence across races and cultures which we experience in our world today. On the Cross Christ sought and offered total forgiveness, even of his executioners, and established the new justice, one that we are called to live, and to share.

We are all called to be missionaries, to help people realize that we are all brothers and sisters, all pilgrims on this earth. Though we may be on different paths, we are all on our way to the common Homeland, God himself. God

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Have You Visited Our Web Site?

www.missionsla.org

or send us an e-mail regarding any of your concerns for the missions.

missionoffice@la-archdiocese.org
lmh@la-archdiocese.org (LMH)

calls us each to reach out and connect with our brothers and sisters, to speak with them respectfully and with understanding, and to share with them the principles we believe in and proclaim: joy, hope and a meaningful life.



The celebration of Mission Sunday offers each of us an opportunity for self-examination on the demands of God's infinite love. Love calls for faith; love tells us to put all our trust in God. We are challenged to cooperate with every means in the Church's activity all over the world to build up the Kingdom of God. Our response to this challenge? We are called to help



missionaries around the world with prayer and financial support. We are also called to be missionaries ourselves — to find the courage to proclaim that Christ's forgiveness and love unites all people.

Together with the Holy Father, we are united in this great Mission of the Church for the world. †

NEW LMH CLASS PREPARES FOR MISSION



The 2003 class of Lay Mission-Helpers has begun the training program at the Mission House. This year they are all from Southern California. Linda Tucker is a social worker from Long Beach. Joyce Alpaugh is an accountant from Bellflower. Deanna Bowers, a nurse, and Warren Bowers, an engineer and carpenter, are from Upland. They are beginning the four-month spiritual formation and hope to be commissioned in December. Pray for them.



To get involved call Mission Doctors or Lay Mission-Helpers

LMH (213) 637-7222 • MDA (213) 637-7499

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

What do you get when you bring together more than 2,500 school children committed to helping our brothers and sisters around the world? On October 28, 2002, at its annual Mass, in the new cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, the LA Holy Childhood Association will bring together the children of the many schools and religious education programs which work to support the missions through prayer, education, and sharing. The theme of this year's prayer for the needs of children of the missions will be **Healing a Broken World.**

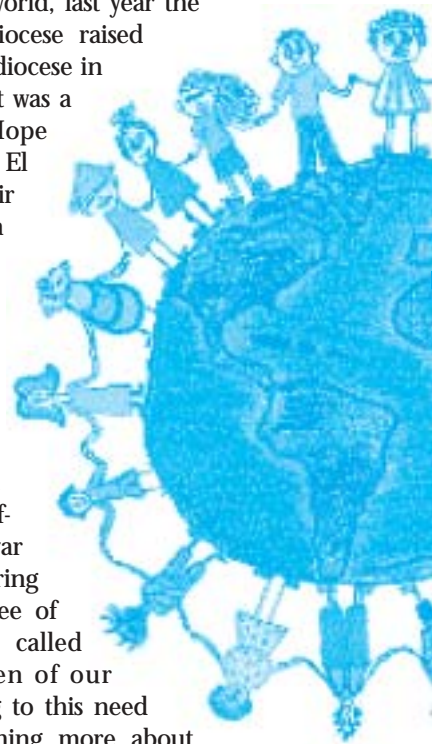
Founded in 1843 and sponsored in a special way by the Holy Father, HCA is an international organization whose membership consists of students in Catholic elementary schools and religious education programs. In collaboration with the U.S. Bishops, HCA distributes educational and fund-raising material throughout the USA.

Responding generously to the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world, last year the children of the LA Archdiocese raised more funds than any other diocese in the nation. One project that was a wonderful success was Hope Houses for the children of El Salvador who had lost their homes to earthquakes. At a total cost of \$2,677, the children of Los Angeles raised enough to build 31 homes!

During the month of October the children are "going the extra mile" for children from the largest country in Africa, Sudan. The children there have suffered greatly through civil war and drought. Many are suffering from the most severe degree of malnutrition, a condition called marasmus. The children of our schools are responding to this need by praying, by learning more about Sudan, and by raising funds through fairs and walk-a-thons. †

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— Fr. David Ayotte



LOS ANGELES CHILDREN RECOGNIZED

Two students of schools of the Archdiocese of LA have been named as winners in a contest sponsored by the Columban Missionaries. Christopher Faulkner, of Beatitudes of Our Lord School, and Michelle Rossi, of St. Pancratius School, are two of the six winners, who were chosen from over 600 entries. The contest that was open to students in Grades 6, 7, 8, and had as its theme, Crossing Borders: Who is my Neighbor? The winning entries will be published in the fall issue of Columban magazine and are printed as prayer cards. †



Michelle Rossi (right)

Bless My Neighbors by Michelle Rossi

*I live here in this land so great, so happy, and so free.
Yet others who are sad and poor are very near to me.
My neighbors are the hungry, the sad, the meek, the
poor. My neighbors are the mourning.
May they cry no more.
May this prayer give them the strength for all
their sorrows and their strife,
for God will bless them in the end with eternal life.
Though they may live miles away or be next
to me right now, I'll keep them close inside my heart,
this is my solemn vow.*

*Dear Lord,
Open our eyes to those in need. Help us to look beyond the borders we create both
in our world and in our hearts that separate us from each other. Help us to understand
that everyone is our neighbor, from our friends and family to people in distant lands.
We pray for the grace to see Christ in others and to be like Christ the healer
and peacemaker.*

– Christopher Faulkner



Do You Have a Missionary Heart?

- To discover what the missionary heart is, you need to know some missionaries.
- In their presence you will feel the genuine love they have for the people they serve.
- This love is present in them even before they acquire the language skills to communicate easily with their people.
- Their communication is deep, empathetic, heart-to-heart.
- They want to uplift their people in every way: to cure, comfort, and, above all, bring them the Eucharist.

Other practical signs of a missionary heart:

- Some are attracted by a rough and ready life (the harder the better).
- Some have language proficiency.
- Some show interest in geography and in other cultures and how they interact.

Do you have a missionary heart?



VOLUNTEER JOINS CROSSING BORDERS PROGRAM

Gregory Pleasants, of the Notre Dame Mission Volunteers/AmeriCorps program, has joined the Mission Office to promote the Crossing Borders program in the Catholic high schools and youth ministry programs. In 1995, NDM and AmeriCorps joined forces to empower individuals and communities through educational outreach. Now six, including Gregory, are reaching into Los Angeles.

From North Carolina, a recent graduate of Washington and Lee University in Virginia with a double major in Spanish and philosophy, Gregory wanted a meaningful experience of service before going on to grad school. He has taught in a kindergarten in Chiapas, Mexico, has volunteered in the Dominican Republic and Honduras to serve the victims of Hurricane Mitch, and has worked with Casa Alianza, in Managua, Nicaragua, doing outreach and counseling with street children.



Greg Pleasants

The Crossing Borders program that Gregory will be working with in collaboration with the Scalabrini Migrant Center, in Tijuana, offers experiential education programs at the border for parish groups, especially youth groups in parishes and Catholic high schools. The Mission Office has put together a program that offers a unique opportunity to see and experience the reality of Tijuana, so as to help individuals better understand some of the root causes of the social problems facing the people there.

A video on the Crossing Borders program has just been completed. If you would like more information, or would like to arrange a presentation, or to plan a future trip to Tijuana for your parish youth or adult group or high school students, please contact Gregory Pleasants at the Mission Office, (213) 637-7305, or e-mail: missionoffice@la-archdiocese.org †

MISSIONS **LA**

is a quarterly newsletter of the Mission Office of Los Angeles. We appreciate your letters, suggestions, and mission news items.

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<http://www.missionsla.org>

There is another way to share your blessings with the PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH... YOUR WILL

This is a unique way to give to the Church and insure that your desire to help the Missions continues.

THE CHURCH'S MISSION: MOVING BEYOND

At a recent meeting Fr. David Ayotte, the director of the Mission Office, asked those present if we saw a parallel between the events of September 11 and the recent scandals facing the Catholic Church. For me, the similarities exist in that both events have created great wounds, one to our country and the other to our church.

As with any injury, the first instinct is to protect the wound, to prevent further injury. Sometimes, however, this instinct to protect can, paradoxically, put us at greater risk. As a country if we fail to see beyond the injury, to seek the cause, to understand the reasons, we become infected with jingoism. It is risky to promote this position. One can be seen as being unpatriotic, and unsympathetic to those who have suffered great losses. Our reactions, however, need to come from our faith and belief that God is a part of our lives, and we need to recognize that he is also part of the lives of people around the world. We are called, as a people of God, to speak for those who have no voice to see beyond the national borders and recognize Christ in our brothers and sisters around the world.

The wound to our church from the scandals of this past year tends to evoke the reaction of self-protection, and it is the desire to insulate and cover up which has inflicted pain upon pain. Those who have suffered need to be comforted. It is necessary to take steps to prevent this type of injury from ever happening again. The unpopular position is again looking beyond this, to a true healing which will involve forgiveness. Forgiving does not lessen the pain that can be a life-long suffering. It does not look away and allow those who have inflicted this pain to be in a position to do so again. But forgiveness allows those suffering to move forward, to move beyond and to heal. As a people of God we are challenged to move beyond what may seem reasonable, beyond a talk-show mentality, to see our lives in the context of God's love for us and his forgiveness. This challenge to be more, to look beyond, is our calling as Christians. It is never easy, but it is right. We know this in our hearts, when we catch our breath, look beyond the pain, and listen to the voice of God. †



– Elise Frederick



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO OUR MISSIONARIES IN THE FIELD

October: Bev Thornburg (Ebeye, Marshall Islands)

November: Cathy Medina and Grace Gonzales (Cameroon)

December: Ed Medina and Megin Medina (Cameroon)

TO MAKE A BEQUEST

The correct legal designation for gifts by will or trust is:

“The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, a corporation sole” for the benefit of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith.



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