
CONTINUITY AND CHANGE



For the last few years Sister Gemma Côté was in charge of the diocesan Missions Office, where she did a wonderful job. When she left us last June, I had promised her that I would do my utmost to ensure that her work would continue. And now, six volunteers have taken over the task: my heartfelt thanks to all of them. Mrs. Jeannette Pelletier will coordinate the office's activities; Bishop Gérard Dionne will look after the correspondence with our intrepid missionaries, Sister Constance Gervais, S.M., will look after youth mission activities; Mrs. Georgette Thibodeau will look after the preparation of teaching and presentation aids for schools, Mrs. Murielle Leblanc will be correspondence secretary, and Mrs. Claircy Carter will act as treasurer. I tender my heartfelt thanks and best wishes to this new team.

38 "AMBASSADORS!"

All the baptised are intimately associated with the mission of Jesus, and this must be lived on a daily basis. According to the call received, several of our compatriots left our region to work in foreign lands. I have had the pleasure of meeting a few of them, since my arrival in the diocese. Following is a listing (in alphabetical order) of the men and women of our diocese who are working in other Churches for the cause of the Gospel of Jesus: Rosanne Bérubé (Northwest Territories), Dolorès Bourque (Honduras), Georgette Carrier (Peru), Estelle Clavette (Zambia), Viola Côté (Philippines), Maurice Cyr (Chile), Bibianne Daigle (Peru), Jeannelle Daigle (Zaire), Raymond Desjardins (Haiti), Solange Desjardins (Philippines), Thérèse Doucet (Honduras), Claude Dumont (Philippines), Aurore Gallant (Peru), Thérèse Godbout (Zambia), Aurore Jean (Japan), Marie Jean (Peru), Léontine Lang (Zambia), Yvonne Lapointe (Peru), Guy Lévesque (Sudan), Corinne Marquis (Peru), Claude Martin (Venezuela), Virginia McCluskey (New Guinea), Monique Michaud (New Guinea), Régina Michaud (Japan), Marie-Ange Ouellette (France), Monette Ouellette (Taiwan), Marie-Claire Pelletier (New Guinea), Patrice Picard (Philippines), Léna Poitras (Philippines), Berthe Rossignol (Honduras), Reine Savoie (Peru), Guy Sirois (Sudan), Nora Sirois (Japan), Robert Smith (Seychelles), Cyprien Soucy (Yukon), Magella Tardif (Venezuela), Eugénette Therrien (Peru), Edna Thomas (Mexico), I am proud of you and of the wonderful work you are doing. Be assured that those who are here support your missionary work. Through your missionary work you bring the presence of the Church of Edmundston to five continents!

OCTOBER 23, 1994

October 23 is Mission Sunday, a reminder that we are all united to one another by the bond of Baptism. This Sunday will be marked with prayer, reflection, and sharing. Your great generosity allowed us, a diocese of 52,000 people, to place approximately twelve thousand dollars at the disposal of the World Fund for Evangelisation. Thank you for all you have given to the Propagation of the Faith. Humankind is truly a family to be drawn together in Christ.

FALL CAMPAIGN OF DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

The Canadian Catholic Organisation for Development and Peace is getting to be more known in our milieu for its solidarity with the Third World and for its effectiveness in bringing home to us the causes of underdevelopment and of wars. This year, Development and Peace is trying to raise our awareness the most important [negative] role played in the Third World by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), for over fifty years. Throughout the world, in their daily living millions of people suffer from the practices

and politics of the IMF and the World Bank. For example, in the Philippines, the severe restrictions attached to structural readjustment have condemned more than 30 million people to a life of misery, obliging them to live below the poverty line. Members of Development and Peace and their partners believe that the Canadian representatives to the IMF and the World Bank should submit the politics of these organisations to the Canadian Parliament and bring the facts out into the open, so that they may be evaluated and controlled by the citizens.

UNICEF

The United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) will launch its annual campaign on October 31. As the pictures transmitted by the mass media inform us about the crises existing in such places as Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, and Somalia, children and mothers form the greatest number of war, famine, and disaster casualties. (Since the end of World War II, there have been 150 armed conflicts worldwide, especially in developing countries.) Besides these child casualties, there are all the worlds forgotten children who live or survive in incredible poverty. According to statistics of the Canadian Children's Health Institute, there were 1.2 million Canadian children living in poverty, in 1991; 73 % of children of single mothers live below the poverty line. All sectors of Canadian society actively participate in the UNICEF Halloween. More than 2 million children collect pennies for their less fortunate brothers and sisters. Last year, Canadians contributed 21.6 million dollars to UNICEF Canada, and this money helped UNICEF set up health, education, nutrition, fresh water and sanitation projects for these children. We must continue more than ever the work already begun.

Have a good week!

+ François Thibodeau ym

+ François Thibodeau, C.J.M.
Bishop of Edmundston

« From A Bishop's Journal » (038) (12 October 1994)