



Celebrating **20** Mission
YEARS
U.S. CATHOLIC MISSION
ASSOCIATION

Mission Update

United States
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Mission Intention of

John Paul II
April 2002

Martyrs' Courage to Proclaim Christ

...That thanks to the witness of the martyrs of our era, every Christian may find new courage to proclaim Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of humanity.

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Our Children Are Our Future

Mary Ann Smith, MM, President, ECPAT USA

Our children are our future! That is probably the most glib statement uttered by government, law enforcement, Church officials, politicians, educators, and people in general. The truth is that children in every country of the world today are at risk from all sorts of abuse, including wars, poverty, lack of opportunity for education and sexual abuse. All of these abuses are the result of decisions made by adults. It is time to act as if we believe our children *are* our future. We can begin by making decisions that not only do no harm to children but render respect and protect them.

Since 1990, I have been a Board member of ECPAT USA (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking), an international movement with partners in more than 50 countries and headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. ECPAT focuses on commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). The scope and horror of this one segment of global child abuse is nothing short of evil. Children are bought and sold, shipped from place to place in their own country and exported to other countries like pieces of merchandise. The abusers include, among others, parents, military personnel, business people, educators, clergy, police and other government officials.

It is in this context that the *Second World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children* took place in Yokohama, Japan, December 17 - 20, 2001. More than 3,000 people from all over the world participated, including one hundred thirty-eight governments and twenty-nine international agencies. The final consensus document, *The Yokohama Global Commitment 2001*, is a tool which can be used by governments and others to protect children.



Sr. Mary Ann in Japan

Since the *First World Congress*, there has been a paradigm shift that was stated loudly and clearly in Yokohama. Sexually exploited children are victims. They are not and should not be treated as criminals. The abusers, the vast majority of whom are men, are criminals and should be prosecuted as such. It was called a form of terrorism by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamodo of Japan and Carol Bellamy, UNICEF.

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From the Director

Rosanne Rustemeyer, SSND

I would like to share with you three issues that affect mission and how we carry out the gospel mandate today. I choose these areas because they have been a part of USCMA meetings and reflections since the beginning of this new year.

Early in January I attended a meeting with heads of mission agencies of eight other Christian Churches. These gatherings always reaffirm the areas of mission in which we have similar understandings, shared concerns about future directions, and common challenges in articulating attitudes which emphasize mutuality. There was an overwhelming consensus on continuing to approach mission ecumenically. The Continuing Committee on Common Witness considered what this practically meant when it convened on March 11th.

The second issue comes from a workshop sponsored by the mission department of Washington Theological Union in February. Entitled, **AIDS: Coping and Healing Churches in Africa**, the seminar featured a Ugandan sociologist whose presentation drew a pastoral response from two African pastors. The hope that comes from creative pastoral responses to the catastrophic life-threat presented by AIDS demands our cooperation in helping to alleviate the situation.

I want to draw our attention to **The Earth Charter** which is the result of a ten-year worldwide cross-cultural consultation process involving representatives from grassroot communities and experts. It is declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century. What can we learn and how can we use this treasure chest of information in supporting these efforts toward peace-making? More information is available at (506) 205-1600 or www.earthcharter.org.

May the springtime bring each of us new energies and new life. **A Blessed Easter Season!**

Response to Mission Call in Texas Strong

The 2002 Texas Mission Conference with the theme of “Envisioning Church in the 21st century” was held at the Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio from February 11th - 13th. The lively opening engaged over 70 participants through prayer, song and dance. Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Young, OMI, professor at the Oblate School of Theology was keynote presenter. Fr. Young envisions a Church in mission and cooperation stating, “that missionary cooperation is not merely a desired value for the Christian mission, but an essential element of its vitality. If we sincerely wish to participate in the Church’s mission, we must be willing to share our differing visions in a way that leads to a fulfillment of the Lord’s desire to reach the whole world with the gospel of life.”

The following morning, The Most Reverend Raul Vera, DD, bishop of the Diocese of Saltillo, Mexico, spoke as a brother and neighbor from the south to the participants and entertained their questions. The afternoon presentations included: Sr. Rachel Crotti on Africa, Sr. Cecilia Thuy Ngyen on the Vietnamese American experience, and Rev. Michael Colwell who gave an update on the Honduran Partnership.

Texas remains one of the few states that gathers regularly to discuss and facilitate the missionary work of the local dioceses and parishes. USCMA continues to support and participate in the Texas Mission Council’s conference. Bishop Vera’s and Fr. Young’s presentations are now available on the USCMA website: www.uscatholicmission.org. Other presentations will be added as they are received.



USCMA Staff

Rosanne Rustemeyer, SSND, Executive Director	rustemeyer@uscatholicmission.org
Kevin Francis Day, Associate Director	kday@uscatholicmission.org
Marie Stelmach, OP, Assistant Director	stelmach@uscatholicmission.org
Anne Louise Von Hoene, M.S., Director of Meetings	lvhoene@uscatholicmission.org
Questions/comments re: meetings & conferences	meetings@uscatholicmission.org
Questions/comments re: Mission Update /Current Topics	news@uscatholicmission.org

Website: www.uscatholicmission.org

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Some issues addressed by the Congress are the need: to involve young people in efforts to end CSEC and to recognize their leadership potential; to focus on cross border issues, such as, trafficking and the widespread use of the Internet; and to eliminate child sex tourism; and to engage health professionals in working to end CSEC.

In the U.S. today, it was reported that even rich young men in college are becoming pimps. In this culture such abusive behavior is socially acceptable and even cool. It is only by understanding the root causes of the demand, including misconceived cultural notions about the curative properties of having sex with children, and the sexualization of youth in the media, that CSEC, according to Norma Hotaling, a survivor who directs SAGE (Standing Against Global Exploitation), can be ended.

The North American Regional Consultation held in Philadelphia, December 2001, provided data and insight into the depth of the problem in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Ninety percent of the 200,000 trafficked children in the U.S. are citizens of the U.S. Seventy-five percent are white and come from urban, working and middle class homes. Forty percent of the girls and thirty percent of the boys on the street have been victims of sexual abuse in their homes. Twenty-five percent of abusers are married men with children of their own.

Billions of dollars exchange hands in this horrendous criminal activity. A pimp can earn from \$15,000 - \$150,000 a year from one girl. Organized crime collects 25% of its income from CSEC. The going rate for the purchase of a child is \$3,500. Vulnerable children, boys and girls, are found in all races and range in age from 6 -17.

Denise Ritchie, ECPAT New Zealand, asked if ending CSEC is a realistic goal. For the last 11 years ECPAT has focused on the supply side of this industry, children. There has been little discussion about the demand side, men. There has been a general reluctance to raise, let alone explore, issues around male sexual dominance and male power and control. If we are not willing to address demand issues in our respective countries as a matter of urgency, according to Ritchie, we should not delude ourselves or deceive the children. We will never end, eradicate or eliminate CSEC.

If today men were to stop seeking sex from children and minors, and images of children and babies being raped, sexually abused and exploited. were no longer to exist, Ritchie says CSEC would end tomorrow. If there is a reluctance among us to demand this, we must ask why? Whose interests are we really protecting, those of the children or of the predators?

As Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamodo said in her opening address, "If there is no demand it would not be commercially viable to have supply - this is a fact."

Information about the *Second World Congress*, regional consultations and the Youth Congress, including the *Yokohama Global Commitment 2001*, is on the NGO Focal Point web site: www.focalpointngo/yokohama. For information about how you can help and to get the final report of the North American Regional Consultation, please visit the ECPAT USA web site: www.ecpatusa.org.



The Jubilee USA Network

The Jubilee USA Network is preparing for a fruitful legislative year in 2002 to further the work of debt cancellation and opposition to World Bank and IMF structural adjustment policies. The section of the World Bank known as the IDA (International Development Association) will come before Congress this year to ask for funding to continue lending to the poorest countries. Jubilee is working to get sponsors in Congress for legislation that would condition this money on 100% debt cancellation to these countries and on the ending of harmful structural adjustment policies, such as user fees for health and education, forced privatization of water, and the lowering of minimum wages and labor standards.

At the time of the IMF and World Bank spring meetings on April 21st and 22nd, Jubilee regional coalitions and grassroots will hold "Ring-in Freedom from Debt" events by having churches and hand bell choirs ring their bells and by sponsoring marches with the ringing of bells and the clanging of pots and pans to get out a "joyful noise" for the end to debt and structural adjustment policies.

Economic Way of the Cross

The Religious Working Group on the World Bank and the IMF (RWG) again sponsored the Economic Way of the Cross this past Good Friday. The group gathered at noon near the Capitol Reflecting Pool. Organizations within the RWG each took responsibility for portraying one Station for this year's event.



More from the Bicycle Trail

Father David Baltz shares his recent bicycle trip to the chapel of Paliri, 26 miles from his mission in Odravu, Uganda

After finishing the catechists monthly meeting, last December, I left for Paliri. It was the worst time of the day to bike out of the mission—the afternoon sun was shedding its most powerful rays. After 22 miles, I reached Okubani market. I tried to buy a Pepsi in the little Muslim shop, but none was available.

At the Ore stream, I had to wade across, carrying my backpack and my bicycle. When I reached Paliri chapel, several kids and a couple of women began shouting and singing in their typical joyful welcome, accompanying me to my hut.

After changing to dry clothes, I got out the kid games I had brought. Then I met with the adults, waiting for the sacrament of reconciliation. I read some scripture, did an examination of conscience, and confessed them under the tree. Following this I met with the couple who would have their marriage blessed the next morning. They chose two wedding rings from the few I had, paying 500 shillings, equivalent to 29 cents!

Just before it got dark, I found time to hang the mosquito net in my hut, above the papyrus mat on the dirt floor that would be my bed. I put a sheet on the mat and stretched my cassock across the doorway for some privacy. Then the catechist's wife brought supper—bread-dough made from maize with fresh fish—for her husband and me.

Soon after supper, they went back to their village and I was all alone except for a few dozen mosquitoes buzzing all around me. I decided to get under my mosquito net. Even if it was only 7:45 PM, I was tired enough to go to sleep.

The next morning it was still mostly dark when I was startled. I peeked out. A woman was sweeping up a dust storm. It was the *cleaning-the-compound* ritual that takes place every morning, and my hut would be no exception!

As I waited for the Christians to arrive, I went out again on my bicycle to explore the path that continues beyond Paliri. I met a woman fetching water in a swamp near the Anyau River. She said it is where she gets her water until it dries up. I headed back to my hut, understanding a little better why everyone takes so long to get to church.

Finally, around 11:00 AM, I celebrated the Mass of the Holy Family, under a tree big enough to provide shade for all. The wedding couple, with their two witnesses got special places. After the Mass, the wedding party and I feasted on cold cassava dough and Nile River fish cooked that morning by the bride!

Before I left, they gave me 2,000 shillings (\$1.15), the usual stipend for the sacrament of matrimony; and 1,000 shillings (57 cents), transportation fee. In this way, we hope to teach the people to support the African Fathers who will someday succeed us.

It was just past 1:00 PM, when I biked away from Paliri. At the trading center of Okuyo, I stopped again among Muslim friends, and this time I found a Pepsi to drink. When I was just six miles from home, Fr. Gino met me with the mission pickup. I thanked him for his thoughtfulness and kindness. So much to be grateful for, praise God!



For the complete text of Fr. Baltz's account, contact him via his E-mail address at: frdave@africaonline.co.ug.

*Catholics/Persons per Priest

Continent	Catholics per Priest	Persons per Priest
Africa	4,681	28,967
America	4,263	6,747
Asia	2,502	54,977

The statistics represent a 1999 survey.

The number of **Catholics per priest** increased by 198 units in Africa and by 67 units in America. The decrease was by 49 units in Asia.

* Source: International FIDES Service, Oct. 19th, 2001

** Source: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

**Asian Pacific Presence in the U.S.

Country of Origin	U.S. Population	U.S. Catholics
Chinese	2,432,585	300,000
Filipino	1,850,314	1,536,590
Indian	1,678,765	285,390
Vietnamese	1,122,528	325,000
Korean	1,076,872	74,887
Japanese	796,700	31,868
Samoa	91,029	20,290
Guamanian	58,240	48,921

Celebrating Franciscan Commitment and Collaboration

In January 2002, Fr. Joe participated in the annual assembly of the Franciscan Friars in Columbia, South America. There he met with Tom McGregor, a lay missionary with the Franciscan Mission Service. Tom has been in Columbia for 2 years. Kevin Day, USCMA Associate Director, interviewed Rev. Joseph Nangle, OFM, Co-Director for Franciscan Mission Service (FMS) and USCMA Board Member regarding Fr. Joe's trip, his visit with Tom, and how the relationship between the native Columbian Friars and the FMS lay missionary program came about and the value of lay and religious collaboration.

Kevin: *How did this relationship and Tom's placement originate?*

Fr. Joe: The relationship began by a chance visit from our provincial superior to the FMS office. From our conversation, the provincial became immediately interested in the idea of laity from another country living and working side-by-side with the poorest in Columbia. The province began as a spin-off from another American province serving in Columbia. Currently, the province with native Columbian friars has 80 members. The friars seek to live out a simple lifestyle. Part of their charism is freedom from ownership of houses and cars.

Kevin: *What special concerns or requirements came with this mission site?*

Fr. Joe: Safety and security concerns were foremost. This required of the FMS to seek missionaries who possessed a high level of language skills, maturity, and who were "street-smart." Although everyone I met was welcoming and accepting on my visit, Columbia can be a dangerous place. For example, safety and security concerns generally warrant the need to fly, even over short distances, rather than using less expensive ground transportation. This has added to our financial obligations in supporting Tom since the Columbian community does not have the resources to cover all the expenses normally born by an accepting community.

Kevin: *What do you attribute to the fact that the relationship has worked so well?*

Fr. Joe: Relationships work well when both parties value the vocation and life of each other and when there is an earnest effort to live out the call with fidelity. The structure and discipline of religious life is respected and appreciated while the expression and movement of a non-vowed life is valued for the gifts it brings to ministry. In reality, it may all come down to the chemistry of personalities.

Kevin: *What is the ministry of the friars?*

Fr. Joe: The friars are actively involved in pastoral ministry and work among the "displaced people" located in major urban centers such as Medellín. Others are working to address the causes and effects of racism toward the African-Columbian community along the coast. Tom works with those displaced, many of whom are victims of natural disasters, civil wars, and the use of defoliants.

Kevin: *What was your overall impression of Columbia following this visit?*

Fr. Joe: It's a country torn by civil war. Despite all the difficulties, the faith of Columbia's people is strong and they continue to live and celebrate the challenges presented to them.



Partnering for Mission

A few months ago at the seminar preceding the USCMA conference, a day-long workshop was held to begin gathering information related to twinning relationships. At that time, Fr. William Nordenbrock, a Missionary of the Precious Blood, related, "I am speaking as one who shares the need to know more about the meaning of being missionary, about how to promote in the U.S. Church both a sense of global solidarity and a living out of faith that is truly 'catholic' ". Fr. Nordenbrock's ministry as Mission Coordinator for his society has placed an emphasis on promoting a sense of global solidarity through the fostering of North-South relationships through twinning.

Working out of a model of mission articulated at Vatican II which mandates all Christians to be missionary through their baptism, parishioners in nearly one-fourth of the Catholic parishes in the U. S. are deepening their faith through a twinning partnership.

Questions around guidelines for partnering are more frequent than answers, and resources to recommend are even fewer. Two major questions surfaced from the workshop:

How can parishes/individuals become aware of quality resources currently available? What other kinds of resources would be useful and how would one foster their development?

The Mission Education website: www.mission-education.org is an excellent resource for curricula, immersion experiences and mission activities.

Seminar discussions provided some valuable indicators of the resources people are seeking. Among the issues for consideration are: What are the motivations for exploring the possibility of a twinning relationship? How does one discern which motives are most appropriate in building a mutual relationship? How does one build parish interest and involvement? How will this relationship be maintained and fostered once established? How will this relationship be evaluated? And finally, how does one bring closure to a twinning relationship?

A committee has begun to collect materials for the development of guidelines for mission partnership and it is interested in receiving any information about resources via E-Mail: news@uscatholicmission.org.

Book Resources

The Catholic Network of Volunteers Service (CNVS) publishes a **Lay Mission Handbook Series**. "Recruiting People of Color for Volunteers Service" (Vol. 3, Num. 3) is a chapter containing a wealth of practical ideas. The information on assessing recruitment/retention strategies is concrete and detailed. A comprehensive listing of resources, geared toward extending the invitation to culturally and ethnically diverse communities, is especially helpful. The cost for the chapter is \$6.00. The price for the entire series of various themes is \$40.00. Ordering may be done directly by contacting CNVS at 202-332-6000 or online at: www.cnvs.org.

Mission Project Service announces the publication of the 6th edition in English, Spanish and French of **Agencies for Development Assistance — Sources of Support for Community-Based Socio-Economic and Religious Projects in Less-Industrialized Countries**. Among the 300 agencies profiled are some 50 new ones. The cost is \$50.00 plus \$10.00 for shipping and handling. Contact Mission Project Service at 315-654-2447 or at: www.missionprojectservice.org.

Mission Trends

The Mission outreach of USCMA extends to the global community. A vital part of our outreach is the collaboration with 560 sending organizations that send over 5,900 lay, religious, and priest missionaries, serving in both the United States and outside its borders.

USCMA is grateful to the sending organization staff members who helped in gathering the information on the missionaries for our survey. Later in 2002, USCMA will have a mission handbook/inventory available. We like now to give you a sketch of some trends.

The total number of laity serving has increased by 40% since 1998. Their average age is approximately the same, 36 years.

The number of religious sisters is less by approximately 80. Their average age is up by 2 years, from 64 to 66.

Another trend, reflective in part of the mobility of our society, is that an increasing number of missionaries were born and/or raised outside the U.S. These may or may not be U.S. citizens. USCMA tracks only those who are U.S. citizens, born here or naturalized.

Sometimes missionaries and/or their sending organization may not know of or understand the concept of home diocese—currently defined as the U.S. Diocese in which the missionary was raised. USCMA recognizes the need to broaden the scope of identifying one's home diocese in future surveys. And while we acknowledge that many sending organizations have missionaries serving for a length of time from two weeks to several years, USCMA tracks only those who serve for one year or longer.

At the heart of mission is relationship—relationship with God, with the people served, with the sending communities, and with the numerous benefactors who give their spiritual and material support.

A Catholic Community Responds to War

In November 2001, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issued a statement concerning the September 11th attack and the United States response to it. The Bishops articulated that a military option may be justified in this case, subject, however, to strict criteria as drawn from the just war tradition.

The Bishops issued an invitation to Catholics to engage in further dialogue on these critical and urgent questions. In Washington, DC a number of faith based organizations, including USCMA, gathered during Advent to respond to that invitation. By mid-December the fruit of the reflection was drawn together in a statement which called for new directions in addressing terrorism and a new paradigm for resolving world conflict. It was the concern of the group, that the root causes to the acts of violence experienced on September 11th and following in many areas of the world, were not being identified and addressed.

In reflecting together, the group emphasized the importance of listening to our international partners in missions, churches, dioceses, and solidarity groups, who have made their voices heard. Their messages of solidarity and sympathy with the suffering of U.S. victims were accompanied by pleas to help prevent a military response, fearing that such a response would ignite a spiral of violence with worldwide ramifications.

For the group's statement and a set of study questions offered as a guide for community reflection and discussion, in hope that it becomes a further step in the dialogue, see the USCMA website: www.uscatholicmission.org.



FROM Mission to Mission New Director / New Location

Some important changes have taken place with FROM Mission to Mission. This past January, Julie Lupien became the new Executive Director. Julie, a member of the Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM), served in Zimbabwe and St. Kitts. Since her return home, Julie has facilitated several FROM Mission to Mission workshops in Denver and Chicago. The workshops are designed to help people use their gifts and the experiences received from mission for the Church in the U.S.

USCMA extends gratitude to Maureen Connors for her leadership in serving as the former Executive Director. We wish you well, Maureen.

FROM Mission to Mission
303 Atwood Street
Longmont, CO 80501-5514
E-Mail: frommission@aol.com
Website: www.missiontomission.org

SOA Watch in Nation's Capital (April 19th - 22nd, 2002)

The SOA Watch calls for a National Mobilization to close the SOA and end the U.S. support of the war in Columbia. Scheduled events include:

- 4/19/02 **Vigil & Lobby Action at the Capitol**
- 4/20/02 **Columbia Teach-In & Activist Skills Training**
- 4/21/02 **Rally with Speakers, Music, Puppets, Street Theater, Coordination Meeting for next day's Direct Action**
- 4/22/02 **Columbia Solidarity March and Nonviolent Direct Action**

Nonviolence training will be provided at the Saturday teach-in. The coordinating meeting will be held Sunday for those planning to risk arrest.

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

The document titled "Chaos on the U.S.-Mexico Border: A Report on Migrant Crossing Deaths, Immigrant Families and Subsistence-Level Laborers" is available from the Catholic Legal Immigration Network by contacting them at 202-635-2556 or through their website: www.cliniclegal.org.

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USCMA Annual Conference and Meeting

Raleigh Marriott - Crabtree Valley
Raleigh, NC

October 25 - 27, 2002

The Promises and Challenges of Interreligious Dialogue



The aim of the conference is to provide a venue for missionaries to work toward a more peaceful world that recognizes and respects diversity, and acknowledges injustices, so we can truly move toward a global community.

On Friday, Oct. 25th, there will be an optional trip to a Mosque at noon to participate in Jumah Prayer.

The Pre-Conference takes place from early afternoon, Thursday, Oct. 24th, until late morning, Friday, Oct. 25th. The theme is Contemplation and Mission.

The Conference ends on Sunday at 1:00 PM after lunch.

U.S. Catholic Mission Association
3029 Fourth Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017-1102

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May the Risen Lord
Strengthen our faith,
Renew our hope and
fill our hearts with love
this faster.

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