

April Mission Intention

We pray that missionaries, with their proclamation of the Gospel and their witness of life, may bring Christ to those who do not yet know him..



Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words..!
St. Francis of Assisi

Country Focus: Bangladesh - A Poor and Happy People

Bangladesh is an ancient land that only recently became a sovereign country. At one time, the Bengal region was part of India. It became part of Pakistan in 1947 and then in 1971, it became an independent country. It is considered one of the poorest counties in the world

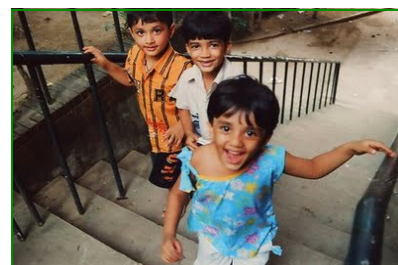


with many living on one dollar per day. The people of Bangladesh are susceptible to natural disasters and have limited educational opportunities.

Despite their poverty, in 1995 Bangladesh was ranked as the happiest country in the world because of their deep ties in family and community, strong work ethic and general love of life. They are genuinely curious about life around them and love to talk and discuss events they experience over many cups of tea with neighbors and visitors. They are known for their amazing hospitality to visitors and outsiders.

Most people in Bangladesh practice

some form of Buddhism, Islam or Hinduism. Christianity arrived in the Indian Sub-Continent in the year 52 AD with the arrival of St. Thomas the Apostle. Several attempts have been made to expand the Catholic presence, but it has remained a small minority. Mission continues to be a clear witness of Jesus Christ and Christian values.



God's Word for Mission

Promoting Knowledge of Faith

"When the Holy Spirit comes you will be my witnesses: to Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

"By her very mission, 'the Church...travels the same journey as all humanity...she is to be a leaven. It begins with a proclamation of the Gospel to peoples who do not yet believe in Christ.'" (Catechism of Catholic Church, #854)

Saints for Mission - St. Frances Xavier

Education for Community Life

Francis Xavier was born in Spain and is considered one of the two founders of the Society of Jesus; also known as the Jesuits. Francis had a particular desire to begin a missionary outreach to various locations in Asia in the 16th century. With the blessing of the King of Portugal, Francis traveled to areas known as the East Indies to evangelize the people. His voyages also took him to several parts of India, Malacca and Japan.

In particular, he spent three years ministering among the people of



St. Francis Xavier is the patron of all missionaries. His feast day is December 3rd.

western India and among the pearl fisheries of the south. It is said that he reached more people than anyone since the time of St. Paul. He often faced great challenges associated with traveling, trying to communicate in different languages and facing periodic violence from those rejecting his preaching. He is remembered for his zeal for the missions and announcing Christ wherever he went.



The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are ways to offer spiritual support to those in need.

These include:

- Provide education and values teaching
- Counsel those who doubt their value
- Comfort those who grieve losses
- Bear wrongs patiently without vengeance
- Confront those who sin and cause harm to others
- Pray for the living and the dead



Living Mission

Moral Formation

Fr. Robert McCahill is a 72 year old Maryknoll Missionary who has been living with and serving the people of Bangladesh for nearly 35 years. He usually spends about three years in a remote village among people who have never met or seen a Christian. He lives among the people as one of them and offers whatever assistance he can to the sick and needy.

His goal is to demonstrate the mark of Christianity, not for the sake of conversion but simply to show people what a Christian is and does. He tries to fully live his Christianity.



Fr. Bob sits in the local tea shops where men gather to discuss life, and responds to many, many questions about what it means to be a Christian.

He pedals his bicycle to villages looking for outcasts, the most ill and needy and offers them compassion, the means to receive health care and a way to find shelter and return to the community. He says, "My mission is to show the love of Christ, the love of God for all peoples of all faiths; to be with them as a brother, to establish brotherhood by being a brother to them."

Petitions for Mission

Liturgical Education

- ✚ Let us pray for the missionaries of our day who give their life to make known the person and life of Jesus Christ and his Gospel of love for all people.
- ✚ Let us pray that the message of Jesus takes root in the lives of many people where they have known only anger, violence and lack of care for human dignity.
- ✚ Let us pray for Christians living as minorities in foreign lands. May their witness be a light to their nation and people of dominant faiths.
- ✚ Let us pray for an increase of people willing to respond to the call of a missionary vocation.

Prayer for Mission

Missionary Initiative

Dear Jesus, you sent your disciples to the ends of the earth inspired by your Holy Spirit. Please help us to share our gifts for the sake of being your witnesses to our world. Amen.