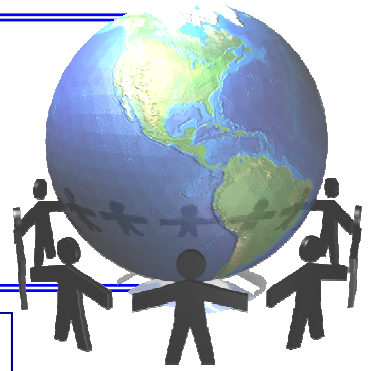


September Mission Intention

We pray that Christian communities throughout the Asian continent will spread the Gospel with fervor, bearing witness to beauty with the joy of faith.



My Lord and my God... Walking by Faith

Country Focus: India: Land of diversity, development and demands

India is in southern Asia; a civilization over 5,000 years old and the birthplace to several world religions - Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Jainism.



It is a country of great diversity with 18 national languages which reflect the variety of ethnic and tribal groups that make up the country. India has grown as an industrial and economic world power, but most Indians still live in rural areas as subsistence farmers and depend on the land for their livelihood. They are quite removed from urban growth and development.

To be born in India means to enter the caste system which is a system of social hierarchy. It is based on a conviction that all are not created equal, but are born into a fixed fate for their lives. Beneath the lowest caste are those called the Dalit

people, also known as “untouchables.”

Christianity was first brought to India by St. Thomas the apostle nearly 2000 years ago. Despite these ancient origins, Christianity remains a minority faith of less than 5% of the population. The Church is very active in fostering Catholic education and reaching out to the most vulnerable in Indian society, especially the Dalit people. In some areas, the Church faces open persecution.

This little flock of Jesus has an opportunity to be a leaven in India - to lift up and educate the poor, work for communal harmony and equity, and promote dialogue among various cultures and religions.

God's Word for Mission

Promoting Knowledge of Faith

“What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too many have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing so that our joy may be complete” (1 John 3-4).

“The transmission of the Christian faith consists primarily in proclaiming Jesus Christ in order to lead others to faith in him. From the beginning, the first disciples burned with the desire to proclaim Christ...And they invite people of every era to enter into the joy of their communion with Christ” (Catechism, # 425).

Saints for Mission - St. Thomas the Apostle

Education for Community Life

St. Thomas was one of the 12 Apostles who followed Jesus. John's Gospel reports how Thomas doubted the resurrection of Jesus until Jesus appeared to him and invited him to touch his wounds. Thomas responded with the most profound act of faith, “My Lord and my God” (Jn 20:28).

Tradition teaches that Thomas' missionary travels led him to the Southwest coast of India in 52 AD where he first proclaimed the Gospel to Jewish settlers living along the Malabar coast in what is today part of Kerala State.



Patron Saint of architects and builders

Later, Thomas traveled to the East coast and landed at Madras - modern day Chennai where he suffered martyrdom and was buried. Today, the Basilica of St. Thomas Church is built over the place where Thomas' body is said to be buried.

It is believed that Thomas travelled further than any of the first Apostles to share the good news of Christ. He is an inspiration of what faith can lead us to accomplish when we trust in God's call for our lives and take up the mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus to the ends of the earth.



CENTER for MISSION
Serving the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Our Rights and Responsibilities

Human dignity can be protected and the common good can be achieved when human rights are upheld and responsibilities are met. Every person has a right to life and a right to those things required for human decency - starting with food, shelter, clothing, employment, health care, and education. Related to these rights are duties and responsibilities to one another, to our families, and to our larger society.

All persons have the right and the responsibility to contribute to the common good.



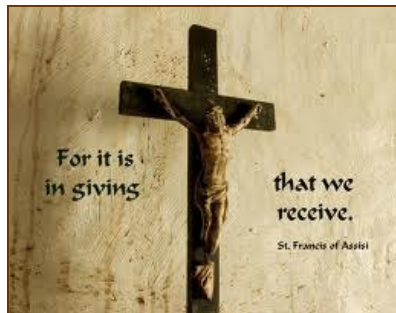
Sharing Mission - Giving Time, Talent and Treasure

Moral Formation

Give Sacrifice to God and Neighbor

To sacrifice means setting apart some of our time, talent or money for God and for a purpose greater than ourselves. Making a sacrifice is an expression of making our lives holy.

Outward sacrifices, to be genuine, reflect an inward sacrifice of our heart to God. To sacrifice ourselves is very close to the meaning of love.



God showed us the meaning of love by offering himself, in Jesus, as a living sacrifice on the cross. We can offer up our prayer for others as a sacrifice of love. We can offer up our talents in service as a sacrifice. We can offer up our money as a sacrifice for those in need. You may even offer your own troubles, sickness and pain as a sacrifice in union with Jesus.

Living life as a sacrifice of love is at the heart of Catholic faith.

To fully explore mission animation within Moral Formation, see the “Holy Buckets” PDF attached or go to the “Download” area on www.centerformission.org for ideas and details regarding “Holy Buckets.”

Petitions for Mission

Liturgical Education

- ✚ Let us pray for the Christians of Asia. May their faith be a sign of joy and beauty.
- ✚ Let us pray for an end to discrimination because of race, origin or religion. May the dignity and rights of all people be preserved and protected.
- ✚ Let us pray for an increase of faith. May we discover the joy and beauty that comes with knowing and serving Jesus.
- ✚ Let us pray for the little flock of Jesus - the children, the poor, the outsiders and those who live as a minority. May they come to see their call to be salt for the earth and a light to the world.

Prayer for Mission

Missionary Initiative

Dear Jesus, you told your little flock of followers to not be afraid. Please be close to those who feel small and insignificant. Help us to trust in your word and be willing to act when you call. May we experience the joy which comes with seeing you face to face. Amen.