

AUXILIARIES OF THE MISSIONS



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CONTEMPLATING CHRIST WITH MARY

By His Holiness Pope John Paul II*

Mary, model of contemplation The contemplation of Christ has an incomparable model in Mary. In a unique way the face of the Son belongs to Mary. It was in her womb that Christ was formed, receiving from her a human resemblance, which points to an even greater spiritual closeness. No one has ever devoted himself to the contemplation of the face of Christ as faithfully as Mary.

Thereafter Mary's gaze, ever filled with adoration and wonder, would never leave Him. It would always be a penetrating gaze, one capable of deeply understanding Jesus, even to the point of perceiving His hidden feelings and anticipating His decisions. At other times it would be a look of sorrow, especially beneath the Cross, where her vision would still be that of a mother giving birth, for Mary not only shared the passion and death of her Son, she also received the new son given to her in the beloved disciple. On the morning of Easter hers would be a gaze radiant with the joy of the Resurrection, and finally, on the day of Pentecost, a gaze afire with the outpouring of the Spirit.



this contemplative dimension, it would lose its meaning, as Pope Paul VI clearly pointed out: "Without contemplation, the Rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation runs the risk of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas. By its nature the recitation of the Rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and a lingering pace, helping the individual to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord's life as seen through the eyes of her who was closest to the Lord. In this way the unfathomable riches of these mysteries are disclosed".

Paul VI, mentions praying the Rosary as a form of **Christocentric contemplation**.

Remembering Christ with Mary

Mary's contemplation is above all a remembering. The Bible is an account of saving events culminating in Christ himself. These events not only belong to "yesterday"; they are also part of the "today" of salvation. This making present comes about above all in the Liturgy: what God accomplished centuries ago did not only affect the

direct witnesses of those events; it continues to affect people in every age with its gift of grace

The Rosary, a contemplative prayer

The Rosary, precisely because it starts with Mary's own experience, is an exquisitely contemplative prayer. Without

* Pope John Paul II issued *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* - Apostolic Letter on Rosary of the Virgin Mary.

My Dear Friends,

September 1, 2007

October is the month in which Mary Most Holy, Queen of the Holy Rosary, is venerated. We invite all individuals, families, and communities to pray this Marian prayer, possibly every day, for peace, so that the world can be preserved from disasters and wars.

In the face of these events, the Church tries to be faithful to her prophetic charism and remind all men about their duty to build a future of peace for the human family. Certainly, peace is not separated from justice, but it must be nourished by mercy and love.

May God allow the Church's faithful to be agents of peace, in the front line of the search for justice and the prohibition of violence. May the Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, intercede for all humanity and our missionaries and grant them strength as bearers of peace and hope.


Fr. Augustin Miciano, SDB
Missions Animation Office



DON BOSCO GABUTU FUND RAISING DRIVE

In a bid to offer more training alternatives and to cater for the growing number of young people dropping out of the education system, Don Bosco Technical College located at Gabutu, Port Moresby, has embarked on a major fundraising drive which would help in the establishment of additional learning facilities.

The school, which is responsible for the training of many young people all over the country, officially launched the Friends of Don Bosco at the beginning of July at Gabutu as part of the fundraising initiative. Friends of Don Bosco is an association of benefactors who believe in and support the education philosophy of Don Bosco Technical School.



The Salesians at the school believe that having a support network like Friends of Don Bosco would help in achieving its vision to form young people, especially the poor and excluded to be "Good Christians, honest citizens and servant leaders of today".

The institution is now inviting ex-pupils (Bosconians), former teachers, former and present parents, businesses, corporations, and other individuals, who are willing to support the school, to be part of the association by becoming Friends of Don Bosco. It involves giving a minimum of 100 Kina (the PNG currency (USD1=K.345), living in the spirit of St. John Bosco and sharing time and talent for special projects of the association.

(<http://www.bosconet.aust.com/>)

**Tell everyone that to come to the help of the missions is an infallible way to obtain from
Our Lady the graces we desire – Don Bosco**

FROM CAROLINA TO CANADA

Fr. Mario Villaraza, SDB

(Fr. Mario Villaraza is the Pastor of the Parish of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Church as the first located in Surrey which is a suburb of Vancouver; a Pacific pearl at the foot of Canada's mountainous British Columbia shore. The parish serves an enthusiastic community of Polish, Chinese, and Vietnamese immigrants, along with Canada's more traditional ethnic groups.)

I consider the beginning of my mission work in the rural outskirts of the city of Naga in the Bicol region as the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Carolina; that was in June 24, 1994. I was suppose to stay only for a year but I was extended for another year until it took me ten years in serving the people and being one with them in their lives. When Fr. Francis Gustilo was then the Provincial, I was likewise offered to go to Papua New Guinea which I felt that I have to decline. At one time, I met Fr. Gustilo again on January 24, 2004, who asked me in considering to work for the missions and this time it was in Vancouver, Canada. I took the option to accept the invitation taking into account that it is a welcome respite and an opportunity of somehow to be able to rest.



Parish of Our Lady
of Good Counsel



My first arrival in Canada was a memorable event because several of these were funny incidents. The people who were supposed to fetch me at the Vancouver Airport instead went to Montreal. I said a short prayer which God promptly heard until I was picked up and proceeded to Don Bosco Youth Center in Surrey. After I unpacked my things, I decided to go to mass. I went to the church and saw a vacant pew where an old lady was seated too. I took my place in the same pew to say a prayer not until the old lady stood up and scolded me saying that the pew was reserved only for the ushers and usherettes of the Church. The culture in Canada especially in view of the Church participation and activities is far from similar with what we know in the Philippines. People leave right away after services and activities, inasmuch as they still have a lot of work to do. As a matter of fact, after the mass, the lights, windows and doors of the Church are immediately closed.

One of the many things I instituted as pastor in the parish is organizing and incorporating our "Simbang Gabi" held early dawn at 5:30 am where many Filipino expatriates and communities really relished. Similarly, they would come to join the eight day novena and likewise bring food where friends and parishioners share. It is a welcome change because in Canada there is more weight given to the Halloween celebration over the Christmas festivities.

I continually realize that working in the missions is not a period of rest but of service irregardless of the place. God has already plans for us where we can only understand if we are in constant communication through prayer with him.