

# December Mission Intention

2014 - 2015



Celebrating the Joy of the Gospel

*That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.*



## Country Focus Peru: Preserving history, culture and faith

Peru is located on the west coast of South America and has three distinct land forms: the Andes mountains run through the center of the country; rain forests to the east of the mountain and the Atacama Desert to the west.

Peru is well known for being the heart of the Inca empire which lasted up until the middle of the 16th century when it was conquered by the Spanish Conquistadors and remained Spanish-ruled until 1824 when Peru achieved its independence.

Today, more than half of the people



of Peru are Native Americans who trace their ancestry to the Inca, including the Quechua living in the highlands.

The Catholic Church has been part of Peruvian life for over 460 years. There has been a high degree of integration between the Church and the State. The Church plays an active role in the daily lives of Peruvian people. This includes celebrations of patron saints and strong devotions to Mary. Sometimes worship includes aspects of Incan beliefs and practices.

Mission today reaches into large city slums to serve the most poor and destitute.



## God's Word for Mission

*Promoting Knowledge of Faith*

*"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoy on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad; whether you are busy or at rest" (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).*

*"Parents...bring your children up with the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1-4).*



## A Saint for Mission: Sts. Joachim and Anne

*Education for Community Life*

St. Joachim and St. Anne were the parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Tradition tells us that Anne was born in Bethlehem and married Joachim. Both were descendants of King David.

The same tradition tells of Joachim, a wealthy livestock owner, whose marriage to Anne did not produce children until they were both advanced in years. This delay was painful for him. It is said that Joachim resolved to go into the desert and fast for forty days. An angel appeared and told him that he and Anne would give birth to a daughter who would be consecrated to the Lord.



*Joachim and Ann are honored on July 26th each year.*

After this vision he went to meet his wife at the golden gate of Jerusalem and told her of God's plan.

Together, they raised Mary to be a person of great virtue, courage and faith in God. It is said that when Mary was born, Anne entrusted her to the temple as a child.

Joachim and Ann remained faithful to God and shared this faith with Mary. Surely, their example inspired Mary to live with faith, courage and hope in God's promises to be fulfilled in her. Their witness must also have assisted Mary and Joseph in parenting Jesus.



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## Peacemaking

Catholic Social Teaching

During the Advent and Christmas Seasons we proclaim Jesus as the “Prince of Peace.” Christ came to reconcile us to God and with each other. The peace of Christ means living our lives rooted in Jesus’ way of mercy and forgiveness. When conflict comes, the peace of Christ helps us to acknowledge the dignity of our opponent as we try to resolve our differences.

Today, there are many conflicts in our world that ravage families, communities and neighboring countries. The Church is called to be present at places where the source of violence and conflict come from so that they may offer the peace that Christ can give. In these places, the Church is sometimes called to help negotiate peace and find ways to heal wounds from the aftermath of violence and begin to find common ground for restoring relationships that can be life-giving once again. At Christmas, we pray for this peace to come for our world.



Bishop Paride at Peace Village in Sudan



## Think Global and Act Local

Moral Formation



Children praying in Peru: kidsalveinternational



Sharing in El Salvador



Minnesotan Emily Harrington helping older woman in El Porvenir, Peru

There are many ways to be a peacemaker every day. We only need to look at our own family, school and community to find daily opportunities to bring peace. Here are seven ways you can bring peace:

- 1) Pray for peace in your life and with those whom you find difficult to get along with.
- 2) Be willing to forgive those who have hurt your feelings and be willing to ask forgiveness of those whom you have hurt.



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- 3) Have the courage to stand up for those who are being bullied or who can't speak for themselves.
- 4) Learn more about people who are different from you. Do not be too quick to judge others negatively just because they look or act differently. Put yourself in their shoes.
- 5) Consider an alternative way to resolve conflicts without violence.
- 6) Share more. Don't take more of things than you need.
- 7) Take turns. Don't be too pushy to always be first and think only of yourself.



## Petitions for Mission

Liturgical Education

- ✦ Let us pray that the birth of Christ may bring peace and hope to all people around the world.
- ✦ Let us pray that parents may strive to pass on to their children the precious gift of faith.
- ✦ Let us pray for peace in our families and healing for families in pain at this time year.
- ✦ Let us pray for the people of Peru. May they draw strength from the roots of their culture and their faith.
- ✦ Let us pray that we may be ready to receive the gift of Christ in our hearts this Christmas season.



## Prayer for Mission

Missionary Initiative

Loving God, you gave us the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to reveal your saving plan to the world. They followed the star to Bethlehem and trusted the word of the angel. Help us to welcome you this Christmas and follow you more closely, O Prince of Peace. We make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord. Amen



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