

November Mission Intention

2014 - 2015



Celebrating the Joy of the Gospel

That young seminarians
and religious may have
wise and well formed
mentors.



Country Focus New Zealand: Reconciling history and culture

New Zealand is an island nation located in the South Pacific Ocean. The first people to settle the islands came from Polynesian descent and have come to be known as the Maori people. Later in the 1800's, European and English settlers began to move to the island. Along with traders and settlers came Catholic missionaries who began to preach the Gospel to native Maori and establish the Church for all people.

The relationship between the native Maori and European settlers has faced many challenges in the past. In recent



decades this has improved so that all New Zealanders share equally in the life of the country.

In turn, the Church has been very conscious to be inclusive of all people in terms of how they worship and serve one another. Today, the New Zealand Church includes people from many cultural groups and is on track to become the largest Christian denomination by the next census. The Church lives out its faith by encouraging and providing education, service and justice activities. This includes the training of future priests and religious.



God's Word for Mission

Promoting Knowledge of Faith

"The two disciples heard what he said and they followed him. Jesus turned and said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi, where are you staying?' And he said, 'Come, and you will see'" (John 1:38-39).

"Be imitators of me, as I am in Christ. I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the traditions, just as I handed them on to you" (1 Cor. 11:1-2).



A Saint for Mission: St. Andrew

Education for Community Life

St. Andrew was born at Bethsaida near the Sea of Galilee as a fisherman. He was a disciple of John the Baptist before he became one of the original disciples of Jesus. The Gospel recalls the story of Andrew leading his brother, Simon Peter, to Jesus. Together, they left everything to follow him.

Andrew is also referred to as the one, with Philip, who led the Gentiles to Christ and pointed out to Jesus the boy who was ready to share his five loaves and two fish which became multiplied to feed 5,000.

After Pentecost, Andrew left Jerusalem



The feast day of St. Andrew is November 30th.

and began to preach the Gospel in Greece. It was in Achaia, Greece that he died for his faith by being crucified on a cross in the shape of an X—today called the cross of St. Andrew

St. Andrew lived his faith by bringing people to Christ and bringing Christ to people. He became the patron saint to the Church in the East in the same way that his brother, Peter, became the patron of Rome in the West. He stands as a bridge between East and West.

The Cross of St. Andrew is prominent in Scotland for whom he is also patron.



CENTER for MISSION

Society for the Propagation of the Faith / St. Paul and Minneapolis



Rights and Responsibilities

Catholic Social Teaching

Our faith teaches us that the way to protect the dignity of people and have a healthy community is to insure that human rights are protected and that we are responsible to each other. Therefore every person has a right to life and human decency. We also have a responsibility to protect and care for those who cannot care for themselves. Protecting these human rights and living out these responsibilities create what is called the Common Good.

No one has the right to harm or take advantage of another person so that they can have an excess of resources or possessions. Working for the Common Good means working for the day when the rights of all people are protected and respected and each member is able to fulfill his or her responsibilities to family, community and broader world. In particular, we must care for the vulnerable, children, the sick, the dying, the homeless and hungry, and all those who are marginalized.



Traditional Maori greeting in New Zealand



Be a mentor; lead by example

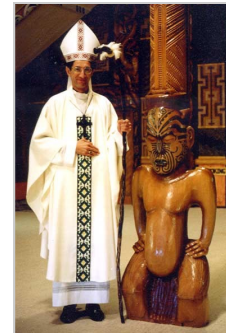
Moral Formation



Fr. Paul-Antoine Léonard de Villefeix celebrated first Mass in Doubtless Bay, New Zealand on Christmas Day, 1769.



Bishop Pompallier led the oldest Catholic parish in New Zealand in 1840



First Maori Bishop, Max Mariu, in New Zealand in 1988. Was a mentor to many others.

There are many opportunities to be a good example to others and be a mentor like leaders in the Church.

Youth can lead children by example: by what you say and what you do.

Older siblings can take the time to help their younger brothers and sisters.

You can volunteer to help others with their homework or give a hand to someone from another country wanting to learn our language.



Head of Jesus in Maori culture, St Joseph Church in Jerusalem, New Zealand

Find an inspiring saint, priest, sister or brother and see how they might lead you in your vocation to work for the rights of others.

We never know who is watching what we do and how we live. We can live each day and each moment by being our best and leading by our example. What we say and do can inspire others and be the very thing that will help them to grow in their own vocation.



Petitions for Mission

Liturgical Education

- ✦ Let us pray that seminarians and young religious may have wise and well formed mentors.
- ✦ Let us pray for all of those who have inspired us and mentored us by how they live their lives.
- ✦ Let us pray that we each live out our call and share our gifts for building the Common Good and the Church.
- ✦ Let us pray for the people of New Zealand as they seek harmony among the diverse peoples.
- ✦ Let us pray for an increase of reverence for life, fulfilling our responsibilities to our neighbors.



Prayer for Mission

Missionary Initiative

Loving God, you are the Good Shepherd who leads us and guides us to your Kingdom of peace and love and mercy. Help us to take up our call to give witness to your life and to serve our brothers and sisters in need. Make us more like you son, Jesus, who is our Lord for ever and ever.
Amen



CENTER for MISSION

Society for the Propagation of the Faith / St. Paul and Minneapolis