

September Mission Intention

2014 - 2015



Celebrating the Joy of the Gospel

That Christians, inspired by God's Word, may serve the poor and suffering.



Country Focus

Mongolia—The Youngest Church in the World

Mongolia is located in Asia between Russia to the north and China to the south. It is a harsh environment with long cold winters and very little rainfall. The Mongols are a nomadic people who can trace their history back several thousand years. The Mongolian Empire of the 13th century was founded by Temujin; also known as Genghis Khan.

In recent history, it had been greatly influenced by Communist



Russia. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, it has become a democratic country and able to govern itself.

In 1991, Catholic missionaries began to plant the church in this region. Today there are six Catholic Churches in all of Mongolia. They focus their ministry on recovery and hope for families struggling with addictions, poverty and limited options for education and employment.



God's Word for Mission

Promoting Knowledge of Faith

"I will bless the Lord at all times; praise shall always be in my mouth. My soul will glory in the Lord that the poor may hear and be glad. ...The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, saves those whose spirit is crushed. Many are the troubles of the just, but the Lord delivers from them all (Psalm 34:1-3; 19-20).

"Is anyone among you sick? (The Church) should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person. Therefore, ...pray for one another (James 5:14-15).



A Saint for Mission: St. Vincent de Paul

Education for Community Life

Vincent de Paul was born in France in 1581 to peasant farmers and was the third of four children. His parents noticed his talents in reading and writing and decided to send him to the seminary. Vincent advanced as a scholar. On a trip across the Mediterranean Sea he was captured by pirates and sold into slavery for two years. Eventually, after several adventures, he returned to France.

He dedicated himself to serving the poor in the countryside and had a great devotion to galley slaves and convicts and



The feast day for St. Vincent de Paul is September 27th.

spent time ministering to them humanizing their conditions. He also became a regular teacher and retreat leader for clergy who were poorly trained and in great need of reform.

Vincent's efforts led to the forming of a religious order dedicated to serving the poor known as the Congregation for Mission. He also inspired the Daughters of Charity and the St. Vincent DePaul Society dedicated to serving the poor and suffering. He died in 1660.



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Serving the Poor and Vulnerable

Catholic Social Teaching

As followers of Christ, we are challenged to make serving the poor and vulnerable a priority. This means helping to create conditions that relieve the burdens of poverty and create opportunities for marginalized people to be heard. It means defending those who can't defend themselves. It means paying attention to how lifestyles, policies and institutions impact the poor and working for change where justice is lacking.

From the Bible we learn that the justice of a society is tested and judged by how it treats the poor and those who live on the margins. Jesus said his mission was to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind and freedom to the oppressed (Lk 4:18-19). Similarly, in the Last Judgment, he said the we will be judged by how we respond to the hungry, the thirsty, the prisoner and stranger (Mt. 25:31-46).

Each of us are called to look at the world from the perspective of the poor and vulnerable and do our part to lift them up.



Think and Act Global: Serving the Poor

Moral Formation



"Gurvger" Adagio/Wikipedia



Hamid Sardar Corbis/Britannica



Catholiclane.org (CAN)



"Rider in Mongolia, 2012" Al Jazeera/Wikipedia

What can we do to serve the poor in our area? Here are 7 ways that you can personally get involved.

- 1) Get better informed on the causes of poverty and people who are vulnerable.
- 2) Treat those who are poor and needy with respect.
- 3) Find out how your local, state and federal government, community group and church are already responding to the poor and vulnerable in your area and in Mongolia.
- 4) Donate your old belongings to



local good will and service centers.

- 5) Organize a collection of food, clothing or other basic items that others could use.
- 6) Volunteer your time serving meals and making life a little better for those who are vulnerable and need a helping hand.
- 7) Support long term solutions that address the causes of poverty and being marginalized. Donate your time to removing obstacles that impede the poor from taking personal responsibility for their lives.

We, the Church, have been called to follow Christ who made the poor his first priority.



Petitions for Mission

Liturgical Education

- ✦ Let us pray that Christians will respond to God's Word to serve the poor and suffering.
- ✦ Let us pray that the disabled may receive the help they need for a dignified life.
- ✦ Let us pray for greater justice in the lives of those who are marginalized.
- ✦ Let us pray for the people of Mongolia and for the growth of this young Church.
- ✦ Let us pray for a greater healing of all people who are burdened by illness, guilt and separation from love.



Prayer for Mission

Missionary Initiative

Loving God, you hear the cry of the poor and vulnerable in our midst. Help us to follow your son, Jesus, who brought good news to the poor, healing to the sick and freedom to those held captive. May we see you in the face of all those in need. Amen.



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