

Mission Intention

April

2016 - 2017

Young People

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in priesthood and religious life

During this month we consider young people and how God calls them personally to live out their faith in a particular way according to their state in life. God calls some to the vocation of ordained ministry and religious life. May all young people be open to God's call in their life, whatever that may be.

Country Focus: Bolivia



Bolivia is a landlocked country in South America that is the size of California and Texas combined. Its terrain has great contrasts between the Andes mountains which enclose it and low-land areas of grasslands and rainforests.

The people of Bolivia can trace their ancestry to the Incan empire and the Spanish Conquistadores who came in the 16th century and colonized the land. Many of the people were forced into slavery and died from diseases.

The country won its independence in 1825 and took the name "Bolivia" after their liberator, Simon Bolivar. Since that time there have been many years of conflict and instability. Recently, there have been improvements that have lifted up the indigenous people.

Christian missionaries came to Bolivia along with the Spanish colonists and mission to the indigenous people began in earnest. Today, the majority of Bolivians identify themselves as Catholic. Indigenous people in rural areas still retain aspects of their ancient rituals and practices that have been integrated into their Catholic faith. This faith is celebrated in various shrines, devotions and festivals that take place throughout the year.

God's Word for Mission

Promoting Knowledge of Faith

"When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the Lord came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, 'Samuel, Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening'" (1 Samuel 3:9-10).

"As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, casting a net into the sea... He said, 'Come after me and I will make you fishers of men'" (Matthew 4:18).

A Saint for Mission: St. Francis Solanus

Education for Community Life



Francis Solanus was born in 1549 in Spain. At the age of 20 he became a Franciscan missionary and journeyed to South America aboard a slave ship. The ship was grounded in a storm. As the crew abandoned the ship, Francis remained with the slaves until they could be rescued.

Once he made it to his mission site he developed great zeal and love for the native peoples and travelled great distances to bring the Gospel to them. He learned the various dialects of the different tribes he encountered and thus was very successful in speaking about Christ in a way that the people could understand.

Stories are told of vast numbers of people who embraced the Christian faith due to the witness and love of St. Francis. He brought healing to the sick and people reported many miracles attributed to him. It is also said that Francis had the gift of prophesy and was able to prepare his people for difficult times and natural disasters that did actually occur later. He also became the guardian of the Church in Peru.

He died in 1610 and was canonized a saint in 1675. He is the patron saint of many countries in South America including Bolivia. His feast day is July 14th.

Participation in Society

Catholic Social Teaching



Each of us has a fundamental right, even a duty, to participate in society in a way that promotes the common good. First it is important to find what particular gifts and passions you have received from God's grace. By sharing these gifts, you participate in society and enhance the common good.

Sung-bong Choi was orphaned in Korea and grew up on the streets of the city. He spent ten years living in a cardboard box and was physically beaten by gangs who at one point even buried him alive. His only source of income was selling gum and drinks in the night club district. Choi had lost hope and was very depressed.

He heard others singing in the night clubs and this would bring him great joy so he began singing to himself. Then, his life changed when a voice coach heard Choi, took him in and gave him voice lessons.

Choi had found his own vocation and offered it to the world when he competed on "Korea's Got Talent." He was a sensation! Thanks to the generosity of the voice coach, Choi survived the streets of Korea and gifted others with his beautiful voice. See Choi at: *Korean Singer's Rags to Riches Story*

Daily Offering

Missionary Initiative

Dear God, I offer you my joys and sorrows, my work and my play, and all that I am this day. Help me to be an instrument of your love and peace with all I meet along the way of life. Help me to always know you are with me to lead me and guide me to your Kingdom. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Participation in Society

Moral Formation

After watching the video, think about the questions below and discuss.

1. How is the story of Sung-bong Choi a great example of the importance of giving everyone a chance to participate in society by realizing their dreams?
2. What examples were there in Sung-bong's life that others did not feel that he counted as a human being?
3. What are some examples in the Bible where Jesus sought out people such as Sung-bong Choi and gave them a chance to have meaningful participation in their communities?
4. Can you name some of your gifts and special talents that you can offer to your school or community?



Petitions for Mission

Liturgical Education

- ✦ Let us pray that young people will respond generously to God's call in their life.
- ✦ Let us pray for an increase in vocations to ordained ministry, consecrated life and marriage.
- ✦ Let us pray that we will each live out our call to share Christ with others in words and deeds through our own gifts.
- ✦ Let us pray that all young people will be encouraged and inspired to be the person God created them to be.
- ✦ Let us pray for all those who have given their life for Christ.



CENTER for MISSION

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