

Mission Intention

NOVEMBER
2017 - 2018

Education for
Community Life

Country Focus: Indonesia

Christians in Asia

That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace and mutual understanding; especially with those of other religions.

This month we remember the Church in Asia that often lives out faith as a religious minority. We pray they will be encouraged in their Christian witness.



Indonesia consists of thousands of islands spread across the Indian Ocean between Asia and Australia.

People have lived on these islands for over 40,000 years. Over time, organized kingdoms emerged and trade with neighboring China and India began to take place around 400 BCE. The influence of these trading relationships led to the introduction of Hinduism and Buddhism and later...Islam.

Beginning in the 1600's, the Portuguese arrived and began to colonize the islands and mistreat the people.

This was followed by future colonizers from Holland and Japan. Eventually, Indonesia

achieved independence in 1949.

Today, Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world and largest economy in all of Southeast Asia.

The Catholic Church arrived in 1500's and has faced many ups and downs with the various colonial groups. Today, the Church is growing and expanding its ministries.



Promoting Knowledge
of Faith

God's Word for Mission

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's pleasure to give you the Kingdom" (Lk 12:32).

"...we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children.... we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us" (1Thess. 2:5-8).

"Dialogue should permeate...the evangelizing mission of the Church" (Dialogue and Proclamation, 1991).

A Saint for Mission: St John de Britto



St. John was born in Portugal in 1647 to wealthy parents. During a time of severe illness, he and his family prayed to St. Francis Xavier for healing. After the illness, John developed a desire to follow the way of St. Francis Xavier. He eventually became a Jesuit missionary and was sent to Asia in an area of India known as Madura.

There, he worked and ministered the gospel among the poor and low caste. In particular, he began to dress and follow many of the Indian cultural ways so that it was easier to be in dialogue with them.

At one point he was called to serve as the governor of his province and had to lead during many difficult times. His success in bringing so many people to the Christian faith led the Hindu Brahmins to feel greatly threatened. St. John was eventually arrested and executed for his faith. When he was buried in India, many people visited and prayed at his tomb. He became known as the second apostle to India. He was canonized a saint in 1947. His feast day is February 4th.

Promoting Peace



For many of us, when we hear the words “achieving peace” we think of taking action to stop wars. Achieving peace really starts with our own lives. The choices we make with regard to our own behaviors, how we act with our families and communities, demonstrate and help generate peace. And with peace, individual dignity is fostered. When we are at peace, we are able to feel dignified and promote the dignity of others.

The video below describes the story of Adis, from Bandung, Indonesia, who in his youth made bad choices that prevented him from achieving inner peace and being a dignified person.

His choices also affected his family. Adis joined a motorcycle gang who was robbing people and he was eventually jailed for his criminal behavior.

Fortunately for Adis, Mr. Adi, a local mechanic, took a chance with him and offered Adis a job where he could be trained as a motorcycle mechanic. As his self-confidence grew, so did his inner peace and sense of dignity.

Adis now has a goal to help other young people who may be struggling as he did in the past. He wants to be able to assist others to find a sense of peace and dignity through honest and responsible work.

Promoting Peace and Dignity



Watch: Youth Uplift in Indonesia- Meet Adis

Discussion regarding Adis and his path to peace and dignity:

1. What were some of the bad choices Adis made in his early years? What were the consequences?
2. Can you explain why Adis was not at peace and how he found a sense of inner peace?
3. How could it be said that Mr. Adi became Adis’ Guardian Angel? How was Adis going to return the favor?
4. How does inner peace and self-confidence foster dignity?
5. Can you think of anybody like Adis in your school or community? How can you become their Mr. Adi or Guardian Angel?

Mission Petitions

- ✦ Let us pray for Christians in Asia that they may witness to the Gospel in word and deed.
- ✦ Let us pray that religious dialogue among faiths may bring greater peace, understanding and respect for human dignity.
- ✦ Let us pray for ways we can reach out to those who seem different from us so we can find understanding.
- ✦ Let us pray for all nations that, by seeking dialogue and mutual understanding, we might find peaceful ways to resolve conflict and tensions.

Loving God, I offer you the joys, sorrows and the ups and downs of this day. Make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring love. Where there is division, let me bring forgiveness. Where there is doubt, let me bring faith. Where there is despair, let me bring hope. And where there is darkness, let me bring your light. In Jesus name we pray. Amen