

Evangelization

That all people involved in sharing their faith do so in a way that is respectful of the culture and the situation of the people hearing their message.

This month we are asked to think about the choices we make every day so that we can best reflect the Gospel of Christ to all those we meet.



Country Focus: Myanmar

Myanmar, also known as Burma, is a country where it has often been unsafe to be a religious minority.

Decades of military rule have caused many people of different ethnicities and religions to flee to other countries so they can live safely. While the current prime minister of Myanmar opposes military rule, the military still holds much power in that nation.

The people of Myanmar are mostly Buddhist with a smaller percentage of Muslims. Catholics make up only about 1% of the population. In 2014, the Church had its 500th anniversary in Myanmar, and named its first Cardinal. While the Catholic Church in Myanmar has been able to celebrate

these events, their Muslim neighbors have experienced much persecution since 2017. More than 700,000 Muslims have had to flee their homes in order to live safely in other countries. In November of 2017, Pope Francis visited Myanmar to bring attention to this crisis and to encourage all people to live in harmony with one another.



Promoting Knowledge of Faith

God's Word for Mission

"...I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings."
(1 Cor 9:22-23)

"Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God's presence." (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, No. 259)

Education for Community Life

A Saint for Mission: Blessed Isidoro Ngei Ko Lat



We don't know much about the first Burmese person to be beatified, but what we do know about Blessed Isidoro Ngei Ko Lat reminds us that it is just as important to live our faith as it is to talk about it.

Isidoro came from a family of Catholic converts. As a child, Isidoro was known to follow missionaries around town, so it was no surprise that when he was old enough, Isidoro entered the minor seminary. Unfortunately, due to poor health, he was unable to finish his studies and fulfill his dream of being ordained a priest, but this did not stop Isidoro from spending the rest of his life serving God.

Returning to his village, Isidoro opened a free private school so that children could learn Burmese and English, music, hymns, and receive catechism lessons. He served as an interpreter for a missionary priest, helping him understand the cultural, social and religious norms of the local people.

Isidoro treated everyone he met with love and respect, regardless of what they believed, and because of this, people loved and respected him in return. Blessed Isidoro Ngei Ko Lat shows us how important it is to value others and that sometimes the best way to tell others about the love of Christ is to live as Christ asked us to live.

Blessed Isidoro Ngei Ko Lat's memorial day is May 24.

New Evangelization and Catholic Social Teaching



Children at home in Myanmar

Have you ever heard of the “Great Commission?” At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus asks his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”

There are many ways we can follow Jesus’ instructions above. One of the ways the Church teaches us to “go and make disciples” is to live the principles of Catholic social teaching.

Catholic social teaching is made of seven themes that teach us how to live in unity with one another: life and dignity of the human person; call to family, community & participation;

rights and responsibilities; option for the poor and vulnerable; the dignity of work and the rights of workers; solidarity; and care for God’s creation. When we live by these teachings, we become examples of the love of Christ, and our actions help spread the Gospel message.

In this month’s video, we learn about four young people who are all living out Catholic social teaching in their communities. As you watch each young person’s story, think about how their actions are helping to spread the Gospel message, especially Martin, who lives in this month’s focus country of Myanmar. How can you use Catholic social teaching in your own life to help spread the Gospel message of Christ?

People of God Called to Serve: [Click Here](#)>>

1. After watching Rebecca’s example of stewardship, or care for God’s creation, can you think of any examples of this theme of Catholic social teaching in your community or school?
2. How did access to water benefit all of Proscovia’s community?
3. Has there ever been a time when your community came together to help one another, like Martin’s community did after the cyclone? What happened? How did your community help one another?
4. How did the young people in this month’s video demonstrate the love of God through their actions? How can you use your actions to teach people about Christ?



Proscovia gathering water

Mission Petitions

- ✚ Let us pray that we may be reminded of ways to serve those among us who are overlooked, ignored, or rejected, so that all may know the peace and healing of Christ’s love.
- ✚ Let us pray that all humankind may live together in peace, regardless of their religious beliefs.
- ✚ Let us pray for the reconciliation of all people, and for the Church throughout the world, that it may be an instrument of Christ’s healing love.

Mother Mary,

You are the one through whom Jesus entered our world, and we ask for your intercession as we present Jesus to all those we encounter. Please pray that we may imitate your discipleship, your turning to Jesus, your love for God and for all, and that the compassion you have always reflected be present in our hearts. Amen.