



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

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Inspired

Stories of encountering Christ in global mission
Spring 2019

"Therefore, the Church does not have a mission. Rather, it is God's mission that has a Church."

By Deacon Mickey Friesen

"How can you share Christ's love with someone different from you?" Annual Writing Contest Winners

2020 Immersion Trip to Jamaica



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Inspired

Spring 2019

Stories of encountering Christ in global mission



Baptized and Sent

By Deacon Mickey Friesen
Director, Center for Mission



Sometimes life can leave a permanent mark on us. Some people retain a mark from their birth. Others carry a permanent mark from an accident,

an injury or a loss. Some marks are visible while others remain invisible, and some people can leave a permanent mark on us by the way they care for us or the way they inspire us. Many mark our souls for life.

When we are baptized, we are also marked forever with the sign of faith.

During this Easter season, we celebrate the risen life we have in Christ and we renew our baptismal call to go forth into the world to proclaim the Good News of Christ. Baptism marks us with the sign of the cross that proclaims that Jesus' love is stronger than sin, fear or death. We are anointed to follow Jesus' way of life and mission. Baptism initiates us into the Body of Christ, the Church, to be visible signs of the Spirit of God moving all over the world. In this sense it is true to say that the Church is missionary by her nature because our God is a missionary God. Therefore, the Church does not have a mission. Rather, it is God's mission that has a Church.



This year, Pope Francis has called for an Extraordinary Month of Mission, and the Pontifical Mission Societies has broadened that call to an Extraordinary Year of Mission, to enliven and renew our baptismal invitation to make the life and mission of Jesus known and loved. This year, we hope to highlight many of the ways we can live out our baptismal call to mission and encounter Christ in others, friends and strangers.

We have begun highlighting this call through our youth by introducing our annual writing contest theme, "How can you share Christ's love with those who are different from you?" This is a step on the missionary journey for our students as they respond to an aspect of what it means to be "baptized and sent."

We have been permanently marked with the sign of the cross and the sign of peace so that we might be living signs of Christ in our world. More about Extraordinary Month of Mission activities and prayer will be available soon.

We are all baptized and sent.

Sharing Christ's Love

By Janine Ricker
Global Mission Outreach Coord.
Center for Mission

How can you share Christ's Love with those who are different from you?



The young Church in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis was invited to share their reflections on

this question as part of the Center for Mission's annual Lenten writing contest. We received over 800 submissions from Catholic schools and faith formation students that were of very high caliber, testifying to the incredible faith present in our young people. It took a panel of 12 judges more than three weeks to select winning essays in four divisions (grades 1-3, grades 4-6, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12).

Each winning entry demonstrated a strong understanding of the importance of welcoming those on the margins and articulated the Gospel exhortation to recognize Christ in others and treat them accordingly.

In the youngest division, Isabella Bixby referenced the example given to us by Christ, writing that she would "stand up for [those who are different] just as Jesus would."

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2019 Writing Contest

Matthew 25:35 "I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."

How can you share Christ's love with those who are different from you?

There are five divisions from which winners will be selected:
Division I: Grades 1-3. Complete the phrase, "I share Christ's love with those who are different by..." and draw a picture on 8.5 x 11 paper that illustrates your answer.
Division II: Grades 4-6. Essay up to 250 words, answering the theme question above. Must be typed or neatly printed.
Division III: Grades 7-9. Essay up to 500 words, answering the theme question above. Must be typed.
Division IV: Grades 10-12. Essay up to 500 words, answering the theme question above. Must be typed.

Entries will be judged for their creativity, originality, organization, spelling and communication effectiveness.
Prizes for winners: Divisions I & II - \$50/each, Divisions III & IV - \$100/each
Submission Requirements: All entries must be on 8.5 x 11 paper and include name, grade, Catholic school and/or parish name and city. Submit entries by regular mail or email with Word document attached. Entries accepted February 1 - March 8, 2019. Entries must be received by March 8, 2019 or postmarked by March 8, 2019. Winners will be notified the week of April 14, 2019. All submissions become the property of the Center for Mission.

Mail to: Writing Contest
Center for Mission
777 Forest Street
St. Paul, MN 55106



Email to: ricker@cfm.org
Subject line: Writing Contest

2019 Center for Mission Writing Contest Winners



Isabella Bixby, Transfiguration School

Me
Hi!
Hi!

I share Christ's love are different by ca loving them, and not wrong but treating up for them just as Je them the way I want to do not have the same them the same not dif

Zoe Berthiaume, St Agnes School



Zoe Berthiaume
Grade 5
Saint Agnes School
The Church of Saint Louis, King of France
Saint Paul, MN

How can I share Christ's love with a stranger and you welcomed me." This than I am.

My grandparents foster a boy. He is actually much older than I am, but walking and using his hands. He eats the

Even though Anthony is very different, I can welcome Anthony is by giving him love. Sometimes he wants to give so many thanks for Christ's love with him by giving him still love. He has a nurse named Helderine who sings loudly! My grandma calls it "a riot." I smile make me happy, too, because I would be sharing Christ's love with him! I can also welcome Anthony simply by praying for him.

In conclusion, I can share Christ's love with those who are different than me by talking and singing with them about God, loving them with hugs, and praying for them.



Eleanor Stolsky, Sacred Heart School

Eleanor Stolsky
8th Grade

different from you?
by, a new student, came to our
y much English. He was from
se to help this boy out. He was
nd things. I tried my best to teach
started learning more English and
r he was terrified of cats and every
en if someone brought up the word
s one by him. Eventually he
f we became best friends. In
d and to share with others, for with
kid I believe I shared God's love
ecause of this I was nicer to people
and good food. By doing good,
rs and learned a lot about myself.
In Genesis 11:7 it says, "Come,
that they will not understand one
y because I didn't understand him
to come together as one and work
one. It reminds me of how we're all
ernal happiness in Heaven with God.

JunFen Freihammer
Junior
DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis
Maternity of Mary

From Stranger to Friend: The Impact of a Welcome

How is it that racism can blind us from seeing immigrants as our brothers and sisters, and how can I see Christ in them? I am part of a minority race in America who arrived to this country and was welcomed by an adoptive family who introduced me to their community. Not knowing English and being new to American culture was a big transition. I cannot imagine what it would be like for others coming to this country, especially those who speak little or no English without the help and support of a welcoming community.

My Catholic faith has much to say about reaching out to the stranger. On the World Day of that it is normal to be afraid of the to be an immigrant in a new land. The Pope opportunity to meet Jesus Christ who cepted or rejected in every age" (cf. come our fears so as to encounter the other, "The love of Christ moves us beyond the id of God who needs our hospitality, opportunities to deepen our knowledge about er talk about his experience as a child eams allowed us to put ourselves "in the



JunFen Freihammer, DeLaSalle High School

cont'd from cover page

The division II, III, and IV winners all shared a personal experience that helped them realize the fundamental principles of solidarity: that we are all one human family and we are all our brothers' and sisters' keepers in faith.

Fifth-grader Zoe Berthiaume shared one of her experiences in showing love to someone different from herself by writing about her grandparents' foster child. "[Anthony] has a nurse named Helderine who sings Christian songs with him every day. They sing very loudly! My grandma calls it 'a riot.'" The joy Anthony experiences when people sing to him is an example of caring for one another, according to Zoe.

Eighth-grader Eleanor Stolsky from Sacred Heart School recalled a time when a teacher asked her to assist a fellow student who had just arrived from Liberia, Africa. This new student did not speak the same language as Eleanor but they eventually figured out how to communicate and became friends. Eleanor references Genesis 11:7 about God confusing the languages of those building the Tower of Babel, saying, "This verse reminds me of this boy because I didn't understand him but I wonder if God said this because He wanted us to come together as one...It's like He was waiting for us to unite as one. ... It reminds me of how we're all different but we all have the same common goal, eternal happiness in Heaven with God."

Lastly, JunFen Freihammer, a junior from DeLaSalle High School, wrote of her own experience of being from a different country and immigrating to the United States to join her U.S. parents after her adoption. She summed up the principle of solidarity this way: "The presence of newcomers reminds us that Christ comes in the stranger...The love of Christ moves us beyond the fear that differences create. In a stranger, we see a child of God who needs our hospitality, friendship

and respect." JunFen's experience as an immigrant who had to learn a new language and culture spoke to the heart of this year's topic.

The Center for Mission congratulates all our 2019 Writing Contest winners and extends our most sincere thanks to all entrants for sharing their faith and insights with the local Church.

Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica Immersion Trip

By Eric Simon
Mission Promotions Manager



In 2016, a delegation of 11 from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis visited the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica, a very poor, struggling mission diocese. That immersion trip was planned

so that the delegation could encounter the people of Mandeville, open their hearts and exchange gifts of love, caring and our Catholic faith: *encountering Christ in mission.*

The group visited and shared with communities in schools, colleges, health clinics, the Missionaries of Charity home for the elderly, parishes, social service organizations, the St. John Bosco Boy's Home, and more. It was an amazing, inspiring experience. In addition, the group was able to

choose one of several projects, including building a home, as a way to return the love and generosity we received from those whom we met.

Of course, we were also able to spend a day enjoying the Jamaican weather at a popular park famous for its waterfalls.

Some of the delegate comments:



"I realized we were really all one, one community and one family."

"Mass at Maggotty parish was very impactful and inspiring, we felt so close to the people"

"I will always remember the elderly at the Mary Help of Christians Home in Balaclava and the songs they shared and the wonderful care they received from the Sisters of Charity. I was very touched.

"I now get the experience of opening our hearts to others."

WE ARE AGAIN ORGANIZING A DELEGATION VISIT TO THE DIOCESE OF MANDEVILLE, JAMAICA

We will visit April 18 - 25, 2020. More details will follow, but if you are interested in joining the delegation, please contact Eric Simon, 651.291.4446, simone@archspm.org.

