

## MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD CALLED TO “BRING JOY AND HOPE TO FAMILIES”

(Abbot Francis)

During this year of the Families Pope Francis reminds us of our mission “to bring them joy and hope” to families.

Pope Francis, in line with Abbot Francis, stresses that no human organisation is as important as families. At the same time Pope Francis draws our attention to the special family members, the marginalised; the sick, poor and especially the street children, who Sunday after Sunday remind us that that they are hungry, not only for food but for love and attention too.

How good that two of our sisters and a mission helper join the local parishioners in caring for them, and give them a Sunday meal with a big smile, and a hug, while hoping and praying that they may also get hungry for the Lord.

On Saturday many attend the special lessons that are offered to help them with their school work. Here we also give them a meal, clothing, and school uniforms so that they can socially fit in with their peers and not feel ostracised because they cannot be like the other children.

This is our immediate response to the need we see and experience.

We are aware that children ought to get two things from their parents, namely roots and wings:

- Roots to know what is important in life,
- Wings that they may grow freedom and independence to live their lives responsibly.

We are happy that Sister Clair Wade has started to prepare Fathers, mothers and young people to become co-workers in this mission.

Some of our fathers followed a programme and committed themselves to make God the centre of their families here and now.

They want their families to be truly Christian and a legacy for the future.



Figure 1 Sr Clair with the young people at the retreats sharing a power point presentation on God's love for us..

Similarly the mothers are encouraged "to be co-drivers" in protecting, educating and praying with the family.

Both fathers and mothers and their family members meet now bi-monthly to share their experiences as "Christian" fathers and mothers

and to encourage one another to continue in this mission.

The young people, too, are receiving help during their last school year to discern how to cooperate with God's plan in their lives. A recent retreat was given on the theme "God has a Plan for your life" *Jeremiah 29 v11*. Another is



Figure 2A candle light service: the young people praying that they may be open for God's message,

planned for mid-June.

The "Young People" were truly open and searching for direction and meaning in their lives.

Last but not least the children who live around us receive help to find their

"roots" which are fed every Sunday after H. Mass during a short catechism class,



Figure 3 Anele age 4 is excited and very impatient.

which prepares them for or follows up the Sacrament of Baptism.

It was a special day after Easter when 27 of them were baptised in view of the whole community.

We now welcome the children every Sunday for Holy Mass, where they receive a special blessing from the Priest and when we all pray that they may grow “roots and wings” to live out their lives as true children of God. They in return are “Little Missionaries in their home and encourage their parents to, to seek spiritual nourishment.



Figure 4 A few Children for baptism, forming the entry procession.

God has blessed us with a large “Vineyard” for prayer and action.

**MAY THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY  
HELP US TO BRING JOY AND NEW HOPE TO OUR  
FAMILIES.**



Figure 6 Working in small groups with the youth



Figure 5 Some of the retreatants enjoying a good cup of hot chocolate and a cake.

