



COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES



2017

Annual Report
St Columban Mission Society

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Section 1 | Annual report from Australia

From the Director report

Dear Columban Friends,

This year the *Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations* invited young people in Sydney to hold a Youth Parliament of World Religions for the second year under the title 'Youth PoWR'. The conference brought together several hundred young people of many different faith traditions to discuss the issues that concern them. It is the biggest interfaith event of its kind in Australia and was a success again.

In March I attended the *Inter-Regional Mission Unit* meeting in Santiago, Chile. This meeting was a gathering of the Regional Directors and Mission Unit Coordinators to prepare for the *Columban General Assembly* in Taiwan in September, 2018. The meeting which was ten days long is an important time when the leaders in the Columban mission countries give input to the process from their own perspective of leadership.

The *Columban Mission Institute* in Sydney continues to be a resource for the local Church and society in Australia and New Zealand on global missionary issues, providing formation, information and resources. The other Centres besides the *Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations*, *Mission Studies* and the *Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice* have a range of involvement in social activism, advocacy and formation through lectures, talks and cultural awareness programs.

The *Columban Mission Office (CMC)* in Melbourne continues to be our commercial operation where the *Columban Art Calendar* is produced. It has been successful in marketing booklets on Pope Francis written by Columban Fr Noel Connolly and continues to produce the Columban website, the Columban e-news and through the use of Social Media provide avenues to reach a wider audience.

Early in the year we had the pleasure of a visit from newly ordained Fr Rafael Ramirez Salazar, a young priest from Chile who visited the ANZ Region on his way to Myanmar where he has been appointed.

The promotion of our Columban magazine *The Far East* continues in the dioceses Adelaide, Canberra /Goulburn and Toowoomba. Rockhampton diocese has been completed. The magazine won an award at the *Australasian Catholic Press*



Association (ACPA): Highly commended for best layout and design. The CMC continues to upgrade our systems to keep in touch with technological change taking place very quickly.

The importance of *The Far East* magazine can best be understood when research indicates that the subscribers to *The Far East* are consistent supporters of our two appeals through the year. They are our base. The *Columban Mission Centre* has been successful in finding ways to cut expenses; the Centre has an ongoing challenge to develop new ways to promote Columban Mission in our digital age.

The *Columban Art Calendar* continues to be a major fundraiser for the Society but the competition in religious calendars is fierce. The *Columban Mission Centre* continues to explore new avenues to boost our sales to remain competitive.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Walker". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Fr Gary Walker
Regional Director
Australia/New Zealand Region
director@columban.org.au

Section 1 | Annual report from Australia

Financial summary

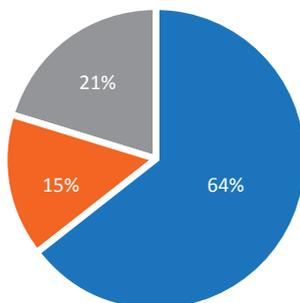
During the year ended March 31, 2017 Columban benefactors donated \$3,215,067 (2016: \$5,098,064) to support the work of Columbans in Australia and overseas.

The decrease in donations received in the 2017 year can be attributed to the reduction in bequests. As you would expect, donations from this source have a history of being variable and highly unpredictable. In the 2017 year bequests made up 60% (2016: 73%) of donation income.

The pie chart below provides a high level break-down of how the donations received in 2017 were expended.

Application of donations received in 2017 year

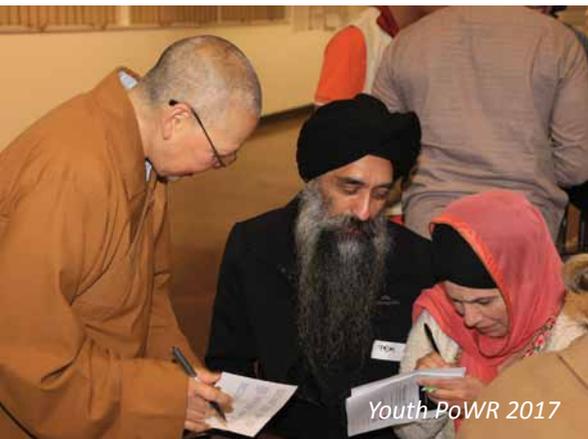
- Overseas Mission
- Mission in Australia
- Net Administration Costs



Overseas Mission funds are remitted to the Society's General Council. The General Council allocates the funds received from Australia, Britain, Ireland, New Zealand and USA to the overseas Mission Units that require financial support. Columban Mission Units are identified on the world map on pages 24 of this annual report.

Mission in Australia expenditure covers the work of Columbans in Australia. Income earned by Columbans and any contributions made to the Society by Columbans are used to reduce Mission in Australia costs. Also included is the financial support for the work of the Columban Mission Institute in Sydney, the cost (net of subscription revenue) to publish *The Far East* magazine and the surplus from the sale of the 2017 Columban Art Calendar.

Net Administration Costs is inclusive of the expenditure to administer the Society and its membership and the activities of the regional office located at Essendon in Victoria. Interest income has been allocated against this cost.



Youth PoWR 2017



Youth PoWR 2015

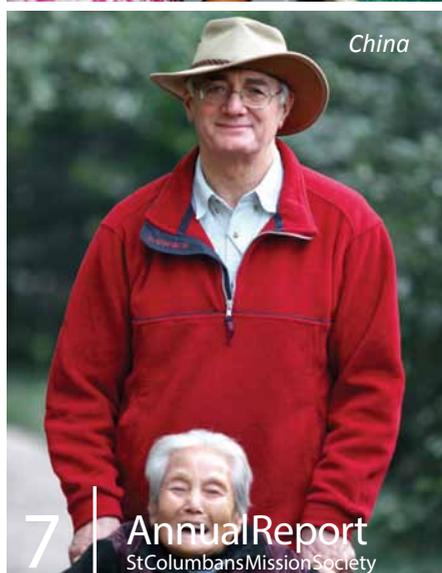
Overseas Mission



Peru



Philippines



China



Pakistan

Section 1 | Annual report from Australia

Thank you

We thank all Columban friends who so generously supported us during the 2016/17 year.

We also acknowledge the following Archdioceses and parish priests who gave us permission to promote *The Far East* magazine in their parishes.

- Brisbane Archdiocese
- Sale Diocese
- Ballarat Diocese
- Adelaide Archdiocese
- Toowoomba Diocese
- Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese
- Rockhampton Diocese

Your Columban Legacy

St Columbans Mission Society has been able to work with the poor in many countries throughout Asia and South America because generous people had the vision to contribute to our work through a gift in their Will.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of all those who left a gift to the St Columbans Mission Society during the 2016/17 year.

For more information about a bequest to Columban Missionaries, please contact:

Michael Mooney

Columban Mission Centre

Ph: (03) 9375 9475

E: bequest@columban.org.au

Vocations

Since 1918, hundreds of men have answered God's call to serve Him and His people as Columban missionary priests in foreign lands. Missionary priests are as needed today as ever they were in the past to bring Christ to the nations of the Earth.

As Columban Benefactors and friends, you can help promote vocations to the priesthood through your prayers, your support and by actively promoting priestly vocations amongst young people.



Columban Fr Daniel Troy performing a Baptism in China.

If you know any young man discerning a vocation to follow Christ as a missionary priest, please contact:

Fr Kelvin Barrett

Columban Mission Centre

Ph: (03) 9375 9475

E: vocations@columban.org.au

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St Columban's Mission Society

Section 2 | Annual report from the Columban General Council

Mission statement

The Missionary Society of St Columban is sent by the Church to proclaim and witness to the Good News in Jesus Christ. We cross boundaries of country, language and culture and live in solidarity with the poor and the exploited earth:

- To establish the Church among peoples to whom the Gospel has not been preached;
- To help churches mature until they are able to evangelize their own and other peoples;
- To promote dialogue between Christians and those of other religious traditions;
- To facilitate interchange between local churches especially those from which we come and those to which we are sent.
- To foster in local churches an awareness of their missionary responsibility.

We are called to build collaborative relationships with our supporters in order to nurture their faith and provide spiritual and financial support for Columban missionary ministries.

The U.S./Mexico border.



Greetings from Pope Francis



SECRETARIAT OF STATE
FIRST SECTION GENERAL AFFAIRS

No. 378.943

From the Vatican

Dear Father O'Neill,

His Holiness Pope Francis was pleased to learn of the celebrations marking the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Missionary Society of St Columban, and he extends his good wishes to you and to all the members of the Society.

As you celebrate this important moment in the history of the Institute, the Holy Father assures you of his spiritual closeness and prayers. He encourages all of you to see in this anniversary celebration an opportunity not only to reflect on the great good accomplished in these past years, but also to deepen your commitment to finding new ways of bringing the of the Gospel to every culture and people. In this way, the members of the Society will continue to contribute to the spread of the good News, "not only with words, but above all by lives transfigured by God's presence" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 259).

With gratitude for the tireless efforts of the Columban Missionaries, past and present, in the areas of justice, peace and care for the earth, Pope Francis entrusts you and your confreres to the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and he gladly imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace and joy in the Lord Jesus.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Angelo Becciu
Substitute

The Reverend Kevin O'Neill SSC
Superior General
Missionary Society of St Columban
Corso Trieste 57
Roma 00198

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*Columban Fr Kevin O'Neill
meeting Pope Francis, 2017.*

Letter from the Superior General

Dear Friends and Companions in mission, it gives me much joy, to share with you a 2017 year in review during this *Centenary Year* of the Society that is opened and closed with the Feast of St Columban November 23, 2017 – November 23, 2018. One of the great images that we've embraced as a Society is that of 'pilgrims for Christ' which echoes St Columban's rallying call as he travelled throughout Europe in the early 6th century. We can say with gratitude that 2017 has been a year of pilgrimage towards our centenary year and beyond.

Since the first invitation for people to participate in the new mission enterprise of our founders, Frs Edward Galvin and John Blowick, the Society has been forever grateful to the very generous spirit of our benefactors, without whose prayers and financial assistance we would not be celebrating our Centenary.

And since the first hearty welcome into the local Church, the Society has been welcomed into numerous dioceses around the world as we helped to establish local churches, fostering in these churches an awareness of their missionary responsibility, principally in the areas of justice, peace, and care for Creation, while promoting dialogue between Christians and those of other religious traditions, and facilitating interchange between these churches, especially those from which we come and those to which we are sent. With forever grateful hearts we thank all those in the local churches and communities who have always warmly welcomed and supported us over the past 100 years.

St Columban reminds us that a *'Life unlike our own can be our teacher'*. As pilgrims for Christ we have been blessed to enter into different cultural contexts around the world, sharing life with the people among whom we live and serve, especially as Pope Francis' says, *seeking to listen to and heed the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*.

We thank you for all the ways you share with us Columban mission today. May the stories included in our *2017 Society Annual Report* give you a sense of your participation in the building of God's kingdom through our *Sharing Gospel Joy* - our centenary theme.

We ask our Patron St Columban to pray for us in a special way during our centenary as we celebrate our participation in God's mission for the life of the world.

In Christ,



Fr Kevin O'Neill
Superior General
Missionary Society of St Columban



Called to mission

As missionary disciples of Jesus, we are called to heal, reconcile, build bridges, and create mutual understanding through prophetic dialogue. Our commitment to interculturality, inter-faith dialogue, solidarity with marginalized people and the exploited earth are ways to participate in God's mission, calling us forward into communion with our triune God. Our proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus challenges us to build communities of peace.

Evangelization and education

Bringing the gift of the Gospel of Christ to those who need it the most is still the focal ministry of the Missionary Society of St Columban. In a sense, all other facets of Columban missionary work are reflections of this call.

Ensuring that Christ's gift is available to those who seek to embrace it and educating them on the Church's teachings is critical in the formation of faith.

Solidarity with the poor

Recognizing that all of God's people are special and deserve the opportunity to experience the joys and blessings of the love of Christ, we stand firm in

promoting economic and social projects that bring the fullness of Christ to the poor and marginalized. Columban missionary socio-economic programs support sustainability and an end to poverty in the family and the communities where we serve.

Inter-religious dialogue

Columban mission today engages with peoples of many faiths in an increasing multi-cultural and interreligious world. Dialogue of life and action, as well as theological reflection, in solidarity with the poor and the exploited earth, deepen our faith and communion with ourselves and others. At this time of increasing tension and conflict with the world of Islam, we are especially conscious of the urgent need for greater understanding, respect and harmony between Muslims and others, if people are to move forward towards universal communion desired by God.

Justice and peace

We recognize ourselves as an intercultural group called to Communion with God's people. We live out our calling for justice and peace in solidarity with the poor and those who have no voice. We commit ourselves to collaboration and networking with other religious and social justice organizations to preserve human dignity and secure peace throughout the world.

Integrity of creation

The earth is our God given home. It gives us nourishment, shelter and respite. God has entrusted unto us its care and safekeeping. Therefore we recognize that we can be a voice for the exploited earth. A voice of reason and of education and practice. Columban agricultural and economic projects throughout the world stress bio-diversity and ecological learning and living.

Vocations

The foundation of our life as Columbans is a call to cross boundaries to participate in the Mission of God creating true communion among all peoples. We continue to invite young men to join us in mission as ordained Columbans and men and women to join us as Columban lay missionaries. Our formation programs encourage, support and challenge them to respond generously and faithfully to the missionary call.

Section 2 | Annual report from the Columban General Council

Apostolic programs and projects

Global Catholic Climate Movement

Columbans have been part of an important and growing movement around the world called, *Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM)*. GCCM has become a leading voice in the Catholic Church, with the encouragement of Pope Francis, for raising awareness, inspiring action, and deepening reflection on key environmental concerns such as climate change and broadly the teachings of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

As co-founders of GCCM internationally, Columbans have started national and diocesan GCCM chapters in the Philippines, Myanmar, and Pakistan. In other countries like England, Ireland, Australia, Peru, and the U.S. Columbans play active roles in contributing to and promoting GCCM campaigns such as the *Live Laudato Si' Pledge*.

In the work for global peace, Columbans have been part of an international conversation called the *Catholic Nonviolence Initiative*, sponsored by *Pax Christi International*. This conversation includes participating in the Asia-Pacific Consultation as well as contributing to Pope Francis' *2018 World Day of Peace Message* on January 1, 2018.





Columban Fr Liam O'Callaghan promoting ecological awareness and Laudato Si' throughout parishes and schools in Pakistan.

Justice, Peace and Ecology from an Inter-faith Perspective, Pakistan

For many years, two of the priorities of Columban missionaries in Pakistan have focused on *Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)* and *Inter-Religious Dialogue (IRD)*.

Columban Fr Liam O'Callaghan works full time in JPIC-IRD ministry in Hyderabad, together with a local co-worker, Danish Yaqoob. When Fr Liam assumed the role a few years ago, the idea of combining JPIC and IRD separate roles into one was to work on Columban priority JPIC issues - justice, human rights, ecological issues etc. from an inter-faith perspective.

At present, they are working on training two interfaith teams of 25 people each. One is in Hyderabad and one is in Mirpurkhas. These groups are made up of Muslim, Hindu and Christian members. The purpose of these groups is to work on ecological issues in their areas.

Fr Liam is also the Coordinator of the *Ecology Commission* of the Hyderabad diocese, as well as being on the diocesan *Inter-Faith Commission*. Fr Liam and Danish visit parishes and schools trying to promote ecological awareness and *Laudato Si'*; they did a lot of work recently on *Season of Creation*.

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Section 2 | Annual report from the Columban General Council

Center for Ecozoic Living and Learning (CELL), Philippines

More than 20 years ago ecology was an emerging issue for Columban Missionaries. In particular, Fr John Leydon, who at that time had just finished studying in the U.S. felt the *'New Story of Creation'* was of prime importance to propagate.

At the same time, Fr Frank Carey and Fr Dominic Nolan were interested in permaculture, organic gardening, taking care of our food, air, water and other natural resources.

After much discussion, a piece of land was made available at a former parish in Silang, Cavite to share with other groups about the *New Story* and deepen their understanding of cultivating permaculture and sustainable living. Together with Columban leadership from the *Malate Parish* in Manila, the *Center for Ecozoic Living and Learning (CELL)* was created.

CELL provides practical hands-on ecological demonstrations and seminars through which the *New Story* is told. Individuals from schools, colleges, parish communities, and non-government organizations have come in thousands to listen to the *New Story* and to attend *Ecological and Permaculture Seminars* in 2017. CELL buildings were put up using renewable bamboo building technology. We are relaunching CELL with *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' new Ecological Teaching as our focus.



Center for Ecozoic Living and Learning, Philippines.



17 Center for Ecozoic Living and Learning, Philippines.

Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice (PEJ), Australia

The *Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice* (PEJ) aims to increase awareness, education and action in the Australian Church and society about the connections between peace, ecology and justice as living the Gospel. Implementing Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* into the life of the Church and the wider community has been and will continue to be a vital missionary activity. PEJ has achieved much through collaborating with other groups with shared objectives.



Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice, Australia.

PEJ coordinated a national speaking tour by Fr Sean McDonagh (supported by the Columban ANZ Region) of Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. In collaboration with the *Australian Catholic University (ACU)*, *Catholic Earthcare Australia and Diocesan Offices*, Fr Sean reached over 1,000 people directly and many more through the media. The *Faith Ecology Network (FEN)*, administered by PEJ, held a successful interfaith forum on '*Runoff, Rivers and Reefs*' with the support of the *Randwick Council Centre for Sustainability and Waste*. FEN held a retreat at the *Mercy Sisters Rahamim Ecology Centre* in Bathurst from which a plan was prepared as part of the process for handing on the administration of FEN.

An enthusiastic group of 15 people participated in the two day Formation Program for Educators, '*Bringing Laudato Si' to Life: Growing a Culture of Peace*'. PEJ held workshops and talks in schools, parishes and religious congregations such as the *Mercy Centre, Baulkham Hills* and the *Christian Brothers, Mulgoa*. Fr Charles Rue prepared a Liturgy Resource on the *Catholic Season of Creation*. PEJ also participated in the *Working Group of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative* and gathered an Australian group to promote the cause.

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Education Center for the Youth, Myanmar



HEC students, Myanmar.

The *Mandalay Archdiocesan Higher Education Center* (HEC) was envisioned by Archbishop Paul and Columban Fr Neil Magill, and co-founded with Dr. John Khin Maung Pyone. In 2010, HEC was formally established with 36 students from six dioceses, mostly Kachin and China. Since then, the number of students has grown. The reputation of the center spread through Myanmar as it was the only one of its kind that accepted bright but poor young people from remote villages.

The vision of the center is to empower young people to be mature and responsible parents/citizens by becoming leaders locally and nationally, teachers, activists/development workers and educated parents for the common good of the country and the Church.

The center currently has students from ten dioceses for the three-year course, and a great multi-cultural mix from different ethnic groups.

Hope for a brighter tomorrow

A Reflection By Peter, HEC student

I am Peter, a third year student at the *Higher Education Center* (HEC) in Mandalay. During our school holiday, instead of returning to our rural hometowns, our class went to the orphanages and *Internally Displaced People* (IDP) camps in our neighboring Kachin State, where war has displaced thousands of families. We talked with many residents and listened to their stories of fleeing from warzones, life at the IDP camps and their hope for peace so they can return to their homes and live with dignity. As we played games with the children who are active but very shy, I was very saddened to see hundreds of children who, did not even know where they came from, who their parents are and could not return home.

Reflecting on my heartbreaking visit to the IDP camps and orphanages in Myitkyina, I consider myself very fortunate that I have the opportunity to study at the *Higher Education Center* in Mandalay. This is made possible for me and the other 90 students at the center because of the financial support from Columban benefactors and friends in Ireland for many years. I will show my gratitude to them by teaching the marginalized in our country when I graduate.



Peter, HEC student, Myanmar.

Section 2 | Annual report from the Columban General Council

Youth Catechism Programme, Peru

The *Cristo Liberador* Parish successfully delivered its sacramental programme through traditional catechumen teaching coupled with family centered activities.

Over 270 teenagers and young adults from the parish were confirmed this year. In their formation journey, Confirmation students participated in a weekend retreat and parent - child workshops that focused on family relations and the importance of prayer in the family.

The students also participated in two local deanery activities:

- *Cruz no Mataras* - an event that gathers 6,000 people to make a public stand against any type of violence and injustice. This year the theme was based on *Laudato Si'* and environmental contamination in our local area and its effect on people's lives.
- *Huanchito* - A local gathering where the importance of relationship with Christ and the Church is presented in a youth friendly format

Over 460 children completed the First Communion programme together with select group of parents.

The programme caters to two groups: the teaching of the children, which is done by young adult leaders and the formation of the parents who are taught by adult couples. This programme also provides parent-child workshops where themes of family and bible are presented.

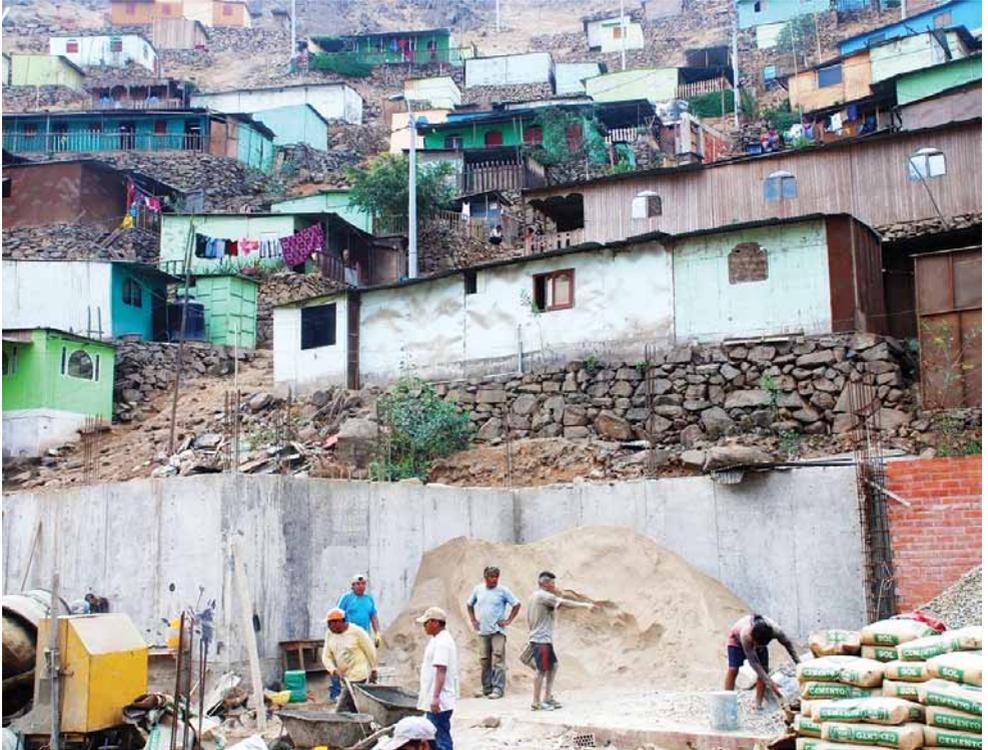
The First Communion took place in eight different chapels of the parish, with the children and 128 parents receiving their First Communion together. A few weeks later, the parents also received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Young adult leaders are an important part of the programmes. This year we had 32 young adult leaders aged between 18 and 29 who dedicated themselves to plan and implement the programmes.

Columbans place much effort in training and accompanying the catechists and the parent couples who work with children in the programmes.



Youth Catechism Programme students, Peru.



Builders working on the construction of the new school in Peru.

Building a new community new school, Peru

Columbans have supported building a new school in W5, a very difficult terrain on a rocky mountainside. The community school will provide children region to have an established place for learning and extracurricular activities. The school is nearly complete with anticipated opening in March 2018.

It has been a long and difficult project but local residents and Columban missionaries look forward to the new school.

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Ministry with physically and mentally-challenged individuals, Taiwan

St Joseph's Center for Special Education was founded in 1975 by Rev. Stephen Jaschko, S.J. In order to provide more extensive services and for better future development, *St Joseph Social Welfare Foundation (RenAi)* was founded in 2006. The purpose of *St Joseph Social Welfare Foundation* is to help people with disabilities to obtain happiness under Christian values. In the following year, the foundation established *Sunrise Opportunity Center*, a barrier-free building for physically/mentally challenged individuals to learn and to grow. The Opportunity Center has 70 employees providing services to 140 people.

Since 2015, Columban lay missionaries (LMs) Kim Jung Woong and Lee Subin have been working at Sunrise Opportunity Center as full-time volunteers mentally challenged adults that attend the center as clients.

The LMs have a variety of tasks at the center that include helping clients with physical fitness activities and leisure activities, helping with occupational therapy, helping clients learn practical tasks and daily living activities, accompanying clients on weekend camps and field trips, as well as cleaning lunch dishes, preparing snacks morning and afternoon and classrooms.

LMs share their work and experience in mission with the local church to the social services section of the diocesan curia and with a wider audience through the CLM newsletter and other publications.



St Joseph's Center for Special Education, Taiwan.

Mission map



AUSTRALIA



FJI



MYANMAR



PHILIPPINES



BRITAIN



IRELAND



NEW ZEALAND



TAIWAN



CHILE



JAPAN



PAKISTAN



UNITED STATES



CHINA



SOUTH KOREA



PERU

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In gratitude to our donors



25 Columban supporters, Dares Kim (left) and Beppie Aube (right).

Dares Kim, U.S. - Columban supporter since 2016

In 1951, Columban benefactor Dares Kim was a student at Ursuline College in Louisville, KY. Her 17 year old brother, Farrald Lee, joined the U.S. Army and was sent to Korea. Dares, who had become a Catholic while in high school, realized that her brother had never been baptized and was so concerned she sent a letter to the *Red Cross*. They forwarded the letter to his company's Chaplain and somehow it ended up being given to Fr Frank Wood. Fr Frank was able to meet with Farrald who indicated he would like baptism. Fr Frank wrote to Dares letting her know her brother's instructions had begun and that he would take care of her brother.

About three weeks later, before Farrald's company went into combat, Fr Frank preformed a simple baptism in a rice paddy just in case he did not return from the battle. Later, Farrald's instructions were completed and he became a fully pledged Catholic. Again Fr Frank wrote to Dares letting her know that he believed God had given her brother the great gift of faith through her prayers. Dares still has the

letters Fr Frank sent her. Unfortunately, they lost touch with Fr Frank after the war but often wondered what happened to him.

In the Spring of 2016 Dares read about the *Columban Martyrs Garden* in our *Columban Mission* magazine and quickly scanned the list to see if Fr Frank's name was included. When it was not, she called the U.S. Regional office and was connected with Fr Tim Mulroy who, with the help of Fr Paul White and the regional office staff, let her know what happened to Fr Frank and sent her articles he had written for *The Far East* magazine in 1937, 1940 and 1967. Dares later wrote "*Fr Tim, you and everyone at St Columbans have been great in bringing Fr Frank to live again in many hearts. My brother and I are so grateful for everyone's efforts.*"

Dares feels very blessed to have been reconnected with the Columbans after all these years. She continues to support the work of the Columbans through her generous gifts and prayers.

"Fr Tim, you and everyone at St Columbans have been great in bringing Fr Frank to live again in many hearts. My brother and I are so grateful for everyone's efforts." Dares Kim

Section 2 | Annual report from the Columban General Council

Jensen and Phyllis Chang, U.S. - Columban supporters for more than 15 years



Columban supporters, Phyllis (left) and Jensen (right).

Jensen and Phyllis Chang were born in Taiwan, where their families had fled from communist oppression in mainland China in the early 1950s. They met in the United States during Graduate School in the 1980s and were married in 1985. Both are formally educated in software development and analysis, interested in the Church in China, and passionate about sharing the Good News. Their connection to the Columbans is deep, and their ministry to help spread the word of Jesus Christ around the world is both powerful and visible.

The Changs first met Columban Fr Bill Morton more than 15 years ago while he was visiting *Sacred Heart of Jesus Chinese Parish* at Dallas, TX. Over the decades, they've stayed in touch and

visited a number of times, including in El Paso, Texas/Anapra Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, where Fr Morton is currently missioned. They stayed at the *Columban Mission Center* and experienced life on the border, and toured organizations and institutions who work on the front lines of border issues. The Chinese parish in Dallas has organized members to help with fundraising for Columban mission. On a number of occasions, they have hosted meetings in their homes and invited Columban Fathers to speak.

Jensen encourages Phyllis to use her gift for languages in her ministry, to provide quality translations from English to Chinese. Their partnership has been of immeasurable help

to Columban mission. Her level of dedication to translation projects is nothing short of amazing, particularly considering the scholarly nature of the works, and the dissimilarities of these languages and their alphabet sets. She compiled two collected works of Fr Paul Pang, O.F.M. prior to his leaving Dallas to serve in Taiwan, and said, *“When I read Fr Woodruff’s ‘Columbans on Mission,’ I felt deeply touched and connected because of the similarities.”*

In 2016, working with Columban Fr Dan Troy, Phyllis translated into Mandarin the biography of Columban Fr Charles Cullen, who was ordained in Ireland in 1921, and died in China on July 13, 1923. This work was published in Wuhan, and has been circulated in Hanyang. Also published in China in 2017 were her translations of selections from *‘The Dipper’s Acclaim and other essays’* by noted Irish ecologist and geologist, John Feehan, who has a strong connection to Columban Fr Sean McDonagh. The English edition of Feehan’s work was published in 2016 by the Columban Ecological Institute, Dalgan Park, Ireland.

Phyllis’ translations of this work allowed the Columban Fathers to contribute to a Feehan-led workshop in China with local people in the Church. Feehan possesses a unique ability to

discuss answers to the question: *“Now, why did God create it like this?”* He is a proponent of experiencing nature as a way to develop our sense of wonder at the world around us. Pope Francis’ recent encyclical *‘Laudato Si’* provides a great encouragement to the Church to explore the themes in the integrity of creation, so this translation work by Phyllis could not have been more perfectly timed.

Her latest project is translating a document written by Columban Fr Joe Houston, which describes Columban flood relief efforts during the 1931 inundation in Wuhan. Columban benefactors of the time responded generously to this effort, particularly considering that it occurred during the Great Depression. Jensen and Phyllis continue this generous tradition and spirit of Columban benefactors into the next century of mission work, by inspiring us to consider the gifts with which God has blessed us, and how we might employ them to share gospel joy!

“When I read Fr Woodruff’s ‘Columbans on Mission,’ I felt deeply touched and connected because of the similarities.”
Phyllis Chang

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Letter to Fr Gary Walker, Australia

This is a letter from the daughter of one of our Columban benefactors in Australia to Columban Fr Gary Walker after her mother moved into a nursing home.

Dear Father Walker,

"I would just like you to know Mum is now in a nursing home. She has given to the Columbans for many years. However, I think the time has come that Mum will no longer be able to give support money wise, but will certainly keep you all in her prayers. I received 'The Far East' as did my nan and of course, mum and mum will be able to continue reading about all the great work you do from my copy".

Your sincerely,
Lynette Hackett

Letter to Mrs Hackett from Fr Gary Walker, Australia

Dear Mrs. Hackett,

Your daughter Lynette wrote to me telling me you were in a nursing home and that you can't support financially. That's fine by me, you have played your part in supporting us for many years. I want to thank you very much for your generosity over the years. This usually involves some sacrifice on your part and thank you again.

At the end of the year starting on November 23, the feast of St Columban, we will be celebrating 100 years as a missionary society. It is an achievement but it does not just belong to the priests and the sisters. With benefactors like yourself and family before you, we have been able to do missionary work to support the local churches and build them up because you gave us the finance.

We are a global church because you played your part and I want to acknowledge that. We just had a young newly ordained Columban priest pass through Melbourne on his way to his first mission appointment in Myanmar (Burma). It was a thrill for us older priests and you made it possible.

God bless you.
Best wishes,

Fr Gary Walker
Regional Director

Sean Maloney, Britian

A visiting Columban Priest spoke at our Sunday Mass. He said something that really grabbed me: *“We go to the Missions. You give so that we can go to the Missions. We are a true Missionary Partnership.”* I realised then that we have a key role in helping in God’s salvation plan.



Columban supporters, Sue McGovern (left) and Carol Beck (right).

Sue McGovern and Carol Beck, Britian

“In 1998, we decided to support Columban Father, Ed O’Connell, who had recently returned to work in Lima, Peru. Our Millennium Project continues to this day with regular ‘breakfasts’ after Mass, well supported by parishioners and a large Coca Cola bottle for loose change which never seems to empty!”



Invitation to mission

Columbans have a tradition of inviting people to mission. We believe that the missionary vocation in all its forms, which begins by baptism, needs to be nurtured throughout our life. We see that there is a desire among people to engage in mission in new ways. Columbans have developed opportunities to nurture the missionary spirit and foster global solidarity that we hope is part of an ongoing relationship with Columbans and continuing engagement with the Church and in the world as people of faith.

Pakistan and Chile

Britain sent two groups for a ten day mission experience in Chile and Pakistan. While in those respective countries, participants visited Columban parishes, mission centers, and diocesan partners where they learned of local culture, social and environmental challenges, and inter-religious and ecumenical dialogue. One participant said this of how his view of mission changed as a result of his time in Chile with Columbans, *“This experience has broadened my understanding. I now feel mission is about being with people and journeying with them, seeing the face of God in each person and responding to that. As lay people we have just as much a role in that as the ordained, to work together as Church to help others.”*

Taiwan

Through the *Columban Volunteers International* (CVI) program, Taiwan received a volunteer from the U.S. for six months who worked at the Columban founded *Hope Workers Center* for migrants, immigrants and victims of human trafficking. As part of his work, the CVI volunteer, Hannes, developed an important online space for migrants to tell their stories and be empowered by their voices.

<https://hopeworkerscenter.org>



Opportunities

- **Columban Mission exposure and pilgrimages**

Participants grow in understanding of mission and their own faith through educational experiences in places of Columban mission.

Sending countries: Australia, Britain, Ireland, Korea, USA

Receiving countries: Britain, China, Fiji, Ireland, Philippines, USA
1 - 3 weeks

- **Columban internships**

Participants gain practical skills through part-time or full-time, domestic and international, service and experiential learning which can prepare them for future service in mission and the Church.

Locations: Britain, USA
1 - 3 months

- **Columban volunteering**

Participants engage in international or domestic full time missionary service to vulnerable populations as well as assist with education and advocacy on Columban mission priorities.

Location: Britain, China, Philippines, Taiwan, USA
3 -12 months

For more information about *Columban Invitation to Mission* opportunities, please contact us at: simcolumban.org.hk

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Formation

Columban Formation program has recently grown in reach to welcome aspiring students from Fiji, Myanmar, China, South America alongside local students in the Philippines. The program is designed to train students in key components of *Columban Formation* which are spiritual, intellectual, pastoral, personal growth in community, Columban identity and missionary skills and attitudes.

Addition of students from Fiji/Tonga, Myanmar and Peru to Formation has created a more multicultural makeup and diversity as students are in different stages of their formation. The Formation program has been evolving to accommodate the changing student body and their needs. Annual funding needs have also increased to cater to new students from other countries.

Formation students have been active in the vocation campaigns in Manila and promotion works across the Philippines. Working with the *Mission Promotion Office* (MPO), students have been part of the fundraising efforts in parishes in Malate and Rizal province. These provide good opportunities for students to meet and engage with the people who support them during their formation. Students have written about their experiences and reflections on Formation in feature articles in the *Misyon* Newsletter.

The Formation program will continue to grow in outreach and collaborate with MPO on opportunities to assist in promotion works and vocation campaigns.

The program is designed to train students in key components of Columban Formation which are spiritual, intellectual, pastoral, personal growth in community, Columban identity and missionary skills and attitudes.



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Leadership

General Council, Hong Kong

Superior General	Fr Kevin O'Neill
Vicar General	Fr Arturo Aguilar
Second Councillor	Fr Patrick Colgan
Third Councillor	Fr Darwin Bayaca

Columban Lay Missionaries - Central leadership team, Hong Kong

Coordinator	Gracia Kibad
Team Member	Jhoanna Resari
Team Member	Sulia Lanieta Tamatawale

Central Administration Portfolios

Bursar General	Fr Jovito Dales (Hong Kong)
Financial Controller	Florence Tsui (Hong Kong)
Procurator General	Fr Robert McCulloch (Rome)
Central JPIC Coordinator	Amy W Echeverria (USA)
Researcher JPIC Priorities	Fr Sean McDonagh (Ireland)
Researcher on mission and culture	Fr Sean Dwan (Ireland)



*“Pilgrims for Christ”
“A life unlike your own can be
your teacher”. St Columban*



ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY
www.columban.org.au

