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‘Mission Voices – Speaking of Faith’ Pontifical Mission Societies launch new multi-media website

NEW YORK, NY—Ordinary people. One extraordinary message.

Launched on February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the newest website from the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States – MissionVoices.org – celebrates the call to each of us to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior, just as Anna and Simeon did in the Temple when they encountered the infant Jesus with Mary and Joseph (see Luke 2:22-38).

“*Who* Anna and Simeon were was not as important as *what* they said,” observes Monsignor John E. Kozar, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, in the introduction on the site. “And what these first ‘mission voices’ spoke was the extraordinary ‘Good News’ of Jesus’ love and the salvation He offers to those who believe.

“Today, and every day, each of us in this ‘one family in mission’ is called to offer the same witness to our Lord, to be His voice, speaking of faith by our words and the example of our lives,” he adds.

The multi-media website features a player with brief faith reflections. The “voices” will vary – from missionaries to local priests, Religious or laity from the Missions, from diocesan directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies to Catholic media professionals, to describe but a few. No one is introduced, so that listeners may instead focus on the message, reflecting as well on the personal call, through Baptism, to be a “mission voice” daily.

This new website also features written “blogs” – about missionary journeys and the call to be missionaries. Two other audio players are also on the site – one has “Mission Lessons” radio / audio messages by Monsignor Kozar; the other, one-minute moments from the audio documentary on Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, “Faithful Witness.”

Debut “Mission Voices” are: Father Peter Linhxuan Dat Vu, O Cist, Vung Tau City, Vietnam; Sister Ernestine Velarde, ODN, Director, Pontifical Mission Societies, Orange, California; Father Timothy Lehane, SVD, international Secretary-General, Society for the propagation of the Faith, Rome, Italy; Matthew Schiller, Business / Advertising Manager, Catholic New York (Archdiocese of New York); Father Ed Brienz, Director, Pontifical Mission Societies, Youngstown, Ohio, and Bishop Hyacinth Egbebo, MSP, Bomadi, Nigeria. These will be updated regularly.

The Pontifical Mission Societies, active in some 120 countries throughout the world, work to animate the faithful to a universal missionary spirit, and to gather support for the efforts of the Church in some 1,150 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America. There are four Pontifical Mission Societies: The Holy Childhood Association directs its efforts to elementary school age children, while the Society for the Propagation of the Faith seeks prayer and support for pastoral and evangelizing programs of mission dioceses from adults as well as high school and college students. The Society of St. Peter Apostle is concerned with gathering help for seminarians and Religious novices in the Missions. The Missionary Union of Priests and Religious is a spiritual apostolate, to form and to deepen the missionary spirit among those called to animate all the faithful in the missionary task.

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