



# HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Greetings and welcome to our Autumn/Winter 2022 edition of the Holy Childhood Newsletter. We hope that you have settled into the new school year – and that there will be no interruptions!

Our country of focus is the very fascinating Papua New Guinea (PNG). This is because our Holy Childhood Association (HCA) is supporting Elementary Education in the **Diocese of Wabag, Enga Province, Papua New Guinea**. We are helping people involved with the teaching of Religious Education in parishes and elementary schools.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA



### INTRODUCTION

Papua New Guinea is a very diverse country, with many distinct racial groups. People have traditionally lived in tribal communities isolated from one another. It is very mountainous with dense tropical rainforests. There are over 600 islands. Today, air travel is widespread, as there are only a few major “highways” and their condition is generally poor. Most people live subsistence lives in rural areas without modern amenities such as electricity, clean water infrastructure and information services like radio, television, computer capability and phones. Here are a few interesting facts:

- ♦ Papua New Guinea’s over 850 different languages are actively spoken. Today, there are 3 official languages: English, Tok Pisin (Pidgin), Hiri Motu.
- ♦ The population is over 7 million, more than twice as many as were 40 years ago.
- ♦ PNG contains the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest rainforest in the world. The weather is tropical.
- ♦ There are 20,000 plant species, 800 kinds of coral, and over 650 types of fish.
- ♦ PNG’s main economic resources are gold, copper, coffee, tea, timber and coconut.



Bird of Paradise – National emblem



Colour your Bird of Paradise



PNG flag (shutterstock.com)

### NATIONAL FLAG

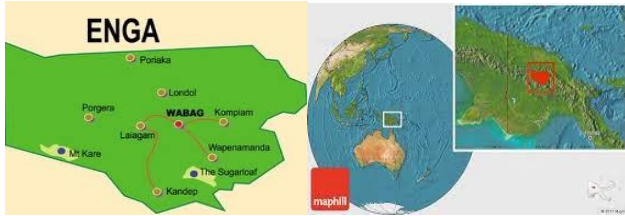
The flag of Papua New Guinea is red-black, diagonally divided, features a yellow bird-of-paradise and the Southern Cross constellation.

### PNG – A BRIEF HISTORY

The island of New Guinea was largely unknown until the Age of Exploration in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. It was explored and administered by Europeans, particularly by the British and Germans. Independence from Australian administration was granted in 1975.

With “discovery” came exposure to new culture, education and cash economy. Modern ways and rising levels of education have opened different expectations for the future. There has been increased migration to the towns and cities in search of a limited number of jobs. Unemployment has risen along with increased lawlessness.

## THE PROVINCE OF ENGA - GEOGRAPHY



kandepmyhome.blogspot.com

maphill.com

Enga province, to which the HCA is providing help, is in the centre of the PNG Highlands. There are rugged mountains, steep valleys, deep gorges, fast flowing rivers, waterfalls and very thick rainforests. The main town is Wabag, where our project is centralised. There are very few roads in Enga and people do a lot of walking.



Small aircraft



Public Motor Vehicle – (PMV)



Poor roads

## EDUCATION & RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION



Bush School in remote PNG receives support from HCA Canada

Most children today attend Primary School until Year 6. Some will complete Year 10, after which a smaller number will go on to colleges to become teachers or trades workers. The Catholic Church is very active in working in schools. Priests and Catechists walk long distances between communities to offer support. Students and teachers do all of the cleaning and maintenance chores. In remote areas, they even build the schools before classes start!

The following pictures are from a remote town called Paiela. The writer of this Newsletter (pictured) spent time in the local school and village.



Students hard at work



Local children



Mixed class - Paiela

## CULTURE

There are many different cultural groups within PNG. All Papua New Guineans are known for their body art and dances. Thus Engans have their own unique styles, as shown here.



Female face decoration



Male ceremonial/cultural regalia  
(Enga Province)



Engan dancers



## THE PEOPLE

People in most areas of Enga are subsistence villagers who grow their food and raise pigs. They are generally healthy and happy people. Inevitably, the modern world has crept into Papua New Guinea and initiated changes. Many tribes have only recently been exposed to “modern” lifestyle, culture and Christianity. The Highlands of PNG were only “discovered” in the 1930s. There are people today who have never seen Western/ European people.



Catholic Church, Paiela



Outdoor Mass



Villagers & their home

Your work with the HCA can ensure that children from these areas can continue their education and spiritual growth and lead productive lives.

## ADVENT 2022



Once again, Christmas is not too far away. When a special event is going to happen in your household or family, what do you normally do? **PREPARE**, that's what! This might mean special baking, making or buying gifts, cleaning the house, making a list of special things to do or places to go. The same is true of Christmas. Advent is a time to **PREPARE**.

How do we do this? What follows is a list of special things connected with Advent. Ask your teacher, catechist or parents to do some of these with you. Then you will be really prepared for Jesus' birthday!

### Advent wreath



### Advent calendar

ADVENT CALENDAR DECEMBER 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 1 St. Andrew the Apostle	December 2 St. Thomas the Apostle	December 3 St. John the Apostle	December 4 St. Paul the Apostle	December 5 St. Nicholas	December 6 St. John the Evangelist	December 7 St. James the Apostle
December 8 St. Elizabeth	December 9 St. Ignace of Loyola	December 10 St. Martin	December 11 St. Clement	December 12 Christmas Day	December 13 St. Basil	December 14 St. John the Baptist
December 15 St. Stephen	December 16 St. Thomas	December 17 St. John	December 18 St. Andrew	December 19 St. Nicholas	December 20 St. Ignace	December 21 St. Martin
December 22 St. Thomas	December 23 St. John	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 25 Christmas Day	December 26 St. Stephen	December 27 St. John	December 28 St. Thomas
December 29 St. Andrew	December 30 St. Nicholas	December 31 New Year's Eve				

### Jesse Tree



### Manger scene



### Resolutions in preparation for Christmas

#### Resolutions

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Making real Christmas cards



### Making your Christmas tree Christ centred



### Singing real Christmas carols



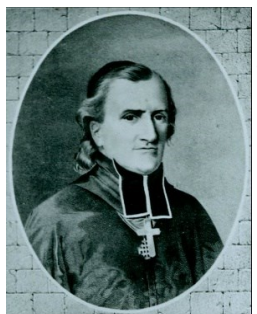
Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot



**Foundress:** Society for the Propagation of the Faith

## PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

### A year of celebrations



Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson

**Founder:** Holy Childhood Association



Jeanne Bizard

**Foundress:** Society of St. Peter the Apostle



Father Paolo Manna

**Founder:** Pontifical Missionary Union

### 2022 has been a year of celebration for the Pontifical Missions Societies

1. Since Vatican II, the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, founded in 1622, has been known as the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. 400 years of activity!
2. This year is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **the Society for the Propagation of the Faith**, founded by Pauline Marie Jaricot (as featured in our last Newsletter). **Her beatification took place in Lyon, France, on May 22, 2022.**
3. 2022 is also the 100th anniversary of the **Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of Faith**, the **Pontifical Mission Society of the Holy Childhood**, and the **Pontifical Mission Society of St. Peter the Apostle**, when they were made Pontifical in 1922, by Pope Pius XI at the centenary celebration of the Society for the Propagation of Faith.
4. This year is also the **150<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of the birth of Father Paolo Manna, founder of the Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions and the Pontifical Missionary Union of Priests and Religious.

### PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILDHOOD: DRAWING COMPETITION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



The Holy Childhood Association is a Pontifical organisation, meaning it is under the sponsorship and blessing of the Pope. This gives the HCA and members elite status.

On the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood, the International Secretariat has announced a **“COMPETITION”** for missionary children and adolescents. You are to respond to the question *“What does Missionary Childhood and Adolescence mean for me in terms of being a Society of the Pope?”* You are to answer with a picture that shows your missionary activity accompanied by a brief descriptive caption of your work and how you feel about being a Missionary connected to the Pope.

The contest closes on May 19, 2023. In order for entries from around the world to be collected and judged, your entry must be received in Toronto by February 28, 2023. Send your entry to:

**The National Director  
Pontifical Mission Societies  
2219 Kennedy Road  
Toronto ON M1T 3G5**

The winning entrant will receive a special HCA Rosary. The picture will be sent by the Director to the International Secretariat and will be published along with winners from other countries. All entrants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

**BE CREATIVE!! BE INSPIRING!! GOOD LUCK AND GOD BLESS!!**