



MISSIONS TODAY

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Let's Celebrate



The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

National Director's Message

Mission Today Spring Issue 2022

This year 2022, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples celebrates the fourth centenary of its foundation. Happy Anniversary CEP! The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (C.E.P.) was established by Pope Gregory XV with the publication of the Papal Bull, *Inscrutabili Divinae Providentiae* (June 22, 1622).

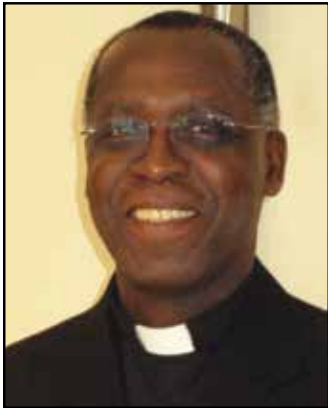
Since 1622, the Church's missionary work had been organized and coordinated at the world level by the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in collaboration with many religious orders and congregations and with the local Churches. At the Vatican Council, the role of the Congregation was affirmed, and it was renamed the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. At the same time, a strong desire was expressed for its greater effectiveness. It was acknowledged that "the Holy Spirit arouses a missionary spirit in the Church in many ways and indeed often anticipate the work of those whose task is to guide the life of the Church" (Ad gentes, no.29). The Council confirmed its role as "the only competent Congregation for all mission and missionary activity". Its task "is to direct and coordinate missionary work and missionary cooperation throughout the world" (ibid).

On May 3, 2022, the *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith* (POPF) will celebrate two significant milestones. It will mark the 200th anniversary of its foundation as the *Association of the Propagation of the Faith* and the 100th anniversary of its *Pontifical* status, conferred by Pope Pius XI in his Motu Proprio *Romanorum Pontificum*, thus confirming the missionary spirit of the Society and its important service to the universal Church. By the same Motu Proprio, the Holy Father also conferred Pontifical to the Society of the Holy Childhood and the Society of St. Peter the Apostle.

Pauline Marie Jaricot (Lyon, July 22, 1799 – January 9, 1862) is the foundress of the *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith*. After 15 years of comfort and ease, she had an accident and it was in the context of this trauma of intense physical and spiritual suffering that she had a profound experience of God, through the celebration of the sacraments. God's forgiveness and prayer led her to overcome the serious trauma and from that moment, her life changes. Now Pauline dedicates herself to the service of God in the poor, especially the sick, visiting hospitals offering words of comfort and even bind the wounds. Her days are filled with intense prayer, daily Communion, Eucharistic Adoration, intercession for the conversion of sinners, and the evangelization of the world. At the same time, Pauline discovers a great and urgent desire for the Gospel to reach the ends of the earth: "*I have loved Jesus Christ more than anything else on this earth and because of his love I have loved those who were in distress and pain, more than my own life*". Out of this fervour the Association for the Propagation of the Faith was born, which even today continues to open the hearts of believers to engage in the vastness of the missionary horizon through spiritual and material support for the proclamation of the Kingdom of God. Her Beatification will take place in Lyon, France, May 22, 2020.

Let us rejoice in the Lord.

Fr. Alex Osei, C.S.Sp.
National Director
English Sector



The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intentions:

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

JANUARY: For true human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

FEBRUARY: For religious sisters and consecrated women

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

MARCH: For a Christian response to bioethical challenges

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

APRIL: For health care workers

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

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After Mass, the staff and students of St. Augustine Millennium Seminary in Tamale, Ghana, pose for a community picture.



PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

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Across the Globe

*The Pontifical Mission Societies host their own web news service called **agenzia fides**. The news service is updated daily and allows us to keep current about events around the world and within Catholic missions. Below are three articles from the website. Other news can be found at fides.org.*



AMERICA/SAN SALVADOR - Beatification of the four martyrs; the diocesan Postulator: “Our vocation is to follow the Lord.”

San Salvador (Agenzia Fides) - “On March 12, 1977, Father Rutilio Grande went to San José to preside over a Eucharistic celebration during the novena in preparation for the patron saint feast of St. Joseph. On the way back to Aguilares, he was accompanied in a car by a catechist, Manuel Solórzano, by the young man, Nelson Rutilio Lemus and by three children. Halfway there, their car was machine-gunned by some armed men and Rutilio, Manuel and Nelson died instantly. The children were saved. St. Óscar Arnulfo Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, was deeply shaken by the assassination and personally presided over the funeral Mass in the Cathedral Church of San Salvador. Father Rutilio was 49 years old,” according to a report to Agenzia Fides by Archbishop Rafael Urrutia, Chancellor of San Salvador, recalling that today, Saturday, January 22, Father Rutilio Grande, a Jesuit, Manuel Solórzano and Nelson Rutilio Lemus Chávez, lay people, and the Italian Franciscan, Fray Cosme Spessotto, are proclaimed blessed.

Msgr. Rafael Urrutia is also the diocesan postulator for the causes of Msgr. Romero and Father Rutilio Grande. “Rutilio,” says Msgr. Rafael, “was committed to developing creative methods of evangelization, by beginning to meet periodically with the members of his parish to also interpret the social and political reality in the light of the Gospel. By creating basic church units that taught how

to read the Bible,” he continued, “he began to educate and train community leaders, proclaiming the legitimacy and right of the poor to organize themselves in associations and trade unions.”

In the name of the Gospel, Father Grande denounced a reality that went against the will of God for his people, which was not poverty, but a project of fraternity and justice: “I want long tables for everyone,” Father Rutilio often repeated, “with chairs for everyone and Jesus seated in the middle. A Church as a space of consolation for the poorest.”

The Episcopal Conference of El Salvador (CEDES) has in recent weeks published aids to prepare spiritually for beatification, urging all the baptized to be “martyrs”, that is, “witnesses” to Jesus Christ in the different situations of life and builders of the Kingdom of God, as were the blessed martyrs. “Remembering the martyrs,” Msgr. Urrutia concluded, “does not mean cultivating hatred and revenge towards their assassins, but that our vocation is to follow the crucified Lord and work for the reconciliation of the peoples.”

The Mass with the rite of Beatification will take place at 5 p.m. in the Square of the Divine Saviour of the World, in front of the Cathedral of San Salvador, and will be presided over by Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chavez, Auxiliary Bishop of San Salvador. (ES) (Agenzia Fides, 22/1/2022)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/71500-AMERICA_EL_SALVADOR_CLAR_on_the_new_martyrs_The_commitment_and_defense_of_the_poorest_were_their_death_sentence



AFRICA/ETHIOPIA - Hundreds of innocent people lose their lives every day: an unprecedented crisis in Tigray

Adigrat (Agenzia Fides) - The humanitarian situation in Tigray is worsening day by day. Millions of children suffer from severe malnutrition, just as many people are starving, including internally displaced persons. Everywhere there are disease and death, especially children, the elderly, and people at high risk due to chronic diseases and Covid-19. The Diocesan Catholic Secretariat of Adigrat (ADCS) thus denounces the worsening of the humanitarian crisis in the Ethiopian region to Agenzia Fides.

From the beginning of November 2020 until mid-June 2021, the ADCS and the Religious Congregations operating under the Eparchy, contributed to saving lives affected by war. However, due to multiple constraints, including security restrictions on movement and access, the cash withdrawal limit, and the shortage of basic supplies in the market, humanitarian aid has been limited to the cities and areas around the main roads. The situation is further aggravated by the blockade of land and air transport.

“Like other humanitarian organizations, we have not been able to continue responding to emergencies, reach people affected by war and alleviate their suffering,” writes the diocesan director, Fr. Abba Abraha Hagos. It is an unprecedented humanitarian crisis; with each passing day, each passing hour, hundreds of innocent victims lose their lives. Since the beginning of the fighting in Tigray, and in particular since June 28, 2021 to the present day, the ongoing war, accompanied by indiscriminate air strikes with fighters, helicopters and drones, has caused an unprecedented crisis: ethnic-based attacks and massacres of civilians, destruction of homes and displacement of millions of people, rampant gender-based violence, which has destroyed the families and lives of women and girls, devastation of the economy, institutions and social infrastructure, destruction of cultural and religious heritages. Millions of people are psychologically destroyed and terrified.

“The entire population has been deprived of all the fundamental rights of every human being: the right to live with dignity, the right to security, education, food, water, to receive humanitarian assistance, etc. The daily reality of the country is of suffering, death, lack of medicines for preventable diseases. Any further delay will end in irreparable disaster for human lives and the social fabric of an entire generation.”

The ADCS highlights that the Catholic diocese of Adigrat, which covers the whole of Tigray, is immersed in an extremely alarming crisis that needs an urgent response from partners, other humani-

tarian organizations and the international community.

“We would like to invite all our partners and other humanitarian aid organizations to continue to urge and lobby international communities, the United Nations, humanitarian rights organizations, international government agencies, and international diplomacy, to exert pressure for dialogue policy for peace and for unrestricted access to humanitarian aid, basic services and supplies, which are a natural right for human beings.” (AP) (Agenzia Fides, 19/1/2022)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/71479-AFRICA_ETHIOPIA_Hundreds_of_innocent_people_lose_their_lives_every_day_An_unprecedented_crisis_in_Tigray

ASIA/MALAYSIA - Catholic communities help people affected by floods

Kuala Lumpur (Agenzia Fides) - The Catholic communities of Malaysia have begun to provide humanitarian aid and basic necessities to people affected by the floods that occurred in Malaysia last December. Massive damage was recorded in eight states of the Federation of Malaysia, while more than 125,000 people have been displaced for about a month; there are 54 dead and two missing. The lives of thousands of families have been turned upside down. Many have lost everything. Others are struggling to recover from the trauma and have no means of livelihood.

The state of Selangor, the richest in the country, is the hardest hit by the floods, especially the town of Shah Alam, where houses and vehicles have been submerged by water, and there is severe damage to public and private infrastructure and property.

In the aftermath of the floods, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Malaysia (CBCM) and Caritas Malaysia launched a National Relief Fund for aid and solidarity initiatives. Parishes and local communities continue to raise funds to help people affected by the floods and the Bishops have issued a heartfelt appeal to this effect.

“The Disaster Relief Response team in Caritas is sharing information to indicate needs and priorities, in close contact with parishes, congregations and Catholic realities, who have responded generously,” explains Msgr. Bernard Paul, Bishop of Malacca-Johore and president of Caritas Malaysia. “The funds raised are used to purchase basic necessities for those affected and for the displaced people welcomed in various parishes,” he said.

Thousands of families, reports Caritas, need help to rebuild their lives and basic services in their homes, such as electrical services, kitchens, and other domestic infrastructures. Caritas Malaysia has received international support from the Caritas Asia network, especially Caritas Hong Kong, Caritas Philippines and other Caritas in the region. “It is particularly significant,” Bishop Paul notes, “that aid comes from the Philippines, which has been devastated by the recent typhoon Odette (Rai). This shows the real spirit of Christian charity.” (SD-PA) (Agenzia Fides, 24/1/2022)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/71507-ASIA_MALAYSIA_Catholic_communities_help_people_affected_by_floods

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2022

“You will be witnesses of me” (Acts 1,8)

Dear brothers and sisters!

These words belong to the Risen Jesus’ last conversation with his disciples, before ascending to Heaven, as described in the Acts of the Apostles: “You will receive the strength from the Holy Spirit who will descend on you, and you will be witnesses of me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth” (1,8). And this is also the theme of World Mission Day 2022, which as always helps us to live the fact that the Church is missionary by nature. This year it offers us the opportunity to commemorate some important occasions for the life and mission of the Church: the foundation, 400 years ago, of the Congregation de Propaganda Fide - today for the Evangelization of Peoples - and, 200 years ago, of the Work of the Propagation of the Faith, which, together with the Work of the Holy Childhood and the Work of St. Peter the Apostle, 100 years ago obtained the recognition of “Pontifical”.

Let us stop at these three key expressions which summarize the three foundations of the life and mission of the disciples: “You will be my witnesses”, “to the ends of the earth” and “you will receive strength from the Holy Spirit”.

1. “You will be witnesses of me” - The call of all Christians to bear witness to Christ

It is the central point, the heart of Jesus’ teaching to the disciples in view of their mission in the world. All the disciples will be witnesses of Jesus thanks to the Holy Spirit that they will receive: they will be constituted as such by grace. Wherever they go, wherever they are. Just as Christ is the first sent, that is, missionary of the Father (cf. Jn 20:21) and, as such, is his “faithful witness” (cf. Ap 1,5), so every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the Church, the community of Christ’s

disciples, has no other mission than that of evangelizing the world, bearing witness to Christ. The identity of the Church is to evangelize.

A deeper overall rereading clarifies some aspects that are always current for the mission entrusted by Christ to the disciples: “You will be witnesses of me”. The plural form emphasizes the community-ecclesial character of the missionary call of the disciples. Every baptized person is called to mission in the Church and on the mandate of the Church: therefore the mission is done together, not individually, in communion with the ecclesial community and not on one’s own initiative. And even if there is someone who in some very particular situation carries out the evangelizing mission alone, he carries it out and must always carry it out in communion with the Church that sent him. As St. Paul VI taught in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii nuntiandi*, a document very dear to me: “Evangelizing is never an individual and isolated act for anyone, but a profoundly ecclesial one. When the most unknown preacher, catechist or pastor, in the most remote place, preaches the Gospel, gathers his small community or administers a sacrament, even if he is alone, he performs an act of the Church, and his gesture is certainly connected through institutional relationships, but also through invisible bonds and deep roots of the order of grace, to the evangelizing activity of the whole Church” (n. 60). Indeed, it is no coincidence that the Lord Jesus sent his disciples on a mission two by two; the witness of Christians to Christ has a primarily community character. Hence the essential importance of the presence of a community, even a small one, in carrying out the mission.

Secondly, the disciples are asked to live their personal life in the key of mission : they are sent by Jesus to the world not only to carry out the mission, but also and above all to live the mission entrusted to them; not only to give witness, but also and above all to be witnesses of Christ. As the apostle Paul says with truly moving words: “Carrying the death of Jesus always and everywhere in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body” (2 Cor4.10). The essence of the mission is to bear witness to Christ, that is, his life, passion, death, and resurrection for love of the Father and of humanity. It is no coincidence that the Apostles sought the substitute for Judas among those who, like them, had witnessed his resurrection (cf. Acts 1:22). It is Christ, and the risen Christ, the One we must witness and whose life we must share. The missionaries of Christ are not sent to communicate themselves, to show their persuasive qualities and abilities or

their managerial skills. Instead, they have the very high honor of offering Christ, in word and deed, announcing to all the Good News of his salvation with joy and boldness, like the first apostles.

Therefore, in the final analysis, the true witness is the “martyr”, the one who gives his life for Christ, repaying the gift that He has given us of himself. “The first motivation for evangelizing is the love of Jesus we have received, the experience of being saved by him that pushes us to love him more and more” (*Evangelii gaudium* , 264).

Finally, with regard to Christian witness, the observation of St. Paul VI always remains valid : “Contemporary man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, or if he listens to teachers he does so because they are witnesses” (*Evangelii nuntiandi* , 41). Therefore, Christian witness to the evangelical life is fundamental for the transmission of the faith. On the other hand, the task of announcing his person and his message remains equally necessary. In fact, Paul VI himself continues: «Yes, preaching is always indispensable, this verbal proclamation of a message. [...] The word always remains relevant, especially when it bears the power of God. For this reason the axiom of St. Paul is still relevant: “Faith depends on preaching” (Rom 10:17): it is precisely the Word heard that leads us to believe “(*ibid.* , 42).

In evangelization, therefore, the example of Christian life and the proclamation of Christ go together. One serves the other. They are the two lungs with which every community must breathe in order to be missionary. This complete, coherent and joyful witness of Christ will certainly be the attraction for the growth of the Church also in the third millennium. I therefore urge everyone to take back the courage, the frankness, that parrhesia of the first Christians, to bear witness to Christ with words and deeds, in every environment of life.

2. “To the ends of the earth” - The perennial relevance of a mission of universal evangelization

Urging the disciples to be his witnesses, the risen Lord announces where they are sent: “In Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth” (Acts1.8). Here the universal character of the mission of the disciples emerges very clearly. The “centrifugal” geographical movement, almost in concentric circles, from Jerusalem, considered by the Jewish tradition as the center of the world, to Judea and Samaria, and to “the extremity of the earth” is highlighted. They are not sent to proselytize, but to announce; the Christian does not proselytize. The Acts of the Apostles tell us about this missionary movement: it gives us a beautiful image of the Church “outgoing” to fulfill her vocation of bearing witness to Christ the Lord, guided by divine Providence through the concrete circumstances of life. The first Christians, in fact, were persecuted in Jerusalem and therefore dispersed in Judea and Samaria and witnessed Christ everywhere (cf.Acts 8.1.4).

Something similar still happens in our time. Due to religious persecution and situations of war and violence, many Christians are



forced to flee their land to other countries. We are grateful to these brothers and sisters who do not close themselves up in suffering but testify to Christ and the love of God in the countries that welcome them. St. Paul VI exhorted them to this, considering the “responsibility that belongs to emigrants in the countries that receive them” (*Evangelii nuntiandi*, 21). Indeed, we are increasingly experiencing how the presence of the faithful of various nationalities enriches the face of parishes and makes them more universal, more Catholic. Consequently, the pastoral care of migrants is a missionary activity not to be neglected, which can also help the local faithful to rediscover the joy of the Christian faith they have received.

The indication “to the ends of the earth” must question Jesus’ disciples of all times and must always push them to go beyond the usual places to bear witness to him. Despite all the facilities due to the progress of modernity, they still exist today. geographical areas where missionaries who are witnesses of Christ with the Good News of his love have not yet arrived. On the other hand, there will be no human reality extraneous to the attention of Christ’s disciples in their mission. The Church of Christ was, is and will always be “going out” to new geographical, social, existential horizons, to “border” places and human situations, to bear witness to Christ and his love to all men and women and women of all peoples, cultures, social states. In this sense, the mission will always be *alsomissio ad gentes* , as the Second Vatican Council taught us , because the Church will always have to go further, beyond its own borders, in order to bear witness to all the love of Christ. In this regard, I would like to recall and thank the many missionaries who spent their lives to go “beyond”, embodying Christ’s charity towards the many brothers and sisters they met.

3. “You will receive strength from the Holy Spirit” - Always allow yourself to be strengthened and guided by the Spirit

In announcing to the disciples their mission to be his witnesses, the risen Christ also promised grace for such a great responsibility: “You will receive the strength of the Holy Spirit and you will be witnesses of me” (Acts 1,8). Indeed, according to the account of the Acts, precisely following the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus, the first action of bearing witness to Christ, dead and risen, took place with a kerygmatic announcement, the so-



called missionary speech of St. Peter to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus begins the era of the evangelization of the world by the disciples of Jesus, who were previously weak, fearful, closed. The Holy Spirit strengthened them, gave them courage and wisdom to bear witness to Christ before everyone.

Like “no one can say: ‘Jesus is Lord’, except under the action of the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor12.3), so no Christian will be able to give full and genuine witness to Christ the Lord without the inspiration and help of the Spirit. Therefore every missionary disciple of Christ is called to recognize the fundamental importance of the Spirit’s action, to live with him in daily life and to constantly receive strength and inspiration from him, to the Holy Spirit in prayer, which - I want to emphasize again - has a fundamental role in missionary life, to allow ourselves to be refreshed and strengthened by him, an inexhaustible divine source of new energy and the joy of sharing the life of Christ with others. «Receiving the joy of the Spirit is a grace. And it is the only force that we can have to preach the Gospel, to confess our faith in the Lord “(Message to the Pontifical Mission Societies , 21 May 2020). Thus the Spirit is the true protagonist of the mission: it is He who gives the right word at the right time in the right way.

It is in the light of the action of the Holy Spirit that we also want to read the missionary anniversaries of this 2022. The institution of the Sacred Congregation de propaganda fide , in 1622, was motivated by the desire to promote the missionary mandate in new territories. A providential intuition! The Congregation proved to be crucial in making the Church’s evangelizing mission truly such, that is, independent of the interference of worldly powers, in order to establish those local Churches which today show so much vigor. We hope that, as in the past four centuries, the Congregation, with the light and strength of the Spirit, will continue and intensify its work in coordinating, organizing and animating the missionary activities of the Church.

The same Spirit, who guides the universal Church, also inspires simple men and women for extraordinary missions. And it was thus that a French girl, Pauline Jaricot, founded the Association of the Propagation of the Faith exactly 200 years ago; her beatification is celebrated in this jubilee year. Although in precarious conditions, she welcomed God’s inspiration to set in motion a net-

work of prayer and collection for missionaries, so that the faithful could actively participate in the mission “to the ends of the earth”. From this brilliant idea was born the World Mission Day which we celebrate every year, and whose collection in all communities is destined for the universal fund with which the Pope supports missionary activity.

In this context I also remember the French Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson, who started the Work of the Holy Childhood to promote the mission among children with the motto “Children evangelize children, children pray for children, children help children from all over the world “; as well as Mrs. Jeanne Bigard, who gave life to the Work of St. Peter the Apostle for the support of seminarians and priests in mission lands. These three missionary Societies were recognized as “pontifical” just a hundred years ago. And it was also under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit that Blessed Paolo Manna, born 150 years ago, founded the current Pontifical Missionary Union to sensitize and animate priests, men and women religious and all the people of God. Paul VI himself was part of this latter work, which confirmed her pontifical recognition. I mention these four Pontifical Mission Societies for their great historical merits and also to invite you to rejoice with them in this special year for the activities carried out in support of the evangelizing mission in the universal Church and in the local ones. I hope that the local Churches will find in these Works a solid tool to nourish the missionary spirit in the People of God.

Dear brothers and sisters, I continue to dream of the fully missionary Church and a new season of missionary action for Christian communities. And I repeat Moses’ wish for the people of God on their way: “Would they all be prophets in the people of the Lord!” (Nm 11.29). Yes, we were all of us in the Church what we already are by virtue of baptism: prophets, witnesses, missionaries of the Lord! With the power of the Holy Spirit and to the ends of the earth. Mary, Queen of the missions, pray for us!

Rome, San Giovanni in Laterano, January 6, 2022, Epiphany of the Lord.

FRANCIS



Pontifical Mission Societies 2022 PMS ANNIVERSARIES AT A GLANCE



400 Years of Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (CEP)



The Congregation of the Evangelization of Peoples celebrates the fourth centenary of its foundation. Since 1622, the Church’s missionary work had been organized and coordinated at the world level by the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in collaboration with many religious orders and congregations and with the local Churches. At the Vatican Council, the role of the Congregation was affirmed, and it was renamed the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

200 Years of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith

On May 3, 2022, the *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith* (POPF) will celebrate two major milestones. It will mark the 200th anniversary of its foundation as the *Association of the Propagation of the Faith* and the 100th anniversary of its *Pontifical* status, conferred by Pope Pius XI in his *Motu Proprio Romanorum Pontificum*, thus confirming the missionary spirit of the Society and its important service to the universal Church. By the same *Motu Proprio*, the Holy Father also conferred *Pontifical status* to the Society of the Holy Childhood and the Society of St. Peter the Apostle.

The foundress, Pauline Marie Jaricot will be beatified on May 22, 2022 in Lyon, France



100 Years of Pontifical Statues - Propagation of the Faith (POF), Holy Childhood Association (HCA), and St. Peter the Apostle (SPA)



The Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of Faith, the Pontifical Mission Society of Holy Childhood, and the Pontifical Mission Society of St. Peter the Apostle were made Pontifical in 1922, by Pope Pius XI at the centenary celebration of the Society for the Propagation of Faith.



150th Birthday of Father Paolo Manna, founder of PMU

Rev. Fr. Paolo Manna (16 January 1872 – 15 September 1952) was an Italian Roman Catholic priest and a member from the Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions as well as the founder of the Pontifical Missionary Union of Priests and Religious. He was passionate in promoting the missions, evangelic and Apostolic life.

He was Beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2001.





Photo: <https://pixabay.com>

In 2022, the Pontifical Mission Societies will celebrate several milestones. In 1922, specifically, Pope Leo XI brought together three mission societies under one umbrella and conferred on this new organization the “pontifical” designation. The three mission societies were the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Holy Childhood Association, and the Society of St. Peter the Apostle. The Missionary Union was incorporated into the pontifical missions by Pope Pius XII in 1956. Each society has its own distinctive focus, which we shall explore in articles in the magazine this year. 100 years ago, Pope Leo XI envisioned that the Pontifical Mission Societies would become the main vehicle through which the Catholic Church would conduct its missionary activity. Moreover, in this celebratory year, Pauline Jaricot, the foundress of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, will be beatified by Pope Francis in May.

The Pontifical Mission Societies, then, will be celebrating in 2022. But what does it mean to celebrate? This is a crucial question for Catholics because, we need to understand how to celebrate milestones, such as this hundredth anniversary, faithfully and fully. As Catholics, we also believe that our central act of worship, the mass, is a celebration. For Catholics, the Eucharist is a joyful occasion to give thanks and praise for the salvific work of Jesus Christ. As Catholics, we are also called to be a people of celebration. As Catholics, we need to learn how to bring the celebration, in which we engage during Mass, into our daily lives.

But to describe the Eucharist as a celebration does not quite ring true to the modern ear. When people think of celebrations today, they imagine parties with lots of food and plenty of noise. For a contemporary audience, celebrations are about letting go of life’s responsibilities for a short time and enjoying the company of family and friends. Humour and frivolity tend to dominate the atmosphere at a celebration. Now, unless you attend a parish that resembles the movie “Sister Act,” a Mass does not have many of these elements that modern society associates with a celebration. A Mass is serious and somber. There is much silence and quiet; speaking to others is largely discouraged because people are trying to pray! This discrepancy between the contemporary understanding of celebration with that at the Eucharist raises the question, what do Catholics mean by celebration?

LET’S CELEBRATE

The word ‘celebration’ is usually applied to such festivities as birthday parties, wedding receptions, and anniversary bashes. In each instance, something of value is being commemorated. At a birthday party, it is the life of a loved one that is celebrated. At a wedding reception, the marriage of the couple is feted. At an anniversary, the passage of time is recognized. It is the milestone that is being honoured at the event that is of significance. The food and drink, the music and dancing, and the general raucous nature of our festivities are merely how we have currently chosen in our culture to mark important events in our lives. A celebration is simply a recognition of something of value, which can be marked in any number of ways. In short, a celebration is not about excessive giddiness, but about recognizing and honouring something of worth.

At Mass, the assembly acknowledges the Paschal mystery and the eternal life that Jesus has obtained for all people. The means by which we commemorate the sacrifice of Jesus is with hymns, prayer, scripture, and sacramental food and drink with our community of faith. A distinguishing characteristic of a Eucharistic celebration from modern celebrations, however, is that the spirit of celebration at the Eucharist should be carried into daily life. Contemporary celebrations are sporadic and are observed only at prescribed times. The celebratory tone of the Eucharist should become an integral part of the Christian journey. For Catholics, celebrating the Paschal mystery can occur not just on special occasions, such as at a Mass on Sunday, but can be a part of everyday life. Celebrations can occur regularly because Catholics are invited to find something of value even in the most mundane aspects of daily life. Due to the presence of God in the lives of Catholics and in the world, moments of special value are occurring all around us. The calling of believers to be an Easter people is to discover the rich, new life that surrounds them as they move through their day. Sr. Joan Chittister confirms this sense of celebration when she explains, “To pray in the midst of the mundane is simply and strongly to assert that this dull tiring day is holy and its simple labors are the stuff of God’s saving presence for me now.”



Photo: <https://pixabay.com>

Contemporary society bombards people with a lot of bad news. Catholics who recognize that Christ has already saved them, however, can go beyond the news headlines, and the negativity that they create, to find something of value to celebrate every day. All it takes to celebrate each day is to be open to the possibility that good things are happening all around them. If people assume that all they are going to encounter as they go through their day are challenges to overcome, well that is all they will find. If they go through life, conversely, with the attitude that God is with them, then even in the most ordinary of times there will be something to celebrate, if they but choose to look for it. Affirming what is good in the world does not entail closing one’s eyes to what is wrong with it, and indeed, there are any number of challenges that the human community needs to address. But when people tackle personal or global problems with a better disposition, it frames the issue within an entirely new context and allows them to examine an issue with new insight. Also, if people address a problem from a more positive perspective, it will release their passion to actually do something about it, rather than merely gripe and complain.

A photographer for the National Geographic by the name of DeWitt Jones has produced one of the most popular training videos, called “Celebrate What’s Right with the World.” In the video, he shares a story about when he is assigned to take pictures of a certain field. On the day that he arrives to take the pictures, he finds the field covered in dandelions that have all turned to what he calls puff balls. His immediate reaction is to leave because, after all, who would be interested in looking at pictures of puff balls. He stops himself, however, and forces himself to find

something special to photograph. For quite some time, he moves around the field, searching for something special to capture. He eventually takes a picture from below a puff ball looking up into the bright sky. Well, words cannot do justice to the picture he takes. The photograph is simply amazing. Jones’s point is simple. If we go through life with the perspective of searching for “what is right with the world,” we will find something to marvel at, even in



Photo: <https://pixabay.com>

the most nondescript places. How much more then should Catholics realize that there is always a “pearl of great value” (cf. Matthew 13:45-46) to discover, even in life’s tedious moments.

Naturally any year can become tedious, and each year brings its own quota of banality and predictability, even for Catholics. Still, the celebratory nature of the Eucharist can be a source of inspiration for the soul and mental health of Catholics. The joy and rejoicing of the Eucharist can be a source of consolation and strength for Catholics as they are reminded to transpose this sense of celebration into their lives. In imitation of the Eucharistic celebration, Catholics can approach their lives as a banquet, full of friendship, gratitude, and rejoicing. By adopting a perspective of searching for what is of value in their lives, Catholics will develop a deeper appreciation for the blessings that they have received and for peace for their souls. This perceptive of not defaulting to the negative, but striving to discern what there is to celebrate, can assist Catholics to weather any monotony of the day, knowing that new life is never far from God’s people. The morale of Catholics will also remain positive when they search for value in all situations, even when there is little to look forward to in their days. In imitation of the Eucharist, then, Catholics can inspire the people in their lives and themselves, even in the most lacklustre situations, with songs and rejoicing and by being open to celebrating “what is right with the world.”

The times that Catholics are at Mass and the opening hymn starts playing, therefore, can evoke the idea that they too can celebrate the mystery of Christ’s salvation in their daily lives. During the year, any kind of celebration can be a reminder for Catholics that their lives should witness joy and rejoicing because we are a redeemed people through Christ’s sacrifice of himself. If Catholics make it a priority to fill the world with a celebratory awareness of the Paschal mystery, it can become infectious for all people. Celebrating is a great tool to proclaim the Gospel and evangelize our world.

For the Pontifical Mission Societies, therefore, as it celebrates in 2022, may God continue to bless its mission to evangelize the world with the Gospel and may we all come to realize that celebration is a daily activity for those who follow Christ.

Let's Pray

Pope Francis' Mission Prayer

Heavenly Father,
when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ
rose from the dead,
he commissioned his followers
to "go and make disciples of all nations"
and you remind us that through our Baptism
we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to be courageous and zealous
in bearing witness to the Gospel,
so that the mission entrusted to the Church,
which is still very far from completion,
may find new and efficacious expressions
that bring life and light to the world.



Photo: <https://pixabay.com>

Help us make it possible for all peoples
to experience the saving love
and mercy of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

"Go forth and set the world on fire." — St. Ignatius of Loyola

God of Heaven and Earth, You have fed me your word
And sent me forth to love and serve.

A missionary, you have called me to be.

Even in my smallness and sin You chose me to sing the song of your love,
the hymn of your mercy, the anthem of your justice.

Guide my path, Lord.

Send me among the people you have made, whether across the globe or
across the street.

Give me the grace to be welcomed in and the courage to stand out.

May my words compel as they invoke your spirit.

May my acts shine as they demonstrate your faithfulness.

Though I may falter, help me to rise again, doing your will always.

And when I depart, may they say,

"That one was different. That one knew the Lord."



Photo: <https://pixabay.com>

A View from the Pew...

THE PONTIFICAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH: CELEBRATING 200 YEARS



By Lori Lisi

Only the person who feels happiness in seeking the good of others, in desiring their happiness, can be a missionary.

—*Evangelii Gaudium*, 272

"Looking back to look forward..." Launched in 1818, recognized in 1822, and elevated to the level of **'Pontifical' Society for the Propagation of the Faith**, by Pope Pius XI, in 1922, this mission society now celebrates its **200th year!**

In recognizing this milestone, we would be remiss not to give special attention to the contributions made by the venerable, and soon to be beatified (May, 22, 2022), **Pauline Jaricot**, the founder of the society. Born in 1799 in Lyon, France. Pauline was a lay-woman of strong faith, who after much suffering, both mentally and physically, turned to prayer, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the answering of the call to assist the Paris Foreign Mission Society. All three commitments gave way to her work on the spreading and promoting of the faith. She pivoted her attention from concerning herself 'with herself' to concerning herself with the needs of others. She went on to create a 'movement' wherein she commissioned a group of 10 people to pray for and donate one cent a week to the missions, highlighting the need for both prayer and sacrifice. Her plan further extended to making each member responsible for also gathering a group of 10 people to do the same, and so on and so forth. This, eventually, broadened her work to become the largest aid agency in the history of the Catholic Church, promoting prayer, reflection and charity for the world's missions, with the goal of propagating the faith. Today, this movement is called the **Pontifical Society of the Propagation of the Faith (POPF)** and has offices in over 1150 dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Oceanic Region, the Pacific Islands and the remote areas of Latin America.

The Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith organizes the annual **World Mission Sunday**, which is an annual collection for the missionary world of the Church established by Pope Pius XI in 1926. It is now celebrated annually on the 3rd Sunday of October. Each year a different theme is selected. In the last two years, the themes have centred around the following passages from the Gospel: Here am I; send me. —Isaiah 6:8; and We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard. —Acts 4:20. World Mission Sunday supports all missionary work throughout the world.

On October 22, 1972, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the work for the Propagation of the Faith, and the 50th anniversary of its recognition as a *'pontifical'* work, an **international missionary conference** was held in Lyon on the theme "Pontifical missionary works under the sign of apostolic collegiality". Pope Paul VI declared that the Pontifical Mission Societies are offered to all Christians as privileged instruments of the Episcopal College. United with the Successor of Peter and, with him, the societies are responsible for the people of God, which is entirely missionary. The Pope presented Pauline Marie Jaricot as an *"authentic daughter of the Church, so radically devoted to the cause of distant missions, and at the same time so preoccupied with the problems of the world"*. He explained that the work of the propagation of the faith had spread unceasingly, with the Catholic (universal) concern of all the missions. He referred to it as a *'spiritual and material mutual aid in the dimensions of the Church'*. The mission, he reminds us, is an active witness. The Pope insists on the place that must be given to mission days, because they allow Christians to take a fresh look at the missions, sense the needs and leads them to *"consider local evangelisation and distant evangelisation as integrated in the same missionary pastoral whose unique source is Christ"*.

The commissions of the *Pontifical Society of the Propagation of the Faith* carry on today, and numerous projects have been successful because of the support and dedication of this society whose goal continues to be: *'to form a Catholic conscience in all the faithful, while combining full docility to the Spirit with a missionary commitment open to the whole world.'* Recently, some of the most notable work has been to provide financial aid to mission bishops for everyday expenses and the undertaking of special projects. *It supports pastoral and evangelizing programs, catechists and catechetical work, the building of churches and chapels, the work of religious communities in health care and education, and the communication and transportation needs.*

Mission work is the work of all Christians. As baptized persons we are invited to support evangelization by bringing people to Jesus and helping them to come to know Him and live as His disciples. We are also called to participate financially in supporting the work of the missions throughout the world. Each 'missionary disciple' is mobilized to understand their missionary duty and respond to the jubilation, as well as the trials and tribulations involved in the arduous journey of proclaiming the Gospel to the world.

**Evangelization is not the work of a few,
but the work of ALL.**

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Project Report : Formation of Catechist Couples at the “Mobokoli Catechetical Formation Centre”, in the Diocese of Lolo



The Mobokoli Catechetical, Pastoral and Ecological Formation Centre created and expanded in the Diocese of Lolo, began to function during the 2018-2019 academic year.

It is unique since it is open only to catechist couples living a Christian marriage. The underlying conviction is that the work of evangelization is something that engages the whole family. In fact: Married catechists are asked to bear coherent witness to the Christian value of marriage, living the sacrament in total fidelity and educating their children responsibly. This spirituality, linked to marriage, has a positive and characteristic impact on the catechist’s own activity. Catechists will do well to involve their spouses and children in their service, so that the whole family will truly be a cell of apostolic influence. (C.E.P.: Guide for Catechists, 1993).

Thus, the catechist chosen by the parish priest and the parish council comes to the Center with his spouse and children (at most 4). The candidates are chosen by age, previous studies and mastery of French.

Each year, the center welcomes 10 families, whose medical and academic needs as well as room and board are all provided for by the center. All of this is possible because of the subsidy the Diocese receives from the Pontifical Mission Society of the Propagation of the Faith. Food is also supplied monthly by the parishes that sent the catechist family for training at the center.

The official “seal” of the formation center has an image of the Bi-

ble and an instrument of daily labor, which symbolizes St. Benedict’s adage of “Ora et labora” - pray and work. This symbolizes the very spirit of the formation provided by the center.

The spouses are formed in basic theology, spirituality, sacred scripture, catechetics, and pedagogy. They are also schooled in matters of agriculture, animal husbandry in both theoretically and practically, cultivating model rice and manioc corn fields, practicing various methods of raising poultry, sheep and goats, etc. Spouses are formed in basic language skills (reading/writing), sewing, life education, catechesis of children, young girls and women.

At the end of the formation year during the solemn celebration of the Eucharist, the Bishop gives the catechist couple a bible and a long machete for work in the fields for their mission of evangelization. During the Mass, the pastor of the parish or origin of the couple formally sends the couple on mission in different regions of the parish. The couple then returns monthly to the formation center for ongoing formation and sharing of experiences as catechists.

In 2020, the Diocese helped form 204 catechists, of which 46 were full time and 158, part time and 55 catechist volunteers.

We pray for our catechists that are on the front lines of evangelization in our parishes, quasi parishes and sub parishes. May God bless them abundantly!

<https://www.ppoomm.va/en/i-progetti/tutti-i-progetti/2021/mobokoli-catechetical-formation-centre-in-the-diocese-of-lola.html>

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Project Report : “A worthy church in every Catholic community” - The new church of Saint Francis de Sales in Najauna Village, Tening Parish, Diocese of Khoima



The church is part of the overall pastoral plan of the Bishop, who wants to ensure that Catholics in the parish have a dignified structure in which to gather for the Eucharist and the other sacraments. In fact, the new church provides the Catholic community with a point of reference and a place for community building for young and old, married couples and children. The project was a work of love and engaged the whole community, who contributed by sharing in the actual construction of the church.

The community had to overcome great obstacles for the church to become a reality. The closest point of distribution for building materials is the city of Dimapur, located 125 kilometers from Najauna. In fact, materials had to be carried by hand for the last few kilometers because of lack of road access to the village, which could only be done during the dry season from December to May.

On top of this, the pandemic forced some of the construction workers to leave the site. Notwithstanding all of these challenges, the courage and tenacity of the faithful ensured that the church was completed and consecrated on December 2, 2020.

God bless the Christians in Tening parish!

<https://www.ppoomm.va/en/i-progetti/tutti-i-progetti/2021/construction-of-church-at-najauna-village-tening-parish.html>

Recently, the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith participated in the funding of a church for Catholics in Nagaland State, a remote area of North East India, bordering with Myanmar. The church, situated in the village of Najauna is within the parish of Tening parish, in the diocese of Khoima.

The area is home to 16 ethnic Naga tribal peoples, 450 of which are Catholics who residing in different villages in the parish.

Christians are a minority in the region and Catholics make up only a small portion of the baptised, most of whom are Protestant.

“The solemn beatification of Pauline Jaricot will take place at Lyon, France on May 22, 2022.”



MARIA'S FAITH

HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



By Maria Fornasier

Through its missions throughout the world, The Holy Childhood Association, founded in France in 1843 by Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson, provides vital spiritual, educational and culturally relevant support and instruction to children in need in 130 countries worldwide. In 1922, the Holy Childhood Association, along with the societies of the Propagation of the Faith, St. Peter the Apostle, was given a Pontifical designation by Pope Pius XI, which is an exceptional sign of international approval and papal support. A natural and beneficial consequence of focusing on the needs of children is that the Association is also improving the spiritual and social welfare of their families and communities; through a spiritual focus that prioritizes the less fortunate, the missions put in place initiatives and long-term goals that improve the lives of everyone. Also, all the children – those who donate and those who receive – are motivated to learn from and be an example of Gospel values.

Bishop de Forbin-Janson, who was looking for an effective way to provide spiritual and financial assistance to Chinese missionaries, asked Pauline Jaricot, founder of the Society of the Propagation of



the Faith and the Living Rosary, for practical suggestions. The result of their discussion – encouraging and organizing children to be of service to other less fortunate children – was particularly appropriate as the Bishop was distressed by the missionaries' reports of rejected babies in China. The Association's work was initiated, and continues to flourish, based on a simple request; children were encouraged to say a daily Hail Mary and donate a coin each month.

179 years later, thousands of necessary projects and resources are supported with money raised and donated by children for other children. For example, in recent years, schools have been built or refurbished in India, Namibia and Tanzania. Of course, education is critically important so that families can have hopes for their children. The missions provide liturgical and academic lessons, which improve the overall wellbeing of the communities; the children and their families gain spiritual knowledge, literacy skills and can aspire to a brighter future. Money has been raised in Canadian communities such as Thunder Bay to fulfill special requests like liturgical dance uniforms for



Dance Practise! From Project Report: Diocese of Rumbek – South Sudan – Summer 2017

children in South Sudan. The uniforms are a visible symbol of togetherness and the importance of the liturgy. In addition, their creation provided work for the women in the community. Through seminars and various projects hosted and organized by Catholic leaders and teachers across Canada, funds are raised to provide religious education in countries such as Jamaica. Also, contributions are used to provide positive alternatives, through education and counselling, to distressing societal problems such as human trafficking in Tanzania. By raising awareness, the missions attempt to improve the lives of children in need and in danger.

The Association's motto, "Children helping Children," is inspiring. Teaching children to understand that they can make a difference in the lives of others is critically important. Children's innate goodness and willingness to help, in small steps, sets the foundation in their lives as Catholic role models, of the importance of not only thinking of others, but also taking action.

Maria Fornasier is a retired teacher who will be joining our team as a regular columnist.

Holy Childhood Association:

Project Report : Assistance for Elementary Education in the Diocese of Wabag, Papua New Guinea

The Diocese of Wabag is located in the highlands of Papua New Guinea.

In most of the places reached by priests, catechists, religious and committed laity, there is a great lack of adequate government services such as road facilities, health, educational and social services. Most of our parishes are located in mountains and very remote valleys. In these areas, most of the children do not receive quality education. Therefore, the church plays a vital role in providing educational services, health services, and training children in the Christian faith to meet their spiritual need. Always in these areas, we have many schools under the supervision of the Catholic Education Agency.

We have encouraged the children of different parishes to participate in RI (Religious Instructions) activities of the Christian faith with retreats and Sunday schools, to pray every day in church for peace in their villages.

Various activities carried out for children at diocesan and parish level to increase faith and virtue:

- Basic Catechism and Religious Instruction to school children;
- Sunday school to increase their faith, prayer and highlight the importance of the different sacraments. Regularly the children pray the rosary in Sunday School;
- Encouragement of children to participate in Sunday liturgy in parishes;
- School and community Masses for children;
- Retreat for children in schools and remote locations;
- Retreat and formation for boys and girls Ministries;

- Visitation to families and prayer carrying the Holy Cross, Bible, statue of Mother Mary by children and people of the villages;
- Competitions of storytelling, drawing, drama, singing and questions for the children and distribution of gifts to encourage them.
- Children Helping Children is an annual program.
- Missionary Childhood is formed in a few parishes to discipline the children and strengthen the Catholic faith. Each week the children gather for their activities in the parishes. This is mainly to have holy families, holy priests and holy religious in future.
- Courses for parents and children on child protection and children's rights to stop/avoid abuses on the minors.
- Formation of lay people and teachers.

Teachers, priests, religious men and women and church workers are involved for the implementation of this project in parishes and schools.

More than 3875 children have directly benefited from this project, including boys and girls in remote villages and mountainous areas. Particular attention is given to children with disabilities, marginalized, disadvantaged, orphans and widows.

We would like to continue these activities in the future, in training children in the Christian faith and in living the values of the Gospel, because they will be the future leaders of the Church and the country.

<https://www.ppoomm.va/en/i-progetti/tutti-i-progetti/2021/assistance-elementary-education-diocese-wabag.html>



Holy Childhood Association:

Project Report : Our children in the Apostolic Vicariate of Requena - Peru



The territory of the Apostolic Vicariate of Requena is very poor. The only communication routes are the Ucayali River and its tributaries. Except in two towns, there is no electricity 24 hours a day. There is no potable water. The population growth is very high.

The subsidy has been distributed among various parishes: San José Obrero in Jenaro Herrera, The Immaculate in Flor de Punga, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Orellana, Our Lady of Lourdes in Tierra Blanca.

The parish of San José wrote to us: “Let us thank the Lord because He is good and His mercy is eternal”, we pray along with the psalmist and we thank God for having made possible these helps which benefitted the brothers who have less, economically.

This year the grant has widely been distributed for the school supplies, uniforms, enrollment of kindergarten and elementary school children, support the children’s feeding and vitamins for the undernourished. The catechetical children could also have the

breakfast after the catechism.

Thus spent the bread that we made in the months of April, May, June, July and August. May God our Father, giver of all good, bless every day all the people who support others to have a better life.

By the grace of God, the Missionary Childhood groups are doing very well, every week they meet, have their themes, organize walks and literary evenings ... together with the catechists who are very enthusiastic.

Greetings from our children, parents and catechists, as well as the Missionary Team.

Always united in Jesus, Sister Stellamaris Ngina Mutinda»

Number of beneficiary children: about 200

<https://www.ppoomm.va/en/i-progetti/tutti-i-progetti/2021/our-children-in-the-apostolic-vicariate-of-requena-peru.html>

Missions Today is always interested in hearing from you. If you have any comments on the articles we have used; the new structure of the magazine; or anything you would like to see us explore in future issues, please get in touch with us!

Contact the Editor via email at: editor@missionsocieties.ca

Or write us at: Editor - Missions Today Magazine
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Don't forget to visit our web-site.

www.missionsocieties.ca offers: access to feature stories from our magazine, Missions Today, child activities and news from Holy Childhood, and direct links to World Mission TV (RomanCatholicTelevision) where you can find stories of mission work from across the globe in documentary formats complete with teacher/student guides and activities. Our site also makes it easy to donate in a safe and secure way. Visit us today!

In Remembrance

Our Deceased Donors

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased members of the Pontifical Mission Societies:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Mr. & Mrs. Antaya, Theodore..... Belle River,On | Mr. Oczko, Zygmunt London, On |
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Venerable Pauline Jaricot – A Catholic for Our Time
Girls' Education returns to the Swat Valley in Pakistan

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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Reflecting on some of our old covers of the magazine.

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Diocesan Directors, Fr. Luigi Filippini, Diocese of Thunder Bay, and Fr. John Baptiste Okai, Archdiocese of Regina, have fun during September 2021 AGM at Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre, Mississauga, Ontario.