



# MISSIONS TODAY

VOL 83, NO. 1

Winter 2025



## Joy in the Missions 2025 Calendar

*The Society for the Propagation of the Faith*





## Jubilee 2025 - *Pilgrims of hope*

The practice of setting aside a periodical Holy Year has roots in the Old Testament and in the traditions of our Jewish brothers and sisters. It is meant to be a time to rededicate ourselves to our relationships with God, with one another, and with all of creation. It is also an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, who was made flesh for our sake and salvation some 2025 years ago.

Pope Francis has dedicated this Jubilee Year to the theme of hope. The Jubilee logo depicts the motto of the Holy Year, "Pilgrims of Hope." Pilgrim images representing the four corners of the earth embrace each other as they embrace the cross. The logo also shows an anchor in rough waters, a symbol of hope in uncertain times.

Even in unsettling waters, we who follow the Lord rejoice and celebrate the hope and joy that comes in turning to the birth, life and words of Jesus. Happy Jubilee!

COVER IMAGE LORELLA CASTILLO/COURTESY OF MISSIO MALTA

## Our work

Pontifical Mission Societies English Canada - 2024 Project Countries

### The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

GHANA



### The Society of Saint Peter the Apostle

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO  
GAMBIA  
MALAWI  
ZAMBIA



### Holy Childhood Association

MYANMAR  
NIGERIA  
INDIA  
SIERRA LEONE  
SWAZILAND (ESWATINI)  
ZIMBABWE



OUR WORK IMAGES COURTESY OF PIXABAY

# National Director's message

Missions Today Winter Issue 2025



COURTESY OF THE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

“For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the ‘door’ (cf. Jn 10:7:9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as ‘our hope’ (1 Tim 1:1).”

These are the words of the Holy Father in his document entitled *Spes non confundit. Hope does not disappoint*, which proclaimed the Jubilee Year 2025. He reminds us that the entire Church is invited to the Holy Door, even if we cannot, “travel the ancient and more modern routes,” to Rome this year.

## Not just missionaries, but pilgrims

We know that a great missionary need not travel the world to spread the word of Christ. With St. Therese the Little Flower as our example, we know that it is possible to be committed to our mission vocation, even if we are not called to leave our parishes.

For the Jubilee Year, the Holy Father asks us to consider another identity in the same light — that of a pilgrim. Some of us will have the great blessing of going out on pilgrimage this year. In Rome, the Holy Door of St. Peter’s will be open, and millions of pilgrims will go to the Eternal City to walk through it.

But many more of us will not make that trip. That does not change the fact that in the 2025 Jubilee, we are all called to be pilgrims. Specifically, the Holy Father is calling us to be pilgrims of hope. As we contemplate the ancient traditions of a Holy Year, we must consider how we can all be pilgrims of hope in our own parishes, seeking out the spirit of the Jubilee even in our own homes.

## Thank You!

The photographs featured in this calendar were provided by missions all over the world. The Pontifical Mission Societies of Canada would like to thank the Pontifical Mission Societies of Australia, Malta and Spain for contributing images to this collection.

## Joy in the missions

In some small way, I hope this calendar can help us to prepare for this year of spiritual renewal. With help from our friends in Pontifical Mission Societies offices all over the world, we have collected images that show the joyful side of our missionary work. These photographs capture the joy of the missionaries and the communities they serve in the midst of their daily work. They show the brightness and sweetness of the joy of Christ, just as they encounter Him every day, in the love and dedication of the missionaries.

And I remind you that the smiles in these pages are only possible because of your support. Thank you for helping these missionaries to proclaim Christ always and everywhere.

Blessings to you and your families for a happy and holy Jubilee 2025.

Yours in Christ,

**Bishop John Boissonneau**



COURTESY OF MISSIO MALTA





**Mother Marissa serves homeless children and elderly people in Colombia.**

# Chocó, Colombia

COURTESY OF THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES SPAIN



# JANUARY 2025

***For the right to an education.*** Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1 NEW YEAR DAY Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	2 St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen	3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus	4
5 Epiphany of the Lord	6	7 St. André Bessette	8	9	10	11
12 Baptism of the Lord	13	14	15	16	17 St. Anthony, Abbot	18
19 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	20 St. Fabian St. Sebastian	21 St. Agnes	22 St. Vincent	23	24 St. Frances De Sales	25 The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
26 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Prayer for Christian Unity	27 St. Angela Merici	28 St. Thomas Aquinas	29 St. John Bosco	30	31	1

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**Sister Grace meets with the people of the Maasai community who generously offered a piece of land for the Church to build a new school for their children.**

**Ngaramtoni, Tanzania**



# FEBRUARY 2025

***For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.*** Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31			1
2 The Presentation of the Lord (World Day for Consecrated Life)	3 St. Blaise	4	5 St. Agatha	6 St. Paul Miki and Companions	7	8
9 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 St. Scholastica	11 Our Lady of Lourdes	12	13	14 St. Cyril and St. Methodius	15
16 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	17	18	19	20	21	22 The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
23 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	24	25	26	27 St. Gregory of Narek	28	1

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**The Little Eden residential homes provide life-long care for people living with profound intellectual disabilities.**

**Edenvale, South Africa**

# MARCH 2025

***For families in crisis.*** Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28 World Day of Prayer	1
2 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time	3	4 St. Casimir	5 ASH WEDNESDAY	6	7 St. Perpetua and St. Felicity World Day of Prayer	8
9 1st Sunday of Lent	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 2nd Sunday of Lent	17 St. Patrick	18	19 St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary	20	21	22
23 3rd Sunday of Lent	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 4th Sunday of Lent	31	The Annunciation of the Lord				

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**Sister Juliana Tanye, FMM, National Secretary for the Holy Childhood Association, joins some students on a pilgrimage walk to raise funds for HCA and other Catholic charities as part the Catholic Education Week celebrations.**



**Hamilton, Canada**

COURTESY OF PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES - ENGLISH CANADA



# APRIL 2025

**For the use of new technologies.** Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2 St. Francis of Paola	3	4 St. Isidore	5
6 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	7 The Annunciation of the Lord	8	9	10 St. Stanislaus	11	12 St. Martin I
13 PALM SUNDAY	14 Monday of Holy Week	15 Tuesday of Holy Week	16 Wednesday of Holy Week	17 Holy Thursday	18 GOOD FRIDAY	19 Holy Saturday
20 EASTER SUNDAY	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)	28	29 St. Catherine of Siena	30 St. Marie de L'Incarnation	1	2	3

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The Bethlehem Home provides for abandoned children, many of whom live with severe disabilities.



Kampala, Uganda

COURTESY OF MISSIO MALTA

# MAY 2025

**For working conditions.** Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1 St. Joseph the Worker	2 St. Athanasius	3 St. Philip and St. James
4 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	5	6 St. Francois De Laval	7	8 St. Catherine de Saint-Augustin	9	10 St. John of Avila
11 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (World Day of Prayer for Vocations) Mothers' Day	12 St. Nereus and St. Achilleus Canada Health Day	13 Our Lady of Fatima	14 St. Mathias	15	16	17
18 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	19 Victoria Day	20 St. Bernardine of Siena	21 St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions St. Eugene de Mazenod	22 St. Rita of Cascia	23	24
25 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	26 St. Philip Neri	27 St. Augustine of Canterbury	28	29 St. Paul VI	30	31 THE VISITATION OF THE BL. V. MARY

APRIL 2025						
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The St. Rita's Boarding House provides education to the children of peasant farmers living in remote rural areas.



Maubin, Myanmar



# JUNE 2025

***That the world might grow in compassion.*** Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (World Communica- tions Day)	<b>2</b> St. Marcellinus and St. Peter	<b>3</b> St. Charles Lwanga and Companions	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> St. Boniface	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> PENTECOST SUNDAY	<b>9</b> BVM, Mother of the Church	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> St. Barnabas	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> St. Anthony of Padua	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> THE MOST HOLY TRINITY Father's Day	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> St. Romuald	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> St. Aloysius Gonzaga
<b>22</b> THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> The Nativity of St. John the Baptist	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS	<b>28</b> THE IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BL. V. MARY
<b>29</b> Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles	<b>30</b> The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

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**When a group of dedicated parents ran out of funds before they could complete a new school, missionaries stepped in to help complete St. Kizito Primary School for the children of Kirangwa.**



**Kirangwa, Uganda**



# JULY 2025

***For formation in discernment.*** Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1 Canada Day	2	3 St. Thomas the Apostle	4 St. Elizabeth of Portugal	5 St. Anthony Zaccaria
6 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	7	8	9 St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions	10	11 St. Benedict	12
13 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	14 St. Camillus de Lellis	15 St. Bonaventure	16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel	17	18	19
20 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	21 St. Lawrence of Brindisi	22 St. Mary Magdalene	23 St. Bridget	24	25 St. James the Apostle	26 St. Anne and St. Joachim
27 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	28	29 Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus	30	31 St. Ignatius of Loyola	1	2

JUNE 2025						
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**The community of the Daughters of the Virgin of Los Dolores have been serving in Angola for nearly three decades. They run a boarding school, provide support at the municipal hospital and offer catechesis.**



**Bocoio, Angola**

COURTESY OF THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES SPAIN



# AUGUST 2025

**For mutual coexistence.** Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 St. Alphonsus Liguori	2 St. Eusebius of Vercelli
3 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	4	5	6 The Transfiguration of the Lord	7 St. Sixtus II and Companions St. Cajetan	8 St. Dominic	9
10 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	11	12 St. Jane Frances de Chantal	13 St. Pontian and St. Hippolytus	14 St. Maximillian Mary Kolbe	15 The Assumption of the Bl. Virgin Mary	16
17 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	18	19 St. John Eudes	20 St. Bernard	21 St. Pius X	22 Queenship of the Bl. Virgin Mary	23
24 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	25 St. Louis	26	27	28 St. Augustine	29 The Passion of St. John the Baptist	30
31 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time						

JULY 2025						
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SEPTEMBER 2025						
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**Manuela is a missionary at the San Vicente de Paúl Center for children and adolescents with disabilities.**

**Micomeseng, Equatorial Guinea**

COURTESY OF THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES SPAIN



# SEPTEMBER 2025

***For our relationship with all of creation.*** Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 Labour Day	2	3 St. Gregory the Great	4 Blessed Dina Bélanger	5	6
7 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9	10	11	12 Most Holy Name of Mary	13 St. John Chrysostom
14 THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	15 Our Lady of Sorrows	16 St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian	17 St. Hildegard of Bingen St. Robert Bellarmine	18	19 St. Januarius	20 St. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Paul Chong Ha-Sang, and Companions
21 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	22	23 St. Pio of Pietrelcina	24	25 St. Cosmas and St. Damian	26 St. John de Brebeuf and St. Isaac Jogues and Companions	27 St. Vincent de Paul
28 26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	29 St. Michael, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael	30 St. Jerome	1	2	3	4

AUGUST 2025						
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Bikop, Cameroon

Isabel is a missionary at a hospital run by the Esclavas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús community.



# OCTOBER 2025

***For collaboration between different religious traditions.*** Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1 St. Therese of the Child Jesus	2 The Holy Guadian Angels	3	4 St. Francis of Assisi
5 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	6 St. Bruno Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher	7 Our Lady of the Rosary	8	9 St. Denis and Companions St. John Leonardi	10	11 St. John XXIII
12 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	13 Thanksgiving Day	14 St. Callistus I	15 St. Teresa of Jesus	16 St. Marie-Marguerite D'Youville	17 St. Ignatius of Antioch	18 St. Luke
19 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time <b>WORLD MISSION SUNDAY</b>	20 St. Margaret Mary Alacoque	21	22 St. John Paul II	23 St. John of Capistrano	24 St. Anthony Mary Claret	25
26 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	27	28 St. Simon and St. Jude	29	30	31	1

SEPTEMBER 2025						
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**Alejandro is a Franciscan (OFM) who works with disabled people at a center in South Korea.**



**Gwangju, South Korea**



# NOVEMBER 2025

**For the prevention of suicide.** Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1  ALL SAINTS DAY
2  31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ALL SOULS DAY	3	4  St. Charles Borromeo	5	6	7	8
9 32 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA	10  St. Leo the Great	11  St. Martin of Tours	12  St. Josaphat	13	14	15  St. Albert the Great
16  33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time World Day of the Poor	17  St. Elizabeth of Hungary	18  Dedication of Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul	19	20	21  Presentation of the Bl. Virgin Mary	22  St. Cecilia
23 Christ The King 34 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions	St. Catherine of Alexandria				St. Andrew

OCTOBER 2025						
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Fr. Luigi Filippini and the youth of St. Anthony's Church joyfully sell chocolate as a fundraising activity to help other children around the world.



Thunder Bay, Canada



# DECEMBER 2025

**For Christians in areas of conflict.** Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3 St. Francis Xavier	4 St. John Damascene	5	6 St. Nicholas
7 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	8 The Immaculate Conception	9 St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin	10 Our Lady of Loreto	11 St. Damasus	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 St. Lucy
14 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	26 St. Stephen	27 St. John
28 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	29 St. Thomas Becket	30	31 St. Sylvester I New Year Eve	1	2	3

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30						



## PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

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JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



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**– From Pope Francis' message for World Mission Sunday 2024**

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