

**200th  
Anniversary  
of the Foundation**



**1822**

**May 3**  
The Association of the Propagation of the Faith is officially founded

**150th  
Anniversary  
of his birth**



**1872**

**January 16**  
Blessed Paolo Manna was born in Avellino (Italy)  
**October 31, 1916**  
The Missionary Union of the Clergy is officially founded

**100th  
Anniversary of  
"Pontifical" designation**



**1922**

**May 3**  
Pius XI with *Motu Proprio Romanorum Pontificum*, declares the three Societies "Pontifical"



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# COMMISSIONED

December  
**2022**

*Matthew 28: 18-20*

## Director's Message: Celebratory Year Ends, Mission Does Not

Kim Specht

In this last newsletter before the new year, I would like to take some time to reflect on this past year celebrating the special anniversaries of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

This past year recognized:

- 200th anniversary of the founding of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith
- 150th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Paolo Manna, founder of the Missionary Union
- 100th anniversary of Pope Pius XI's Motu Proprio declaring the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Missionary Childhood Association and Society of St. Peter the Apostle "Pontifical"
- Beatification of Pauline Jaricot, foundress of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on May 22, 2022

In speaking about this special anniversary year for the Pontifical Mission Societies, Pope Francis said in his Message for World Mission Sunday:

"I mention these four Pontifical Mission Societies for their great historical merits, but also to encourage you to rejoice with them, in this special year, for the activities they carry out in support of the mission of evangelization in the Church, both universal and local. It is my hope that the local Churches will find in these Societies a sure means for fostering the missionary spirit among the People of God."

During this past year, our archdiocesan Mission Office kept these words of Pope Francis in our hearts and minds through all we did. We celebrated these anniversaries and directed people in understanding the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies in hopes of stirring up the missionary spirit among all the faithful. We focused our attention on this in our newsletters, at Prayers and Pastries gatherings, and in preparation for this year's World Mission Sunday. Additionally, this special year even led to the inauguration of two new activities to foster the missionary spirit. We hosted a Mission Forum, a gathering for local missionary groups and individuals interested in the missionary work of

the Church to come together to pray, learn more about the Pontifical Mission Societies, and share with one another. Additionally, we co-hosted a 20-week Bible study on the Acts of the Apostles with the Catholic Renewal Center, as Pope Francis has also encouraged those involved with this work to regularly turn to the Acts of the Apostles for prayer and meditation.

As we conclude this special year, I am reminded of the words that Fr. José María Calderón, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies of Spain, spoke at the conclusion of the Extraordinary Missionary Month in October 2019. While this special missionary year has ended, "what cannot end is the impetus that the Holy Spirit has placed in the hearts of Christians. Mission has ceased to be something that belongs to a few. Now it belongs to all Christians." I am grateful for what the Lord has already done in this past year, stirring up the hearts of the faithful in our archdiocese, and I am hopeful to see additional fruits come forth. May all Christians take up the mission.

## Mission Programs

The faithful of the archdiocese are blessed with several opportunities to answer their baptismal call to be “missionary disciples” and participate in the missionary activity of the church through the following programs:

- The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
- The Society of St. Peter the Apostle
- The Missionary Childhood Association
- World Mission Sunday
- The Missionary Plan of Cooperation
- The Daily Worldmissionnaires
- Pan y Amor

For more information on these programs, please visit [www.archstl.org/missions](http://www.archstl.org/missions).

## Mission Office Staff

Kim Specht, Director  
Katie Wegermann, Development Manager  
Reverend Timothy Noelker, Chaplain

# The Vast Scope of the Missionary Childhood Association

*“I am 12 years old. In this year, we went on mission in a community called Santa Maria. Father gave us a missionary cross. We visited small towns, played with children and also taught them catechism. We invite people from the village to come to Mass. We also teach children and babies to sing songs of Our Lady and God. We prayed the holy rosary with them and they learned how to pray.” – Rhonda, in Peru*

Throughout the world there are children, like Rhonda, who desire to not only grow in their faith, but share it with others. In many mission dioceses, this opportunity is available to them largely through the support of the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA).

The Missionary Childhood Association, also known as Holy Childhood in many parts of the world, was founded when Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson called upon the children of France to pray one Hail Mary and sacrifice a penny for children in China, many of whom were dying without having been baptized. Since 1843, this Pontifical Mission Society has grown and adopted the motto: “children evangelizing children, children praying for the children, children helping children worldwide.”

The scope and impact of the Missionary Childhood Association varies country to country, even dioceses to dioceses. In the Diocese of Barishal, Bangladesh, home to 5,188 elementary-aged children, MCA animators attend trainings conducted by their



### Christmas Day

# 25

The Mission Office of the Archdiocese of St. Louis wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



### The Epiphany of the Lord

# 8

“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” Mt 2:2  
In many countries this is the day of celebration for the Missionary Childhood Association.

# Witness & Proclaim

## QUARTERLY MISSION CHALLENGE TO LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH:

Pray this prayer to ask Blessed Pauline Jaricot’s intercession:

Lord,

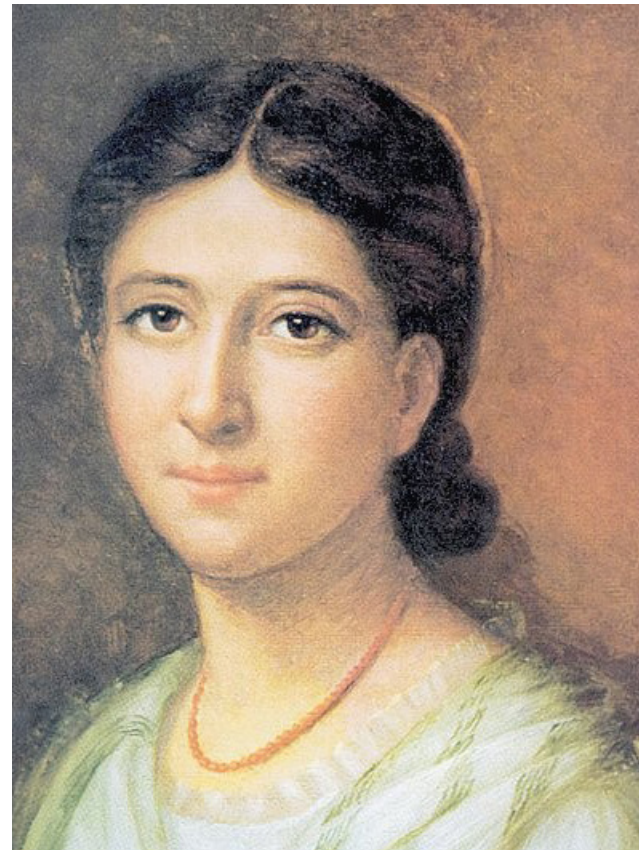
You came to earth that men might have life and have it abundantly. Pauline-Marie Jaricot devoted herself entirely to this work which is Yours.

She established the Propagation of Faith for the multitudes who do not know Life, the Living Rosary for those who do not have it in its abundance.

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, you who dedicated your life to spreading the Kingdom of Christ by serving God and men, intercede for us and may God deign to grant us the grace that we humbly ask.

Amen.

Prayer provided by the PMS in France <http://paulinejaricot.opm-france.org/>





national office of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Upon their return, they not only teach the children about the Bible, offer altar boy training, share about vocations, and ensure the local children attend Mass and receive the Sacraments regularly, but they also teach them about proper hygiene and studying techniques for school. Meanwhile in the parish of St. Joseph Vanga in the Diocese of Kole, Democratic Republic of the Congo, children receive teachings under a shaded grove of trees, then walk home singing songs of praise, much to the delight of the people in their communities.

Here in the United States, the Missionary Childhood Association’s main goal is to instill a missionary spirit within children, guiding them in prayer and sacrifice for other children around the world. Not only do the children’s prayers, sacrifices, and financial offerings help make a faith-filled difference for children continents away, they make them missionaries today. In the Archdiocese of St. Louis, free classroom supplies and presentations, as well as supplementary materials, are made available each month to help foster this missionary mindset among students. All schools, homeschools, and parish schools of religion are invited to participate in MCA, and anyone can support this vital Pontifical Mission Society.

To learn more or to request our newly designed mite boxes, rosaries, or a presentation for your students this Advent season, please visit [www.archstl.org/MCA](http://www.archstl.org/MCA) or call us at (314) 792-7655.



## Your Legacy to the World: The Gospel

It’s never too late to share the Gospel, and your legacy gift enables missionaries around the world to do just that!

If you already have a will, a quick phone call to your attorney is all you’ll need to add a charitable gift.

Call us today at (314) 792-7655 for more information.

## Did You Know?

Using your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for charitable giving can help reduce your tax burden. A qualified charitable distribution from your IRA can help satisfy your RMD and can also be excluded from your taxable income (up to \$100,000).



25

### Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle

“Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” Mk 16:15



6

### Memorial of St. Paul Miki & Companions

“They laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak; and as many as touched it were healed.” Mk 6:56

## Congratulations to Our Local MCA Christmas Artwork Contest Winners!

Congratulations to Jillian K. and Aiden L., national winners in the Missionary Childhood Association’s 2021-2022 Christmas Artwork Contest!

Each year, the National Office of the Pontifical Mission Societies holds a Christmas artwork contest. Twenty-four national winners are selected, including two grand-prize winners. This year’s contest winners were selected in the spring of 2022 and are being recognized right now during the Advent/Christmas Seasons.

On December 2nd, winners and their families were invited to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. for an awards presentation, followed by Mass and lunch. Additionally, an exhibit of all winning artwork is on display at the National Shrine through the 2022 Advent/Christmas Seasons.

In St. Louis, Archbishop Rozanski and the Mission Office recognized these winners at World Mission Sunday Mass, and their artwork is on display in the lobby of the Cardinal Rigali Center through the 2022 Advent/Christmas Seasons. Jillian and Aiden, congratulations again on your achievement!

Any K-8 student is invited to participate in this annual Christmas artwork contest. If you would like more information on the contest rules and guidelines, please visit [www.archstl.org/mca](http://www.archstl.org/mca).



By Aiden L.



By Jillian K.



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*"I encourage everyone to support missionaries with prayer and concrete solidarity, so that they may continue their work of evangelization and human promotion throughout the world."*

Pope Francis

## Catholic Church Statistics

Every year Fides News Service releases statistics that provide an overview of the missionary Church around the world. These statistics are taken from the latest edition of the Church's Book of Statistics, which is updated to 12/31/20:

- In a world of 7.67 billion people, the number of Catholics recorded was nearly 1.36 billion, increasing by about 15 million from the previous year.
- The total number of mission dioceses dependent on the Dicastery for Evangelization are 1,118. This means mission dioceses comprise almost 37% of all dioceses!
- Most of the mission dioceses entrusted to the Dicastery are in Africa (518) and Asia (483), followed by America (71) and Oceania (46).
- Overall, the total number of priests in the world decreased to 410,219. However, the number of non-religious priests increased to 50,569.
- The total number of major and minor seminarians in the world decreased to 111,855 and 95,398. Although, the number of permanent deacons has increased to 48,635.
- The number of women religious decreased to 619,546.

To view more of these statistics, visit [Fides.org](http://Fides.org) searching "Catholic Church Statistics 2022"

## Church Continues to Flourish Despite Adversity



While the number of Catholics worldwide increased by 15 million in 2020, Africa, alone, welcomed nearly 5.3 million new believers. Meanwhile, as the number of priests, religious, and seminarians decreased on almost nearly every continent, vocations in Africa continued to increase by 1,004 diocesan priests, 103 non-diocesan priests, 907 major seminarians, 375 minor seminarians, 559 lay missionaries, and nearly 15,000 catechists. This trend of growth is nothing new, according to Fides, the official news agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies. They explain,

*"[Africa] A continent of first evangelization, still entrusted to the care of the Missionary Dicastery and the support of the Pontifical Mission Societies, expresses the vitality of the Church in contexts which would seem to be in total contrast to the flowering of the words of the Gospel: wars, emigration, hunger, corruption, human trafficking, terrorism, kidnappings, violence.. Some of these young people experience poverty, become sensitive to the suffering of the needy, the sick, the voiceless, the abandoned, the humiliated, and feel deep within themselves the call to totally consecrate their lives at the service of these people. Having experienced the pain of difficult situations, they have acquired the capacity for silence, reflection, personal culture, spiritual life, prayer. They are more willing to listen to God's discreet and gentle call for their 'availability'."*

As mentioned by Fides, the Church and all of its dioceses of Africa, except those in Egypt, are entrusted to the care and support of the Pontifical Mission Societies. As their Catholic population and vocations continue to increase, so do the financial needs of their dioceses, parishes, seminaries, schools, and religious communities. As so, the Pontifical Mission Societies strives to meet these needs through the generous support offered by the faithful throughout the world for the Mission Church. This material support is essential to ensuring these faith communities cannot only survive, but thrive, and the Church can continue to grow worldwide.