



PONTIFICIUM OPUS A SANCTA INFANTIA
SECRETARIATUS INTERNATIONALIS



FEBRUARY 2023 - N. 13

BULLE IN



HOLY CHILDHOOD AND THE HOLY SEE

THE VOICE OF THE CHILDREN



MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER
N.13 - FEBRUARY 2023

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Photographs: Archives PSMC, Diocese of
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Cover picture:
National Office PMS Archives PSMC

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NOVODAYA MISSION

CHEPANG INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY OF NEPAL



The Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood helps discover and live out one's sense of belonging to the universal Church and thus the responsibility that comes with it by virtue of our baptism. We are members of one body. We are called to be one as the three Persons of the Holy Trinity. The Society's slogan, *"children evangelizing children, children praying for the children, children helping children worldwide,"* highlights the bond that exists between children and youth from different countries through prayer, faith, and friendship with Jesus, who is the One who creates communion among them and among us.

We are referring to the ecclesial communion that is born from the encounter with Jesus and that children and young people can experience thanks to the charism and initiatives of the Society, initiatives that should always have an educational aim and favor the experience of being Church, of being a community of believers in Christ. Unity is educated, and to enter into communion with each other requires skills that must be honed day by day. Communion is to be desired, sought, cultivated, and nurtured, by forming and exercising in our humanity the virtues and attitudes that foster it.

Moreover, communion is synonymous with union and sharing of the diverse gifts we have received.

The **prayer, sacrifice** and **offering** missionary children and youth are invited to might appear to be simple individual deeds. However, in reality, it is the meeting as a group and the sharing of the experiences and commitments made and realized that nourishes their communal and universal dimension. Therefore, even the events organized at the diocesan and national level, such as the Missionary Children's Day, can help children and youth discover that other children and youth believe in Jesus and are willing, with joy, to bear witness to their faith, and to offer sacrifices, prayers, and even material goods for the benefit of others, following the example of Him who gave His life for us.

The slogan of the Society emphasizes the protagonism of children by helping them to understand that there are other children around the world: some are Christians, some do not know Jesus, and some are struggling economically (health, school, food, etc.). Communion is what fosters and promotes openness, dialogue, in the desire that others may partake in the good one has received.

In this issue, we will continue the presentation of some texts regarding the Pontiffs St. John XXIII and St. Paul VI, and the Society of the Holy Childhood. We thank the Lord because, even before its foundation in 1843, the Holy Childhood was considered Pontifical. In fact, throughout its history, the Popes, who – beyond the financial aspect – recognized the Society's educational and pastoral dimension, have always had a benevolent and solicitous consideration for it.

I would like to invite you to read attentively the articles that contain the Society's testimonies and experiences in the various local contexts and to share them with others in order to contemplate the goodness of the Lord and of man, when he fulfills the image according to which he was created.

We have recently begun the season of Lent, an auspicious time to nourish our missionary nature and spirituality. In fact, more than ever during this time, the call to offer prayers, sacrifice, and almsgiving in order to convert more and more into missionary disciples is pressing. In his Message for Lent, Pope Francis states, *"The Lenten journey of penance and the journey of the Synod alike have as their goal a transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial. A transformation that, in both cases, has its model in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery.... Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendor and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations."*



SR. ROBERTA TREMARELLI

Secretary General Pontifical Society Missionary Childhood



JOHN XXIII

(1958 -1963)

1958

Supplication to His Holiness John XXIII - November 4

Holy Father

Prostrate at the feet of Your Holiness, the President of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood, expressing the unanimous good wishes of the Superior Council, begs You to deign to maintain for the Society the distinguished privilege, which is proper to it, of the benevolence of His Holiness Pius XII, to be granted the other protection of the Supreme Pontiff.

This privilege, the loss of which would be painfully felt, has been favorable to the progress of the Society, which has been considerable in the course of this Pontificate.

The requested favor would support this progress, and the news, which has just been spread, would be an incomparable encouragement to all those who work for the Holy Childhood and the unnamed multitude of children.

We ask Your Holiness to grant the Apostolic Blessing to the suppliant, the Superior Council and all the members of the Society.

Monsignor Adrien Bressolles



A FEW DAYS LATER MONSIGNOR BRESSOLLES RECEIVED THE ANSWER:

SECRETARIAT OF STATE

of His Holiness N° 210

From the Vatican, November 10

Monsignor,

I have the pleasure of notifying you that the Holy Father has deigned to reserve the best reception for the filial request that you presented to Him in your letter of the 4th of this month, and that He willingly accepts, like His predecessor of venerable memory Pius XII, the high protection of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood.

Delighted to inform you of this august disposition, I beg you to accept, Monsignor, the assurance of my devoted sentiments in Our Lord.

Signed D. Tardini

Annals Holy Childhood
Vol. CII N.562 of 1958



1960

SECRETARIAT OF STATE of His Holiness
N° 42 787

From the Vatican, 25 August

Illustrious and Most Rev. Monsignor Pietro ERCOLE National Director for Italy and Vice-President General of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood Rome.

Most illustrious and most reverend Lord, the magnificent offer for St. Peter's Pence (10 million lire), which, with exemplary generosity, the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood wished to present to the Holy Father through Your Most Illustrious and Most Reverend Lordship, aroused profound consolation in his soul. The continuous testimonies of fidelity and devotion that flow towards the August Pontiff from all parts of the world are an occasion for moving gratitude for Him. His feelings become even more intense when the proof of this concrete attachment reaches him from the large family of the Missionary Institutions among which the Holy Childhood Society occupies a favorite place in his paternal heart.

In fact, through its eloquent homage, it demonstrated once again to His Holiness that its members, scattered all over the world and fraternally united in a single ideal missionary flame, do not limit themselves merely to devoting themselves in prayer, sacrifice and action for the realization of their purpose but, by a fervent gesture of love, want to make a conspicuous contribution to the Pope's universal charity every year.

Therefore, the Vicar of Jesus, wishes to declare to His much beloved Sons all His satisfaction with their devotion, which makes them ever closer to His thought and affection. He begs you to make yourself the interpreter of His thought to the Most Illustrious and Most Reverend President General and to all those who are members of the Society. At the same time, He assures them that He will not stop praying to God so that He may assist them and develop their magnanimous group ever more, that He may sustain their efforts and crown their holy labors with success and merit.

The Holy Father entrusts the realization of these views to the maternal intercession of Mary, Queen of the Missions. As a pledge of His special benevolence He grants to the President General, to you, his tireless collaborator, the National Directors and associates of the Society, the comfort of His Apostolic blessing.

I take advantage of the occasion to renew to Your Most Illustrious and Reverend Lordship my sentiments of heartfelt esteem and devotion to Our Lord.

Signed Cardinal Tardini



**Pope John XXIII with His. Em. the Cardinal
Domenico Tardini**

*Annals Holy Childhood,
Vol. CIV n. 564 of 1960*



HOLY CHILDHOOD AND THE HOLY SEE

SINCE THE ELECTION OF PAUL VI, MONSIGNOR BRESSOLLES ASKED HIS HOLINESS TO TAKE UNDER HIS PROTECTION, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF HIS PREDECESSORS, THE PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILDHOOD.

PAUL VI, WHO ON OTHER OCCASIONS, AS SUBSTITUTE AT THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE, HAD HAD NUMEROUS CONTACTS WITH OUR PRESIDENT, DEIGNED TO ACCORD THE MOST FAVORABLE RECEPTION TO THIS REQUEST.

*Annals Holy Childhood
Vol. CVII n. 567 of 1963*

PAUL VI

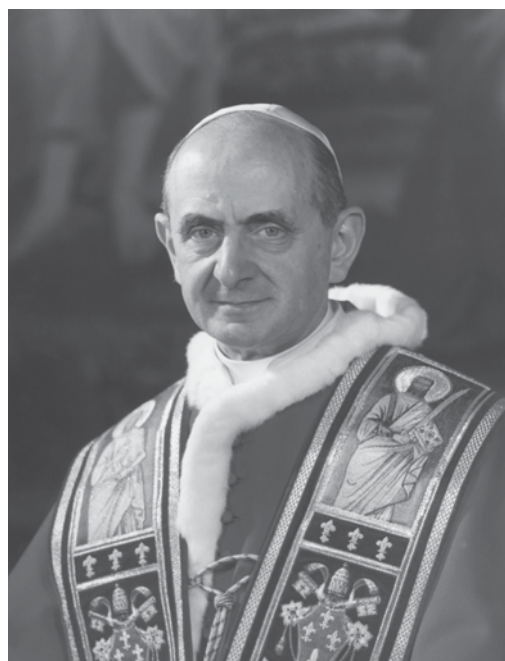
(1963 -1978)

1964

THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE HOLY CHILDHOOD IN AUDIENCE BY THE HOLY FATHER AND TO THE SACRED CONGREGATION OF PROPAGANDA FIDE

At the end of the work of their Annual Assembly, 23 members of the Superior Council of the Holy Childhood took a plane to Rome where His Holiness Pope Paul VI, supreme protector of the Society, deigned to grant them an audience, set for Saturday, June 27.

On the eve, they paid a visit to the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide to present their respects to His Eminence Cardinal Agagianian, Prefect of the Dicastery who, in the mass of last January, had had the goodness to visit them at the headquarters of the Society in Paris. His Eminence, who had with him His Excellency Monsignor Sigismondi, Secretary of Propaganda, received them with great benevolence and expressed his best encouragement.



THE FOLLOWING DAY THE AUDIENCE OF THE HOLY FATHER TOOK PLACE.

ADDRESS BY MONSIGNOR BRESSOLLES

Holy Father,

I would like to be able to express how touched and grateful the Superior Council of the Holy Childhood is for an audience that you had the goodness to grant it. We are aware that it falls in one of the busiest weeks, and we appreciate its value all the more.

I solicited this meeting with great hesitation, making a point of adding even more to this superhuman burden that Providence has placed on Your shoulders. In the end I dared, because of the memory I have of the benevolence from which I have already benefited and which I know is tireless.

I hope I am not being indiscreet in recalling, to tell You, Most Holy Father, my gratitude and the unforgettable memory I have of the times when Monsignor Montini, Substitute at the Secretariat of State, who kindly acted



as intermediary between the humble prelate President of the Holy Childhood and the Pope, this great Pius XII of such a sharp intelligence, so penetrating, so vast, of such an open heart always ready to “serve” and “help”. What a comfort to find in his successor the best traits of this high spiritual physiognomy!

I also dared, because of the great good I expect from this audience, for the members of the Council, for all the leaders of the Society at all levels, who work with such perseverance and dedication, it is a reward and an encouragement. For the whole Society it is an incomparable recommendation, both to the Christian people and the Episcopate, whose good will is indispensable to our progress and which does not always give this Children’s Society the attention we believe it deserves. The invocation of Your Holiness’ other patronage makes up for the weakness of our voice.

The Superior Council is not complete here, but the delegation is very numerous to give a fairly faithful picture of the Assembly as a whole.

The Superior Council includes different categories of members.

In the first place, the National Directors of the Society, which are not all - are 42 in the world, including three bishops - today the Directors of the main contributing nations, elected by the Council. They are 15: Germany, England, Australia, Belgium, French-speaking Canada, English-speaking Canada, Spain, United States, France, Holland, India, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland.

Secondly, the representatives, equally elected, of the major missionary Congregations.

Thirdly, the Counselors-Speakers who, before the Council, summarize and support the reports sent by the missionary Bishops and propose the sums to be allocated.

Thanks to this great and conscientious work of all, the progress of the Society is remarkable and constant. Revenues are growing annually from 200 to 250 million old francs (221 million this year). The total of the sums collected in 1963 was 3 billion and 678 million old francs, or 7,506,000 dollars (sums 8 times higher than 15 years ago).

This movement of income is the most indisputable sign of the vitality of the Society, but it does not say the essential.

The Holy Childhood is not a charity.

Article 1 of the Statutes is expressed as follows:

Opus Pontificium a Sancta Infantia hunc finem sibi proponit ut missionariam conscientiam catholicorum infantium conformet et eorum precibus et mortificationibus et eleemosynis auxilium atque christianam educationem praestet infantibus in regionibus Missionum.

It is a great apostolic and missionary breath that the Holy Childhood breathes on all the Christian children in the world and if one consider that the deepest aptitudes of the soul are manifested in the first 10 years of life, that especially almost all vocations (even those defined as late vocations and which are, in reality delayed vocations) have their origin in childhood, the Society of the Holy Childhood appears as an abundant source of spiritual life, a sower of vocations.

This is what the Society is, in full expansion, which I have the honor to present to Your Holiness to receive guidance, encouragement and blessings from You. May it please God that this age when everything is questioned, this fruitful Society will not be endangered. We entrust ourselves, Most Holy Father, to Your paternal solicitude.

For our part, we will pray with great fervor and make these little ones, the Lord’s beloved and powerful ones in His heart, pray for His Holiness Pope Paul VI to whom God has entrusted, at a very serious and difficult situation, his Church. May He preserve it, defend it, assist it.

Our firm hope rests in You, Your Holiness.

Mons. Adrien Bressolles



HOLY CHILDHOOD AND THE HOLY SEE

ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER

We welcome the Superior Council of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood which, due to the variety of origins of its members, reflects very well the catholicity of the Church. To the National Directors present here, who have come from the most diverse places, We wholeheartedly offer Our cordial greetings of welcome. The Holy Childhood honorably occupies its place among the Pontifical Mission Societies. Not only is it the bearer of a glorious past, but it has also shown itself capable, and we are happy to acknowledge it, of adapting itself to the present conditions of the apostolate and to the needs arising from it. Its contribution to the maintenance and development of schools and catechists in mission lands over the past few years has been remarkable and has very conveniently joined the missionary effort of the Church.

Thanks to your devotion and wise administration, the Society is developing year by year, continually expanding the field of its charitable interventions.

We rejoice in this with your zealous President, whom we have known and esteemed for so many long years, and express to all Our heartfelt satisfaction and paternal encouragement.

And, as a pledge of the divine assistance We invoke upon you, your activities and all the associates and benefactors of the Holy Childhood, we grant you with great joy an Apostolic Blessing.

To his written speech, the Holy Father added a lengthy improvisation so full of insightful interest in the Society, so visibly animated by the desire to help it grow further for the good of the Church, that all members present were greatly touched. In conclusion, His Holiness said he was strongly touched by the promise made by the President to ask these thousands of children whom the Society enrolls or assists, to pray for the Pope.

Annals Holy Childhood
Vol. CVIII n. 568 of 1964

1968

LETTER OF HIS EMINENCE THE CARDINAL AGAGIANIAN PREFECT OF THE SACRED CONGREGATION OF PROPAGANDA TO THE PRESIDENT OF HOLY CHILDHOOD

SACRA CONGREGATIO PRO GENTIUM EVANGELIZATIONE SEU DE PROPAGANDA FIDE

PROT. 3707/68

Rome, 5 July

Monsignor,

with the letter dated June 29th you wished to inform me of the meeting of the Superior General Council of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood, which was held in Paris from June 24 to 26 last. I hasten to thank you for this communication of which I have taken note with great interest. The presence at this meeting of a delegate of our Congregation inaugurates, as you yourself are pleased to point out, a closer collaboration of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood with our Dicastery charged by the Second Vatican Council with "launching and coordinating an effective collection of resources that will be distributed taking into account the need or usefulness or extension, the number of faithful and non-believers, works, institutes and missionaries.

I fully agree with your point of view on the need to emphasize the fundamental place that our Pontifical Mission Societies must have in minds of all. Is it not clearly stated in the conciliar decree "Ad Gentes divinitus?" "It is to these Societies, we read, "that first place must rightfully be attributed, since they are a means of instilling in Catholics, from childhood, a truly universal and missionary spirit and of giving rise to an efficient collection of subsidies in favor of all the missions, according to the need of each". And how can we not emphasize that the Society you preside over is called, better than any other, to give Christians this universal and missionary spirit "since childhood".



Allow me also, Monsignor, to congratulate you on the magnificent devotion with which you occupy the Presidency of the Superior Council of the Holy Childhood. And I would also like to join in the gratitude of this S.C. for the Evangelization of the World for all that it does for the missions, for the priests and laity who accompany you, whether they are members of the Superior General Council, or your collaborators in the financial and juridical committees of the Society, or donors whose generosity is to be commended. Please accept, Monsignor, the expression of my distinguished consideration and the assurance of my feelings of sincere devotion,



on the right, Cardinal Agagianian

G. P. Card. AGAGIANIAN
Prefect

Annals Holy Childhood
Vol. CXII n. 572 of 1968

1969

Letter of Pape Paul VI to Msgr. Adrien Bressolles, President of the Superior Council of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood

*To our dear son Adrien Bressolles**

President of the Superior Council of the Pontifical Work of the Holy Childhood

The letter that brought us Your wishes on the threshold of the New Year also made us aware of Your intention to pass soon into other hands the presidency of the Pontifical Work of the Holy Childhood, which for so many years you have secured with such enlightened zeal.

On this occasion, we wish to express to you personally our appreciation for the exemplary way in which you have fulfilled this important responsibility. The progressive expansion of the Work and the regular growth of the support it has given to the Missions under Your direction, testify the wisdom and effectiveness of this direction, and while they constitute an honorific title for Her, they are for us reason for joy and consolation. But what we wish to emphasize above all is Your sense of the Church and the deeply priestly spirit with which you have carried out this ministry. We find further proof of it in the elegance with which you now show your readiness to leave it to devote yourself more to prayer than to action.

We are confident that God will bless this purpose and we ask Him to let You taste His peace and his joy in this retreat of the "Good and Faithful Servant," in which our best wishes accompany you and whose fruitfulness we wish to assure you by granting you, with paternal affection, the Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, January 25.
PAUL VI PP.

** Msgr. Bressolles submitted his resignation to the Holy See, which accepted it - On 17 february 1969, the Superior Council of the Holy Childhood met to elect a new president - The choice will have to be approved by the Supreme Pontiff.*



HOLY CHILDHOOD AND THE HOLY SEE

To our Venerable Brother Julien Gouet Titular Bishop of Augurus, President of the Superior Council of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood.

We are happy to express to you, as well as to the members of the Superior Council of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood, our deep satisfaction and our paternal encouragement for the apostolic action that this Pontifical Society strives to pursue, taking into account today's Christian sensitivity.

We express our gratitude even more willingly because the Council you preside over has made available, at your suggestion, an important sum taken from the 1969 financial year which allows us to respond to the most urgent needs that have been presented to us personally. This generous and filial gesture touched us greatly and we ask you to be the interpreter, with all those responsible, of our heartfelt gratitude.[...]

Extract from a communication dated February 24, 1969 by Cardinal Agagianian Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples or of Propaganda Fide,

Grégoire Pierre, Cardinal Agagianian, Prefect

Sergio Pignedoli, Archbishop of Iconio, Secretary

1970

LETTER OF PAUL VI TO HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL AGAGIANIAN PREFECT OF THE SACRED CONGREGATION OF PROPAGANDA

How could we not be sensitive to such an initiative in this Christmas season, which has made us enter even more into communion with the mystery of the Child God? By reaching out to the poor or abandoned children entrusted to the dedication of missionaries, your gift is addressed to the Lord himself who became flesh and took upon Himself the burden of our miseries, with a very special predilection for children. This generosity is all the more touching because it comes largely from the children themselves who, in this way, enter into even more concrete communion with their young brothers and sisters throughout the world. It is precisely this educational aspect that you want to promote more and more, and we encourage it wholeheartedly. Certainly the material needs of the children from disadvantaged populations urgently call for help and sharing and many Associations - and we rejoice in this - are concerned, nowadays, with competence and effectiveness. However, spiritual needs are no less urgent and it is up to you, in a particular way, to make Christians become increasingly aware of them. Is it not true that all must give and receive, in the admirable exchange of the communion of saints, and draw from the same source of grace and love?

And this is how we wholeheartedly urge you to intensify the worthy action of your Society among the children of all countries, to invite them to pray, to offer, to sacrifice, to share, to give thanks in union with their brothers in the world and as an echo of Christ's prayer and action, of which they are the beloved members. It is with these sentiments that, invoking upon the directors of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood and all its members, the graces of the Savior, we address them all, and first of all to you yourself, Venerable Brother, who currently assures its direction with much zeal, our paternal apostolic blessing.

From the Vatican, February 16

PAUL VI PP.

in "Documentation Catholique" n° 67 (1970)



The Cardinal Agagianian giving the blessing

COMMUNION

AS A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT AS MEMBERS OF THE ONE BODY AND OF THE CHURCH

WALKING TOGETHER

The Church of God is living the synodal journey desired by Pope Francis in the individual diocesan churches and throughout the universal Church. Such a journey, in the words of the Pope himself, is what “God expects from the Church of the third millennium”. It is an itinerary, which fits into the wake of the updating of the Church, proposed by the Second Vatican Council, and for this reason it represents both a gift and a task. By walking together, and reflecting together on the path taken, the Church will be able to learn from what she will experience, which processes will be able to help her to live communion, realize participation and to open herself up to mission.

Our “walking together”, in fact, is what most implements and manifests the nature of the Church as a pilgrim and missionary People of God.

COMMUNION - THE CIRCLE

Communion is one of the three dimensions (*communion*, *participation* and *mission*) of the synodal Church, which are deeply interconnected. They are the vital pillars of a synodal Church without any hierarchical order between them, rather each enriches and orients the other two. As the Pope reminded us: “We live this Synod in the spirit of the prayer that Jesus addressed heartily to the Father for his followers: *“That they may all be*



Sister Inês Paulo Albino ASC

one” (cf. Jn 17:21).

To speak of the Church as an element of communion we need to refer to images or similarities: I like to think of the image of the circle or of a body (cf. 1Cor 6,12-20, 1Cor 10,14-22, 1Cor 12, 4-27 (vv.12-27); Gal 6,15; 2 Cor 5,17).

The *circle* has no vertex, every part of it is equidistant from the center. All of us are part of this figure, each with his or her own well-defined role, but identical in importance to the others; if one of the parts of the circle is broken, for example, represented by the pope, bishops, priests, deacons, the lay faithful, the whole circle is damaged, as well as if the part of any other member is broken. In the Church, each person lives together with

others and each role is with a view to service and communion.

COMMUNION - THE BODY

The other image is the *body*. In order to represent the Church, St. Paul uses the similitude of the body. *"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit"* (see 1 Cor 12:13). This is an entirely new image. The concept of the "People of God," belongs to the Old Testament (cf. Gen 12, 1-5; Ex 38,8-10; Am 8,11), and is taken up and enriched in the New, with the image of the "body of Christ" (cf. 1 Cor 12, 4-27), which, moreover, the Second Vatican Council took up and gave greater vigor when speaking of the Church.

In fact, "Communion" designates the mystery of the Church. The Second Vatican Council made it clear that communion expresses the very nature of the Church and, at the same time, affirmed that the Church has received "the mission of proclaiming and establishing in all nations the kingdom of Christ and of God, and of this kingdom it constitutes on earth the seed and the beginning", (cf. LG 5)

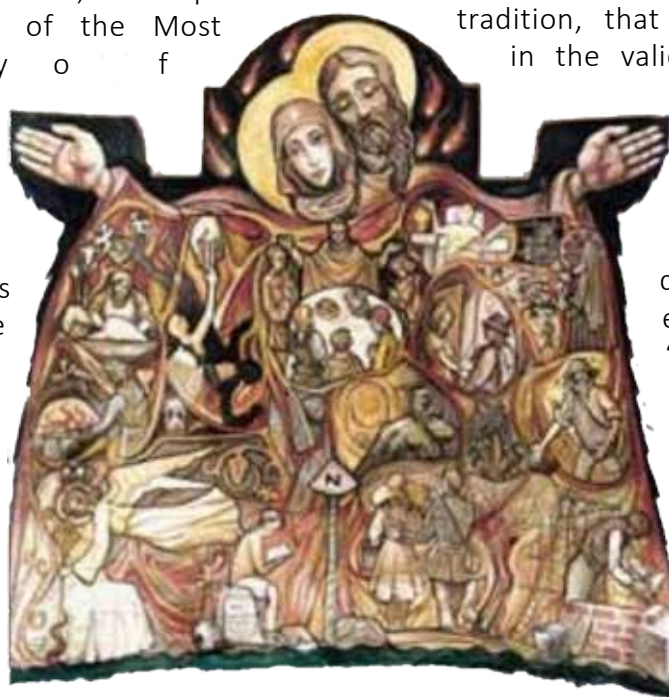
The Church, living communion, contemplates and imitates the life of the Most Holy Trinity, mystery of communion

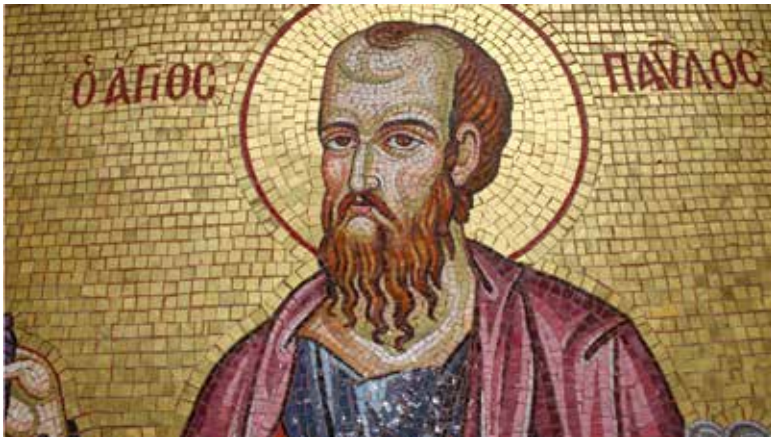
ad intra and source of mission ad extra. After a time of doctrinal, theological and pastoral reflections that characterized the reception of Vatican II, St. Paul VI condensed his teaching into precisely these two words - communion and mission, which seem to be "the main lines enunciated by

the Council". Commemorating its opening, he stated in fact that the general lines had been "communion, that is, cohesion and interior fullness, in grace, in truth, in collaboration [...] and mission, that is, apostolic commitment to the contemporary world" (Angelus, October 11, 1970). Closing the Synod of 1985, twenty years after the conclusion of the conciliar assembly, Saint John Paul II also reiterated this concept by saying that, the nature of the Church is "*koinonia*", since from it flows the mission of being a sign of intimate union of the human family with God. He added: "It is highly advisable that ordinary and, when necessary, also extraordinary Synods should be celebrated in the Church" which, in order to bear fruit, must be well prepared: "that is, it is necessary that the local Churches work on their preparation with the participation of all" (Address at the conclusion of the II Extraordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, December 7, 1985).

We can say that this image has no precedent in the Old Testament, it is found only in the Pauline letters. In fact, **1 Cor 12:12-27** is a text that has been studied extensively by exegetes and theologians of our century in its Pauline origin, in the patristic and theological tradition, that derives from it, and in the validity it also possesses

for presenting the Church today. It was also assumed by the Papal Magisterium, even Pope Pius XII dedicated a memorable encyclical, entitled "*Mystici corporis Christi*" (1943). However, it should be noted that in the Pauline letters we do not find the term "*mystic*". The Pauline letters speak of the





ECCLESIA COMMUNION

Ecclesia communion requires greater responsibility of those members that are stronger in relation to those that are weaker “Indeed those members of the body that seem weaker need more attention and care” (cf 1 Cor 12:22). The multiplicity of members is a great richness and makes us grow in openness and respect toward what is different, to welcome the newness of God, moreover, it gives us the opportunity to start

afresh from the *periphery* towards the centre, to go out of ourselves to go towards others (the Church that goes forth to which Pope Francis invites us). All this demands from us formative paths that lead us to take care of our relationships of fraternity/communion and to open ourselves to the time of narratives, to the time of wise and deep listening and finally to the time of new gestation, so that, the variety of functions does not harm unity, and on the other hand unity does not nullify or destroy the multiplicity and variety of members and functions.

Synodality is teaching us that it is time and a

“body of Christ”, and with a comparison with the human body. In fact, the Apostle writes: “as the body, although one, has many members, and all the members, although many, are one body, so also is Christ” (cf. 1Cor 12:12). Here, the Apostle Paul emphasizes the **unity** and at the same time the multiplicity that is proper to the Church: *“For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another”* (cf. Rom 12:4-5).

In my opinion, unlike the concept of “People of God” which seems to emphasize multiplicity, that of “body of Christ” instead underlines unity in multiplicity, indicating above all the principle and source of this unity: **Christ**: “You are Christ’s body and his members” (cf. 1 Cor 12:27). And again “so we, though many, are one body in Christ” (cf. Rom 12:5). The body is the organism which expresses the need for cooperation between the individual organs and members in the unity of the whole, thus composed and ordered, according to Saint Paul, “so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another” (cf. 1 Cor 12:25).



need to live intensely in communion with one another, to live in “biological” harmony with one another and with the whole creation, which, transferred, by way of analogy, into ecclesiological discourse, indicates the need for solidarity, for approximation among all members of the community- Church. In fact, the Apostle writes: “If one member suffers, all the members suffer together; and if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with him” (cf. 1Cor 12:26).

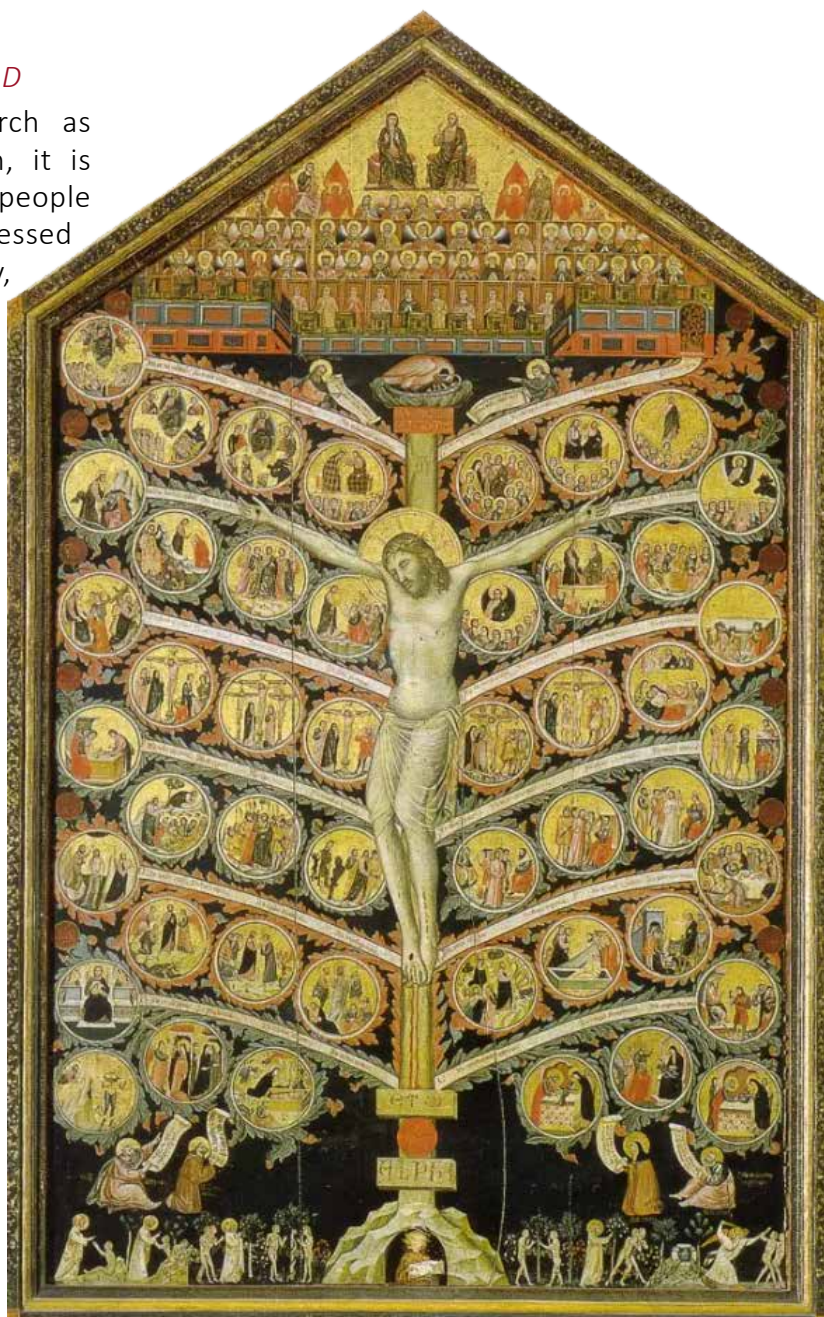
BODY OF CHRIST AND PEOPLE OF GOD

Regarding the concept of the Church as the “body of Christ”, in my opinion, it is complementary to the concept of the “people of God”. It is the same reality, expressed in two aspects: unity and multiplicity, and with two different analogies: body and members. The analogy of the body highlights the unity of life, while that of the members highlights the multiplicity, the universality of the Church. The members of the Church are united among themselves on the basis of the principle of unity in the same life that comes from Christ. “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?” (cf. 1 Cor 6:15). This is spiritual life, that is, life in the Holy Spirit, so as we read in the conciliar constitution on the Church, “by communicating his Spirit, [Christ] causes his brethren, called out from among all the nations, to constitute his mystical body” (cf LG 7).

With the same missionary ardor, let us ask the Lord to teach us to live true communion in order to be able to hand over to our brothers and sisters the richness of unity and communion that comes from You, Supreme unity and in Trinity, and that we only have to administer. May the Synod be

the favorable space in which all of this is accomplished for us and for the entire Church called to a new missionary zeal.

I wish everyone a Good Mission!





CAMBODJA

PREFETTURA APOSTOLICA DI BATTAMBANG

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PET YIEY CHEE

The apostolic prefecture of Battambang comprises 9 provinces north-west of Cambodia with an estimated population of more or less 5 million. Across the prefecture, there are many children and youth who are part of the daily activities of the church. The prefecture runs 21 Kindergarten schools and there are at least 4 primary and secondary catholic schools within its geographical territory. There are at least 10 student centers run by the prefecture and by religious congregations which caters to children coming from poor families in the far-flung villages - to help the children and youth have a better education. We also have an orphanage and a center for disabled children and youth. These children and youth mostly come from Buddhist background but actively participate in our daily church activities. It is because of these youth and children that we have a continuous growth in number of Catholics in Cambodia.



Every year, we organize a whole day activity on international children's day. Annually, we also have month-long catechism camps for children in the different parishes of the prefecture. During Sundays, we have catechism and bible classes for children. Sunday afternoons we have oratory programs for -children organized by religious sisters and lay volunteers. Children also receive moral and ethical formation based on Gospel values. Once a year, we also have parish-based prayer retreat for children.

ANNUAL CATECHISM CAMP FOR CHILDREN

Month-long catechism program for children during summer school holiday. This parish-based program is run with the help of the parish catechists and youth volunteers (catholic youth who are in high school or university studies).

At least once a year, we organize a whole day prayer recollection/retreat for children, which includes activities, such as prayer



and discernment workshop for children to learn early in life how to pray and discern how to make right choices. Children also learn to pray using the Bible.

SUNDAY CATECHISM

The Sunday catechisms is a great way to educate the children about the Catholic faith and the Church. It is also a way to form the children in values of cooperation, discipline, mindfulness, and sharing. The Sunday catechism program also allows children a chance to meet each other and to form bonds of friendships. Considering that, many of the children, which participates in the Sunday catechism, are not only children coming from Catholic families but also children coming from Buddhists background, who, in many cases decide to become Catholics when they become adults.

It is a good way to educate the children about the Catholic faith through parables and other Bible stories, in such a way that they begin to know and love Jesus and the Church. Also for teaching them to take care and love the environment, such as, planting flowers and trees, proper garbage disposal, etc. Many of our Volunteer Catechists are the youth (who are in their Senior High School or University studies), thus, the Sunday catechism is a chance for the parish youth to help educate, guide, and care for their younger brothers and sisters in faith.

SUNDAY ORATORY PROGRAM *(Sunday afternoon)*

This program is run by youth volunteers from our parishes (and student centers), overseen by religion sisters working in the prefecture. The children learn about life skills, leadership, Christian values and morals. Additional activities include learning Khmer traditional dance, music, and playing of Khmer traditional musical instrument. The oratory gathering (of Don Bosco), aims to educate and strengthen the faith of children in the parishes of Battambang. The Oratory gathering happens every Sunday afternoon.



Just like the summer catechism camp, the one who leads the activities and looks after the children are the youth of the parish-Grade 10 & 11 who are staying at the Don Bosco Center for Girls, together with Ta Hen student leaders, under the guidance of the FMA Sisters. There are at least 50 youth volunteers who guide the children, and there are around 250 children who participated in the oratory program. Every Sunday afternoon, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., all the youth volunteers guiding the children meet together to receive formation and to plan together the activities that they will do with the children. The oratory program divides the children into 4 levels or groups:

1° level: Kindergarten to Grade 2

2° level: Grade 3 to Grade 4

3° level: Grade 5 to Grade 6

4° level: Grade 7

The Oratory gathering activities help instill faith and values to children, while at the same time educate them in English language, and arts.





Moreover, there are also educational games and community excursions (field trips) which allows the children to have a wider view of life because it often involves a trip outside the province. The oratory gathering is conducted in four places, namely, (a) Don Bosco Chreykaong, (b) Our Lady of Assumption Parish (Battambang) Church, (c) St. Joseph Parish (Taken), and Ormal Village.

*The Most Rev. Enrique Figaredo, SJ
Apostolic Prefect*



TESTIMONIES

KENYA

ARCHDIOCESE OF KISUMU



The Archdiocese of Kisumu is situated in the Western Kenya and it comprises of two counties_ Kisumu and Siaya. It is also a Metropolitan See covering 9 Dioceses, namely, Lodwar, Kitale, Kakamega, Kericho, Bungoma, Eldoret, Kisii, Homabay and Kisumu.

THEME 2022: WITNESS

WE THANK THE ALMIGHTY GOD for the marvellous and enormous works He has enables us to do during the extra-ordinary year of "WITNESS". We have touched many lives and accomplishes various PMC activities though the academic calendar has been tricky due to change of term dates.

The year started well with Epiphany Sunday celebrated in all the Parishes across the diocese. Animators engaged the PMC children in their various parishes to do some charitable works, recite poems and songs. Children dramatized the Epiphany Sunday by presenting their gifts to baby Jesus as they sang songs of praise.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On 19th February 2022 we held Annual General Meeting with all the PMC animators in the Archdiocese of Kisumu. We launched the theme "witness" and looked at our strength

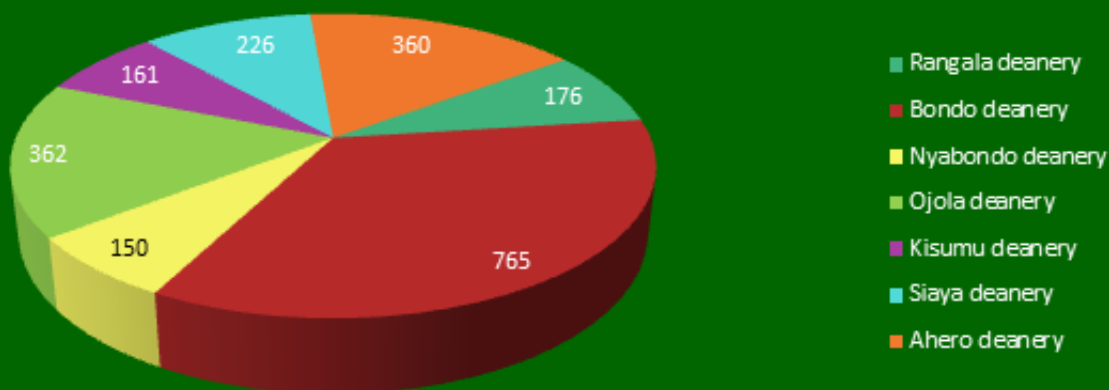
and weakness and promised to begin a new with vigour and zeal. Over 300 animators attended the AGM which was held in St. Maria Goretti Parish, Nyalenda – Kisumu Deanery..

PILGRIMAGE - 3RD JUNE 2022

We decided to make a pilgrimage to one of our parishes to mark better the Ugandan Martyr's day. This was done in Kajulu parish under Ojolla deanery. All the children across the diocese came in numbers in support of PMC children of Kajulu parish in construction. We contributed a total of Kshs. 114,000.



number of PMS children and animators in the deaneries



Total numbers of registered PMS children as at 21/10/2022 are 2.193. These children have Serial Numbers given by the Archdiocese PMS office and they all know their numbers in the Archdiocese.

This was a kind gesture from the children showing solidarity and a good picture of the future Christians/church. Special gratitude goes to our Archbishop Most Rev. Maurice Muhatia, our Vicar General, all priests, animators, parents and children who made this come true. Indeed, it suited our motto "Children helping Children". The enrolment in the Archdiocese is ongoing awaiting the main one during the ADOK PMC annual Mass, which was celebrated by the Archbishop on 15/12/2022. The PMC office has the Child Protection Policy Committee led by Fr. Vincent Odundo. This office inducts the animators and all who handle children on how they are supposed to interact with children in the best way possible following the laws and guidelines. We pray that God may continue protecting all children and grant them zeal and vigour to live to the theme "witness" and be guided by the motto "Children helping Children".

Sr. Cornelius Akinyi
Pontifical Mission Childhood Coordinator





VENEZUELA APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF PUERTO AYACUCHO

The Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Ayacucho, Amazonas State, Venezuela, with an area of 177,617 km² and a child-adolescent population of approximately 54,394 children and/or adolescents (according to the 2011 population census, the tendency is to increase) is a predominantly indigenous state, with its own customs, culture and traditions, where the situation of school-age children is affected by the critical situation that the country is going through. School dropout rates are increasing every day; children and adolescents, both Creole and indigenous, are often deprived of good nutrition and hygienic and health conditions. Sometimes there is no possibility of providing food for the children at home. The situation of the adolescents is affected by the vices that in many occasions are found in the schools themselves

The parishes do a great job, through catechesis, Missionary Childhood and children's groups that seek to contain this important and vulnerable population in psychological, health, hygienic and nutritional conditions; however, in relation to the number of the population, there is much work to be done to reach a larger population, since due to the conditions of the parishes (physical space, economic resources, pastoral agents, lack of fuel for transportation, among others) the percentage that we are able to assist is small in relation to the total population.

NATIONAL DAY OF MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE

This celebration could not be held on the same date that the Venezuelan Church had chosen, that is, the third Sunday of January, because in the Vicariate there were activities for the feast of Don Bosco. For this reason the JONIAM (National Day of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence) was held on Saturday, February 19. We gathered the children of the various parishes in the Cathedral, all around the theme: LIKE PAULINE JARICOT, WITNESSES OF JESUS



IN THE MISSION. There, the Bishop presided over the eucharistic celebration, in which all the missionary children and adolescents joyfully participated. It is worth mentioning that during the ceremony, 12 animators received the red scarf and each group presented an envelope with their offering for the occasion. After the liturgical celebration, the children had breakfast and then the presentation of each group about the life of Paulina Jaricot took place. Later there were games organized by the various animators and we concluded with lunch.

FIRST TRAINING SCHOOL FOR SENTINELS

It was held at Shapono Kea from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, with the theme "the identity of the Sentinel."

About 30 sentinels from the parishes of St. Henry, Mary Help of Christians and Don Bosco belonging to 5 groups participated with the collaboration of 6 animators. The sacrament of confession was made available by Father Emeritus. A visit to a very poor sector was scheduled, but due to the rain it was impossible to carry out this activity

SECOND TRAINING SCHOOL FOR SENTINELS

On June 18, 2022, we held with great joy and satisfaction the second school for sentinels at the Vicariate level; the welcome was at 8:30 am and we concluded at 3:45 pm. The animators and groups where there are adolescent missionaries were invited and a total of 35 participants from 3 parishes attended: Don Bosco Parish: 10 participants. Maria Auxiliadora Parish: 1 participant. St. Henry Parish: 24 participants.

We focused on the theme: "CENTINELS, CALLED AND SENT TO LIVE THE LOVE OF JESUS". We had important moments of prayer, reflection, recreation, etc. The sentinels were encouraged to make a logo since the current logo is being changed at the national level.

THIRD TRAINING FOR SENTINELS

In this last meeting held at Shapono kea house on Saturday, November 12, 2022 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, 31 sentinels and 3 animators from Don Bosco parish and three advisors participated. They discovered through a dynamic, so they were able to compose three sentences related to the Advent season; the meeting was developed with the methodology of a retreat, prayer, meditation, commitment, etc.

Confessions were heard, Father Zanotto came in the

morning and Father Emeritus came in the afternoon. The program was quite intense, the time was well distributed. We concluded with a dynamic.

Jonny Eduardo Reyes Sequera
Vicar Apostolic

SENTINELS

these are all teenagers between the ages of 13 and 15 who, upon completion of their time in the Missionary Childhood, join the Centimision.

Centimision is a missionary animation service offered by the Pontifical Work of the Holy Childhood in Venezuela, with the aim of offering adolescents a personal and group encounter with Jesus, the Father's missionary, in communion with all God's people, to form missionary disciples within and outside their living environment.

There are about 50 sentinel groups in the country.



KAZAKHSTAN

DIOCESE OF ALMATY



Praise be Jesus Christ!

Dear Friends!

There are so many poems about autumn, that every leaf is cared for by a stanza, but a poet will not change, the fact that the day retreats every day.

Taking the opportunity, long and gray evenings, I would like to write to you a few words, about what happened in our Mission in Kapshagay in recent months.

Let me say at the beginning that the Kazakh name of our city - Kapshagay (narrow gorge) has been changed, on May 3, 2022 by the decision of Kazakh President Kasym-Zhomart Tokayev to Konayev - in memory of Dymmuchamed Konayev the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, de facto leader of the Kazakh SSR in

1960-1986. We have become very accustomed to the old name and find it difficult to use the new one. But we joke with visitors coming to us that they have come to Konayev for the first time in their lives.



SUMMER CAMPS

In May, for all children in Kazakhstan, the longed - for vacation began. Children in other countries study until the end of June, while in Kazakhstan the vacation lasts 3 months.

Thanks to the help of our benefactors, we were able to organize as many as three summer camps.



FIRST SUMMER CAMP

The first of them for the youngest children aged 3 to 7. Mothers with children from the parish, from a single mother's home and the youngest children from our orphanage went to this camp. We were hosted at the parish of St. Francis in Balchash. This place is also known for the large lake of the same name, which is one of the largest lakes in the world, and an interesting fact is that part of the water is fresh and part salty without mixing.



2



SECOND SUMMER CAMP

The second camp was held for children from up to 7 to 15 years old. Children from the parish and the orphanage took three microbuses to the opposite shore of the same lake. We lived on the shore of the lake in tents, but due to the sandy ground and strong wind, some of the children moved to a Kazakh yurt and a small house. We spent our rest time swimming, playing games and praying together.

THIRD SUMMER CAMP

For our young people and was aimed not only at rest, but also at helping the poor and needy. We took advantage of the invitation of the Missionary Sisters of Charity, who run a home in Tashkent for the homeless, seriously ill and people with alcohol problems. We lived next to the cathedral at the Franciscan Fathers and travelled daily by bus to the Sisters to carry out the tasks instructed to us. Our young people, prepared meals, served tables, participated in washing, ironing and issuing clothes to the Sisters' charges, some went with the Sisters to the house where the bedridden are located to help them wash themselves. In the evenings, meanwhile, we had the opportunity to explore the capital of Uzbekistan and learn about the local culture.



THE VISIT OF POPE FRANCIS

September was a special time for us. Pope Francis arrived in Kazakhstan on an official visit as a “Pilgrim of Peace.” The Pope participated in the world convention of all major Religious Leaders, which is held every few years in the capital of Kazakhstan. We participated in the Holy Mass and a meeting with the Pope in Astana. The meeting with Pope Francis was a great strengthening in faith and Christian hope for all of us. The Pope said, Jesus promised us that He will never leave us: this is not a promise that refers only to the distant future, we should accept this truth today, that the Risen One renews our lives. Despite our imperfection and shortcomings, He remains tirelessly with us, building with us the future of His Church.

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR STARTS

We also started a new school year in September, and as in every year, we are approached by various institutions to take in new children



visit of Pope Francis



a new school year



Missionary Week for children

or homeless mothers with children.

MISSIONARY WEEK FOR CHILDREN

In October, we experienced missionary week. The children enjoy this form of prayer because they can prepare a disguise of a character from another nation, culture, and country. During this time, we went out of town to participate in the “One Million Children Pray the Rosary for World Peace” prayer in a beautiful setting. At the Parish we thanked God in prayer for all our Benefactors, thanks to whom our orphanage can exist and function.

ALL SAINT'S BALL

Con l'inizio del With the start of the new month of November, we have joined the initiative of the All Saints' Ball, which have been gaining popularity in Catholic parishes in Kazakhstan in recent years. They are held in conjunction with the celebration of the Feast of All Saints. The ball brings together guests dressed in costumes associated with a particular saint.



The festivities are organized to introduce the life stories of the saints presented by the participants. All this is interspersed with dancing, games, prayers, singing, fun and refreshments.

ADVENT PAPER HEARTS

Starting a new period of the liturgical year "Advent", how every year we have cut hearts out of paper and put good deeds on them, which we have performed as a gift to the baby Jesus, who comes to us in the mystery of Christmas.

Dear friends, in this letter I wanted to convey to you in a few words and photographs what we lived in 2022 and thank you, for your help to our children. By the Grace of God and the help of people of good will, we can continue our mission to help children and single mothers in need.

May God bless you, protect you from all evil and grant You health and peace.



All Saint's Ball



Advent

Fr. Artur Zaras
Parish priest of the Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary parish and director of the
Parish Orphanage in Kapshagaye



"There are many in the world dying for a piece of bread, but there are many more dying for a little love."

St. Teresa of Calcutta

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*for
PONTIFICIUM OPUS A SANCTA INFANTIA*

On behalf of the children and educators living in the Children's Home at Kapshagay Parish, I would like to express my great thanks for your prayerful and material support for our Mission. Your help in these difficult times for us is a great and wonderful gift. By supporting our orphanage, you are helping to support and raise fifty-two children deprived of family warmth. I would also like to assure you of our gratitude expressed in constant prayer for our benefactors.

fr. Artur Zaras

Parish Priest in Kapshagay

Fr. Artur Zaras



Kapshagay, 2022 r.

ZAMBIA



DIOCESE OF MPIKA

The history of the Diocese of Mpika is very closely linked to the arrival of the first catholic missionaries, the White Fathers (officially called: Missionaries of Africa) in the North of Zambia in 1891.

In 1933, a new diocese was created as a “*missio sui juris*”. It comprised most of the four districts (Mpika, Chinsali, Isoka and Lundazi) in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) as well as four districts in Nyassaland (Malawi).

In June 1991, in order to move the central office of the diocese to a more central place than Mbala, the diocese was renamed Mbala-Mpika.

In 1994 the diocese changed its name to : The Diocese of Mpika and it has currently 18 Parishes.

In 2020 the Population is 186,200 Catholics of 778,000 total (23, 9%).



The general situation of the Holy Childhood in our diocese is progressive. We have seen a good number of children following animation and formation activities in parishes, in deaneries, at the diocesan level even at the national. Reports from parishes indicate that all parishes have Holy Childhood masses at the main stations on

Sundays and a good number of children attend.

As a diocese, we value children and are committed to ensuring their wellbeing. As a means of supporting them, we are working to protect them from all forms of abuse following the child protection policy of Zambia Conference



of Catholic Bishops. We are also working hard to ensure that the missionary spirit is inculcated in them.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- Quarterly meetings: we held two meetings in which we organized and kept together our Animators. We also used the times of meetings to provide ongoing formation and animation to our Animators so that we constantly work together.
- Training of animators: we had training workshops for our new animators from Mpika and Muchinga deaneries who gathered at St Joseph parish. A total of 50 new animators followed this program. We also gave a similar program to Shiwang'andu, St Dominic's and St Michael's Parishes to help them find Animators as new Parishes.
- Formation of children: we did very well in animation to children in parishes and also at deanery levels. A lot of children have been following animation lessons in their parish

with the help of animators. This year we held deanery rallies, where children interacted with other children from across deaneries. It was a wonderful moment of learning. We had meetings about the origins and Charism of the Pontifical missionary societies. We also conducted lessons from the bible, health related lessons and so on. We also organized social activities that saw children interact in sports and entertainment.

CHALLENGES

- We still have a good number of untrained animators. Many parishes have very few trained animators to attend adequately to children. Contributing to this situation is the departure of animators from our rural parishes to urban places.
- Animation in prayer Centres: our parishes have so many prayer Centres and most of them have no properly organized children's meetings.
- Lack of adequate facility for animation: our diocese is very backward in this respect and this was observed when we bring children together.

We would like to thank all collaborators who have helped us in so many ways in our work of missionary animation to children.

*The Most Reverend Edwin Mulandu
Bishop of Mpika*



PERÚ

APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF SAN RAMÓN



A large part of our Vicariate is inhabited by native communities in which the majority are children. The attention of the children is a priority due to the poverty in which they live and also the deficient education that is received in the very remote places of the Amazon jungle. For this reason, the vicariate directly administers 5 schools of the initial, primary and secondary levels, and 15 more schools are administered by the religious congregations that are in the vicariate. These schools are of “joint action” State-Church, so they are free of charge. They teach school subjects and work in all of them with groups of Missionary Childhood.

For the priests it has been a joy to be able to organize catechesis and Missionary Childhood groups. In 8 of the 23 missions of our Vicariate the events were held, but the animators could not participate to the national event.

The work with the Missionary Childhood groups in our schools and missions is a priority and has always been carried out with great dedication. In the missions with the native communities the children are the first to participate in the events. This requires materials: guides, booklets, posters, projections.

It is also necessary to facilitate the participation of the children in the formative and celebratory meetings. The catechesis is developed normally and this gives us a lot of joy. The preparation of the children to the First Communion always recalls elements of the Christian initiation because a considerable number of them are not baptized.

This is why we have to focus on the meaning of Christian life from baptism and reconciliation, for a full participation in the Eucharist and discipleship.

The children of the Missionary Childhood groups collect aid among themselves and in their locality to bring these aids to the marginalized schools, communities, and the poor neighborhoods.





VILLA PERENÉ

With great joy, affection and gratitude, we greet you the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate of Perené (H.F.I.) of the Mission House "Mother Francisca" and the boys and girls of the Missionary Childhood and we ask Jesus Child to fill you with blessings, peace, health, to continue forward in the Mission. With the motto "IF CHRIST LIVES IN YOU...LET IT BE NOTICED"; we begin the daily Mission. There are young children who have joined this year. It is a good group to work with, they are restless, but with a desire to learn and know Jesus, we can say that it is good soil to sow. We teach them to respect other children, to be grateful to God who has created us, to make them see the needs of some low-income people and to learn to show solidarity. We share with them the Word, and our joy through songs, dynamics, dances, and smiles. On Bible Day, the group went out with their banners through the streets of Pampa Silva and Santa Ana, motivated by biblical texts such as: "Your glory above the heavens is sung by children's lips" (Psalm 8). In the Mission Month, the children in the celebration of the Eucharist, received the scarf, symbol of the little



missionary, as well as the Cross, being sent by Jesus to proclaim with their life and example: "Of the children of the world, always friends."

They participated in the procession of the Lord of Miracles, organized in our Parish, together with their parents and relatives, doing so with devotion and fervor. Their love for the Virgin Mary, our Mother, is manifested through the prayer of the Hail Mary, making their missionary rosary with disposable material. At various times, the whole group, together with their parents, prayed some of the mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

Food has been shared with the grandparents are the favorite ones for our children.

In the month of October, our children participated in the Word Mission Day collection. The sisters are grateful for the economic help that allowed the realization of the different activities of the Missionary Childhood of the Parish of St. Francis of Assisi.

A fraternal embrace.

*Sr. Elvira Agruta
10 november 2022*

ST. FRANCIS SOLANO PARISH - DISTRICT OF PUERTO BERMUDEZ

Here are some of the activities that we carried out with the children of Missionary Childhood:

- The children learned to pray the holy rosary thanks to the missionaries.
- The children painted the Virgin Mary during the month of Mary.
- The children drew Jesus the Missionary.
- The children painted a candle representing the risen Jesus.
- The children answered questions about some topics of Missionary Childhood.
- The birthdays of the Missionary children were celebrated.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT WITH THE MISSIONARY CHILDREN IN THE PARISH AND RURAL AREA

The meeting were led by the animators of Missionary Childhood. The topics were taught every week on Thursdays with a duration of one hour. They were also sent videos of the life of Jesus, the Virgin Mary and the saints. At the end of the classes, the children carried out concrete activities with the neediest.

Here are some of the activities that we carry out with the children of Missionary Childhood.

- On-site classes.
- Meetings with the Missionary children in the Parish Hall.
- Celebration and Christmas songs by the Missionary Childhood.
- Fraternal sharing with the poorest children in the communities.

*Sr. Simona Neira Bermeo
Missionary Childhood animator*

PARISH “ASUNCIÓN DE LA VIRGEN MARÍA” - PUERTO YURINAKI, PERENÉ, CHACHAMAYO - JUNÍN -

After the difficult days we went through during the Pandemic caused by COVID 19, we started in 2022 the activities in the parish with lots of enthusiasm, among them the group of Missionary Childhood. This group is composed of 35 children from 4 to 12 years of age who were divided into two subgroups to give them better attention. For this purpose, we appointed 4 girls, 2 of whom attended the training for animators at the CUIM in San Ramon. Their job was to lead the children's activities in the parish once a week.

Animators learned to evaluate their successes and failures, but they also knew how to overcome the obstacles of leading groups. One of the great challenges was the programming of a pastoral meeting in the village center of “Palmas”; this being one of the central activities for the month dedicated to the Missions. It was scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, during which they had a day of integration, shared the Word of God, games, songs and sweets. Finally, they prepared school packages for the children, which were given to each one at the end of the pastoral day. They returned very happy with the desire to form a Missionary Childhood group with these children.

Each week the coordinators met with the Sister to prepare the themes of the meetings and the necessary materials for the Tuesday afternoon



replication, always accompanied by an adult or the Sister.

During the meeting with the groups in charge, we worked under the following scheme:

- 1-Welcome
- 2-Introduction/integration dynamics.
- 3-Starting prayer
- 4-Theme:
 - Reading of a biblical passage and reflection.
 - Activity with the children (Paint the image of the topic they reflected on or other topics of interest to the groups).
- 6-Songs, Dynamics and / or various games.
- 7-Final prayer

*Sr. Cristina Alvarado J.
Superior of Community*





OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH - VILLA RICA

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE PLAN -2022

Missionary Childhood and Adolescence is a service of the Church so that Christian children and adolescents acquire a missionary conscience and learn to share with children and adolescents around the world, their faith and their material goods.

OBJECTIVES OF MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD

To help awaken the universal missionary consciousness of children and adolescents, so that children help other children with their prayers, sacrifices and material contributions.

VALUES OF MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE

- It fosters the integral education of children and adolescents.
- It allows the child and adolescent to live the experience of generosity and solidarity.
- It develops the affectivity of the child and adolescent, since they care for others.
- It helps children and adolescents to experience effort and self-improvement.
- It initiates the child and adolescent in the discovery of being a child of God and a brother of men.

COMMITMENTS OF THE MISSIONARY CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

All baptized children and adolescents up to the age of 17 can be members of Missionary Childhood and

Adolescence. After that they continue in Youth Without Borders and Missionary Families (from 4 to 12 they are considered children, and from 12 to 17, adolescents) and commit themselves to:

- know and strive to practice the missionary decalogue;
- pray every day an Our Father and a Hail Mary, so that all the children and adolescents of the world may come to know and love Jesus and Mary;
- be interested in being generous and collaborators at home, at school and with other people;
- attend the meetings of missionary and catechetical teams and collaborate with their small material contributions, fruit of their savings, and small sacrifices, for the children and adolescents of the Missions;
- celebrate the Missionary Days, especially the World Day of Missionary Children and Adolescents;
- communicate the missionary spirit to other children/teens and support the missionary services of other groups in their community;
- collaborate in the missionary activities of the parish;
- maintain communication with missionary children and adolescents in mission countries;
- perform other services in favor of children and adolescents.

IAM GROUPS

- Little seeds: 5, 6 and 7 years old.
- Green Wheat: 8, 9 and 10 years old.
- Mature Wheat: 11 and 12 years old.
- Pre-youth: 13 to 17 years old.



1. Group: Seeds of the Lord 15 children.
2. Group: Green wheat 26 children
3. Group: Mature wheat 25 children
4. Group: Advanced wheat 15
5. Missionary youth 14
6. Animators 10

*Erlinda Tello Quintana
Missionary Childhood and
Adolescence Coordinator*

MISSIONARY CHILDREN IN TIMES OF PANDEMIA

*of St. Raymond Nonnatus Parish
March 19, 2022 - December 17, 2022*

The missionary work for the children was organized, still with some uncertainty due to Covid 19.

We started in the month of March with difficulties in the use of the mask, the distance and the security protocols. Children from all the schools and kindergartens were called, and the response and reception was surprising.

On the first Saturday, more than 120 children between 4 and 11 years of age attended. Throughout the year we have managed to maintain the rhythm of the work and the number of participants. The whole team has shown a permanent collaborative spirit in favor of the children.

Little by little the fears of the pandemic were disappearing, the distance was shortening, we were leaving the masks, the games, the dynamics, the work in groups were more participatory, always under the guidance of the teenagers who are the animators.

The training from the PMS for the animators, and a Day with the children were virtual, social networks and technology continued to play a very important role during the first months.

The children have received a continuous process of missionary formation, the families have been a very important support in the activities. With the economic support received by the Missionary Childhood we have been able to work with concrete and necessary material. All the children have been able to receive their worksheets, colors, markers, erasers, scissors, tempera, copies, notebooks, colored paper... among others.

The activities programmed for 2022 were 97% completed.

The children and their families were instilled with

the sense of belonging to the parish. To achieve this, they participated in different activities such as Holy Week, Easter, Bible Day, Patronal Feast, October the missionary month, Eucharist with the families, among others. On the other hand, an important message was transmitted to the animators and children about the desire of Pope Francis to see a renewed Church, a Church with a missionary spirit, a Church where everyone, from the child, the adult, the elderly or the sick, has an important place. A Church that reflects, listening to the Holy Spirit in order to walk together. This message was put into practice by the children in the missionary projections, visiting homes, knocking on doors to announce a message of hope.

As disciples and missionaries, the animators participated in the missionary collection for World Mission Sunday. The message of Pope Francis for the World Mission Day 2022 "If Christ lives in you, let it be seen" was taken into account.

On Saturday 26th the celebration of delivery of the symbols took place, and all children who have shown perseverance have received the missionary scarf and others who are already on their way have renewed their commitment. And on December 19, the Christmas missionary projection has taken place. The children and animators have shared with other children a Christmas of solidarity.

We follow the 4 steps of the School of Jesus:

- a) Missionary Catechesis.
- b) Missionary Spirituality.
- c) Group Life.
- d) Missionary Service.

The participation of 25 animators in the "CUIM" Vicarial Formation Course was very important and necessary for the Animators.

Maribel Margot Saavedra Quinto





ST. THERESE MISSION HOUSE

The Mission House is a shelter for underage boys and girls that has been operating since February 20, 1923.

With the arrival of the first Sisters to our Peruvian jungle, as in Puerto Ocopa, since that date we have been serving 50-70 years in this shelter house; boys and girls who come from different Asháninka communities such as Tambo River, Ene River and some from Atalaya who, for different situations, such as lack of study or low economic resources, migrate here.

Here we provide help in different aspects, such as spiritual, study, clothing, housing, food and health.

This year we have worked with the children of the shelter and made social projections with



the children and young people of the community and surroundings, reaching a total of 30.

We worked with the children on Thursdays at 4:00 pm maintaining the protocols of the case, having reported no cases of contagion in Puerto Ocopa.

The training was provided through group work, prayer, videos, songs, handicrafts, etc. We visited the families of the communities praying the missionary rosary, making our Mother Mary known, and encouraging each member of the families to increase their missionary spirit.

This year 2 social projections were carried out, visiting the neediest families in the surrounding areas, and taking

them food and cleaning supplies.

Emotional and spiritual support was provided.

Sr. Enith Susan Millán García



MAURITANIA DIOCESI DI NOUAKCHOTT

In the Islamic Republic of Mauritania all Catholic Christians (about 4,000) are of foreign origin and are gathered mainly in the capital, Nouakchott. There is also a small, not insignificant number who form a Catholic community in Nouadhibou, commonly considered the country's economic capital.

Activities related to Catholic action movements take place mainly in these two places.

In the other missions of the Diocese, the pastoral agents are turned more towards the social aspect of the Church and, in their daily realities, are called to find a line and a way of life in the perspective of their faith and mission. They also seek to deepen the meaning of their vocation and mission in this Muslim reality.

The bishop, in his pastoral guidelines, insists and persists that all the facilities in which his pastoral agents work, namely those of the Holy Childhood, are platforms where children (who come from different backgrounds) already learn to socialize, listen to each other, love and help each other, tolerate and forgive each other, etc. It is a challenge that priests, religious and laity in the Diocese of Nouakchott try to address every year.

There are two types of children in the Diocese: the children of the faithful of the practically foreign Christian Community composed of

expatriates, civil servants, migrants, etc., and those who attend the Churches' works and who are not necessarily Christians.

- 450 Christian children benefit from religious and human formation and education in our parishes through catechesis, Catholic Action movements, after-school activities, and fraternity days among children. This contributes to the spiritual and human formation of children, who are called to live together in the richness constituted by their differences, in order to be able to become witnesses of the Universal Love of Christ.



- More than 400 other children, non-Christians, benefit from the love and education of priests and religious in the poor outlying neighborhoods of the capital Nouakchott and in other missions in the interior areas of the country.

- Pastoral agents (priests, women religious), parents, friends and lay educators help the children to know Christ better, to love him and to imitate him.

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD DAY

Children's Days are organized every year in some parishes, especially on Epiphany Sunday. This is the Day of "Living Together", which brings together all the children.

In Nouakchott, the celebration of Missionary Childhood Day was held on the theme of the year, with a rich and varied program that included games, teachings, mass, lunch, etc.

In Nouadhibou, Missionary Childhood Day was organized around socio-cultural activities and, after Mass, with board games intended for the children. The purpose of the Day was to cultivate the spirit of sharing, cohesion, mutual respect, mutual acceptance, despite the differences and divergences that society imposes on them.

CATECHESIS

This is mainly catechesis given in St. Joseph Cathedral Parish in Nouakchott. This school year, 158 children enrolled in catechesis. Most of these children come from black Africa and their parents, by and large, arrived here to seek work or because of the insecure situation in their home country. We also count some children of diplomats and European expatriates.

Coordination of catechesis is provided by a nun of the Congregation of the Little Flower of Bethany, who invests heavily in the ongoing formation of volunteer catechists, recruited from among both Europeans and Africans, assisted by a priest from the parish.

YOUTH MOVEMENTS

The children's movements, "Cœurs Vaillants Ames vaillantes" (Valiant Hearts Valiant Souls), have at present about sixty members, followed by a priest and a nun, helped by 6 men and women animators.

*Fr. Raymond Faya Millimouno
Diocesan Director PMS Mauritania*



THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF BANGUI



The succession of wars in the Central African Republic has raised the illiteracy rate in this country considerably. For the future, promoting education is therefore necessary. With the aim of contributing to a better future for this country, the Focolare Movement opened a school in the Archdiocese of Bangui, the country's capital, in 2017: the St. Clare School Complex (CSSV), which works to provide human, moral, spiritual and social formation according to Church teaching, inspired by the spirituality of Chiara Lubich. Our school promotes basic education and also offers to children from 8 to 10 years old who have never been to school, the opportunity for an education, to retrieve until they are placed in a class corresponding to their age and school level.



SAINTE CLAIRE SCHOOL COMPLEX

Our school, the St. Clare School Complex (CSSC), is a channel of evangelization for both the staff, the parents of the pupils, and the pupils themselves. As for the pupils, CSSC works toward changing mindsets, forming new men according to the charism of Chiara Lubich, unity. We communicate the Gospel message not only through religion classes, but also in the whole of our activities, through the atmosphere we create and recreate daily.

SOME ELEMENTS OF TRANSMISSION OF OUR FAITH

■ *THE DICE OF LOVE.*

A powerful evangelization tool that we use every morning is the dice of life, an incontestable expedient that C. Lubich left us for the evangelization of children. Rolled every morning so that we can put into practice throughout the day one of the small



phrases that are engraved on one of its sides and, since the creation of the CSSC, a means of learning for the pupils is now a dynamic of sharing small life experience) between the children, the group of teachers and the administration. As a matter of fact, every morning, after morning prayer, at the time of gathering to share experiences related to the sentence obtained from the previous day's dice rolling, the dice is rolled again for the day that is beginning, before heading to the classroom. Gradually we realize at what point children's actions are governed by love, both in school and in the family.

Some testimonies told at morning classes:

- On the way home I was tired and didn't feel like doing anything. Dad asked me to clean his shoes, and I thought of the phrase from the dice of love we rolled in school that said to see Jesus in your neighbor. So I cleaned Dad's shoes. (a 9-year-old boy)

- One of my friends hit me while we were playing soccer. I wanted to fight with him after the game, but a voice told me not to fight because the dice of love asked us to love our enemies. In the end, I forgave him and peace returned to my heart. (a 9-year-old boy)

- I gave some chalk to a friend who didn't have any and afterwards I shared a cookie with my teacher - I was happy. (a 4-year-old preschooler)

- Yesterday's line from the dice of love said to love the whole world. At home, Mom asked me to help her do the dishes, but I wanted to go play with my friends. Then I thought if I helped her, she would be happy. I did and I was happy too. Afterwards, I joined my friends to play. (a 12-year-old girl)

■ **"LIVING IN PEACE" PROJECT**

This is a peace education project started by the Focolare Movement that promotes a culture of peace and fraternity, especially for the younger generation, which we launched this year at CSSC. Educating for peace does not mean adding a new discipline, but rather making every area of education an instrument of peace, a path whose objective is to develop children's creativity and autonomy in the

face of problems and conflicts, learning to dialogue. This project creates a network of collaboration among our school facilities, encouraging them to live not only individually, but also collectively. At the CSSC, a prayer for world peace is recited at noon and experiences are recounted in the classrooms about lived events. On Monday, in one of the classrooms, it became natural now: they told their experiences about the phrase they had to put into practice on Friday (praying for someone). One little girl recounted, "Watching the television, I was very impressed by what I saw about Ukraine and I thought about all the children who are like me and experiencing this situation. So I decided to pray for them."

When asked spontaneously by the CSSC director to a teacher if there is a change in his class since the launch of the Living in Peace project, he replied that there was, that he sees that the children have made friends with each others and that there is no more violence than before.

Our school accompanies the pupils in a special way during important times for the universal Church, through lessons on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus in the Lenten season and through lessons related to the Birth of Jesus, in the Advent season, culminating in the Christmas feast and Mass at the facility, with the participation of parents.

The school also carried out outreach to promote the Missionary Childhood Society, in collaboration with the country's PMS National Office.

*lawula Lola Zita-Diletta
Focolare Women of Bangui*

DAY OF THE HOLY CHILDHOOD

Saint Charles Lwanga Parish - 8th January 2023

"Yesterday's Feast of the Holy Childhood was a success. On Saturday we went house to house with the Star Singers, hanging "good wishes" on the doors. In general, people welcomed us well.

An animator explained the purpose of the activity and fundraising. We were divided into three groups, and I accompanied one of the groups, which alone raised about 30 euros. The total raised by all three groups was 71 euros.

Yesterday, in the church, before the collection, a young animator told the story of the birth of the Missionary Childhood and called on Christians to be more generous in donating to the Society, because those gifts will alleviate the suffering of many children in the world, including those in our country, who suffer from malnutrition and lack of medicines.

After communion there were songs about joy and friendship with and in Asia, America, Oceania, Europe and Africa. This was followed by poems about Christmas and the Word of the Lord, Savior and Messiah in French and Sango. Upon leaving, after the celebration, a song of the Magi was sung toward the manger, where the children laid their gifts for the Child Jesus.

Thanks to the generosity of a Christian who donated 30,000 FCFA, about 50 euros, and with the small contribution of the children, we provided food for more than 60 children and 8

entertainers. It was truly a celebration.

We have been carrying out this activity for two years without support. Our recipe of our yoghurt allows me to print these greetings and buy duct tape. Last year we made T-shirts for children per continent."

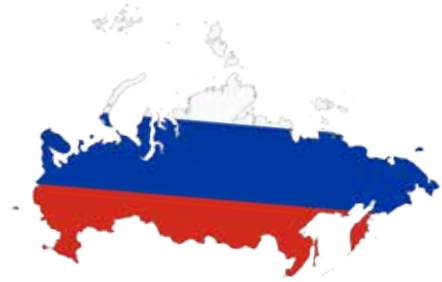
*Sr. Joséphine Gueyazoua
Little Sisters of Jesus*



RUSSIA

SAINT PETERSBURG

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN



The Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood is functioning in 120 countries around the world. Unfortunately, until now Russia was not among them. On 30 September, the first meeting of a missionary group of 9 children was held in one of the parishes in Saint Petersburg. These are children from a Spanish neocatechumenal family who has lived in Russia for a couple of years, as well as Russian children. Pretty soon, children from an American family will join us too – visa difficulties are over now and at long last they are back in Russia.

Together with the children, we are learning about the history of Pontifical Society of the Missionary Childhood and the situation of their peers in various parts of the world. We remembered the Mission Rosary colours representing continents, and we pray together for children who need help, as well as for missionaries taking care of them. By threading beads, the children made their own small mission rosaries. At our meetings, we sing songs in different languages, get to know specific features of countries and continents, as well as life stories of missionary saints and patron saints of the missions. As little missionaries, the children solemnly accepted their missionary dedication, receiving a little missionary cross. Recently, we also got to know the history and goal of the Mission Sunday which was first announced by Pope Pius XI in 1926. This year,

we prepared a raffle for the World Mission Day. Children brought small toys, books, pendants, keychains, which we put into small packets affixing a number to each of them (around 100 pieces). Parisheners, in their turn, drew lots giving a small (or a greater) offering. This way every number was a winning one, everyone got a surprise, and the money we'd collected will be given over to the General Secretariat of PSMC in Rome. Moreover, the children took part in making decorations for our affle by drawing pictures of their peers.

Recently, we were happy to learn that children from a friendly family got interested in our group. They came with their parents to visit their eldest sister who studies in Saint Petersburg and is learning Polish with me. They willingly joined our missionary society promising to pray and make small offerings. Admittedly, they live 890 km away from us, in the city of Kaluga, so we will have to meet online, but maybe there will be other children in Kaluga's Catholic parish who wish to help their peers through

missions.

I am so glad and thankful to God for opening the hearts of believers for the needs of the universal Church and for awakening in us the wish to share the gift of faith we have been given.

Sr. Anna Rus fmm



TOGO

DIOCESE OF SOKODÉ



In the Diocese of Sokodé, Holy Childhood is an across-the-board reality in which children and youth are engaged. This is evident in parishes, schools, and, above all, kindergartens, which are places conducive to the growth of children. To date, the Diocese of Sokodé has 13 kindergartens and 34 Catholic elementary schools. Outside of schools, Catholic Action movements in parishes are also a favorable place for children's development.

JESUS, HOWEVER, SAID TO THEM, "LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" (MT. 19:14)

CATHOLIC MOVEMENTS

Catholic movements are a reality in the Diocese of Sokodé. We find "Cœurs Vaillants et Ames Vaillantes (CVAV)" (Fearless Hearts and Fearless Souls) in almost all the parishes of the Diocese, which number more than 2,152 children. As for Mass servers, there are a total of 670, while choristers number 353. Children's choirs are found in the cathedral parishes of Komah, Tchamba, Kazaboua, Kpangalam, Tchébébé, and Affem. In addition to the choristers, there is the group of "majorettes," which we find only in the Nativity of Our Lord parish in Sotouboua, who number 65. St. Albert the Great Parish in Tchébébé has a group of 45 scouts. In total, we have 3,285 children engaged in movements.

ANIMATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

WEEKLY MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS OF CVAV

They meet regularly for weekly one-hour meetings. They also attend sessions or vacation camps at the parish or diocesan level when they are organized.

They are supervised by animators, religious and church assistants and in addition, they have the opportunity to organize recreational evenings in their respective environments as soon as circumstances permit.

CHILDREN'S FEASTS AND PILGRIMAGES

On the occasion of the celebration of the Holy Innocents on December 28 each year, the children of the Diocese benefit from special attention. Indeed, thanks to parish leaders and their parents, they have the opportunity to experience the feast of the Nativity of the Lord through festivities. Despite the global economic environment, some parishes have made an effort to give some joy to children. Such is the case of St. Joseph Parish in Kaboli, where more than 600 children participated in the feast. Similarly, St. John Paul II Parish in Kazaboua counted about 50 participants. The feast of St. Theresa Cathedral Parish was attended by 300.

The Diocese also organizes, in cooperation with the National Direction of PMS, a pilgrimage for children. Last year this pilgrimage took place in St. Theresa Cathedral Parish, where at least 240 children took up



the invitation. Equally, in St. Joseph Parish in Kaboli, more than 200 children participated in this pilgrimage, to mention just two parishes. In other parishes, after completing this spiritual journey, children were able to reflect in small groups on the theme “Children and youth: the future and synodal path of the Church.”

BIBLE CAMPS

At the end of the school year, the children also benefit from training, thanks to a week-long Bible camp organized for them. These camps, in fact, allow them, already at their age, to get acquainted with some biblical characters. This formation program is organized in many parishes of the Diocese. Suspended during the 2019 health crisis, these camps for children were resumed last year.

RESULTS

- These pro-children Catholic groups or movements gradually help them to accept each other and live together (team spirit, charity, forgiveness, etc.).
- Children who participate in Catholic movements are more energetic and dynamic.
- As time goes by, they become more creative and more open-minded.
- They have more self-confidence and are ready to take on any responsibility, etc.

THE CHALLENGES

There are two kinds of difficulties, namely those related to Catholic movements and those related to schools:

The difficulties in parishes:

- The declining level of education prevents children from assimilating the information provided by the groups.
- Some parents are still reluctant to let their children militate in groups or movements.
- The irresponsibility of some chaperones who fail to fulfill their role properly.
- The departure of chaperones to other places for study reasons, etc.

The difficulties in schools:

- Children in villages and farms do not have easy access to schools, despite efforts by the Togolese state to facilitate it.

- The Diocese of Sokodé has 13 kindergartens and 34 Catholic elementary schools to its credit, but it must be admitted that these numbers fall short of the needs.

- A problem that is not to be outdone is that of teachers. They need to be found, they need to be trained, and paid.

- It has also been noted that many children do not have teaching materials, which therefore must be provided to them. Etc.

PERSPECTIVES

- The urgency of reinforcing what has already been done toward accompanying children such as, for example, children’s pilgrimages on the occasion of the celebration of World Missionary Childhood Day, organizing Bible camps in parishes and organizing children’s choral singing concerts.

- To continue with the training sessions for parish animators of the Holy Childhood.

- To continue with sessions for children at the level of movements in parishes and at the diocesan level.

- To raise awareness among parents about the need for children to join groups or Catholic movements.

- To involve parish leaders more in the supervision of children.

CONCLUSION

The Diocese of Sokodé expresses its gratitude to the Holy Father Pope Francis for his closeness through the ordinary subsidy and extraordinary subsidies, which benefit the Diocese and enable it to take care of the Holy Childhood. Thank you to all parish leaders for accompanying the Holy Childhood. Finally, thanks to all those who are involved in one way or another in the education of children.

*Father Moïse DADJA
Diocesan Director of PMS*

*Father Adolphe-Marie BEBEHOU
Diocesan Director of Missionary Childhood*

THE MISSION OF NAVODAYA CHEPANG INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY OF NEPAL

APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF NEPAL

Navodaya Mission has been established to cater to the education and development of Chepeng Tribal Children of Nepal. They have no opportunity for education and development because of the remoteness of their settlement.

Navodaya High School and Hostel are established exclusively for the education and development of the children of the Chepeng indigenous community. With a population of 68.400 this group is categorized as “the most marginalized” by the government and they are found only in 4 districts. They live in remote hills and forest premises and hence no facility for schooling.

Since their settlements are in remote areas, their literacy rate is only 33%. As there are no high schools in any of the Chepeng villages, the dropout rate after Primary Level is 70%. Hence Little Flower Congregation, started a school and hostel exclusively for the Chepeng children in 2005.

This is a fully charitable institution for the Chepeng tribal children who are given free education and free hostel facility. All the students in the school are living in the hostel since their houses are in remote hills. Study materials, dress, food, medicine and, accommodation are provided by the Mission free of cost, as the family cannot afford to pay any fees.

Besides giving the children education and food, they also help children to know Jesus and to experience the love of God in their lives. Fifty to sixty children attend daily Holy Mass, even when it is no compulsory to do it.



Sr. Maddalena Hoang Ngoc

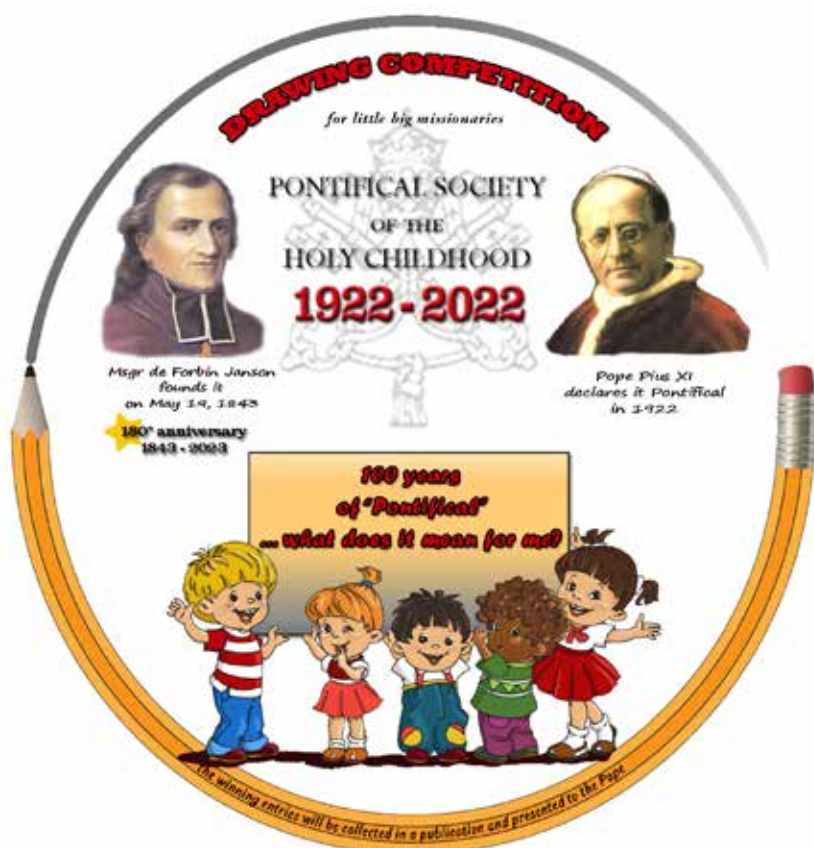
Every day in the morning and in the evening, children are helped to pray for 30 minutes each, with hymns, intercessory, universal prayer for peace.



d r a w i n g
COMPETITION
for little BIG
MISSIONARIES



1922-2022



***100 years of
"Pontifical"
...what does
it mean for
me?***

for more information please contact
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PONTIFICIUM OPUS A SANCTA INFANTIA
SECRETARIATUS INTERNATIONALIS