

# Our Mission: Our Witness

PMS Ghana



**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY  
CELEBRATION 2022**



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October  
2022



**Pontifical Mission  
Societies Ghana**



[www.pmsmissiogh.org](http://www.pmsmissiogh.org)

## Support the Mission

As Missionary Disciples we can support Christ's mission by:

- Being faithful to our baptismal commitment in our daily life
- Praying daily for the missions
- Helping our parish to be Mission Aware
- Make a financial donation to help the mission

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# Editorial

Dear Brothers and Sisters



On the 22nd May 2022, I had the privilege of attending the beatification of Pauline-Marie Jaricot in Lyon, France, which coincided with the annual General Assembly of the National Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies. 120 directors gather each year for the General Assembly, usually in Rome, but this year the assembly was held in Lyon, to coincide with the beatification of our



founder, Pauline-Marie Jaricot.

It was indeed a spirit filled occasion where we were able to walk in the footsteps of Pauline Jaricot; visit the churches where she worshipped and gave her life to the Lord; and experience some of the rich spiritual history of the church in Lyon.

Pauline was just 23 years old when her idea to engage all the baptised to pray for the mission of the church and to make a small monetary contribution, from their charity, to support the church in poorer countries, brought about a transformation in the life of the church. Her simple but passionate acts of charity in a small town

in France blossomed into one of the most impactful missionary organizations in our world today, the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith*, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies.

At the beginning of the General Assembly, Fr Tadeusz Nowak, the Secretary General of the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith* unveiled a new Icon of Pauline Jaricot, which was presented to the Pontifical Mission Societies by the PMS National Office in France.

We will take time to reflect on the highlights of the message offered by Pope Francis for World Mission Sunday 2022.

In this issue of *Our Mission, Our Witness*, we will have an opportunity to reflect on the life of Pauline Jaricot beginning with the message that Pope Francis wrote to the National Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies who

were gathered in Lyon for their annual assembly.

*"Her simple but passionate acts of charity in a small town in France blossomed into one of the most impactful missionary organizations in our world today"*

We will also take a look at the beatification ceremony, and share some of the insights of Cardinal Tagle, the prefect of the *Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples*, who presided at the Mass, and Archbishop Olivier de Germay, the metropolitan Archbishop of Lyon, who welcomed the beatification of Pauline Jaricot wholeheartedly.

We will conclude with a call for prayer for mission.

Yours in Mission,  
*Rev. Fr Isaac Ebo-Blay*

## THE POPE'S WORLD MISSION SUNDAY MESSAGE IN BRIEF



The World Mission Day 2022 will be celebrated on Sunday, 23 October. In his message, Pope Francis urges all Christians to proclaim Christ's message of salvation in every aspect of our daily lives.

The celebration focuses on the theme: **"You shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8).**

### 'You shall be my witnesses'

The Pope reflected on three foundations of "the life and mission of every disciple". The first, foundation of mission is "the call of every Christian to bear witness to Christ," calling it the "heart of Jesus' teaching to the disciples."

*"Every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the Church, the community of Christ's disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ. To evangelize is the very identity of the Church."*

*"The disciples are urged to live their personal lives in a missionary key: they are sent by Jesus to the world not only to carry out, but also and above all to live the mission entrusted to them; not only to bear witness, but also and above all to be witnesses of Christ."*

*“Christ's Church will continue to “go forth” towards new geographical, social and existential horizons, towards “borderline” places and human situations, in order to bear witness to Christ and His love to men and women of every people, culture and social status.”*

*“All Christ's missionary disciples are called to recognize the essential importance of the Spirit's work, to dwell in his presence daily and to receive His unfailing strength and guidance. Indeed, it is precisely when we feel tired, unmotivated or confused that we should remember to have recourse to the Holy Spirit in prayer.”*

*“The disciples are urged to live their personal lives in a missionary key: they are sent by Jesus to the world not only to carry out, but also and above all to live the mission entrusted to them; not only to bear witness, but also and above all to be witnesses of Christ.”*

In conclusion, the Pope expressed his dream to see a “completely missionary Church, and a new era of missionary activity among Christian communities.”

*“Would that all of us in the Church were what we already are by virtue of baptism: prophets, witnesses, missionaries of the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the ends of the earth! Mary, Queen of the Missions, pray for us!”*

**LAUNCHING OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE  
ANNIVERSARIES OF THE CONGREGATION  
FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF PEOPLES (CEP)  
AND THE FOUR (4) PONTIFICAL MISSION  
SOCIETIES (PMS) IN GHANA AT  
ARCH/DIOCESAN LEVELS  
16<sup>th</sup> October, 2022**

The Church across the world is celebrating the following anniversaries this year:

1. 400 years of the establishment of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (Propaganda Fide) by Pope Gregory XV in 1622.
2. 200 years of the foundation of the Pontifical Missionary Society for the Propagation of the Faith by Venerable Pauline Jaricot in 1822.
3. 100 years of the establishment of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) by Pope Pius XI in 1922.
4. 150 years of the birth of Blessed Paolo Manna, born in 1872, founder of the Pontifical Missionary Union (PMU).

These anniversaries are moments of thanksgiving to God and the persons behind them. They help us with an opportunity to reflect on the past missionary activities, their impact on the People of God in Ghana and the future of the Church in Ghana in the years to come.

The anniversaries should have three (3) dimensions:

1. Prayer: Offering thanksgiving prayers for the growth of the Church.
2. Historical and missionary reflections on strategies and activities done in the Universal and local Church in the past 400, 200 and 100 years.
3. Missionary awareness and pastoral plans for the future of the Church in Ghana and beyond.

The anniversaries have been launched at the National Catholic Secretariat by the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) at the May 2022 Plenary Assembly. It is proposed that the celebration of the anniversaries will be coordinated by the PMS Diocesan Directors in collaboration with the Diocesan Pastoral office and its pastoral agents. The anniversaries celebration will be climaxed on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2022, the World Mission Sunday. The resource material for the celebration will be: "The Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) Ghana, 2022 Mission Celebrations" booklets.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of missionaries intercede for us a successful celebration of the anniversaries. Amen

I, therefore, declare the celebration of the anniversaries of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (CEP) and the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) Ghana, duly launched in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



**PROGRAMME FOR THE CELEBRATION OF  
THE PONTIFICAL SOCIETY FOR THE  
PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH –  
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2022  
16 – 23 OCTOBER 2022  
THEME: YOU WILL BE MY WITNESS  
(ACTS 1:8)**

**SUNDAY 16 OCT: LAUNCHING IN THE CHURCH**

- ❖ Talk briefly on the theme. Stress on the main activities in the week.
- ❖ Encourage all the People of God to respond positively to the Holy Father's call on us to be on mission.
- ❖ Invite all to participate in this ongoing formation.

*Kindly refer to the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) Ghana 2022 Mission Celebrations booklet for the full text on Pope's Message for World Mission Day 2022*

**MONDAY 17 OCT:**

**TOPIC:** “You will be witness of me” – The call of all Christians to bear witness to Christ

**TUESDAY 18 OCT:**

**TOPIC:** We are called not only to carry out the mission, but above all to live the mission

**WEDNESDAY 19 OCT:**

**TOPIC:** “To the end of the earth” – The perennial relevance of a mission of universal

**THURSDAY 20 OCT:**

**TOPIC:** “You will receive strength from the Holy Spirit” – Always allow yourself to be strengthened and guided by the Spirit.

**FRIDAY 21 OCT :**

**TOPIC:** Missionary Anniversaries and Our Call to mission

**SATURDAY 22 OCT:**

Prayer for the Missions after Holy Mass and Home/Hospital/Orphanage visitation

**SUNDAY 23 OCT :****THANKSGIVING IN THE CHURCH**

- ✓ Reading of the Pope's Mission Sunday Message or the Extract
- ✓ Collection/Appeal for the Universal Solidarity Fund for the Pontifical Society of the Propagation of the Faith
- ✓ A charitable act by the Church.



*Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese - Missionary  
Children visit grandparents and elders*



## **Pauline-Marie Jaricot** A Great Missionary

**I**n his written address to the National Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies who were gathered for the Annual General Assembly and the Beatification of Pauline-Marie Jaricot, in Lyon, Pope Francis drew attention to the missionary spirit that inspired Pauline Jaricot and which is still the animator of the Pontifical Mission Societies today.

In his letter he wrote "Pauline Jaricot liked to say that the Church is missionary by nature (*Ad gentes*, 2) and that therefore every baptized person has

a mission, indeed, is a mission. Helping to live this awareness is the first service of the Pontifical Mission Societies, a service the Pontifical Mission Societies perform with the Pope and in the name of the Pope."

Referring to the jubilees that are being celebrated this year, the bicentenary of the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith*, the centenary of its elevation, together with the *Society of Holy Childhood* and the *Society of St. Peter the Apostle*, to the rank of "Pontifical, the 400th anniversary of

*Propaganda Fide* and the beatification of Pauline-Marie Jaricot, Pope Francis highlighted three aspects that, "thanks to the action of the Holy Spirit, have contributed so much to the spread of the Gospel in the history of the PMS."

H e f i r s t addressed missionary conversion. He made the point that "The goodness of mission depends on the journey of going out of oneself, on the desire not to centre one's life on oneself, but on Jesus, on Jesus who came to serve and not to be served (cf. Mk 10:45). In this sense, Pauline Jaricot saw her existence as a response to God's compassionate and tender mercy: since her youth she sought identification with her Lord, also through the sufferings she went through, in order to

ignite the flame of his love in every man. Here lies the source of the mission, in the ardour of a faith that is not satisfied and that, through conversion, imitates day by day in order to channel God's mercy on the streets of the world.

B u t t h i s i s possible –second aspect –only through prayer, which is the first form of mission. It is no coincidence that Pauline placed the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith* alongside the *Living Rosary*, as if to reaffirm that mission begins with prayer and cannot be achieved without it (cf. Acts 13: 1-3). Yes, because it is the Spirit of the Lord who precedes and enables all our good works: the primacy is always of his grace."

Pope Francis made the point that missionary conversion and prayer lead to the

third aspect, charity. “Pauline initiated a collection of offerings on a large scale and in a creative form, accompanying it with information about the missionaries' lives and activities. The offerings of so many simple people were providential for the history of the missions.”

The pope concluded, “Dear brothers and sisters who are part of the General Assembly of the PMS, I hope that you walk the path traced by this great missionary woman, allowing yourself to be inspired by her concrete faith, her audacious courage, her generous creativity. Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Star of Evangelization, I invoke the blessing of the Lord upon each one of you and I ask you, please, to pray for me.”



*The Apostolic Nuncio's canonical  
visit to Archdiocese of Accra*

# The Beatification



**P**auline-Marie Jaricot, founder of the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith* and the *Living Rosary* was beatified in Lyon, France, on Sunday the 22nd May, 2022.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Prefect of the *Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples* presided at the Mass. More than 50 bishops, 2000 priests and 13 000 of the faithful from around the world, attended the Mass and the beatification ceremony.

Cardinal Tagle welcomed the 120 National Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) who had come to Lyon in honour of their founder, before reading the following message from Pope Francis:

“We grant that the venerable servant of God, Pauline-Marie Jaricot, founder of the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith* and of the *Living Rosary* for the support of the missions, true disciple of Christ, witness attached

to the primacy of God and to human dignity, be hence forth called 'Blessed', and that she may be celebrated on the 9th January of each year, in the places and according to the rules defined by law. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen. Given in Rome at the Lateran, on the 24th April, the 2nd Sunday of Easter, and Feast of Divine Mercy, of the year 2022, the 10th of our pontificate, *Francis*."

The unveiling of the official portrait of Blessed Pauline Jaricot

During Mass the official portrait of Blessed Pauline was unveiled. Following the unveiling of the portrait, Mayline Tran, the young girl who was miraculously healed through the intercession of Blessed Pauline Jaricot in 2012, brought forward, along with her family, a relic of blessed Pauline – a small cross which was

given to Pauline by St John Vianney before his death in 1859.



*Mayline Tran and her family bringing forward a relic of blessed Pauline – a small cross which was given to Pauline by St John Vianney before his death in 1859*

In his homily Cardinal Tagle said that Pauline Marie Jaricot was a "living testimony to the power of love that identifies with Jesus. She was a woman who lived, loved, and let Jesus Christ, the Word of God, dwell in her and through her." He went on "Jaricot was obedient to the Holy Spirit, who encouraged her to spread the Gospel and serve the poor through her creative ideas and initiatives."



*The Cross given to Pauline by St. John Vianney before his death in 1859.*

The Cardinal noted her extensive spiritual and missionary insights, adding, "The Holy Spirit opens wider paths so that Jesus' words and love can reach more people." "Jaricot was following the deep spiritual and social tradition of the Church of Lyon in her actions," he stated.

Archbishop Olivier de Germain, the metropolitan archbishop of

Lyon, led the local church community in wholeheartedly welcoming the beatification of Pauline Jaricot. "Jaricot was both contemplative and active at the same time," said the archbishop. She was a wealthy woman who "found herself poor, humiliated, and forgotten," he added.



*The National Director with Pope Francis*

Evangelization and missions defined Jaricot's life. Her motto, "A Penny and a Prayer," reflect her faith and her understanding that 'whatever little we give' the Lord will amplify.



The fruits of such faith are evident in the extraordinary growth of the *Society for the Propagation and the Faith*, and the other societies that sprang from it, the *Society of the Missionary Childhood*, and the *Society of St Peter the Apostle*, an impressive accomplishment for a young woman barely in her 20, who had no, or little, support from formal church structures.

Jaricot's prayers and contributions to the missions were crucial to the growth and development of mission churches in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific.

Since it was founded 200 years ago, the *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith* has provided prayer, animation, and financial support to the

missionary activity of the Church around the world.

Pauline's network gradually spread across continents, and today, about 1,100 dioceses in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands enjoy the benefits of what she began, and others still continue.



*The Chapel of our Lady of fourvieret, where Pauline made a private vow of chastity on Christmas Day*



### Pauline Quotes

“What does it matter  
except that Christ be  
made known!”

“I was made to Love ...  
My cloister is the  
world.”

“My heart is ready, O  
Lord, my heart is ready.  
I only wish to do all for  
Thy greater glory.”

### Pauline's Offering

My hope is in  
Jesus Christ!  
My only Treasure is the  
Cross!

I seek nothing  
but the Will of God,  
And aspire for nothing  
Save its perfect  
accomplishment!

I place my hope in Thy  
mercy, which surpasses  
all Thy works!

Mary, O My Mother,  
I Am Thine!



Missio Ghana is the Pope's official charity for mission.  
By supporting PMS Ghana you

- ❖ Help missionaries share the love of Jesus Christ
- ❖ Train tomorrow's Priests and Sisters
- ❖ Give hope to the world's poorest children and
- ❖ Create a vibrant Catholic Church for the future

### **Prayer for Mission Month 2022**

Lord, you call us to preach Good News to all nations,  
in every situation! Inspired by you, we come out  
from our churches and our houses to  
preach the Good News.



Inspired by our youth,  
their dreams and their questions,  
we are keen about your mission.  
Together, we will build a new Earth,  
which will be more just, more in  
solidarity, and more fraternal.

We will build relationships marked by trust,  
sharing, and openness to other people.

We will not erect walls of division, but we will  
build bridges to connect your large Human family!

Amen!



If you would like to make a monetary contribution to support the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Ghana, you can do so by making a direct deposit to the National Investment Bank (NIB) Bank Account.

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