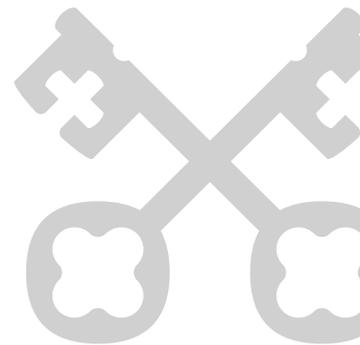




# PASTORAL AND FINANCIAL ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2020



pápežské  
misijné  
diela

**PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES (PMS)  
IN SLOVAKIA**

# PASTORAL ANNUAL REPORT 2020

## CORONA AND NEW IMPULSES



In 2,000 years of the Church's history we have not experienced a situation similar to the corona crises. March 10, 2020 marks 10 years since the tragical death of the missionary worker Danica Olexová, who died in a plane crash in Ethiopia. Her family, friends and I were to offer a Holy Mass for her but from that day on, public celebration of Holy Masses was forbidden. Naturally, the Mass took place privately and after that we had some pineapple because Danica loved it so much. Without knowing anything about the corona crises, at PMS everything was ready to connect with the PMS members through a live broadcast in the Chapel of Light in Bratislava. Thanks to that, we were able to be close to many people on Sundays. The Holy Mass was offered for huge amount of intentions that we received via online registration form. There were various competitions for children in which they could win a plush donkey. We distributed 50 plush donkeys to children in Slovakia. They were given tasks every Sunday, e.g. painting or visiting a chapel. We also tried to teach them songs through the PMS Youtube channel. Another successful idea was the May and June devotion called DOMA (at home). We had found 1,000 mission Crosses in the archive of PMS, which we distributed to 1,000 homes with an attached prayer and challenge to arrange some flowers on a small altar for the Virgin Mary. Consequently, we received about 300 gorgeous pictures and created a map on our website with places where people in Slovakia prayed. The other devotion was a June devotion to the Heart of Jesus called Jesus has a heart for us. Altogether, 3,171 people ordered the Greek-catholic icon of Jesus Christ

loving people (Isus Christos Čelovikoľubec). It represents the union of the East and the West. The icon of Christ Pantocrator was supplemented by an element of reverence for the Divine Heart based on the revelation to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. We received a lot of positive feedback and prayers either for the PMS and prayer requests for our believers.

The volume of phone calls and e-mails has surged and we had more live broadcasts last year, too. We felt an intense connection with Pope Francis. It was a blessed time of new possibilities for the Church. We have discovered to a greater extent the spirituality of the sacraments, possibilities of the Internet and we have prayed more than ever before.

## BENEFIT MISSION BALL 2020



On Saturday, January 4, 2020 a benefit Mission ball took place in Košeca (district Ilava). The event began with a Holy Mass in the church of the Assumption of Mary into heaven and continued in the local cultural house. There were 202 people and the music band Melódia (Melody) from the village of Hradište (municipality Partizánske) played. The proceeds from the ball of 2,350 € was intended for the mission projects.

## THE DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR MISSIONARY MARTYRS

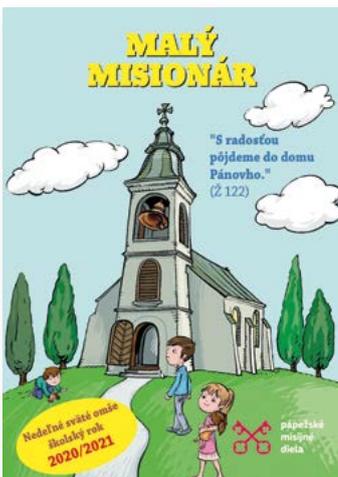
March 24 is the annual Day of Prayer and Fasting in memory of missionary martyrs who shed their blood for the Gospel. Many parishes prayed the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross for the tortured missionaries that we wrote the text for: **The Way of the Cross of the martyred missionaries and witnesses to the faith.**

## MISSIONARY COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND



Pope Francis established an emergency fund at the Pontifical Mission Societies to aid those people and communities who are being tragically impacted by the spread of COVID-19. The money from the fund went to the impacted countries through the Church's structures and institutions. Slovakia has collected 34,231,08 € for the fund so far.

## LITTLE MISSIONARY



"We shall go to the house of the Lord with joy." (Psalm 122) – More than 25,000 children and 420 parishes took part in the pastoral activity called Little missionary. Every child received a small notebook for collecting stickers after every Sunday Mass from September to

June. The notebook included the respective Sunday Gospel with pictures, quotes and short thoughts to reflect on. Children were encouraged to participate actively on Mission Sunday and pray for missions, especially during the October's Missionary Month.

## THE ICON OF OUR LADY OF SILENCE – SILENCE PLEASE, SILENCE SPEAKS

In the framework of the Mission month of October, we made a domestic devotion to Our Lady of Silence. The initiative to this devotion arose when churches in Slovakia got closed during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. After believers have registered on the website, we sent them a prayer and the icon of Our Lady of Silence printed on card.

The original icon of Our Lady of Silence was written at PMS and a Holy Mass was offered for all those who joined the devotion as well as for their intentions. The icon was blessed on October 7, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and it is placed in the Chapel of Light in the house of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Bratislava. Prior to the Mission Sunday we prayed a novena to Our Lady of Silence. We began praying on Friday, October 9 and people could watch it every day live at 8:00 pm on our Youtube channel. Also, the song Matka Ticha (Our Lady of Silence) was created during writing of the icon. It was a part of the novena. More than 7,000 icons were distributed.



## SONG: OUR LADY OF SILENCE

The song was composed during the writing of the icon of Our Lady of Silence for all those who are looking for joy in silence. Mária Buláková, a member of the PMS team, took part in the icon writing course.

Music, lyrics: *Mária Buláková*

Vocals: *Mária Buláková, Lucia Balogová*

Please check this link for the song and lyrics:

<https://misijnediela.sk/2020/10/matka-ticha-piesen-maria-bulakova-a-lucia-balogova/>

## ADOPTION OF SEMINARIANS



Slovakia has adopted seminarians in Benin, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Togo, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo. Slovak communities and individuals prayed and financially supported particular seminarians assigned to them. Slovaks have adopted more than 800 seminarians so far. On May 3, 2020 (Good Shepherd Sunday), the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we united in prayer with seminarians and seminars and celebrated an online Holy Mass through the Slovak Youtube channel: Pápežské misijné diela (PMS) at 11 o'clock in the Chapel of Light

in Bratislava. It was offered for Church communities, families and individual donors supporting seminarians in Africa during their priestly formation.

## WORLD MISSION MAGAZINE



The World Mission magazine is published for the members and friends of the Pontifical Mission Societies and it is printed in 40,000 copies twice a year. Last year's Eastern publication focused on Azerbaijan and the Mission Sunday publication was devoted to Sri Lanka.

## MISSION CALENDAR 2020



The Mission calendar was printed in 40,000 copies last year. The gorgeous pictures took by Lukáš Bjaľoň show the stories of people whom we met on the way to Rwanda.

## MISSION SUNDAY 2020



October 18 is celebrated as the Feast of solidarity. Last year's Mission Sunday we observed the Pope's Message: „Here am I, send me!“ (Isaiah 6:8). We have put together and distributed the following material to the faithful:

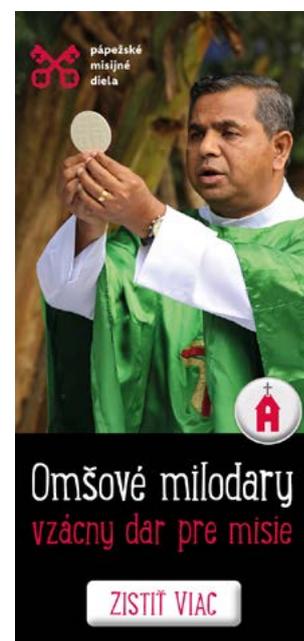
- posters –A3 and A4 formats
- ideas for homilies
- texty farských oznamov
- announcements for parishes
- World mission magazines, Mission Rosaries for children
- prayers for Sri Lanka and Slovakia

The contributions for Mission Sunday 2020 were only collected electronically because on that day all churches in Slovakia were closed.

## MASS OFFERINGS FOR MISSIONARIES

In 2020, the Slovak faithful had the chance to help the priests in missions in the form of donations. In return, the priests in the missionary countries offered Holy Masses for their intentions. Altogether, we received and sent out 233,168 Holy Mass intentions in the amount of 1,165,840 € in 2020.

To break it down, the number of individual



Holy Masses was: 93,692, novenas: 5,674 (i.e. 51,066 Masses) and Gregorian Masses: 2,947 (i.e. 88,410 Masses). Donations for Mass offerings are a blessing for the African priests. At the same time we realize the universality of the Church when priests put the intentions from Slovakia on the altar.

## PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD



During the Advent season, we did an online activity called Prepare the Way of the Lord. Every day, as a way to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord, we published a thought from the Gospel and the task of the day on our Facebook page.

## SWEET HELP - TWICE AS SWEET CHOCOLATE



Since last autumn, thousands of people in Slovakia have shown solidarity with young people in the poor-

est countries of the world. They help others and offer the chocolate that is „twice as sweet“ in their parishes, schools but also individually. The chocolate bars with the names of 16 missionary countries and thoughts on the packaging were made by the Slovak chocolate factory DEVA based in the city of Trebišov. Schools, parishes and volunteers have ordered 147,000 chocolate bars, which is 3,500 boxes on 14 pallets. Overall, Slovakia has contributed to the fund of the Missionary Childhood Association with the amount of 36,750 €. We know from the history that Spanish missionaries spread chocolate to the whole world. They began to take chocolate to places where they worked and preached the Word of God. In this way it spread quickly to all continents. Pope Francis says that at this time we shall show solidarity and concrete love. The campaign Sweet help is a very easy and nice way to show love to others. The taste of good chocolate encourages young people in particular to help.

## THREE KINGS STAR (STAR OF BETHLEHEM)



The coronavirus crises made our homes a place of prayer. We read the Holy Scriptures, spiritually connect at celebrating Holy Masses via television and the Internet. In this context, several creative themes for domestic devotions arose at PMS. One of the activities was called the Three Kings Star (Star of Bethlehem) and it supported the fund of the Missionary Childhood Association. The activity lasted from the Epiphany until the end of January. Traditionally, the blessing of a house is done by a priest but it can also be done by laymen, e.g. father or mother of a family. In this case, the blessing is not sacramental but it is a

way of prayer and devotion of a family to God. Families need blessed water and/or a litten candle as a symbol of Christ and the attitude of a believer realising God's presence and his love.

We distributed 40,000 copies of house blessing prayers in Slovakia. The packet included:

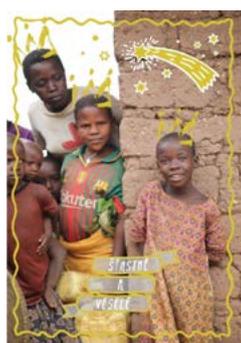
- a house blessing prayer
- the icon of the Holy Family (A5 format, card)
- a door sticker in the pattern 20 C+M+B+21 (sticker is well detachable)
- a leaflet explaining how to support missionaries



### THREE KINGS CAROL - COMPETITION

We organized the first year of the competition in singing carols called Trojkráľová koleda (Three Kings carol). It was an online competition and was intended mainly for children but all ages could take part.

### HOLY MASS AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT



During the Christmas holidays, many believers in Slovakia gave the gift of a Holy Mass to their families and friends. Pontifical Mission Societies in Slovakia printed and distributed the Christmas postcards in which people could write their Holy Mass intentions and dedication. The postcards were delivered before Christmas so that everyone could place them under their

Christmas trees. Totally, it was 19,385 Holy Masses, including 176 Gregorian Masses and 765 novenas.

### THE EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE PMS HOUSE



"We are blessed to be a blessing to others." We have received a blessing at work and at our home because we want to be a blessing to others, too.

### MISSIONARY E-SHOP

We offer several missionary articles and publications on the PMS missionary e-shop, e.g. Rosaries, Victorious Crosses, Stations of the Cross, DVD movies, banner magnets and others.

### PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES TEAM

#### Permanent staff:

**Ivan Kňaze** – priest, director

**Mária Buláková** – methodologist, public relations

**Lucia Balogová** – adoption of seminarians, language translations

**Lenka Balková** – administration

#### External staff:

**Anka Žákova** – economist

**Martina Grochalová** – chief editor of the World mission magazine

**Martin Farbák** – database management, newsletter

**Pavol Brečka** – TV Lux technician

**Mária Jančovičová** – administration



# FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

In 2020, in the framework of the PMS activities, the amount of **1,213,452.55 €** was collected for the projects of all three mission societies.

The first part of the donations intended to support the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for which the amount of **519,033.65 €** was raised via e-collection. The collection couldn't take place in churches because they were closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

The second part of the donations was raised for the Missionary Childhood Association, the project for poor and disadvantaged children in the mission countries in the amount of **172,175.40 €**.

The third part of the total amount of fundraising in 2020 was meant to support the projects of the Society of St. Peter Apostle and missionary seminaries. We collected the amount of **522,243.50 €**.

During the Mission Sunday 2020, all churches in Slovakia were closed. Since the collection didn't take place in churches but only in the form of an e-collection, we are not able to present the income according to the individual dioceses. The total amount of money raised in the collection was **519,033.65 €**.

## INCOMES

Incomes	€
Mission Sunday collection 2020	519,033,65 €
PMS members, sponsors, adoption of seminarians	657,628,75 €
Mass offerings	1,165,840 €
eRko - Good News campaign collection	36,790,15 €
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,379,292,55 €</b>

## EXPENDITURES

Expenditures up to 15% (9.8 %)	€
Production and distribution of missionary materials, other	72,122,70 €
Operational and labour costs	84,256,50 €
Mission animation, Small Missionary, EXTRA GIFT	78,405,45 €
<b>Spolu</b>	<b>234,784,65 €</b>

## TOTAL AMOUNT for the mission projects 2020 broken down into the separate societies

Mission projects 2020	€
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith (Mission Sunday collection 2020)	519,033,65 €
The Missionary Childhood Association	172,175,40 €
The Society of St. Peter Apostle	522,243,50 €
<b>Total amount for the mission projects of PMS 2020</b>	<b>1,213,452,55 €</b>

Thank you and may the Lord be with you, Blessings,  
Ivan Kňaze, National Director PMS Slovakia