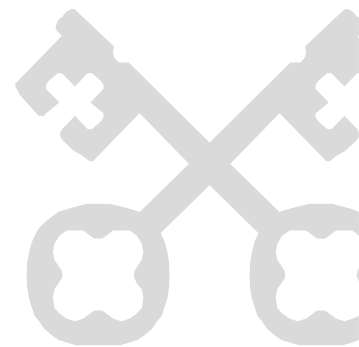




# PASTORAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR 2023



pápežské  
misijné  
diela

Pontifical Mission Societies in Slovakia

## MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD IN SLOVAKIA

**m**isijné  
dielo detí

Every Mission bead is led by an animator, catechist, parent or a priest. Its members meet every other week and it has a minimum of 2 and maximum of 12 members. A Mission bead can be formed in a parish, school or a family. It is entrusted to the protection of the Child Jesus in Bethlehem. St. Therese was also a member of Missionary Childhood at the age of 8.



*Mission bead from Zázriva at the event Children meet the Pope in Rome.*



As of today, February 4, 2024, 503 groups of children called Mission bead have been created in Slovakia, and the total of 4,369 children have already joined the initiative. Each Mission bead has its own leader and number, children can choose their patron saint (e.g. 473th Mission bead is the bead of Our Lady of the Rosary).

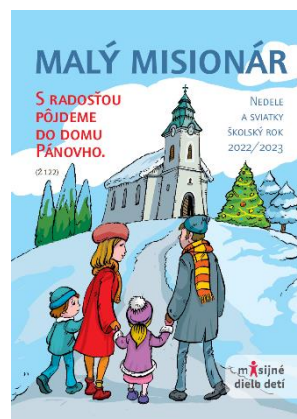
The aim of this Pontifical Society is to bring the children of the whole world into

communion with Jesus Christ in his Church. We are creating a prayer network of children in Slovakia. We are also preparing a meeting of the leaders of the individual beads in different places around Slovakia.

We have set ourselves 7 main objectives:

1. To help awaken and gradually form missionary awareness of children.
2. To lead children to fellowship.
3. To motivate them to help other children.
4. To form missionary animators in families, schools and parishes.
5. To prepare methodological and catechetical materials for the three areas mentioned above.
6. To organize a Mission Day for children.
7. To give children the opportunity to learn about the love of Jesus.

## LITTLE MISSIONARY



"We shall go to the house of the Lord with joy." (Psalm 122) – More than 26,000 children and almost 500 parishes took part in the pastoral activity called Little missionary. At the beginning of the school year, 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. Therefore, children are encouraged to actively participate on Mission Sunday and pray for missions, especially during the Missionary Month October.

## MY HOLIDAYS IN CHURCH



A4 worksheet, folded into a square, designed to help children understand the Sunday Gospel during the summer holidays. There is a picture corresponding to every Sunday and feast day for children to color in. They can also write the village or town in it where they attended a Mass on that Sunday.

## ALL SOULS' DAY

### The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

Suggestions that may be used during the month of November when we pray for the departed and obtain indulgences for the souls in purgatory. We want to help children understand the meaning of praying for those who, with us in eternity, form one Church. A simple methodology with themes is prepared for animators that they can adapt and modify according to their possibilities. There are cards (bookmarks) with a picture of a candle on one page and a prayer and the conditions for obtaining a plenary indulgence for the souls in purgatory on the other page. Children can write the names of the deceased for whom they wish to pray in the lines on the card. At the same time, the cards can be used in the ideas from the methodology.

## THE MONTH OF MANY COLORS

### Mission October

Through the month of many colors, we want to motivate and encourage children to help other children around the world by praying and sharing. While praying for children around the world for missions and missionaries, we are also reminded that we belong to the global family of God. Prayer and sharing are two important ways of becoming children helping children.

*Pupils from the Apostle Paul Elementary School in Liptovský Mikuláš, who participated in The Month of many Colors*



We offer the opportunity for animators to organize 5 colorful days in the school, family, parish, or their Mission bead. It may be one day each week throughout the month or all five days in one week. The 5 colors represent the continents (green - Africa, red - America, white - Europe, blue - Oceania, yellow - Asia.) We also invite them to pray the Holy Rosary during the month of October. To do this, we have prepared a creative mission rosary with colored paper circles on which the prayers are printed. At the same time, we offer cards with prayers for children of each continent and also for children in Slovakia.

## ADVENT CALENDAR FOR CHILDREN

A4 calendar with pictures and simple tasks for each day from the beginning of Advent until Christmas.

## LENT CALENDAR FOR CHILDREN

The calendar guides children through Lent using activities to prepare them well for Easter. There is a picture with a corresponding task for each day of Lent.

## MISSION CALENDAR - MISSION MONTH OF OCTOBER

During the entire missionary month of October children work on different tasks assigned to them for every day.

## FORMATION OF MISSIONARY ANIMATORS

One of our goals is to form missionary animators in the field of family, school and parish. Every year we meet with Mission bead leaders around the country and with active animators who are engaged in Missionary Childhood.

*Participants of the 1st missionary animation school called Studňa.*



We organize STUDŇA (WELL) - School for Missionary Animators. It is a basic course in missionary animation in the spirit of the idea: Joyfully and creatively changing the world. The course is designed for catechists, Mission beads leaders, religious sisters, priests and for everyone who feels young in spirit and wants to creatively develop their missionary vocation.

We invite everyone who wants to

collect ideas on how to work with children - how to pray with them and at the same time gain some insight into prayer in mission countries - to a weekend missionary course OVEČKA (SHEEP) about prayer with children. The main motto of this course is the message of St. Therese of Lisieux: "Mission is prayer".

We try to awaken missionary enthusiasm at BUDÍK - Slovak national meeting of animators of Missionary Childhood. The formation of animators takes place through lectures by professionals, the program includes mutual communication and exchange of experiences. Finally, at the course ZACHEJ on creativity in faith, we offer new inspirations and ideas on how to live out our faith and missionary vocation in unconventional, creative and courageous ways. We invite everyone who wants to get to know Christ and in turn themselves better through creativity, wonder and discovery.

## ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Throughout the year we also offer various activities for Mission beads, families, communities, parishes and schools. Our activities are primarily meant to be done at the parish, family, and school, thus leading the children to fellowship. And through fellowship, children are motivated to help other children. Through the activities, we build missionary awareness and enthusiasm in children, leading them to help others in a creative way.

## MISIJNÝ SAMARITÁN

This is a project of regular support for the Missionary Childhood Association for children in Africa and Asia. The aim is to help children in need on a regular basis. By regular support we are able to plan ahead and then carry out many projects in Africa and Asia. It enables us to proclaim the gospel in a creative and joyful

way to all the world and to all who do not know God. We support children in poor countries – this includes helping street children, schools, with well drilling, feeding programs, health care, nutrition programs for malnourished children, purchasing medicine, hygiene, and treating their common and serious illnesses. 100% of the funding amount goes to children's projects. Anyone who chooses to become a regular donor is regularly informed of the projects supported and a Mass is celebrated during the year for their intention. In 2023, 86 missionary Samaritans were added and there are a total of 303 (February 4, 2024).

### MISSION CAKE



Mission cake is a fun and attractive way to help the poor in mission countries. Volunteers bake cakes which they offer for a voluntary donation to help the missions. Mission cake brings the whole community – parish, school, fellowship – together. This activity can be organized at any time of the year, but the best months are May and December. The coordinator in the parish or school can order a sticker for the collection box, posters, or fliers for donors at registration. He or she then sends short feedback after the Mission cake activity has been completed. In 2023, 102 organizers expressed interest in organizing the Mission Cake.

### BENEFIT CONCERT AT BUTKOV HILL

More than 18 000 € were collected to support

mission projects during the benefit concert, which took place on Saturday, July 29, 2023, in the Rock Sanctuary of God's Mercy on Butkov hill. The band Kandráčovci with Monika Kandráčová and heligon player Vlasta Mudříková performed in the program. With this amount, the Papal Missionary Works in Slovakia supported 22 projects for children in the African country of Malawi. The Apostolic Nuncio of Slovakia, Mons. Nicola Girasoli, supported the concert with his participation and blessing. In his speech, he thanked the performers, shared the joy of the experience and gave the audience a greeting from Pope Francis.



### MISSION SUNDAY 2023

October 22, 2023 was celebrated as the Feast of solidarity, with the main message: "*Hearts on fire, feet on the move.*" (Luke 24:13-35)

We have put together and distributed the following material to parishes:

- posters – A3 and A4 formats
- ideas for homilies
- announcements for parishes
- magazine World mission and mission rosaries for children

In Slovakia, we focused on Benin on Mission Sunday. In all churches in Slovakia in 1,527 parishes, 797,779.09 € were collected during Mission Sunday on October 22, 2023 to support the missionary works of Pope Francis.

## ADOPTION OF SEMINARIANS



As of today, Slovaks have adopted altogether 1,778 seminarians from 16 seminars in 13 African countries. These include Benin, Ivory Coast (2 seminars), Burkina Faso, Chad, Togo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo (2 seminars) and Cameroon (2 seminars). Slovak communities and individuals pray and financially support particular seminarians assigned to them after communication with seminaries.

## WORLD MISSION MAGAZINE

The World Mission magazine is published for the members and friends of the Pontifical Mission Societies and it is printed in 70,000 copies twice a year. Last year's Eastern publication focused on Thailand and the Mission Sunday publication was devoted to Benin.

## MISSION CALENDAR 2024

The Mission calendar was printed in 45,000 copies last year. It contains beautiful pictures of the African country Malawi.

## MASS OFFERINGS FOR MISSIONARIES

In 2023, 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 celebrated Holy Masses for their intentions. Altogether, we received and sent out 249 107 Holy Mass intentions in the amount of 1,245 535 € in 2023. To break it down, the number of individual Holy Masses was: 71 726, novenas: 6,919 (i.e. 62 271 Masses) and Gregorian



Masses: 3 837 (i.e. 115 110 Masses). Donations for Mass offerings are a blessing for priests in missions around the world. At the same time, we realize the universality of the Church when priests put the intentions from the believers in Slovakia on the altar.

## SWEET HELP – TWICE AS GOOD CHOCOLATE

Since last autumn, thousands of people in Slovakia have shown solidarity with young people in the poorest 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 upbuilding thoughts on the packaging were made for PMS by the Slovak chocolate factory DEVA based in the city of Trebišov. We have also offered a chocolate bar for St. Nicholas eve.



Since September 2023, schools, parishes and volunteers have ordered 126,000 chocolate bars "Sweet help", which represented 3,000 boxes on 12 pallets. 48,000 pieces of chocolate "St Nicholas" were distributed in 1,620 boxes on 6 pallets. As history tells us, 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 too 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 others.

## MOSAIC PICTURE – MOTHER CHURCH

### October prayers 2023



In May 1981, John Paul II was shot in St. Peter's Square in Rome. As he himself said, his life was saved by Mary's protection. As a sign of gratitude, he placed an image of the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, on the square. We were sending the image of the Mother of the Church together with the prayer free of charge, but those who wanted could support mission projects as a sign of gratitude.

## 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 Christmas postcards in which people could write their Holy Mass intentions and their dedication. The postcards were delivered before Christmas so that everyone could place them under their Christmas trees. Totally, it was 28 946 Holy Masses and 9 961 Christmas postcards distributed to those who ordered them.

## STAR OF BETLEHEM

The Three Kings Star (Star of Betlehem) activity is associated with the collection for the Missionary Childhood Association. The activity lasts 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 lit candle as a symbol of Christ and the attitude of a believer realising God's presence and his love. We distributed 90,000 copies of house blessing prayers around Slovakia. The packet included:

- a house blessing prayer and a leaflet informing about the support for missionaries,
- a door sticker in the pattern 20 C+M+B+24.



## MISSIONARY E-SHOP

In 2023, we offered 75 missionary items and publications in the PMS missionary e-shop. 3 428 packages were distributed.

## PMS SLOVAKIA TEAM

### Permanent staff:

Ivan Kňaze – priest, director

Lucia Jemalová – coordinator of the Society of St. Peter the Apostle

Gabriela Valábková – coordinator of Missionary Childhood

Mária Buláková – methodologist

Terézia Filipová – administration

Jana Palkovičová – administration

Lenka Špániková – administratíva, missionary e-shop

Martin Farbák – PMS building and website admin

### External staff:

Anna Žáková – economist

Martina Grochálová – chief editor of the World Mission magazine

## FINANCIAL REPORT - YEAR 2023

In 2023, in the framework of the PMS activities, the amount of **2,634,461.99 €** was collected for projects of all three mission societies. The first part of the donations intended to support the Society for the Propagation of the Faith was in the amount of **797,779.09 €** and it was collected on Mission Sunday 2023. The collection took place in all churches in Slovakia. The second part of the

donations was raised for the Missionary Childhood Association, through the project for poor and disadvantaged children in the mission countries in the amount of **1,012,387.35 €**. The third part of the total amount of fundraising in 2023 was meant to support the projects of the Society of St. Peter the Apostle and missionary seminaries. We collected the amount of **824,295.55 €**.

### INCOMES – MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION 2023 ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUAL DIOCESES

Diocese	2023
Archdiocese of Bratislava	106 136,76 €
Archdiocese of Trnava	69 884,69 €
Archdiocese of Košice	138 670,67 €
Diocese of Nitra	51 000,00 €
Diocese of Banská Bystrica	49 116,00 €
Diocese of Žilina	118 403,94 €
Diocese of Spiš	193 000,30 €
Diocese of Rožňava	28 553,76 €
Ecclesiastical Province of Prešov	27 545,27 €
Eparchy of Košice	12 655,00 €
Eparchy of Bratislava	2 812,70 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>797 779,09 €</b>

### INCOMES

Incomes	€
Mission Sunday collection 2023	<b>797 779,09 €</b>
PMS members, gifts, adoption of seminarians	943 149,60 €
Mass offerings	1 245 535,00 €
Domestic devotions, mission cake, missionary Samaritan	893 533,30 €
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3 879 996,99 €</b>



## EXPENDITURES

Expenditures up to 15% (13,81 %)	€
Production and distribution cost of missionary materials	147 822,20 €
Labor costs	171 826,15 €
Mission animation and operational costs	216 371,90 €
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>536 020,25 €</b>

## TOTAL AMOUNT FOR THE MISSION PROJECTS IN 2023 ACCORDING TO THE INDIVIDUAL MISSION WORKS

Mission projects 2024	€
Propagation of the Faith Society (Mission Sunday collection 2023)	797 779,09 €
The Missionary Childhood Association	1 012 387,35 €
The Society of St. Peter Apostle	824 295,55 €
<b>Total amount for the mission projects of PMS in 2024</b>	<b>2 634 461,99 €</b>

Thank you. Prayerfully

Ivan Kňaze, national director PMS Slovakia

