

The offerings worldwide coordinated by the Pontifical Mission Society of the Holy Childhood are accrued into the Universal Solidarity Fund of the Missionary Childhood. The Society helps each and every one of the Catholic Church's 1,062 mission dioceses and territories to provide pastoral care to the children and spread the gospel effectively. Mission Dioceses receive a regular annual subsidy to support missionary work among children. In addition, the Society subsidizes many other pastoral programs for the children, i.e.

- \* Protection of life. Support for medical care for children in clinics, dispensaries or hospitals hospitality and support for children with disability, orphans, vulnerable and abandoned children, building and upkeep of orphanages, etc.
- \* Christian Formation. Support for children in special projects for their catechetical, spiritual, liturgical and apostolic formation.
- \* Scholastic and pre-scholastic education. Support for food and study expenses, construction and up keep of kindergarten, nurseries, and primary schools,



acquiring education material.

- \* Missionary animation and formation. Services for awakening, enlivening, forming and sustaining the universal missionary spirit of the children and their animators. (Courses for the missionary formation of children, activities of missionary formation for children and adolescents, acquiring of missionary material, missionary publications).

The National Offices of the Pontifical Mission Society of the Holy Childhood exist in more than 120 countries around the world. The central administrative offices are located in Rome, Italy, under the direction of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

The National Office for Zambia is situated at the Catholic Secretariat of the Zambia Episcopal Conference, Kabulonga Road, Lusaka.

In addition, each diocese has a Director appointed by the Ordinary of that diocese.

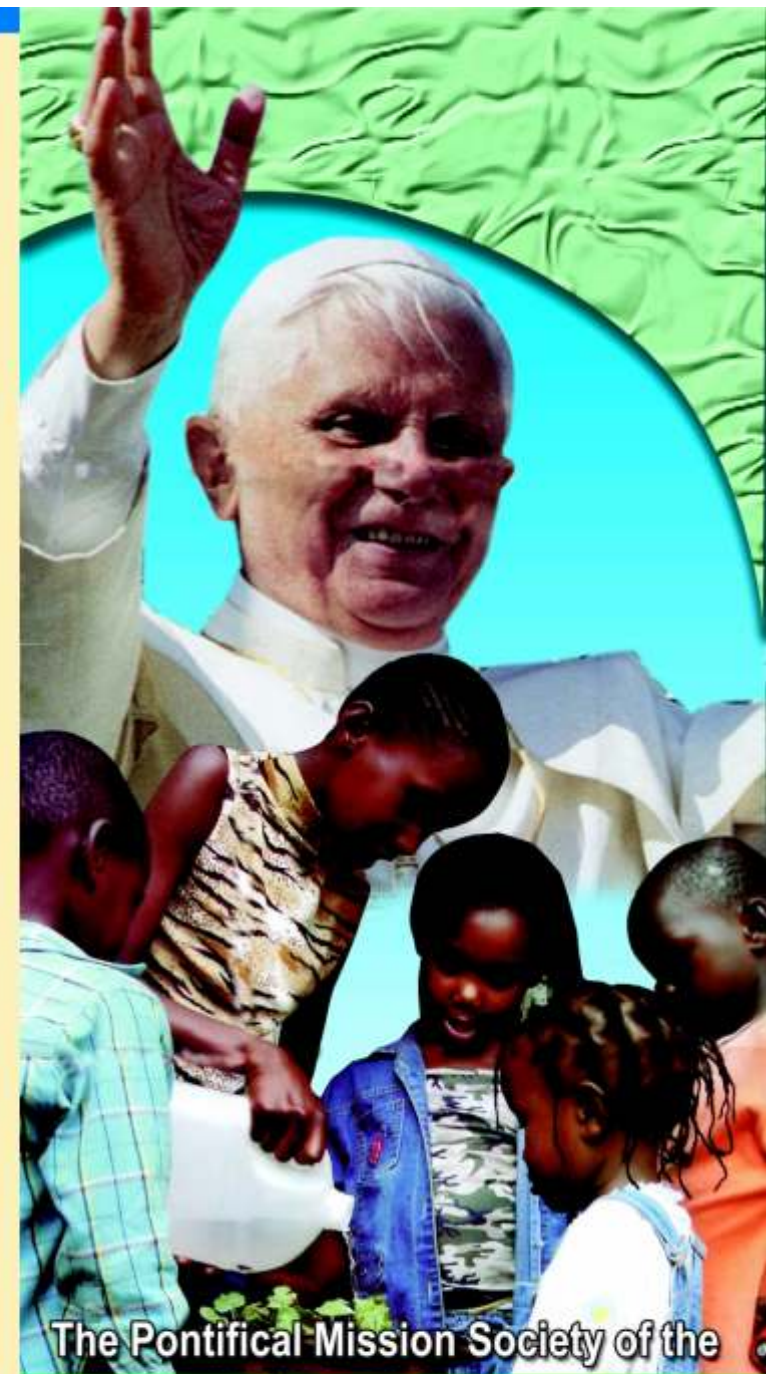
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**The Pontifical Mission Society of the  
HOLY CHILDHOOD**

## THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILDHOOD.

The Pontifical Mission Society of the Holy Childhood was founded on 9th May 1843, by Bishop Charles Marie de Forbin Janson, in France.



*Bishop Charles Marie de Forbin Janson*

***The Society addresses the essential needs of children, most fragile and weakest of humanity.***

Letters from missionaries, especially from Sisters, spoke of children suppressed because they were not wanted on account of their sex (girls), their physical or physical defects (handicapped) or simply because it was impossible to feed them because of poverty. The urgent and generous help of everyone was needed to save these children destined for death.



The strong missionary zeal of this great Bishop found its outlet in devotion to the Child Jesus, which he never ceased to spread. Mindful of the many problems children were facing, Bishop Charles Marie de Forbin Janson gave a missionary approach to this devotion. In fact the name itself "Missionary Childhood" expresses his desire to place the society under the protection of the Child Jesus.

The work of the Missionary Childhood found favour with individuals and institutions with great involvement in children's education. In its establishment it enjoyed the full support of the Church. Pope Leo XII promoted it with the Encyclical *Sancta Dei Civitas* (3 December 1880). On May 3 1922, Pope Pius XI conferred upon it the title "Pontifical", to indicate its status as the Church's official institution for helping children to be missionaries, and make other children missionaries.

The Society is at the service of the Holy Father, Bishops, Clergy, Religious, Laity and Children. It operates worldwide standing by the weak, afflicted, homeless, the sick and rejected children so that they may know that they matter in the eyes of God.



The Pontifical Mission Society of the Holy Childhood concentrates its efforts on teaching the faith to the children, protecting the rights of children and providing assistance in situations where children are suffering from famine and or/ lack of parental affection.

The focal point of this society is the particular role that children have in the proclamation of the Kingdom of God.

In fact they are particularly suited to accepting it and living the riches of its beauty, joy and love. ***"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God"*** (Lk. 18:16)



The Children of the world are invited to assist particularly in the work of praying and raising funds. An important task of the Society is educating and conscientising children so that they become aware of their responsibility to those children who have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ, and teach them about the MISSION and what it means.



Through this Society, the children are linked by faith and actions throughout the world. The plan is simple – ***"Children Helping Children"***, and the rule is simple – ***"a short prayer and a small voluntary contribution"***.