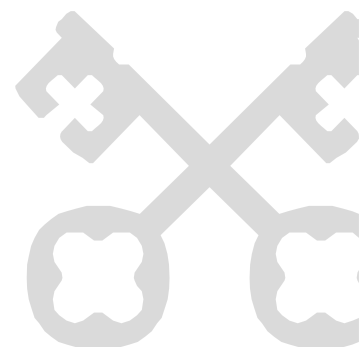




PASTORAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR 2024



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Pontifical Mission Societies in Slovakia

HOLY CHILDHOOD IN SLOVAKIA



The Missionary Work of Children in Slovakia develops its activities through Missionary

Beads, formation of animators and by supporting projects for children in missionary countries. Slovak children can become members of

the Holy Childhood by participating in prayer and in helping children in mission countries.



Children are motivated to pray through the Missionary Beads. The missionary Bead is a prayer community of children accompanied by a leader (animator, catechist, parent, priest). It can arise in the parish, at school or in the family. The missionary bead is made up of children who pray the rosary for the Pope, for the missions and for the missionaries of the whole world. In addition to prayer, Missionary Beads can also participate in other activities of the MDD.

At present time (as of 6.2.2025) we have 543 Missionary Beads in Slovakia, where 4756 children and 596 animators meet. Each bead that registers receive varied material for praying the rosary and instructions on how to establish and lead a missionary bead. A missionary bead can also choose its patron saint – one of the saints.

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.

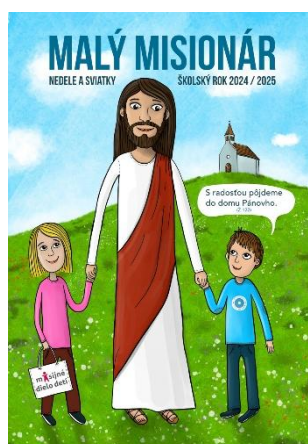
We have set ourselves 7 main objectives:

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.

Methodological and catechetical materials and activities

As part of our activities, we prepare methodological and catechetical materials and activities through which we help to awaken and form missionary awareness in children. Methodological materials also help animators when working with children. We offer various ideas and inspirations that they can adapt to their conditions.

Little Missionary



Glossary in A6 size with texts and pictures (stickers) for every Sunday and liturgical eves during the school year. It also contains a space for marking Holy Confession on the first Fridays. The children will commemorate the

Gospel of Sunday and the Feasts of Commandment with a sticker, a quote from the Gospel and a short thought. The glossary is suitable for children from 5 to 12 years of age, especially for first-communion children.

Advent calendar for children

An A4 calendar that is ready for every day from the beginning of Advent until Christmas with a picture and a simple task.



that they can prepare well for Easter with the help of tasks. For each day of fasting, a picture with a task is prepared.

May Flowers

An activity for the month of May, during which



children could prepare a meadow of flowers for the Virgin Mary by praying the Litanies of Loreto. They could color one flower every day, and so with their prayer let not only the meadow blossom for the

Virgin Mary, but the whole world.

Hands of Prayer – Add a Hand to Prayer



An activity for Lent, during which the children prayed the prayer of the five fingers according to the prayer of the Holy Father Francis. In it, he encourages children to pray not only for themselves, but

also for others. With the help of the fingers on their hands, they could gradually pray for specific neighbors during Lent. The goal is for children to see how we are united to all people through God's love and that prayer gives us great strength.

Lenten calendar for children

Calendarl guides the children through Lent so

A spiritual bouquet for all the children of the world

40 days before World Children's Day and the World Children's Meeting with the Pope, the children were invited to create a symbolic bouquet of prayers for all the children of the world.

My summer holidays in the church

A4 worksheet folded into a square, which is used by children during the summer holidays to bring the Sunday Gospel closer. Every Sunday and holiday have its own picture that children can colour. At the same time, they can also write down the village or city where they were at the Holy Mass on Sunday.

Stories of children from Mozambique

Pictures of five specific children from Mozambique with their story. Children in the

Missionary Bead can pray every decade of the rosary for a specific child.

We are unique and united



A creative activity for children in families, schools, parishes and in Missionary Beads. During the missionary month of October, the children were invited to join in

creating a chain of unity and prayer for unity. Through creative activity, they created a common chain of unity from paper figures. Everyone could sign their figurine, and Pope Francis was the first to sign this chain in Rome. The children connected the figures together and prayed for unity.

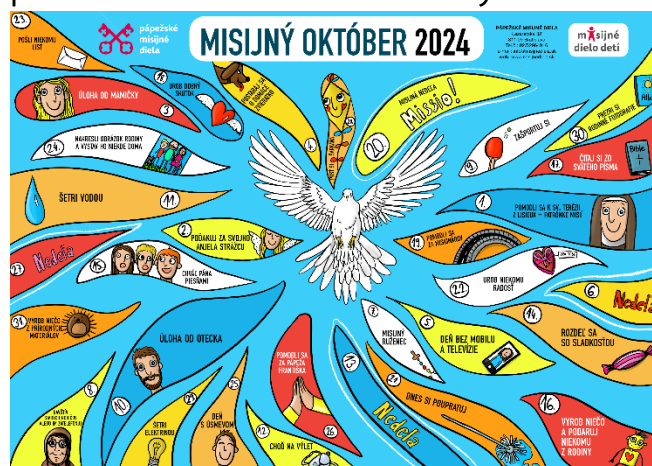
St. Teresa's Day



Meeting of children and leaders of the Holy Childhood at the end of September 2024 in ten places of our Slovak dioceses. It brought together the Missionary Beads, as well as children and animators who are involved in the activities of the Holy Childhood. They created beautiful and joyful communities, prayed together, celebrated Holy Mass and at the same time celebrated the feast of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and prepared for the missionary month.

Mission Calendar - Missionary October

Throughout the missionary October, children perform various tasks for each day.



St. Nicholas Worksheets: In the Footsteps of St. Nicholas



Activities in the worksheets will help children discover the traces of goodness that St. Nicholas left for today's children.

We want to motivate them on how they can follow his example and thus how to follow in his footsteps. The worksheets consist of 4 A4 pages and contain the legend of the three bags of gold, an activity with coins, an eight-way sign, a template for the Joy Package and a prayer. On the A5 sheet there is a story from Africa with a call for help. Children can work with the worksheets independently or you can use them in catechesis, in the family or in the parish.

Formation of missionary animators

One of our goals is also to form missionary animators in the families, schools and parishes. Every year we meet with the leaders of the Missionary Beads and active animators who are involved in the Holy Childhood.

The Well – Missionary Animation School



It is a basic course of missionary animation in the spirit of the idea: We joyfully and creatively change the world. The course is intended for catechists, leaders of missionary beads, nuns, priests and for anyone who feels young in spirit and has the enthusiasm and desire to develop their missionary vocation creatively. The school lasts for one school year and has 3 phases: a face-to-face meeting on a course, home study, and an online meeting. Participants will gain many theoretical and practical skills of an animator for children and youth. They can also be inspired by themes, games, dances, creative prayers. The exchange of experience and the exchange of ideas are also valuable.

Alarm Clock – nationwide meeting of animators of the Holy Childhood



A weekend meeting for young people aged 18-99 who work with children in parishes, communities, religious orders, families and schools and want to continue working with them. The motto of the meeting is: We awaken missionary enthusiasm! The goal is to draw, motivate,

learn to strengthen the identity of the animator (catechist, priest, nun). The program includes interesting topics, Holy Masses, creative workshops, night adoration, and the transfer of ideas. The formation of animators takes place through lectures with experts, and participants also find space for mutual communication and exchange of experience. The meeting is intended to be an encouragement for the next or new service of the animator.

Zacchaeus – A Course on Creativity in Faith



A weekend course for people from 18 to 99 years of age who work with children in parishes, communities, religious orders, families and schools. We offer new inspirations and ideas on how to live your faith and missionary vocation in an unconventional, creative and courageous way. Everyone who wants to get to know Christ better and through creativity, wonder, creation and discovery is invited. The program includes creative ways of reading the Holy Scriptures, prayers, Holy Mass, ideas for activities with children, African drumming, face painting, joyful and inspiring creation, and creative ideas for developing one's faith.

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

During the year, we also offer various activities for Missionary Beads, families, communities, parishes, or schools. Our activities are carried

out primarily in the parish, family and school, so we lead children to the community. And through community, children are motivated to help other children. Through activities, we form missionary awareness and enthusiasm in children, we lead them to creatively help others.

Missionary Samaritan

It is a project of regular support of the Holy Childhood for Children in Africa and Asia. The goal is to help children in need on a regular basis. With regular support, we are able to plan in advance and subsequently implement many projects in Africa and Asia. Thanks to it, we can proclaim the Gospel in a creative and joyful way throughout the world to all those who do not know God. We support children in poor countries – it is about helping street children, schools, well boreholes, food programs, health care, nutritional programs for malnourished children, buying medicines, hygiene and treatment of their common and serious diseases. 100% of the financial amount goes to projects for children. Everyone who decides to become a regular donor is regularly informed about the supported projects and one Holy Mass is celebrated for their intention during the year.

Mission cake



Mission cake is a fun and attractive help to the poor in mission countries. Volunteers bake cakes, which they offer for a voluntary contribution to help the missions. The Mission Cake

unites the whole community: the parish, the school, the community. A mission cake can be organized at any time of the year, but the best months are May or December. The coordinator in the parish, at the school, can order a sticker on the money box, posters, or leaflets for donors when registering. After the realization of the Mission Cake, they will send short feedback.

Benefit concert in Butkov



More than 17 thousand euros were collected to support missionary projects during a benefit concert that took place on Saturday, July 27, 2024, in the Rock Sanctuary of Divine Mercy on Mount Butkov. The program featured the band Kandráčovci with their mother Monika and heligonist Vlasta Mudříková. The concert was supported by the participation and blessing of Bishop Mons. Vincent Mwakhwawa from Malawi. In his speech, he thanked the participants for supporting missionary projects in his country and blessed everyone at the end.

Sweet help – twice as good chocolate

Since the autumn, thousands of people in Slovakia have shown solidarity with young people in the poorest countries. In parishes, in schools and individually, they offered chocolate, which helps and is twice as good. The chocolates with the names of sixteen mission countries and with thoughts of encouragement were made for the Pontifical Mission Societies by the Slovak chocolate factory DEVA based in Trebišov.

The offer also included chocolate "St. Nicholas – you give twice."



Since September, schools, parishes and volunteers have ordered 71,610 chocolate bars, which amounted to 1,705 boxes on 7 pallets. 16,950 pieces of "St. Nicholas you give twice" chocolates were sent out in 565 boxes on 3 pallets. As Pope Francis says, even in this season we must show solidarity and concrete love. The Sweet Help campaign is a very easy and pleasant way to do this. The taste of good chocolate encourages especially young people to help others.

Holy Mass as a Christmas gift



During the Christmas holidays in 2024, we gave the faithful the opportunity to give their loved ones a Holy Mass. The gift in the form of a Christmas card with the intention of the Holy Mass was prepared by the Pontifical Mission Societies and sent to donors before Christmas, who handed it over to the recipients under the Christmas tree. A total of **25,673** Holy Masses were registered, we sent out **8,212** Christmas gift cards.

The blessing of the dwelling

The project Blessing of the Dwelling is associated with a collection for the Holy Childhood. It takes place from the Feast of the Three Kings until the end of January. The blessing of the dwelling by the priest is important, but the house can also be blessed by a layman, such as a father or mother of the family. In this case, however, the act does not become a sacramental, but a form of prayer and dedication of the family to God. All it takes is blessed water, or a lit candle as a sign of Christ and the attitude of a believer, aware of God's presence and love.

We sent out 64,418 materials to bless the house:

- text of the prayer of blessing of the dwelling and a leaflet with information about the possibility of supporting missionaries
- a door sticker with the inscription 20C+M+B+25.



MISSION SUNDAY 2024

On October 20, 2024, we celebrated a day of solidarity with the idea: "Go and invite everyone to the feast." (cf. Mt 22:9)

For parishes, we have prepared and sent:

1. poster – size A3 and A4
2. Thoughts for the sermon
3. Texts of parish announcements
4. World Missions magazine

In Slovakia, we focused on Malawi on Mission Sunday. In all churches in Slovakia in 1527 parishes, **860,591.54 euros** were collected during **Mission Sunday, October 20, 2024** to support the missionary works of Pope Francis.

ADOPTION OF SEMINARIANS



In total, we have already adopted **2012 theologians in Slovakia as part of a specific adoption and 480 theologians as part of general support.** Slo-

vakia supports 21 seminars in 17 African countries. These are Benin, Côte d'Ivoire (2 seminars), Burkina Faso, Chad, Togo, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo (2 seminars), Cameroon (2 seminars), Nigeria (2 seminars), Central African Republic, Tanzania, Senegal, Ghana, Mozambique, Burundi, Uganda and Zambia. Individuals and communities pray and financially support seminarians with whom they are spiritually connected.

WORLD MISSIONS MAGAZINE

We publish the World Missions magazine for members and friends of the missions in a circulation of 70,000 thousand copies twice a year. For Easter, the magazine focused on France and on Mission October on Malawi.

MISSION CALENDAR 2025

The calendar was published in a circulation of 45,000 copies for our supporters. There are beautiful photos from the African country of Mozambique in the calendar.

HOLY MASS STIPENDS FOR MISSIONARIES



In 2024, we gave the faithful from Slovakia the opportunity to help priests in missions in the form of celebrating Holy Masses for their intentions in mission countries. In total, we received and sent **293,430 mass stipends** in the amount of €1,467,150 for 2024. Number of

individual Masses: 95,037, novenas: 7,747 (69,723 Masses), Gregorian Masses: 4,289 (128,670 Masses). Mass offerings are a blessing for priests in mission territories around the world, and we can also realize the universality of the Church when these priests present the intentions of the faithful from Slovakia to the altar.

MISSIONARY E-SHOP



In the missionary e-shop, we offered **95** items and publications in 2024. During the year, we sent out approximately 7,500 packages.

TEAM OF PMS SLOVAKIA

Permanent staff:

Ivan Kňaze – priest, director

Lucia Jemalová – coordinator of adoption

Gabriela Valábková – coordinator of the Holy Childhood

Mária Buláková – methodologist

Terézia Filipová – administration (until 10/2025)

Katarína Ďurišová – administration (from 10/2025)

Marek Frištyk – post, administration (from 10/2025)

Jana Palkovičová – Administration

Lenka Špániková – administration, missionary e-shop

Marin Farbák – graphic designer, administrator of the PMD website and building

External workers:

Anna Žáková – Economics

Martina Grochálová – Editor-in-Chief of the World Missions magazine

FINANCIAL REPORT - YEAR 2024

During 2024, the amount of **€2,958,364.40** was collected as part of PMD's activities for missionary projects of all three missionary societies.

In the collection for Mission Sunday 2024, in which the amount of **€ 860,591.54** was collected, we supported the Propagation of the Faith Society. The collection took place in all churches in Slovakia. As part of the

activities of the Holy Childhood Society, the amount of **€ 1,015,115.90** was collected to support projects for poor and disadvantaged children in the missions. The third part of the total amount collected in 2024 is the support of projects of the St. Peter the Apostle Society with a focus on supporting missionary seminaries. The amount of **€1,007,853.35** was collected for this purpose.

REVENUE – COLLECTION FOR MISSION SUNDAY 2024 BY INDIVIDUAL DIOCESES

Diocese	2024
Archdiocese of Bratislava	119 320,63 €
Archdiocese of Trnava	70 616,52 €
Archdiocese of Košice	145 829,51 €
Diocese of Nitra	53 500,00 €
Diocese of Banská Bystrica	56 522,00 €
Diocese of Žilina	128 117,13 €
Diocese of Spiš	213 807,42 €
Diocese of Rožňava	32 040,00 €
Ecclesiastical Province of Prešov	29 657,68 €
Eparchy of Košice	9 500,00 €
Eparchy of Bratislava	1 680,65 €
Total	860 591,54 €

TOTAL INCOMES

Incomes	€
Mission Sunday collection 2024	860 591,54 €
PMS members, gifts, adoption of seminarians	1 310 784,60 €
Mass offerings	1 467 150,00 €
Domestic devotions, Mission cake, Missionary Samaritan	786 988,26 €
Total Income	4 425 514,40 €

EXPENDITURES

Expenditures up to 15% (14,12 %)	€
Production and distribution cost of missionary materials	216 348,73 €
Labor costs	186 781 €
Mission animation and operational costs	221 752,90 €
Total Expenditure	624 882,63 €

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR THE MISSION PROJECTS IN 2025 ACCORDING TO THE INDIVIDUAL MISSION SOCIETIES

Mission projects 2025	€
Propagation of the Faith Society (Mission Sunday 2024 + donations)	935 395,15 €
The Holy Childhood Society	1 015 115,90 €
The Society of St. Peter Apostle	1 007 853,35 €
Total amount for the mission projects of PMS in 2025	2 958 364,40 €

Ďakujeme. S úctou a modlitbou

Ivan Kňaze, národný riaditeľ PMD Slovensko

