



DECEMBER 2025 - N. 19

BULLETIN

PONTIFICIUM OPUS A SANCTA INFANTIA
SECRETARIATUS INTERNATIONALIS



THE VOICE OF THE CHILDREN

NATIONAL OFFICES

NORDIC COUNTRIES
MALTA
BOLIVIA
MALAWI
VENEZUELA

DIOCESSES

GOROKA – PAPUA NEW GUINEA
NAKHON SAWAN – THAILAND
APOSTOLIC ADMIN. – UZBEKISTAN
MINDELO – CABO VERDE



**THE MISSIO AD GENTES TODAY:
A REFLECTION**

BULLET IN

PONTIFICIUM OPUS A
SANCTA INFANTIA
SECRETARIATUS
INTERNATIONALIS



MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER
N.19 - DECEMBER 2025

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CABO VERDE - DIOCESE OF MINDELO



Sowers of HOPE today

The mission for which Monsignor Charles De Forbin-Janson founded the Society of Holy Childhood (IAM), continues to be a prophetic sign of God's presence realized in the history of humanity.

Dear children, adolescents and readers, warm greetings from the General Secretariat of the Pontifical Society of Holy Childhood!

As I write, I think that you, children and adolescents, are a “*gift*” offered to humanity.

You are fragrant and colorful *flowers* who, with your simple way of loving and being among people, radiate and spread joy and hope wherever you are, especially in the family, among classmates, and friends.

This is the first and most effective form of evangelization, and it is open to everyone! In this regard, I want to recall a great leader and poet, Amilcar Lopes Cabral, who said: “*Children are the flowers and the reason for our existence.*” Truly, you are the reason that keeps humanity alive and hopeful!

Be sowers of hope today in practicing charity and hospitality, to be a significant presence among people. The language of charity transcends every ideology and prejudice, because it speaks directly to the heart. Knowing how to use this language allows us to overcome many apparently insurmountable boundaries.

Testimony is faith that becomes “*body*” (cf. 1 Cor 12:12ff) and becomes history through sharing and love. Living responsibly in this way, trusting in the living God, full of hope in the novelty that was manifested in the Risen Christ, makes us available to the creative action of the Spirit and puts us in a position to build new, fascinating, and engaging paths and projects of Christian life.

Furthermore, being welcoming and hospitable should not refer only to friends or those we like; but it is above all towards those who ask us for something they cannot find elsewhere, towards those who are marginalized and deprived of what is necessary to live with dignity.

It is about being and becoming everywhere the open, yet discreet, “*space*” where, in dialogue and relationships, we can express the joy of the encounter, as well as the discomfort and struggle of our search.

Dear children and adolescents, thank you for who you are and for what you do!

Thank you also for having responded in such great numbers to my appeal to intensify prayer for peace in the world.

With you, I thank your animators and all those who accompany you in formation and educate you in missionary cooperation, which are “*key*” words of mission (Cf. the Apostolic Exhortation “*Evangellii Gaudium*” by Pope Francis – 2013). People seriously formed from a young age grow up and learn to work synergistically, because our world today requires us to go beyond “*good will*” and, above all, requires us to be capable of inserting ourselves into the context where we live and work, being ready to give an account of the reason for our faith (cf. 1 Pt 3:15).

Dear adult readers: the children and adolescents we form today will be the men and women of tomorrow. If we cultivate a deep spirituality in them and educate them to a solid humanity, we will help them to make considered choices and to work together in the spirit of synodality.

The entire synodal journey, rooted in the Tradition of the Church, took place in the light of the conciliar magisterium (See: Synod of 2021-2024), uniting potential and experiences for a single objective: to sow hope in the christian community and in the world.

I invite and encourage you to continue to “*awaken*” the missionary conscience in everyone and not just that; continue to shake the world with your joyful and enthusiastic witness, inviting other peers to join you!

And above all, do not let hope and the power of sharing that is within you be stolen. Believe me: this makes the difference.

Courage and ever forward!

I hold you in my heart and assure you of my prayers.



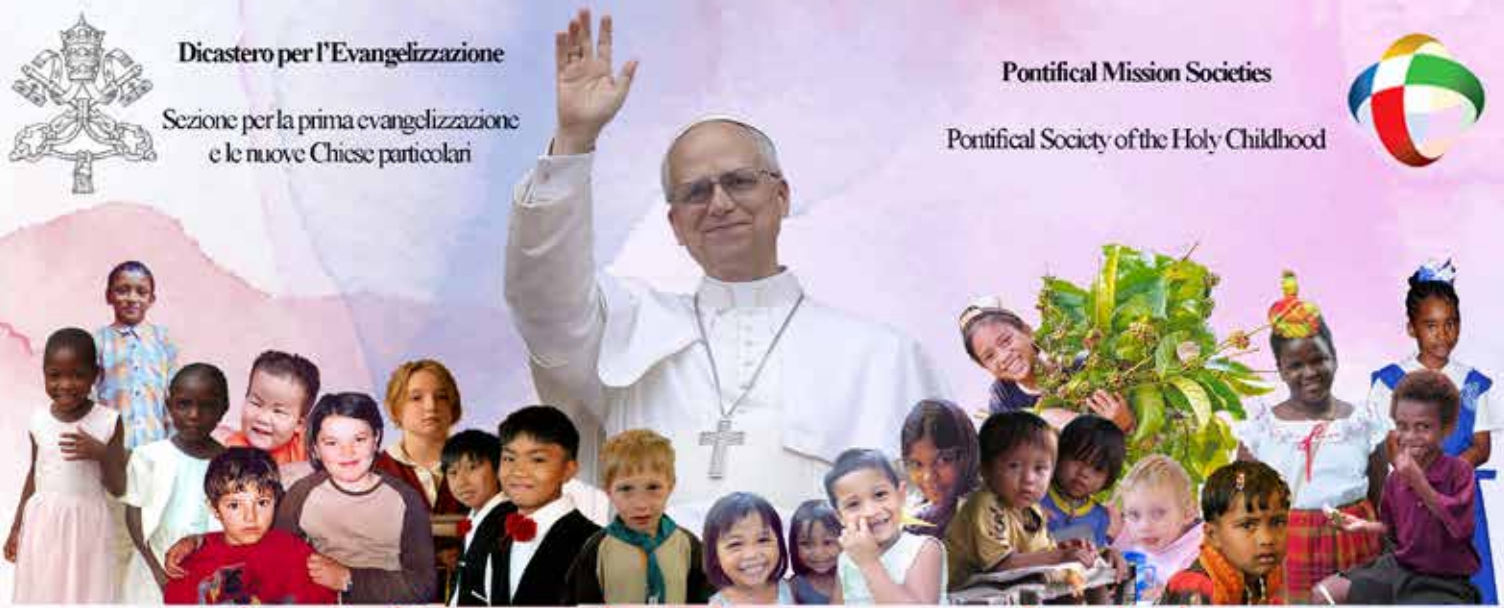
SR. INÊS PAULO ALBINO, ASC
Secretary General
Pontifical Society Holy Childhood



Dicastero per l'Evangelizzazione
Sezione per la prima evangelizzazione
e le nuove Chiese particolari

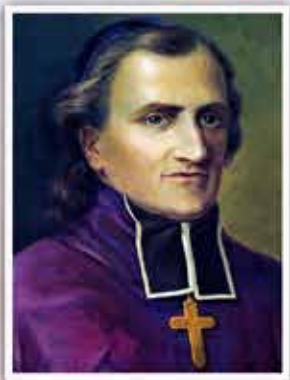
Pontifical Mission Societies

Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood



children helping children

(Msgr. de Forbin-Janson)



Msgr. de Forbin-Janson
(3.11.1785 – 11.7.1844)
founds the Society
on 19 May 1843

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord
(or on another date to be set
according to the needs of the local Church)



With humility, love, simplicity,
abandonment, trust...
following the examples of Mary
and St. Therese of the Child Jesus

One Hail Mary a day, one penny a month



**Spiritual
cooperation**

Self-giving

**Material
cooperation**

prayer

**welcoming everyone
with open arms
and with a new heart**

**offering
sharing
solidarity**



Sr. Inês Paulo Albino, ASC
Secretary General
Pontifical Society of Holy Childhood

Please help us help so many children in the world

posi@ppoomm.va

www.ppoomm.va



Dicastero per l'Evangelizzazione
Sezione per la prima Evangelizzazione
e le nuove Chiesa Particolari

Pontificia Opera Missionaria
Pontificia Opera della Santa Infanzia



*C'è sempre una luce in fondo
al Cuore che non si spegne
mai... si chiama Speranza*

*6
Gennaio
2026*



Siate seminatori di speranza

THE MISSIO AD GENTES TODAY: A REFLECTION



**+ Luis Antonio G.
Cardinal Tagle**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, fellow missionaries of the Gospel, I welcome you, in the name of the Dicastery for Evangelization, the Section for First Evangelization and the Young Particular Churches, of the Pontifical Urbaniana University, and of the Pontifical Mission Societies to this International Missionary Meeting on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Missionary World and of Migrants being celebrated today and tomorrow. It is opportune and necessary to study together, to reflect together, to listen to each other, to learn from each other in a synodal way, as we deal with the topic: *The Missio ad Gentes Today: Towards New Horizons*. In this jubilee celebration, let us allow the theological virtue of Hope to point us to new horizons.

The discernment of new horizons in *Missio ad gentes* needs to be done periodically by the Local Churches, national and continental episcopal conferences, mission societies, institutes of consecrated life, associations of the laity and ecclesial movements. Vatican II already said in AG 6:

“Various stages, which are sometimes intermingled, are to be found in this missionary activity of the Church; first there is the beginning or planting and then a time of freshness and youthfulness. Nor does the Church’s missionary activity cease once this point has been passed; the obligation to carry on the work devolves on the particular churches already constituted, an obligation to preach the Gospel to all who are still outside. Moreover, it often happens that, owing to various cases, the groups among whom the Church operates are utterly changed so that an entirely new situation arises. Then

the Church must consider whether these new circumstances require that she should once again exercise her missionary activity.”

In this introductory address I will offer a few random thoughts, three in number, that might help in animating the missionary spirit and stimulate the imagination. Please do not expect a comprehensive academic treatise. I just want to “think aloud” with you. I will try to bring the Decree of Vatican II on the Church’s Missionary Activity *ad gentes*, promulgated sixty years ago, in dialogue with some of our significant experiences.

FIRST POINT

Mission and Concrete Catholicity

In my opinion, this theme that pervades the conciliar document *Ad gentes* deserves more attention than it has been getting. The missions of the Son Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit have revealed the Father’s will for universal salvation. The disciples of Christ, animated by the Holy Spirit, go on mission to bring the Gospel to all, to all the nations. In communities and peoples that receive the Gospel, the Church is born. Christian mission manifests clearly the universality of the offer of salvation and the catholicity of the Church. The Church is missionary by nature, because it is both the fruit of mission and the bearer of mission.

When we talk of the catholicity of the Church as correlated to the universality of mission, we



are not dealing with a mere concept or romantic ideal. According to *Ad gentes*, catholic communion is concrete catholicity, involving concrete peoples living in concrete cultures, histories, glories, strengths, failures and limitations but united in the one faith. We hear in AG 4:

“On that day (Pentecost) was foreshadowed the union of all peoples in the catholicity of the faith by means of the Church of the New Alliance, a Church which speaks every language, understands and embraces all tongues in charity, and thus overcomes and dispersion at Babel.”

The same truth is expounded in AG 15:

“The Christian faithful who have been gathered into the Church from every nation and “are not marked off from the rest of men either by country, by language, or by political institutions, should live for God and Christ according to honorable usages of their race. As good citizens they should sincerely and actively foster love of country and, while utterly rejecting racial hatred or exaggerated nationalism, work for universal love among men.”

I believe *missio ad gentes* is at a threshold with regard to living out universal communion in and through concrete catholicity. We see in societies and in the local Churches a renewed appreciation of their localness that identifies them as unique peoples. But we are not blind to the ideological tendency to affirm a people’s uniqueness in opposition to other peoples’ uniqueness. Diversity becomes a cause of



division, rather than of mutual enrichment. Being local could lead to isolation. We are back to Babel. We are surrounded by countless national and international conflicts. Unfortunately these destructive tendencies have entered a number of local Churches. Sometimes ethnicity, caste belonging and national identity have a more powerful influence than the Gospel of universal love and fraternity. A renewed missionary activity should celebrate the presence in local cultures of what is good and true, consonant with the Gospel, while humbly being open to the Holy

Spirit’s purification of what is corrupt and false in our cultures. From the cultural perspective, no local Church can separate itself from other local Churches either due to false superiority or false inferiority. All cultures need to be purified and ordered to the Gospel of Jesus by docility to the Holy Spirit. Local Churches recognize in each other the faith of the one Catholic Church in the one Lord, one Spirit, one Gospel, one Eucharist and one Apostolic ministry, yet taking flesh in diverse local wisdoms and expressions. The collaboration of local and foreign missionaries within the same local Church gives concrete form to the catholic communion of local churches. Missionary cooperation among local Churches through prayer, missionary animation and charitable contribution (especially this missionary month of October

and the World Mission Sunday) is living out concrete Catholicity. The horizon of fraternity in the world is shrinking. Christian mission should expand the horizon of communion.

SECOND POINT

Mission as the Epiphany of God's Saving Plan

The feast of the Epiphany of our Lord has always been associated with the universal mission of the Church. Vatican II explains why in AG 9:

“Missionary activity is nothing else, and nothing less, than the manifestation of God's plan, its epiphany and realization in the world and in history; that by which God, through mission, clearly brings to its conclusion the history of salvation.”

Mission is an Epiphany moment, a manifestation of God and His love. But there is another important Epiphany that happens in mission. According to AG 8:

“Missionary activity is intimately bound up with human nature and its aspirations. In manifesting Christ, the Church reveals to men their situation and calling, since Christ is the head and exemplar of that renewed humanity, imbued with that brotherly love, sincerity and spirit of peace, to which all men aspire.”

At a time when even some believers are lukewarm towards the necessity of mission and some social institutions consider mission as an imposition of beliefs destructive of people's freedom and identity, we need to rediscover the “epiphanic” dimension of mission. This is a horizon rich in possibilities, as well



as challenges. How does the Church engage in mission? What do we manifest? What do people see and hear? Do people see the face of God and the face of true humanity in Jesus through our missionary engagement?

The Church is also called to be attentive to opportunities for *missio ad gentes* which the Holy Spirit indicates through many “epiphanies”. Let me give some examples. If *missio ad gentes* is going forth to peoples and nations to bring the Gospel, let us look at people who are going forth or in constant movement towards other lands. There are millions of migrants, many of them Christians, looking for a safer and more tranquil life. There are more than one hundred million refugees running, roaming, hiding in different parts of the world. Every day millions of seafarers, fishermen and tourists cross international borders. Forests are denuded, hills collapse, rivers are polluted, floods flow from the mountains to cover towns and villages, polluted air travels from the atmosphere to human lungs; weapons of war fly high and far to wipe away whole villages. Social media, the internet, the web, digital technology penetrate all sectors of society, reshaping minds and consciences. Creation moves in torment and groans as it awaits the epiphany of the freedom of the children of God. Do we see what God

is manifesting? Do we see the new prophets revealing God's face and the face of humanity today? Do we see the new missionaries in constant movement that the Lord is sending? Are we quick to complain about the lack of vocations but slow to see the epiphany of new ones? I am just asking.



THIRD POINT

Missiological Studies

Vatican II acknowledges the special calling of those called to mission especially in AG 23:

“Those people who are endowed with the proper natural temperament, have the necessary qualities and outlook, and are ready to undertake missionary work, have a special vocation, whether they are natives of the place or foreign priests, religious or lay people.”

Every gift from God must be recognized, nurtured and equipped for the service that must be rendered by that gift. For this reason, Vatican II calls for a solid and wide-ranging formation for missionaries ad gentes. They should be as prepared as those engaged in other ministries in the Church, if not more prepared. Let me quote AG 26:

“It is very necessary for the future missionary that he/she undertake missiological studies, that he know, that is, the teaching and the laws of the Church regarding missionary activity, that he be aware of the paths which have been followed by the messengers of the Gospel down through the centuries, and that he be familiar with the present state of the missions and with the methods considered most effective in the present time.”

In AG 34, we are told:

“Since the proper and methodical exercise of missionary activity demands that those who work for the Gospel should be scientifically prepared for their tasks, especially for dialogue with non-Christian religions and cultures, and should be effectively assisted in carrying them out, it is desirable that for the good of the missions there should be fraternal collaboration among certain scientific institutes which specialize in missiology and in other sciences and arts useful for missions, such as ethnology, linguistics, the history and science of religions, sociology, pastoral techniques and the like.”

Sixty years after the promulgation of *Ad gentes*,

I have the impression that some Catholic educational institutions, for various reasons, do not accord to missiological studies the status that Vatican II intended it to have. But if the Church is missionary by nature, then the spiritual, human, pastoral and intellectual preparation for mission should come naturally as a priority, especially given the changing missionary terrain of our contemporary world. I would even say that all ecclesiastical disciplines should have a missionary pastoral thrust.

The 2022 reform of the Roman Curia with *Praedicate Evangelium* created the new Dicastery for Evangelization with two sections. During Vatican II, it was called the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. AG 29 states:

“For all missions and for all missionary activity, there must be only one competent dicastery, namely that of ‘Propaganda Fide’, which is responsible for regulating and coordinating throughout the world both missionary work itself and missionary cooperation, while respecting the rights of the Eastern Churches.”

The Dicastery for Evangelization, the Section for First Evangelization and Young Particular Churches, with the Pontifical Urbaniana University and the ecclesiastical faculties affiliated with it, the four Pontifical Mission Societies, and the Pontifical Colleges under the responsibility of the Dicastery, renews its commitment to the mandate received from the Second Vatican Council, particularly in promoting solid missiological studies that engage with courage and creativity in the emerging horizons of the *missio ad gentes* today.

4th October 2025
on the occasion of the
Jubilee of the Missionary World
and of Migrants
Pontifical Urbaniana University

MISSIO NORDICA

NATIONAL OFFICE FOR DENMARK, FINLAND, ICELAND, NORWAY, SWEDEN



MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES: CREATIVITY AND ZEAL ACROSS A VAST REGION

Missio Nordica, the Pontifical Mission Societies office for Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, may be small in size, but it carries a great mission. Serving a Catholic community of less than half a million spread across a vast and often remote region presents unique challenges.

CREATIVITY

All positions, including the National Director and the Diocesan Directors in each country, are part-time and voluntary, reflecting the dedication and vocation of those involved—and forcing us to be innovative and to use other means to promote and animate.

Despite these limitations, Missio Nordica remains committed to fostering the spirit of the Children’s Mission and supporting children in

need around the world. To overcome challenges posed by geography and limited capacity, the office has embraced creative animation initiatives and networking opportunities across the Nordic countries.

SWEDEN

Sweden offers a particularly inspiring example: Diocesan Director Anna Sandberg actively uses diocesan events to promote the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies, particularly during





youth gatherings. These occasions allow her to teach and animate young Catholics, fostering solidarity and a global missionary spirit. Also, she made connections with the Nordic Catechetical Conference in order to promote the mission of the Holy Childhood.

ICELAND

Similarly, in **Iceland**, Diocesan Director April Frigge collaborates with clergy and religious communities to promote the Holy Childhood through catechism classes and national youth events. At World Youth Day in Lisbon, participants from Iceland were also active in promoting the Holy Childhood initiatives to their peers from other Nordic countries, strengthening bonds of missionary cooperation and shared faith across the region.



THE ARCTIC OWL

One of the National Office's most innovative initiatives is the creation of a mascot - the

Arctic Owl. Native to Northern Europe, the owl symbolizes wisdom, education, and care, echoing the words of the prophet Isaiah, who spoke of the owl taking care of her young. The Arctic Owl is presented as a paper box that young people assemble during workshops or at home. They are then encouraged to place their prayers, and if possible, financial contributions inside, supporting their peers in need. The initiative has even received special recognition from Pope Francis, who received his own Arctic Owl box, demonstrating solidarity with the Nordic youth, those in need and encouraging their Christian solidarity and compassion.

Through these initiatives, Missio Nordica continues to transform geographical and logistical challenges into opportunities for creativity, engagement, and global solidarity, ensuring that the spirit of the Children's Mission thrives across the Nordic countries.



*Ivan Sovic
PMS National Director
for the Nordic countries*



MALTA

NATIONAL OFFICE

MISSION SUNDAY AND MISSION MONTH IN MALTA



October marks the beginning of a special season in the Church's liturgical calendar—Mission Month. It is a time when Missio Malta, in alliance with the universal Church, reflects deeply on our shared vocation to be witnesses of Christ's love among all peoples. Throughout this month, our communities come together in prayer, reflection, and activity to prepare our hearts for the upcoming World Mission Sunday, which this year falls on Sunday, 19th October 2025.

This day holds profound significance for us. It provides a precious opportunity to contemplate the vital work we engage in, especially among the most vulnerable and marginalized communities across the globe. It is a moment to recognize the incredible impact of our collective efforts, which have brought hope, support, and the message of the Gospel to countless lives over the past year.

A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE FAITH COMMUNITIES - THE ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOLS

Just as in previous years, October is filled with a variety of activities designed to inspire and mobilize our faith communities. These activities reach their peak during Mission Sunday, a day dedicated to honouring the tireless dedication of thousands of men and women who serve as missionaries worldwide. Their unwavering commitment is a powerful testament to living out the Gospel in every corner of the world.

A particularly meaningful part of this month for us is our engagement with schools across Malta. MissioTfal is invited to conduct special assemblies where we share the significance of missionary work and introduce this year's project. These gatherings are not only educational but also inspiring, as we



witness the curiosity and enthusiasm of students from various ages and backgrounds. Meeting youth from different parishes during workshops and activities always fills us with joy; their genuine interest and questions about missions remind us why this work is so vital and infectious.

THE CONCERT

During Mission Sunday weekend, we gather at the Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady in Mosta. On Saturday, we were honoured to host a concert by the JP2 Foundation and the Langley Park Choir. Comprising 70 talented students of all ages, the choir mesmerized the audience with two and a half hours of inspiring music—performing both choral pieces and orchestral songs. Their dedication and artistry were truly admirable, creating a moving musical experience.



MASS LIVE ON NATIONAL TV

On Sunday, the festivities continued on the basilica's parvis, where we animated and led the Masses across Mosta. The 9:30 am Mass was broadcast live on national television, allowing viewers all over Malta to participate virtually

TESTIMONIES FROM THE MISSIONARIES AND MULTICULTURALISM

We also welcomed missionaries to join us on the parvis for interviews, providing a platform to share their stories and experiences firsthand. Communities from diverse missionary countries graced the event with vibrant dances and performances, which were also broadcast live, highlighting the universal and multicultural nature of missionary work.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

For the youngest members of our community, we

prepared a special activity—a handout encouraging children to reflect on how they can follow Jesus as true disciples. They filled footprints with written expressions of how they can live out Christian values in their everyday lives, reminding all of us that faith is a journey begun in small, everyday steps.

TANGIBLE REMINDERS

For those who wish to share a tangible reminder of this special season and spread warmth and joy to others, we have a variety of items available for purchase from our shops in Mosta and Valletta. These include beautifully crafted statues, inspiring paintings, and festive Christmas decorations—each piece carefully chosen to bring beauty, comfort, and a sense of hope into homes. These gifts are more than mere objects; they serve as meaningful symbols of faith and love, touching lives and creating lasting memories for families and friends alike. Whether as a heartfelt gift or a treasured keepsake, these items help us share the spirit of giving and deepen our connection to the mission we celebrate during this sacred time.

JOINT MISSION

To us, these activities are more than just events; they serve as bridges—connecting us with people, inspiring new friendships, and fostering a shared sense of mission. These moments fill our hearts with feelings of warmth, love, and renewed motivation. They reaffirm our calling and light a fire within us to continue serving with passion and joy, not only during Mission Month but throughout the entire year.

*Nancy Camilleri
coordinator Missio Tfal*

BOLIVIA

NATIONAL OFFICE



In the 18 ecclesiastical jurisdictions, efforts are underway to deepen missionary awareness, not only among children and adolescents, but also their families and their social and educational environment. This happens through four areas: missionary organization, missionary formation, missionary animation, and missionary cooperation. An average of 65% of these jurisdictions have leaders and evangelization groups, not only at the national level but also at the zonal, vicariate, and parish levels.

This year 2024, the activities have focused on preparing for the VIII National Missionary Congress, with the motto: "Bolivia, with the strength of the Spirit, witnesses of Christ." The communities of Missionary Childhood and

Adolescence (MCA) have participated in the various meetings. The four theological axes of the Congress were "Communion, Synodal Path", "Missionary Spirituality", "Guardians of Creation" and "Language and Style of the Digital



Environment". Based on these, the children have given their contribution to better walk in our Missionary Church.

DIOCESAN AND INTERDIOCESAN MEETINGS

The diocesan meetings held throughout the year allow the dioceses to learn about the different realities of our country and find creative ways to reach a greater number of children and adolescents. Sharing with other dioceses leads to the development of joint activities and various jurisdictional initiatives, which the other groups support. New Missionary Childhood and Adolescence communities are born every year, and their formation takes place in different contexts and with diverse topics.

Each diocese already has an established calendar but is always open to the innovation and creativity of those who make up the communities. Regular visits are made between parish communities, and joint activities are always carried out on symbolic dates of the liturgical year. The activities developed during the year are known and approved by the diocesan bishops. They consider not only the important dates of the Society (MCA), but are also framed within the liturgical and parish dates.

LITURGICAL EVENTS

Advent is a favourable time to celebrate and encourage the mission in the parishes, many of which are visited by the MCA communities, who share the importance of preparing for Christmas, the birth of Him who became a missionary for us.

The celebrations of the 4 Pontifical Mission Societies, such as the celebration of the founders, are prepared and held with great commitment and enthusiasm. Lent and Easter are of vital importance for the missionary service of the MCA communities, as they are always present in all activities carried out in their parishes, at the zonal or regional level (Way of the Cross, Easter Vigil, Children's and Adolescents' Easter, preparation of Nativity Scenes, dance competitions for the adoration of the newborn, mission rosary, Christmas

VII ENCUENTRO ARQUIDIOCESANO DE LA MCA INFANCIA Y ADOLESCENCIA MISIONERA
¡Misioneros, con la fuerza del Espíritu, testigos de Cristo!

Domingo 21 de abril de 2024

PARROQUIA SAN JOSÉ DE LA BELGICA
 Coliseo municipal de Colpa Belgica. Distanta a 48 km. al norte, desde la ciudad de Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

DE 08:30 A 16:30 HRS.

MAYOR INFORMACIÓN
 721 - 76041 P. Luis López
 708 - 65443 Pedro Solano

IAM Santa Cruz - Bolivia



novenas, etc.). Every moment is favourable (pedestrian days, holidays, civic celebrations, etc.) for the MCA communities to remind and encourage the Church to live its missionary nature.

*+ Adolf Eduard Josef Bittschi Mayer
National Director PMS Bolivia*

As a missionary child, I feel closer to God because I like being a missionary like Jesus. Just like Him, I enjoy helping people and sharing with the other children in the Missionary Childhood and Adolescence (MCA) group. In my parish group, I like to share the gift that God has given me, which is music. I play the saxophone and the charango, like every good "Aiquileño" (person from Aiquile). I am a missionary who plays the charango. I really enjoy animating the Sunday Mass with music. I wish all the children in the world had a burning and firm fire in their hearts and were happy following Jesus' example in helping others. I invite all boys and girls in the Missionary Childhood and Adolescence group to prepare for the National Missionary Childhood and Adolescence Day, which falls on the third Sunday of Easter – "Missionaries, with the strength of the Spirit, witnesses of Christ."

Francisco Samir Padilla Zapata, 8 years old
St. Peter Parish
Prelature of Aiquile



**I AM A
MISSIONARY
WHO PLAYS THE
CHARANGO**



I come from Mother Nazaria Ignacia Parish and participate in the Missionary Childhood and Adolescence program. I am a missionary because I know Jesus and I want to get to know Him more every day. I am happy to participate and help people through my actions. What I find most beautiful is that children serve the Church, and I felt called to become a reader because I enjoy proclaiming the Word of God. I invite all children and adolescents to know Jesus and follow Him by joining the Missionary Childhood and Adolescence program – "Missionaries, with the strength of the Spirit, witnesses of Christ."

Regis Fabricio Tarqui Sullcani, 12 years old
Mother Nazaria Ignacia Parish
Diocese of El Alto

**I AM A MISSIONARY
BECAUSE
I KNOW JESUS**



*IT DOESN'T MATTER
IF THEY MAKE FUN OF
ME; I KNOW I MUST
PROCLAIM THE WORD
OF GOD*



I participated in Mass with my grandmother, and that's where I discovered the Missionary Childhood and Adolescence group. I started participating and felt called to go every Saturday at 3:00 PM. I have understood that from the moment we are baptized, we are all called to be missionaries. I am happy to share with other children and lend a hand when I can, when we go out. It doesn't matter if they make fun of me; I know I must proclaim the Word of God to my friends and especially to my family. I invite all children to be part of the MCA.

Gustavo Raslan Rocha, 11 years old
St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Apostolic Vicariate of El Beni

The Society of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence is a wonderful group where we meet to get to know our friend Jesus better. I really like talking about Him, knowing Him, loving Him, and announcing Him every day, sharing my experiences at school, with my family, and with my friends. That is how I felt the desire to follow and serve Jesus more closely, which is why I joined the Altar Servers' ministry. Every day I ask God that this love I feel now as a child may continue to grow. I invite other children to join the Missionary Childhood group.

Iker Ricardo Salvatierra Chao, 8 years old
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
Apostolic Vicariate of El Beni



*EVERY DAY I ASK **GOD** THAT THIS **LOVE** I FEEL
NOW AS A **CHILD** MAY CONTINUE **TO GROW***

MALAWI

NATIONAL OFFICE



2025 NATIONAL CHILDREN CONGRESS REPORT

THEME: "CHILDREN MISSIONARIES OF HOPE"

MOTTO: "CHILDREN PRAYING FOR AND HELPING FELLOW CHILDREN"



The Catholic Church in Malawi organized a National Children Congress (National Conference of Children of the whole country of Malawi) from July 30th to August 3rd, 2025. The Conference took place at Don Bosco Parish, Archdiocese of Lilongwe.

The participants of this conference were children aged between 8 and 14. The children were accompanied by animators (one from each parish), nurses, journalists and safeguarding officers. The total participants were 1.628. The congress was also attended by all Arch/Bishops in Malawi. In addition, the Secretary General of Holy Childhood from Rome and delegates from Zimbabwe and the

United States of America attended the congress.

CHILDREN PROTAGONISTS

The purpose of the National Children's congress was to let children from across the country meet and share experiences, providing them with the opportunity to discuss issues that affect them in their spiritual and physical lives, and to express



their views to church leaders on what should happen for children to participate in activities in the church and the country.

During the days of the Congress, groups of children from the various Dioceses acted as moderators,

assisted by the facilitators, also leading the liturgy.

IMPORTANT ISSUES

It was also an opportunity for delegates to discuss issues like the responsibility of parents in rising well their children, child abuse, child labour and child trafficking.

Further, concerning the principles of Catholic Social Teachings, it was stressed that life is a gift from God and no one has the right to take away his or her own life or that of another person, that children should help their peers, also the disadvantaged, and care for the environment.

As for the Liturgy and sacraments, the importance of Mass was pointed out, which is a significant prayer in the Catholic Church, sacraments and worship. Children were encouraged to love to



receive the sacrament of reconciliation and the Eucharist.

Children were also taught the principles of good mental health, which include: eating properly and sufficiently, getting enough sleep, avoiding harmful substances, like drugs and alcohol, and an excessive use of modern technology, and exposure to social media.

Another topic presented was “The Malawi 2063”, which is the vision for Malawi by 2063. The goal of Malawi 2063 is to make Malawi self-reliant.

THE FIRST NATIONAL CHILDREN CONGRESS IN MALAWI

This was the first national children congress ever organized in the country and Malawi set a good example in AMECEA region.

All the dioceses managed to send delegates including animators representing 100% participation of the dioceses in Malawi. It was a success!

The children showed big interest in all the activities and they followed almost everything, including the teachings. The presence of Bishops, priests, sisters and other visitors, spiced up the event, and made the impact on children as it showed that they are considered and



appreciated in the Church.

The presence of the Secretary General of Holy Childhood and delegates from Zimbabwe and USA was significant and added value of the Congress. The interaction with them was an incentive in our missionary work and an encouragement to the children.

RESOLUTIONS AND IMPACT OF THE CONGRESS

Resolutions were formulated on the various issues including safeguarding of children by parents and the church, promotion of prayer and sacramental life among children, introduction of children liturgy in all parishes in Malawi, request to appoint parish priests who have the welfare of children at heart, implementation of the safeguarding policy, formation of children-based safeguarding committees and improved coordination among Bishops, Priests, Sisters and church leaders on care for children.

THE VOICE OF THE CHILDREN

This Congress has given voice to the children of Malawi, who have reflected on the topics discussed and, among other things, they resolved that the parents and the Church should protect them from false and harmful teachings, child abuse, child labour, child trafficking and overuse

of digital technology and all practices that affect their mental health. The adults should pray and read the Bible with them and all parishes should introduce children prayers and Masses led by children themselves. They ask that priests, sisters and church leaders love them and request to the Bishops to assign Parish Priests who love children and make them feel welcome in church. The Dioceses and the Parishes should create children peer groups at diocesan and parish level to protect children from abuse and help needy and vulnerable children.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The 2025 National Catholic Children's Congress stands as a remarkable achievement in Malawi's Catholic Church history. Despite the inherent challenges of organizing such a large-scale inaugural event, the congress successfully achieved its primary objectives of empowering children, fostering spiritual development, and creating sustainable structures for ongoing youth engagement.

The Congress, with the strong participation, meaningful outcomes, and positive reception, has successfully planted seeds of hope, leadership, and spiritual growth that will undoubtedly bear fruit in the years to come as these young participants take their places as leaders in both Church and society.

*from the report of
Fr. Ephraim Peter Madeya
National Director PMS Malawi*



Children present to the Bishop the resolutions of the Congress



1



Sr. Inês Paulo Albino, ASC, Secretary General of Holy Childhood, arrives to the Catholic secretariat of Malawi Conference of Catholic Bishops and is welcomed by Secretary General of Catholic Bishops Fr. Valeriano Mtseka and two children representing all the children in Malawi

2

Opening Eucharistic celebration: the children took a leading role in everything during this opening celebration. The mass was presided over by the Bishop President of MCCB Rt. Rev. Martin Anwel Mtumbuka together with the other Bishops and some priests



3



On the third day, after the Mass, the children had two sessions in the morning and two sessions after lunch

4

Tree planting: the fourth day started with the sacrament of penance followed by a talk on climate change



5

Closing Eucharistic celebration: the liturgy was led by the children themselves



VENEZUELA

NATIONAL OFFICE



In Venezuela, the Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence (IAM) carries out its missionary action through the 4 areas that articulate the Pontifical Mission Societies: missionary animation, missionary information, missionary formation, and missionary cooperation.

62 YEARS OF IAM

The Missionary Childhood and Adolescence arrived in the country 62 years ago, founded by Father Celerino Anciano, a Dominican religious. Since then, it has grown and consolidated itself as a children's pastoral service that transforms the lives of the little ones, making them protagonists of the Church's evangelizing mission. Today, children and adolescents enthusiastically embrace the charisma of the Holy Childhood and its commitments to prayer and missionary cooperation.

THE MEETINGS

The methodological guides of the School with Jesus and the IAM manual are fundamental pillars for the formation process carried out by the National Office. Based on these, various meetings are offered that strengthen the lines of action:

- **Formation** Schools for Missionary Animators (ESAM) at its two levels; for the children, the School of Missionary Childhood Leaders (ELIMI) and ELMIC, the School of Centimisión Leaders*.

* a term coined by combining the words "Centi" which derives from "Centinela" – sentinel; and "Misión" which means "Mission." Hence, "Sentinel of the Mission." Ed.



- **Spirituality:** Sparks of Love and the Meeting of Sentinels with Christ (ECC).
- **Communion:** National Day of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence (JONIAM) and in adventures.
- **Outreach/Projection:** sowers of stars, the Missionary Childhood Camp (CAMIN) and the Missionary Centimisión Camp (AMIC).



and Adolescence (VI CONIAM) with great joy, held from April 3 to 6 in the city of Valencia. The meeting gathered more than 400 congress participants, including children, adolescents, animators, parents, and representatives, in a climate of fraternity and missionary commitment.

In the final message of the congress, the children and

adolescents enthusiastically proclaimed: *“Open your doors to the Pope’s great little evangelizers.”* With these words, they reaffirmed their commitment to always remind the local churches that their life is a mission, and that one can be a protagonist of evangelization from childhood.

The IAM invites us to open those doors and recognize that in every missionary child there is a friend of Jesus who makes friendships for Him, living in fullness the IAM motto: *“Children and adolescents of the world always friends!”*

Yesenia Quintero
IAM National Secretary

All these meetings are held with the close accompaniment of IAM animators, together with parents and representatives, ensuring safe and protected spaces. To this end, the prevention protocol that the Pontifical Mission Societies of Venezuela make available to every local church is applied.

VI CONIAM

This year, the children and adolescents celebrated the VI National Congress of Missionary Childhood



Hello! I am Albely Urbaez, and I belong to the Maria Auxiliatrice Parish in the Diocese of Margarita. I joined the IAM when I was 12 years old, and now I am 15.

My experience with Centimisión has been very special; it is a place where I feel comfortable, where no one is judged for his or her way of being or interacting. We have shared fun and happy moments, but also learning spaces that make us feel part of a true family.

Some people think that IAM and Centimisión are just a pastime, but that is not the case. For me, they mean dedication and service, something we learn to love when we make it our own.

I want to invite all children and adolescents to participate and discover the beautiful experience that the IAM leaves in life. Going to church is not an obligation, it is a sacrifice of love that we make to allow God to enter our history. And that sacrifice always brings reward: moments of learning, joy, peace, love, and unforgettable memories that describe what Centimisión truly is.

One of my favourite activities was the VI CONIAM 2025 (VI National Congress of Missionary Childhood and Adolescence), which I was fortunate enough to attend. It was a new and enriching experience because it allowed me to connect with brothers and sisters from other states in Venezuela, with different cultures, but united by the same charisma and the same joy: the love for God that characterizes us as Catholics.

And you, who are reading this article, I invite you to approach the Church and live these experiences that will mark your life forever.

Children and adolescents of the world, always friends! He who loves us helps us! Sentinels with Christ, always!

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

DIOCESE OF GOROKA



The Apostolic Vicariate of Goroka was elevated to a Diocese on November 15, 1966, by Pope Paul VI. It covers

an area of almost 12.000 km², has a population of about 650.000 inhabitants, of which just over 2% are baptized, and includes 9 parishes.

THE “BUSH SCHOOLS”

There are many children in PNG (64% of the population is below 21 years of age) and sometimes we are overwhelmed by their needs. A big part of them is in Goroka Diocese and we try to take care of their school and religious education.

We have 26 early learning schools (ECC Schools “Early Childhood Class Learning”), which are community based. The ECC schools are the schools for early learning for children from 3 to 6 years of age. They are a kind of play schools mostly in the bush areas. Since they are run by the community, and community has not much income, the parishes help them in buying materials like: balls, toys, posters, etc., and sometimes also with building, maintenance and materials, as well. Very often, they are on and off, because of lack of support by the community, lack of teachers etc... The diocese tries to keep these early learning schools going because they are a good opportunity for teaching children prayers,

songs, and give some catechesis. These schools are also called “bush schools”.

THE PRIMARY CATHOLIC AGENCY SCHOOLS

Further, we have 7 primary Catholic Agency Schools* in the Diocese, and we are the smallest agency. We are in a protestant area, and the Catholics are a minority (only 2.6%), but we have our Catholic Agency Schools attended by a great number of children, mainly from different denominations. Therefore, what we do in our schools has a mission aspect, since we are missionaries to other denominations. This year (2024) the children from different clans, denominations and cultural background came together to share the Bible story through dramas, plays, songs, dances etc. This helps them to be missionary to each other. Children started to help one another, positively influencing each other. During this meeting/rally, we try to strengthen children’s faith teaching them that they have

* primary Catholic Agency Schools are government-subsidized schools that are owned and managed by the Catholic Church, operating under a formal partnership with the PNG government’s education system. In PNG, the educational system relies heavily on “Agency” schools, where the government provides funding (salaries, grants) but delegates the actual day-to-day management and spiritual guidance to a registered religious body (the “Agency”). Ed.



to be strong living among many different denominations, that they should not be afraid to say "I am a Catholic."

We have 6 schools in the rural area. The children are coming from farmer's families and very often they miss their classes to help parents in the gardens or in the house. Many children do not go to school because parents can't afford to pay school fees or because traditionally, mainly girls, are needed in the house. We try to "fight" against this traditional mentality and push parents to send ALL children to school.

CHILDREN SATURDAY

One of our main activities for children are the Sunday schools and the "Children Saturday". Each Saturday children come to a parish and have catechism, they play, they clean around the church or school area, have lunch, play, practice singing and finish with prayer. Thanks to Holy Childhood we can run these activities and support ECC schools with learning material. We have noticed that the "Children Saturday" makes a big impact on children and brings them closer to the church.

CHILDREN RALLY

Beside these activities, we organize an annual event for children called "Children Rally" at the end of August, which here in PNG is the Bible Month. The "Children Rally" is for many years in our pastoral calendar. Each year we try to improve and we have more and more children who would like to come for it. Till now, the rally was only for the



Catholic children from our school. Now the other children want to come as well, so we will have to make two or three separate rallies according to the age of children.

HOLY CHILDHOOD MISSION DAY



Holy Childhood Mission Day in PNG is on the 1st of October, St. Theresa of Jesus feast. We always try to organize a special day in our schools, where, as said, the majority of children are from different denomination, but, in the school, they have to comply with the rules of the Catholic Agency. So, they too participate and make all kinds of activities, talk about the mission of the Church, our role in this mission, etc. It is a part of our mission work among not Catholics. Unfortunately, sometimes this day falls on the school holiday and it is difficult to organize. Some schools celebrate this feast before or after their holiday but some do not. So, it is up to the parish to organize the feast.



from the Ordinary Subsidy of The Most Reverend Valentine Gryk, SVD and from the report of Fr. Arnold M.J. Schmitt, CMM Diocesan Children Chaplain

THAILAND

DIOCESE OF NAKHON SAWAN



The diocese of Nakhon Sawan is located in central Thailand and it covers an area of 93.547 km², encompassing 13 provinces. It was erected on February 9, 1967, when it was split off from the archdiocese of Bangkok. As of 2023, it had 21.955 baptized Catholics (0,2%) within a larger population of approximately 8.99 million people.

XAVIER HOUSE CENTRE FOR KIDS

“Xavier House Centre for kids” is a Center for kids set up by Xaverian Missionaries in Thailand, under the care of Fr. Alessio Crippa in the Tak province, in the Karen Ethnic Area of Umphang, at the border with Myanmar – Karen State. In this area there are only 7 Catholic families.

THE KAREN ETHNIC AREA

“Xavier House” tries to face the problem of

illiteracy in this Karen ethnic area and to give hope to kids that came in Thailand to find refuge from the intra-Myanmar conflict. In this sense, the center tries to form a new generation of leaders, able to think in a certain way and to try the adventure of peace in order to build a different future for their villages, which were bombed by Myanmar army airstrikes.



RECEPTION FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN FROM MYANMAR

Due to the conflict in Myanmar, a lot of people cross the border asking for shelter and help. Xavier House Centre for Kids welcomes 55 kids, boys and girls, which live, eat and sleep in the Centre: through education, literacy and activities inspired by the Word of God and supported by the subsidy received from the Pontifical Mission Society of Holy Childhood, the kids are educated to have a different point of view on their stories... healing their past through the Mercy of God, the kids start to know God (only four among them are Catholics) and to pray together, joining morning prayers, evening prayers and the Holy Mass.

Human and Christian formation to promote peace and reconciliation is the need that these kids have. The project is a missionary attempt: we believe that only with a sign of real love for the poorest the beauty of the Gospel can be proclaimed nowadays.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTER

The activities carried out in the Center touched important topics: Responsibility, cooperation, forgiveness, justice, respect, equality, brotherhood, hope ... every time the Word of God has been the Center of our time together. The first step has always been an eye on the world, considering the different problems as a starting point of our formation, following the spirit of the Encyclical "Fratelli Tutti".

GIVE VOICE TO THE STORIES OF THE KIDS

Art was one of the ways to involve the kids to dream their Peace, starting from the Word of God. Sometimes it was even the possibility to give voice to the stories



of the kids, listening to their impressions about the time spent in the forest when they had to flee the airstrikes from Myanmar junta and the bombs that destroyed their houses.

It was good for Karen children in Thailand, coming in the Center to join the sessions of formation, to understand that Peace is something concrete and worthy to be done, since there is a so important need of this gift of God. Art, videos and songs were well used to let the kids comprehend better the meaning of the

different values.

CHILDREN, ACTIVE MISSIONARIES

Through this project, the kids have become active missionaries: welcoming in our Center other 50 kids from different villages two times a month, sharing their lives with them and their small belongings: the kids have become the first missionaries, through inviting their friends – Karen kids in Thailand – to join our formation, focusing in a particular way on the value of Peace.

PEACE EDUCATION AND CHRISTIAN FORMATION

For this reason, we call our sessions: "Peace education and Christian Formation."

The kids of the Center have prepared the rooms, the food, the snacks for the other peers gathered from different villages. Our children, with their stories sometimes difficult due to the conflict in Myanmar, have lead the groups and the prayers, showing to the kids of the villages the beauty of prayer too. Due to the Christian formation received every day in





the Xavier House Centre, the 55 kids staying everyday with the missionaries are no more afraid to go out of their “comfort zone” in order to reach the others, invite them and take care of them. That was an important step, considering the fact that, as said, only four are Catholics and the other children in the villages are not Catholic.

VISITS TO THE VILLAGES IN THE FOREST

Thus, the kids of the Center have also developed the desire to promote Peace through a new attention to the kids that are disabled and have health problems. For this reason, through our missionary work we try to let the kids become the angels of the needy kids, according to their desire. We went by car many times in villages in the forest, far three hours or more from our Center, in order to visit these kids so far and even so distant from any hospital. It happened that these kids two times had the need to have medical checkup: we brought them to our Center giving them our help and taking care of them through our time.

GOD IN THEIR LIVES

After that, our kids had the desire to pray for these new friends: that was an important moment for me: I noticed in the kids the desire to let God enter in their lives and move them on the faraway roads, without fear. This Peace education and Christian formation had many results that let me feel grateful to you for the help given to us.

*Umphang, 18/01/2025
Fr. Alessio Crippa, sx
Xavier House Centre for Kids*





UZBEKISTAN

APOSTOLIC

ADMINISTRATION



The Apostolic Administration of Uzbekistan covers an area of 447.400 km² and is divided into about 5 parishes located in the main cities, namely Tashkent (the capital), Samarkand, Bukhara, Urgench and Fergana. The population is mainly Muslim and the catholic community is very small, consisting of about 4.000 baptised faithful out of a total population of almost 35 million inhabitants.

DAY-CARE CENTER IN TASHKENT

EXTREME POVERTY

The Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul began a mission in Uzbekistan in Tashkent in November 2020. Looking at some inhabitants of this city, we noticed that they live in very poor and sometimes inhuman conditions. The lack of water, heating and electricity causes the local people to live in extreme poverty, which is why they break down, start reaching for alcohol and also commit various types of theft. The earnings are not adequate to the basic needs of everyday life. Men and young people go to neighbouring countries to work, leaving their wives and children. Seeing this poverty, we went

out to help large and dysfunctional families, whose children spent most of their time on the street, without any control. Often, hunger and desire to have something more led them to theft and drug addiction and bad habits.

THE OPENING OF THE DAY-CARE CENTER

Observing this tragic situation, we decided to open a Day Care Centre at the parish of the Sacred Heart of the Lord Jesus in Tashkent. In the Day Care Centre, children can take advantage of additional classes, spend time in safe, warm conditions. We try to ensure that everyone can



eat a warm meal rich in vitamins, which is often lacking at home. This form of help helps children and young people from dysfunctional and large families to find positive, strong sides, and also provides them with safety and protects them from cold and hunger, allows them to be themselves, discover their talents.

SHELTER FOR THE CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT LIFE SITUATIONS

Our Day Care Centre is the only place in the whole Tashkent where children and young people in difficult life situations have the opportunity to find shelter. Until now, we have been taking care of school and kindergarten children in our Centre. This year, since our children have classes at school in the afternoon, which prevents them from taking part in classes at our parish, we have started to deliver meals to their homes. In most cases, this was the only meal during the day.

*Sr. Renata Zygmanskiak
Sisters of the Charity
of St. Vincent de Paul*



My name is Aziza, I'm nine years old. I live in Uzbekistan in Tashkent. We have Catholic Church in Tashkent, Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral. I have gone to church with my mom and my brothers all my life. When I was five, Sisters of Charity arrived to our parish. They run a Day Care Centre and I began to attend it. I like it very much. Sisters play and work with us. Sister Renata taught me and my sister to read and write and count. When I started school I was able to read, to count and to write. After school we go to the Day Care Centre. Sisters help us with our homework, give us delicious food and we pray together. Classes in the Day Care Centre help me a lot in my learning process at school and in my spiritual growth. I thank God for Sisters, for their presence in our country, and for their work.

Abdulayeva Aziza



CAPE VERDE

DIOCESE OF MINDELO



The second Catholic diocese in the country was established on November 14, 2003, by Pope John Paul II, separating it from the Diocese of Santiago de Cabo Verde, with its see in Praia, the nation's capital. Currently, the diocese covers a total area of 2.207 km², with 147.489 inhabitants, of whom 140.114 are Catholics, which is 95% of the population.

In Cape Verde, children aged 0 to 14 represent 26% of the population. Although the infant mortality rate has decreased, other alarming indicators deserve attention: 46% of children under 15 live in poor families, with 21% facing conditions of extreme poverty, especially if they come from single-parent households. Furthermore, 9.000 children in Cape Verde are not officially registered,

13.5% do not have their father's surname, and 55.000 live without a father figure.

Another alarming scenario is the fact that over 230 Cape Verdean minors are heads of households, while 765, aged between 15 and 17, are cohabiting.

Children living on the streets also continue to be a



concern. It is still common to see children begging on the streets, especially after the pandemic. The diocese has encouraged parishes to promote summer camps to occupy the children's free time, particularly during school holidays.

**“FRATELLI UNITI”
WELCOME CENTER
Parishes of Our Lady of Light and Saint Vincent**

At the “Fratelli Uniti” Welcome Center, children and adolescents live with their families. We are open to parental visits; we celebrate birthdays, Father’s Day, Mother’s Day, Children’s Day, and Christmas with lunches/convivial moments, and with the presence of some family members.

Furthermore, we make Christmas Eve and Christmas Day available, so that the children can spend the weekend at home with their families. Parents who wish to take their children home to spend the weekend together are welcome, as the goal is the family and social integration of the children, even though not all of them have this privilege. All the children attend school, and they dedicate themselves to studying and other tasks during the rest of the day, with the support of teachers.

This year, we promoted a diving activity in Laginha, a place rich in marine biodiversity and crystalline waters, where the children admired various types of fish and other things. This activity was promoted by the Technical University of the Atlantic, and the children were very happy and enthusiastic. We also took a trip to “Baia das Gatas” to provide pleasant moments.



The children also received training in financial education from one volunteer and glass painting training from another volunteer. We reinforced their paper recycling method and newspaper collages on benches, and they are currently organizing photos of the Center’s activities, from the oldest to the most recent.



On Saturday, we began cleaning the land of the Center in Ribeira de Vinha, which was donated by the Ministry of Agriculture, but was damaged by recent rains—this was a way to promote a love for farming. The work with the Caritas excavator has also begun to prepare the soil for future drip irrigation and for agricultural production intended for consumption and, if possible, for sale, in order to reduce food expenses.



Personal hygiene, tidying up their room, physical exercise, and regular medical check-ups are part of the Center’s routine.

*Maria Manuela Silva Costa Oliveira
Executive Director
of the Diocesan Caritas of Mindelo*



DIOCESAN SECRETARIAT FOR CATECHESIS

The Diocesan Secretariat for Catechesis of the Diocese of Mindelo organized a Summer Camp in São Vicente, from July 29th to August 4th, aimed at children aged 6 to 12, to promote civic, moral, religious, environmental, and cultural values, encouraging contact with nature and the exercise of citizenship through the solidarity and participation of the children.

The activities covered areas that promoted the holistic development of the participants, awakening new talents and skills and shaping free, responsible, autonomous, and supportive citizens.

During the camp, the children participated in activities in the following areas:

- Biblical formation: biblical games and dramatizations
- Artistic education - Visual arts and performing arts
- Environmental education
- Storytelling
- Educational games
- Music education and dance
- Nature visits

These activities were designed to enrich the experience of every child, strengthening their moral and social development and promoting respect for nature and culture.

*Alexandra Pires
Diocesan Secretariat for Catechesis*



TESTIMONY

There is a proverb that says: "He who kisses my child sweetens my mouth." This week has been a beautiful time of joy and blessings, a period of growth for Rafaella who, in addition to having fun, learned many new things, praising Jesus and everyone who dedicated their time to the children. Thank you very much, God bless us! God is good at all times; let us learn to love Him with all our heart. He is Love. We should rejoice in Him. Let us take care of the children.



**PONTIFICIUM OPUS A SANCTA INFANTIA
SECRETARIATUS INTERNATIONALIS**