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HCA Program Guide

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Teen Dream

Long before it might have been trendy to be a teen activist, a young girl in France started a movement that would forever change the way Catholics helped to share their faith.

Inspired by letters about the Missions from her brother Phileas, Pauline-Marie Jaricot (Jeri-coe), gathered small groups of people – mostly workers in her father's silk factory – and asked that they pray daily and offer a sacrifice of a *sous* (the equivalent of a penny at that time) for the Church's worldwide missionary work. Jaricot insisted that her efforts be directed to all the Church's missions – that it be *universal*. From Pauline's vision came the first of four Pontifical Mission Societies – The Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Born in Lyons, France, on July 21, 1799, Jaricot, at about age 16, felt called to a life of spirituality and sacrifice. Biographers often write of a specific dream that propelled her into action. In her dream she saw two oil lamps – one, empty; the other, full. The full lamp was filling up the empty one, making it fit once again for use.

Jaricot saw the full lamp as the Missions of her day – *our own* country included. She had been hearing a lot about those young churches from her brother, Phileas, as he prepared for the priesthood. She believed that the great faith of these growing churches would “fill up” the lack of faith she was finding in her own native France, and help renew her Church at

home. That is when Jaricot began to organize the silk workers in her father's factory. (Later, history would prove Jaricot right. In fact, many missionary Religious Communities came out of France in the latter part of the 19th century, and three of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, including the Holy Childhood Association, were founded in that European country during those years.)

Throughout her life, Jaricot gave large sums of money to charity. She measured money's value in terms of what good it could do. Jaricot worked tirelessly in her efforts to help the missionary Church by encouraging the faithful in their prayerful and financial support. As one biographer wrote of her, “Pauline had the world in her heart, teaching us to love without end, and to speak our faith to the ends of the earth.”

Jaricot died in January 1862. In February of 1963, Pope John XXIII signed the decree which proclaimed the heroic virtues of Pauline-Marie Jaricot. By this she was declared “venerable,” a step on the road to sainthood.

Activities

A 'Fan' for Jesus!

As spring draws near, some students' thoughts turn to baseball. Use that opportunity to help remind students of the need to be a "fan" for Jesus – as they tell others about His "Good News" all year long. The reminder – a pennant, complete with Bible verse.

+ All Grades

+ **Materials (for each student):** Bible or list of Bible verses you have prepared ahead of time (see samples below), A piece of ribbon $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch to one-inch wide by $12\frac{3}{4}$ - inches long, one piece of white felt $12\frac{3}{4}$ -inches wide by 31- inches long, multicolored markers

Prepare: Before class, cut a piece of felt into a pennant shape, $12\frac{3}{4}$ -inches wide by 31-inches long for each child in class.* Glue or staple the ribbon onto the felt at the wide end.

Do: Ask the children to select their favorite missionary verse from the Bible and write it on the pennant. (Sample verses are below, to start the discussion as needed.) Encourage children to customize their pennant by using favorite team colors, the colors of their rooms at home, even the colors from the World Mission Rosary (www.WorldMissionRosary.org) which remind them of the areas of the world where missionaries tell the poor the "Good News" of Jesus.

*Older students can cut and create their own pennants.

Sample Bible Verses

Isaiah 6:8	Mark 16:15	Luke 24:47-48	Acts 1:8
Matthew 28:19	Luke 10:2	John 20:21	Romans 10:15
Mark 1:38-39			

A Witness of Love

Not unlike Pauline Jaricot, St. Josephine Bakhita longed to share the Lord with others – even before she knew Him. "Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself, 'Who could be the Master of these beautiful things?'" she said. "And I felt a great desire to see Him, to know Him and to pay Him homage."

Her early life's journey would be filled with great suffering. Born in the Darfur region of southern Sudan in 1869, she was kidnapped at the age of seven, sold and resold into slavery, and frequently abused. Because of the pain, it is said that she forgot her birth name. A slave trader gave her the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. Eventually, she found peace, when she was sold to an Italian family, serving as their nanny.

Living in Italy, she was treated with respect by her new "family," and from them, she learned of the Lord she had wondered about ever since she was a child. Baptized and confirmed in 1890, at the age of 21, she took the name Josephine. Eventually, Josephine remained with the Religious Sisters who had taught her about the faith, and became a Sister herself. For 50 years, until her death in 1947, she was a true witness of the love of God, serving in the community and at schools run by the Sisters, and always comforting and encouraging the poor and suffering.

In 2000, she was canonized a saint of the Church. "The best thing for us is not what we consider best," she said, "but what the Lord wants of us!"

Easter Mission Prayer

Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Missions who are recently baptized. We ask that You help Your newest disciples spread the "Good News" of Your Son, Jesus, just as we have been called to do. Let them all feel the happiness that we do, Lord, when, strengthened by our faith in You, we share Your love with the children in the Missions. We pray that we continue to make a difference in the lives of children all over the world, and that more young people will come to know about You, Lord. Amen.



The Dream Continues

Today, the universal fund of solidarity first envisioned by Pauline Jaricot continues to give life to the Church in the Developing World. In the Diocese of Livingstone in southern Zambia, for example, the population of Catholics has more than doubled in 50 years. Some 15 diocesan priests serve the poor in this area, in parishes and mission stations. With help offered through the Holy Childhood Association, children orphaned as a result of HIV / AIDS receive care – and come to know of the great love Jesus has for each one of us.