

PAULINE JARICOT

Baptized Marie Pauline Jaricot on the day of her birth (July 22, 1799), she was the last of seven children born to Antoine and Jeanne Jaricot in France. Lyons, Pauline's hometown, was an industrial city that became famous for its silk factories. The early years of her childhood were marked by the exclusive society life of Lyons.



At age 15, Pauline began to long to help the Missions. This desire was nurtured by her brother Phileas. Pauline saw this as her vocation, to become a missionary of the love of God. She came to believe that "to truly help others is to bring them to God."

A Vision for the Missions...

One day while at prayer, 18-year-old Pauline had a vision of two lamps. One had no oil; the other was overflowing and from its abundance poured oil into the empty lamp. To Pauline, the drained lamp signified the faith in her native France, still in unrest from the French Revolution. The full lamp was the great faith of Catholics in the Missions – especially in the New World. By aiding the faith of the new country of the United States of America, Pauline knew that seeds planted would grow and bear much fruit.

So she came up with a plan to support missionaries. She gathered workers in her family's silk factory into "circles of 10." Everyone in the group pledged to pray daily for the Missions and to offer each week a sou, the French equivalent of a penny. Each member of the group then found 10 friends to do the same. Even in the face of opposition from parish priests in Lyons, Pauline remained steadfast. Within a year, she had 500 workers enrolled; soon there would be 2,000.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith...

On May 3, 1822 in Lyons, a group of men called "Les Messieurs" gathered to discuss a request for funds for the missions in Louisiana in the United States. A representative of Louisiana's Bishop hoped at this meeting to have an organization set up similar to Pauline's "Propagation" which was doing so well. Benoit Coste, one of the "Les Messieurs," made the point that no single mission should be the sole benefactor of funds; any organization should help the missions everywhere. This was also Pauline's own vision of universal help.

When another member of the group, Victor Girodon, spoke glowingly of Pauline's plan, the group voted to adopt it. Eventually, Pauline agreed to join her efforts with "Les Messieurs." It was, as she said, "a gain for the world."

The very first collection of the Propagation of the Faith in 1822 supported the vast diocese of Louisiana, which at the time extended from the Florida Keys to Canada.

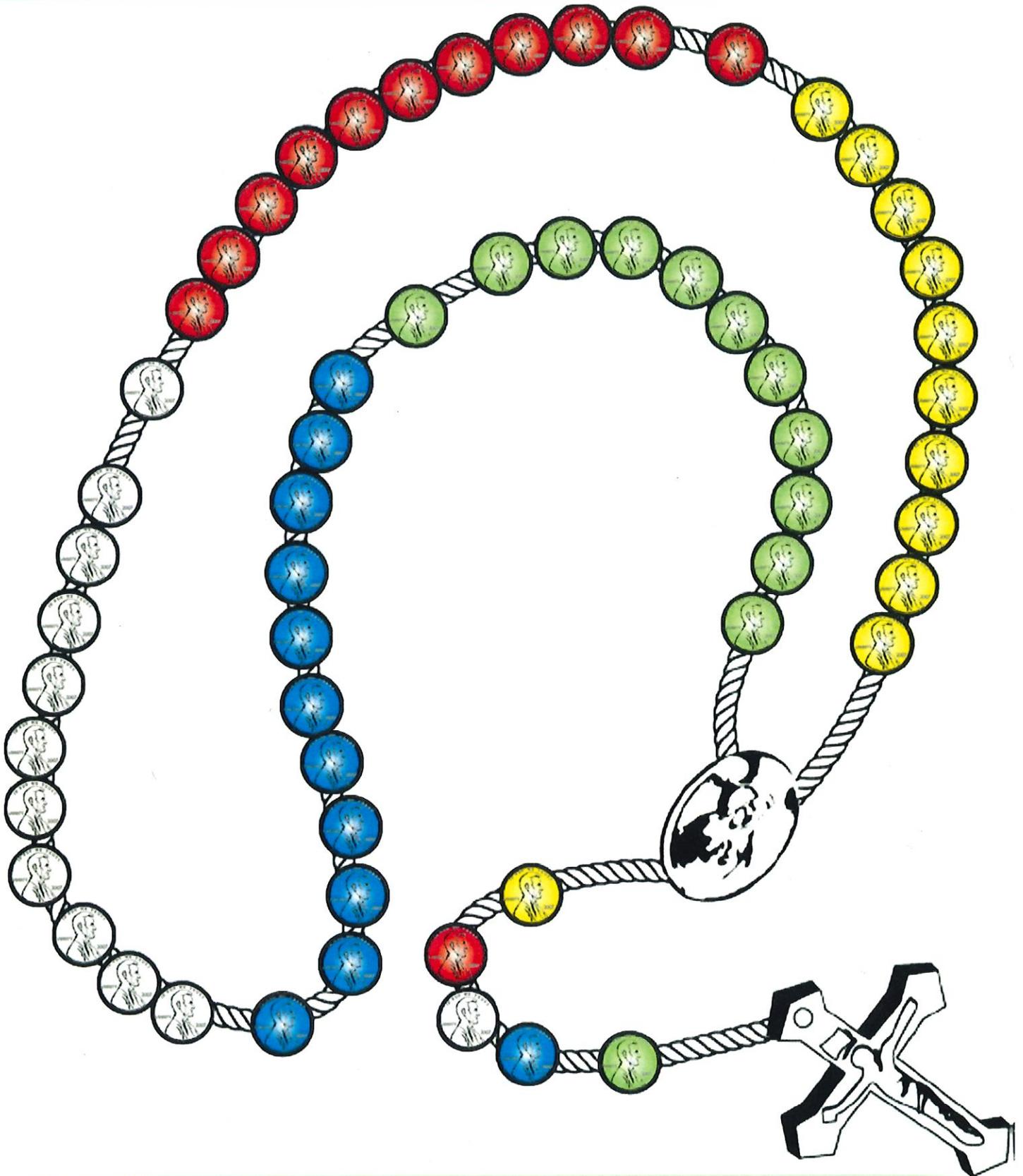
A Friendship for the Missions...

In 1843, French Bishop Charles Forbin Jansen traveled to one of the largest mission countries of his time—the United States. He rode on horseback from New Orleans to Canada, preaching and teaching. He returned to France determined to help the most needed children. Once home, he met with his old friend—Pauline Jaricot. During a conversation between these two friends in 1843, Bishop Forbin-Janson shared his own longtime dream to help the children of the Missions. Like Jaricot, he saw the "riches" of the poor mission churches of his day.

Sometime during the course of their talk, the Holy Childhood Association, a second Pontifical Mission Society, was born. He turned to the school children, asking them to pray a Hail Mary every day and to sacrifice a penny a month so that children in the missions could receive food, shelter, and education.

Today, Holy Childhood Association (now known as Missionary Childhood Association, MCA) continues to follow the vision of Bishop Forbin-Janson of "children helping children." The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, founded by the Venerable **Pauline Jaricot**, seeks prayer and sacrifice for the world's Missions.

PENNIES FOR THE MISSIONS



Pauline Jaricot, at a young age, offered and ask others to offer daily prayers and weekly sacrifices of a sou [a former French coin that equals about a penny] for the Church's worldwide Missionary work. To begin the New Year and remember the Missions in a special way, start to collect pennies or sacrifices for children in the Missions. For each penny you gather, mark one of the pennies on the World Mission Rosary. There are 60 beads on a Rosary, just 60 cents, can help provide milk for lunch for a week a child in the Missions!