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PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES
IN THE UNITED STATES

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Missionary Childhood Association
The Society of St. Peter the Apostle
Missionary Union of Priests and Religious
www.onefamilyinmission.org

MISSION MESSAGE

**Four Societies —
One Shared Purpose**

By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies



By providing scholarships and funding seminaries, this society ensures that local Church leaders are well-equipped to serve their communities for generations to come.

Pontifical Missionary Union

Unlike the other three societies, this one isn't about raising funds; it's about raising awareness. Founded by Father Paolo Manna in 1916, the Pontifical Missionary Union helps priests, religious, and lay leaders grow in their missionary spirit. It's a powerful reminder that every Catholic — no matter where they live — is called to be a missionary in their daily life.

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If you've been following this column for a while, you're probably familiar with The Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS) and their vital role in spreading the Gospel and strengthening the Church, especially in places where people are just hearing about Christ for the first time.

Here in the United States, four societies work together to keep the missionary spirit alive. Each one has a distinct mission, but they all share the same purpose: bringing Christ's love to those who need it most.

Since the National Office recently revealed a new series of logos for each of the four societies, I thought now may be a good time for a refresher on how each society serves those in need.

Society for the Propagation of the Faith

This society, founded in 1822 by Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot, is all about making sure missionary priests, religious, and lay workers have what they need to spread the Gospel. Whether it's helping build churches, training catechists, or supporting medical and educational ministries, this society is at the heart of mission efforts. Every parish in the Diocese plays a part in supporting the Society for the Propagation of the Faith by welcoming a missionary for a weekend appeal each summer. Fun fact: one of the very first collections taken up by this society helped missions in Louisiana and Florida — right here in the U.S.!

Missionary Childhood Association (MCA)

Have you ever heard the phrase "children helping children?" That's exactly what the MCA is about! Founded in 1843 by Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson, this society invites kids to pray for, learn about, and support other children in mission territory. Through small sacrifices and fundraising efforts, young Catholics get to live out their faith by helping their brothers and sisters around the world.

Society of Saint Peter the Apostle

Without priests and religious sisters, who would guide and nurture the faith in mission territories? The Society of St. Peter the Apostle focuses on the education and formation of future priests, nuns, and brothers, especially in areas where the Church is still growing.

The TPMS USA Logo



The new logo for the Pontifical Mission Societies, revealed in November, combines elements of each society into one logo emphasizing unity: unity with Christ on the Cross and in the Eucharist, unity within the universal Church and her missionary efforts, unity with the Holy Father, and unity across the four societies comprising TPMS. This new design introduces several key elements that distinguish it from the previous logo: a circular design symbolizing unity and inclusiveness; central symbols such as the crossed keys of the papacy and the cross of Christ's sacrificial love; red stars highlight TPMS's American identity and its commitment to the global mission from a U.S. perspective.

If you receive mailings or communications from the Pontifical Mission Societies, keep an eye out for this new logo — it's a symbol of our shared mission to bring hope, faith, and love to the ends of the earth!



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