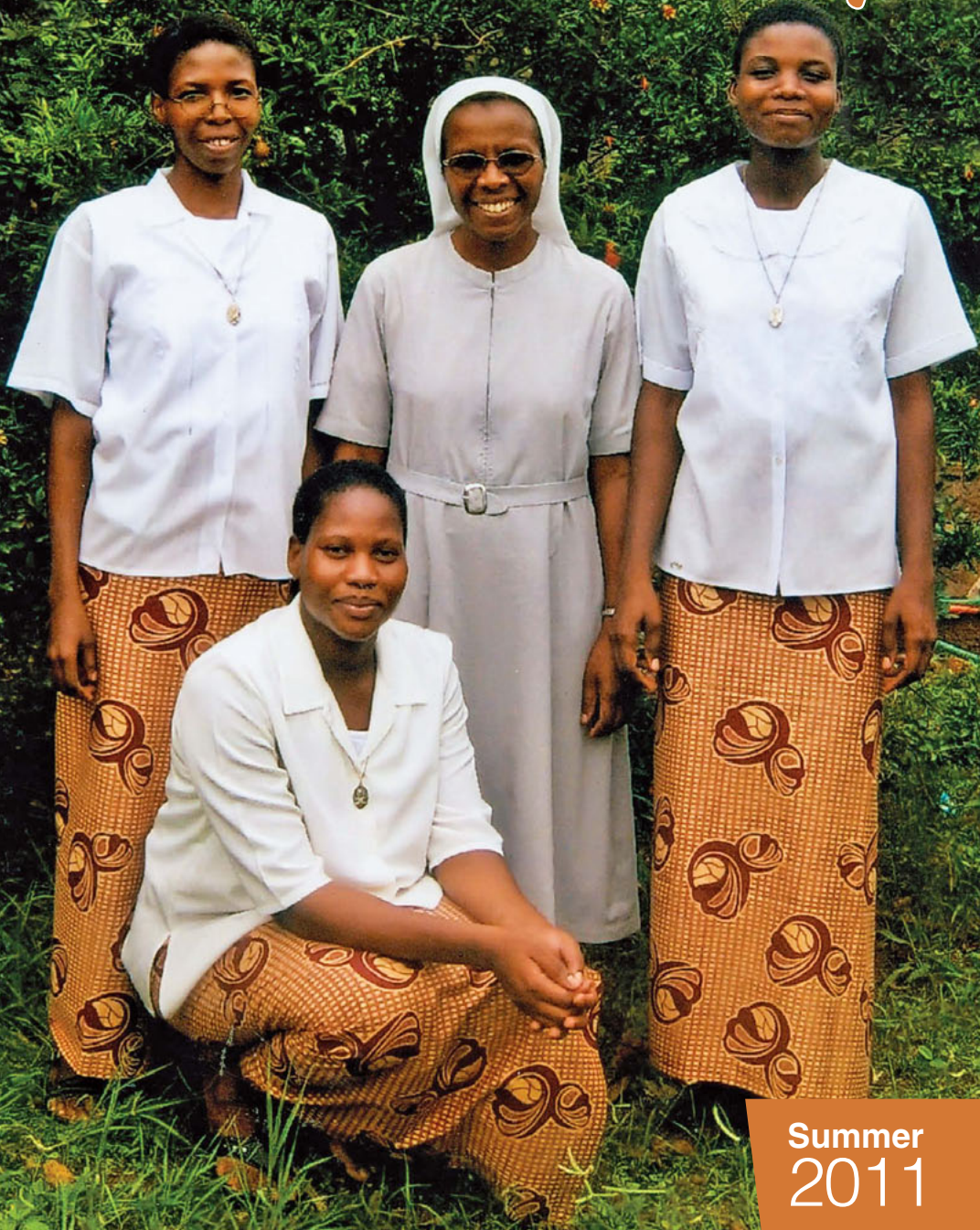


Missions Today



Summer
2011



(Photo courtesy: Servizio Fotografico de L'OR)

TOGETHER IN FAITH

And only where
God is seen
does life truly begin.

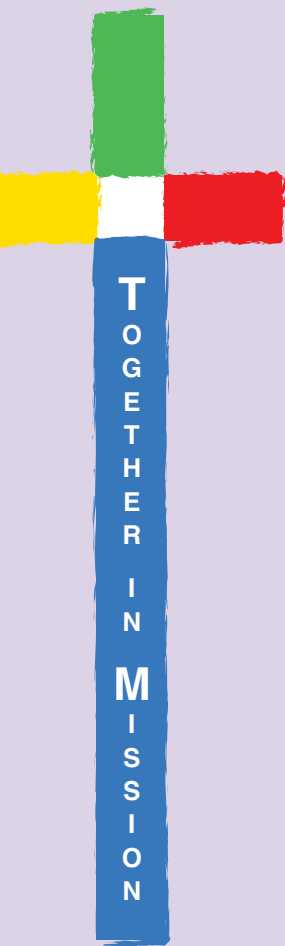
Only when we meet
the living God in Christ
do we know what life is.

We are not some casual
and meaningless
product of evolution.
Each of us is the result
of a thought of God.

Each of us is willed,
each of us is loved,
each of us is necessary.

There is nothing more beautiful
than to be surprised by the
Gospel, by the encounter with
Christ. There is nothing more
beautiful than to know Him and
to speak to others of our
friendship with Him.

Pope Benedict XVI
(April 24, 2005)



From the National Director

This issue of *Missions Today* looks back at Mission Sunday with its theme “Together in Mission” and on the work of solidarity made possible by your support and prayers for the Pontifical Mission Societies.

In his letter for Mission Sunday this year, Pope Benedict XVI wrote, “Evangelization is a complex process and includes various elements. Among these, in missionary animation particular attention has always been given to solidarity. This is also one of the objectives of World Mission Day, which, through the Pontifical Mission Societies, appeals for help to carry out evangelizing activities in mission territories. It involves supporting institutions necessary for establishing and consolidating the Church through catechists, seminaries, priests; and also giving one’s own contribution to improve the living conditions of people in nations where poverty, malnutrition, above all infantile malnutrition, diseases, lack of health care services and education are most serious.”

The Holy Father reminds us that “Missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!”

Gary Howley SPS National Director

Cover photo:

Ursuline Sister Veronique Razanamiandrisoa with novices Judith Ehiouenson, Lucienne Zungrana and Denise Kabre from Koudouga Diocese, Burkina Faso. These novices were assisted by the Society of St Peter, Apostle.

(Photo courtesy: Ursuline Sisters, Koudouga)

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TOGETHER IN MISSION

Reflection on Mission Sunday from the Philippines

Fr Mick Sinnott is back in the Philippines with the people he loves. Among them are those children with special needs at the *Hangop Kabataan Foundation* in Pagadian City, which he founded in 1998. “Since last November, the project is in new premises and the programme continues to go well,” he wrote. “There are now sixty-six children who come to the centre every day. There are sixteen more who are confined to their homes by the severity of their disabilities and the staff visit them every week for tutorials or therapy or both as needed.”

Fr Mick is now living in Ozamiz, which is only an hour and a half drive by car from Pagadian, so he is able to visit the programme fairly frequently and is still a member of the board of trustees. “The support and prayers of people at home is most important in my work – both to me and to the pastoral work I am engaged in,” he wrote. “I think most priests will tell you that there was no other explanation possible for certain things that happen in their lives and successes in their ministry except that these were the result of graces gained by someone’s prayers.”

After all his years of ministry – Fr Mick was ordained for the Missionary Society of St Columban in 1954 – he believes the needs are greater now than they were before. “I think missionaries are still very much needed and do make a difference,” he wrote. “There are many nations still not properly evangelised and indeed many of the traditional *sending countries* need to be re-evangelised. There is also the need to maintain a dialogue with other religions.”



Children with special needs at the *Hangop Kabataan Foundation* in Pagadian, Philippines with Fr Mick Sinnott SSC. *Hangop* means “to reach out” or “embrace”, *kabataan* means “children”. (Photo courtesy: Jesell Braza, Hangop Kabataan Foundation)

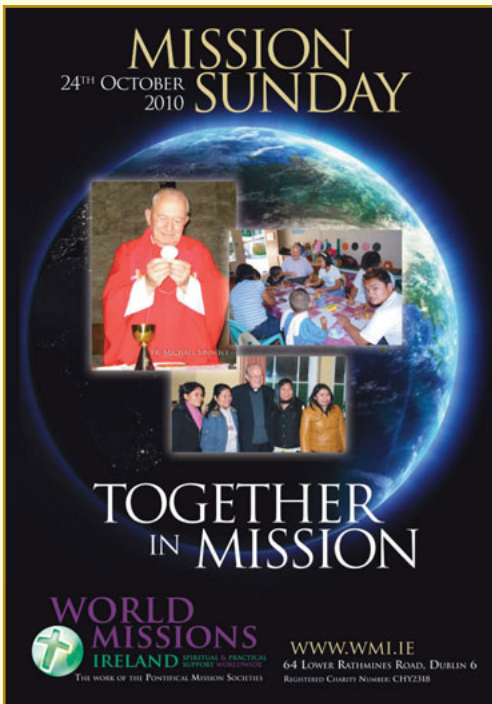
Fr Mick did not relish being so much in the public eye, yet this was his fate since he was kidnapped in the Philippines in 2009 during Mission Month. “I was at home in the beginning of October last year and was a little bit embarrassed to see my picture on the Mission Sunday Poster in the church porches,” he wrote. “Some friends and other people contacted me to say they had seen the picture. I suppose it was something to be endured like the rest of the publicity I got.”

Yet, he has no doubt about the importance of telling the mission story. “Celebrating Mission Month and Mission Sunday every year in October is important,” he wrote. “It is important to keep the needs of the Missions in front of the people so that they will continue their spiritual and material support and this is a very practical way of doing it. We need good communications between the People of God at home and the missionaries. You see it in the case of the terrible calamity recently in Japan and the value of instant communication. If people were not aware of what happened there they would not be encouraged to pray for the victims and send material help. It is the same with the needs of the missions and it is good to have a special month every year to remind the people of these needs.” ■

WORLD MISSIONS IRELAND

SPiritual & PRACTICAL SUPPORT WORLDWIDE

The work of the Pontifical Mission Societies



On behalf of the
Society for the
Propagation of the Faith

THANK YOU

for your support on
Mission Sunday.

The Mission
Sunday Collection
in 2010 amounted to
€2,215,019.

Thank you for your
great generosity
despite very difficult
financial times.

Together in Mission was the theme for Mission Month 2010. You show your solidarity with missionaries and the communities they serve through your generosity and prayers, especially on Mission Sunday. All those you help throughout the world are deeply grateful.

MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION 2010

Diocese	2010	2009	2008
	€	€	€
Achonry	22,252	32,413	40,289
Ardagh & Clonmacnois ■	42,266	56,515	51,755
Armagh ▲ ■	123,449	115,310	116,526
Cashel & Emly	78,000	75,000	71,605
Clogher ▲ ■	133,945	80,909	59,203
Clonfert	26,500	35,500	34,000
Cloyne	89,235	54,272	95,674
Cork & Ross	108,645	156,663	160,848
Derry ▲	129,307	138,654	136,371
Down & Connor ●	98,408	75,120	106,264
Dromore ●	26,754	17,832	23,229
Dublin ■	421,478	542,477	600,325
Elphin ■	58,913	63,640	42,000
Ferns	46,821	44,666	49,434
Galway	36,294	49,123	46,217
Kerry	58,208	56,601	66,005
Kildare & Leighlin	71,898	64,279	79,576
Killala	23,068	60,042	26,628
Killaloe ■	97,554	86,996	138,281
Kilmore ■	62,950	70,270	78,565
Limerick	64,703	64,049	60,595
Meath	134,250	153,528	177,623
Ossory	33,337	38,594	47,798
Raphoe	23,000	61,000	68,030
Tuam	112,365	136,823	111,008
Waterford & Lismore ■	64,755	76,487	76,929
<hr/>			
Subtotal	2,188,355	2,406,763	2,564,778
Religious Institutes	26,664	23,821	25,092
TOTAL	2,215,019	2,430,584	2,589,870
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▲ Collection in Euro & Sterling

● Sterling collection

■ Financial Report for 2010 & later returns

31 May 2011

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

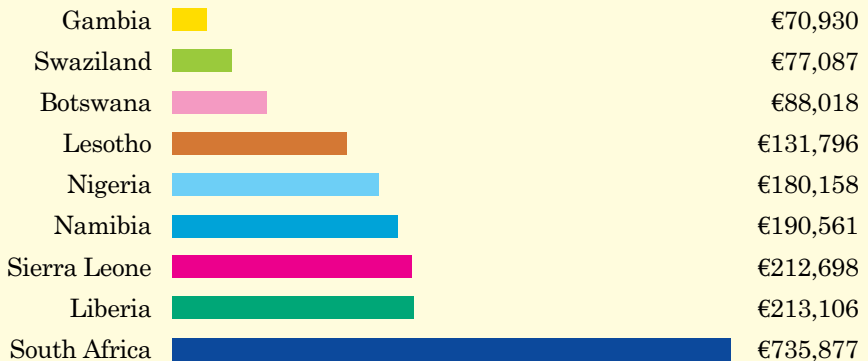
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith currently supports more than 1,096 mission dioceses. It works continually to increase public awareness of sharing the good news throughout the world and raise financial aid to assist Catholic missions.

At present, more than 1,762 Irish missionaries are serving in 83 countries. Financial aid from the Society supports: formation of laity, building of mission churches, construction and support of pastoral centres, and provision of essential transport and equipment for missionaries.

Each year the Society for the Propagation of the Faith organises the Church's annual celebration of mission, World Mission Sunday, which takes place on the second last Sunday in October. This year we will celebrate Mission Sunday on 23rd October.

The Society made €1,684,000 available to the Universal Solidarity Fund for allocation during 2011. (Each year in Ireland, the Society of St Peter Apostle is allocated 25% of the Mission Sunday collection.) Thank you for your support and prayers

HOW YOUR MONEY WAS DISTRIBUTED IN 2010



Diocese of Gbarnga in Liberia

The Diocese of Gbarnga was established in 1986 and the cathedral was opened in 2002. The diocese received €69,011 in 2010 from the Irish office in support of projects. The money went towards the normal running of the diocese such as: transportation costs; support to diocesan clergy; payment of seminary fees; repairs to diocesan vehicles and property; supporting the work of catechists and their ongoing formation and housing. It also helped in the on-going development of the diocesan offices, which house the education, health, youth development, women's development and the justice & peace secretariat. Money was also spent in providing solar lighting for the offices and the grounds around the cathedral where the offices are located.

“On behalf of the faithful of the Diocese I wish to thank you and all who work so hard at World Missions, Ireland throughout the year to raise mission awareness and collect funds to support the work of the Church in so many different places,” wrote Fr Chris Brennan SMA, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese. “I also wish to thank the faithful in Ireland who continue to provide spiritual and financial support.”



(Photos courtesy: Gbarnga Diocese)



Money was also used in 2010 in the construction of a parish house in Ganta. The church was constructed here with the assistance of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 2006.

ST PETER APOSTLE

The Society of St Peter Apostle provides the financial and spiritual support needed by Young Churches to train their own priests, brothers and sisters.

When the Society was established in 1889 it supported 2,700 seminarians in their journey of faith. The Society has continued to grow each year and in 2010/2011, the Society of St Peter Apostle supported more than 26,116 student priests, as well as 8,196 male and female novices, in their training in mission lands.

The Society of St Peter Apostle made €861,000 available to the Universal Solidarity Fund for allocation during 2011. Each year, the Society of St Peter Apostle is allocated 25% of the Mission Sunday collection. Thank you for your support and prayers.

HOW YOUR MONEY WAS DISTRIBUTED IN 2010

Guinea	€1,520
Niger	€1,710
South Africa	€8,518
Myanmar	€9,711
Togo	€14,966
Ivory Coast	€17,100
Solomon Islands	€19,554
Bolivia	€19,992
Cameroon	€25,643
Sierra Leone	€33,883
Liberia	€37,853
Pakistan	€66,799
Papua New Guinea	€71,120
Benin	€71,682
Burkina Faso	€122,273
India	€410,676

St Aloysius Seminary, Diocese of Bongaigaon, India

There were 129 seminarians at various stages of their formation in St Aloysius Seminary in 2010. There are six days of classes each week and, on Sundays, the seminarians visit the nearby Catholic villages for various activities. Three priests, two brothers and lay teachers look after the seminarians.

The seminary was established in 1996 as the minor seminary in the Archdiocese of Guwahati but was passed to the newly erected Diocese of Bongaigaon in 2010. The seminary received a grant of almost €19,000 in 2010 from the Irish office. “Most of the seminarians are from economically poor families and our Catholics are rather new to the Catholic faith,” wrote Fr Paresh Brahma, Rector of St Aloysius Seminary. “Every month we collect a small amount of money from the seminarians towards various needs of the seminary and along with the subsidy we get from the Pontifical Society of St Peter Apostle, we manage the day-to-day running of the Seminary.”



(Photos courtesy: St Aloysius Seminary, Bongaigaon)

“We are grateful for your support towards the formation of our young minor seminarians,” wrote Fr Paresh Brahma. “We have seminarians from various ethnic tribes. All our seminarians are doing well in their studies and growing in true Christian faith with an earnest desire to become missionary priests in the Diocese of Bongaigaon. Please be assured of our prayerful support.”

MISSIONARY CHILDREN

The Society of Missionary Children was founded in 1843 by French Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson who was deeply affected by the distress of Chinese children abandoned in the streets. Initially, he asked the children of France to do two things: say a short prayer and make a small material sacrifice.

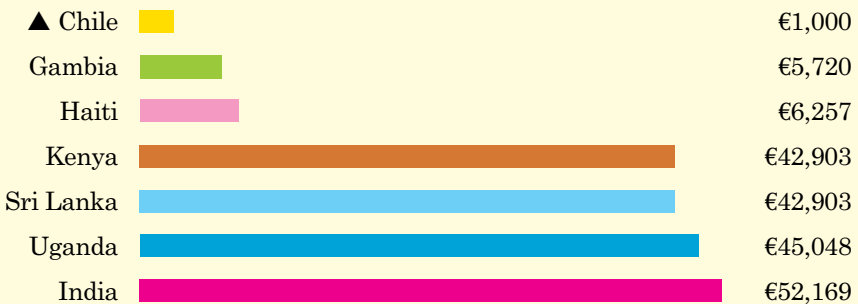


The response to the Bishop’s appeal was extraordinary. In a few years, the unique concept of *Children Helping Children* spread not only through France but all over Europe, then to North America, Latin America and Asia, and, in the last forty years, to Africa.

The Society of Missionary Children was first established in Ireland in 1853 and was raised to the status of Pontifical Society by Pope Pius XI in 1922.

The Society of Missionary Children made €201,000 available to the Universal Solidarity Fund for allocation during 2011. Thank you for your support and prayers.

HOW YOUR MONEY WAS DISTRIBUTED IN 2010



▲ This was an additional subsidy made to the Earthquake victims.



(Photo courtesy: Holy Cross Orphanage, Marawil)

Holy Cross Orphanage, Marawil, Sri Lanka

There are forty-four girls living in this orphanage and this photograph was taken during the Annual School concert. Missionary Children in Ireland contributed to the running costs of this home in 2010. The *'First Communion Friends'* initiative helped to cover some of the expenses of preparing for the sacrament of First Holy Communion last year. The Holy Family Sisters who run this home teach the girls about Missionary Children so that they too can become part of the circle of children praying for and sharing with each other around the world.

Nav Jyoti School for Visually Impaired Children, Lucknow, India

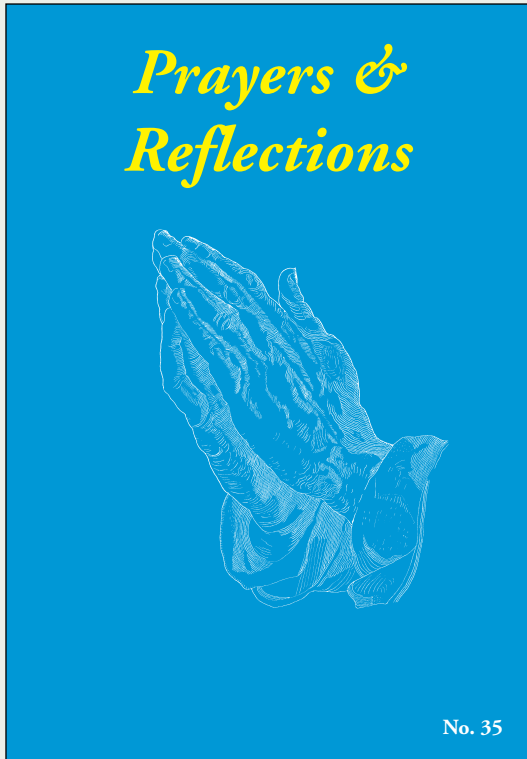
Seventy children live in this home which is run by Sr Naina. They learn a wide range of skills including music, dance and singing. Missionary Children in Ireland funded the purchase of specialist learning equipment for this school in 2010. The children can now have computer lessons each week which has helped enormously with their educational needs. The boy in the photograph is Rajat and he was born blind. You can see him learning the alphabet using the brail method. These children have enormous fun during their lessons which helps to bring them to a fulfilled adult life.



(Photo courtesy: Nav Jyoti School, Lucknow)

MISSIONARY UNION

This Society, declared Pontifical in 1956, unites clergy, religious, seminarians and catechists in helping the missionary activity of the Church by the sanctity of their lives and prayer. The Society promotes mission awareness among those involved in the pastoral ministry of the Church. It is understood as the heart of the Pontifical Mission Societies.



This 16-page prayer booklet is distributed in conjunction with the Catholic Healthcare Commission of the Irish Episcopal Conference to hospitals and nursing homes for World Day of the Sick on 11th February. Patients, retirees, and those confined to home are invited to offer prayers and sufferings in union with Christ for the spread of the Kingdom. These booklets are also used by priests, brothers, sisters and Eucharistic ministers in parish visitation of the sick and elderly.



Mission Rosary has become very popular in parishes since it was introduced as part of the National Day of Prayer for Children in 2007. Many schools and Parish Rosary Groups use the Mission Rosary Kit during the Mission Month of October. The kit contains five candles in the Mission Rosary colours, a poster on how to pray the Mission Rosary and Mission Rosary beads for adults. There is also a child's wooden Mission Rosary with a card insert on how to pray this rosary. Almost 5,000 of these children's rosary beads are requested by schools and parishes each October.

All material is available from the National Office - check our website: www.wmi.ie

THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

form one Institution with four branches:

1 THE PONTIFICAL MISSIONARY UNION OF PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS

unites clergy, religious, seminarians and catechists in helping the missionary activity of the Church by the sanctity of their lives and prayer. It promotes mission awareness among those involved in the pastoral ministry of the Church.

2 THE PONTIFICAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

promotes a worldwide missionary awareness among the clergy and laity. It encourages aid, spiritual and material, for mission territories, in accordance with the needs of each.

3 THE PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF ST PETER APOSTLE

invites adults and youth to cooperate by prayer and financial support to the formation of local clergy, religious sisters and brothers in mission territories.

4 THE PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY CHILDREN

awakens missionary awareness in children so as to lead them to share prayers, sacrifices and material gifts with children in mission territories. Its motto is *Children Helping Children*. It is aimed at the missionary education of Primary School children.



The work of the Pontifical Mission Societies

www.wmi.ie

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