



BLESSED PAULINE JARICOT

*A Life of Dedication to
the Mission*



Table of contents

1. Who is Pauline Jaricot?	3
2. Her story	4
3. Her legacy	5
4. Why is she an example of a missionary?	6
5. How can we continue her work today?	7
6. Pray the Novena	8

Who is Pauline Jaricot?

Pauline Jaricot is the foundress of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies. She is also the foundress of the Living Rosary Association, an organization dedicated to praying the rosary daily for life for the conversion of sinners and strengthening of the just. She is a prime example of what it means to be a missionary and an inspiration for all Catholics to live out their missionary call.

Her story

Born into a privileged family in Lyon, France on July 22, 1799, Pauline Jaricot's life took a transformative turn after a life-altering accident and subsequent depression. Treatment from doctors came to no avail. Rather, it was a powerful sermon that reignited her spirit, revealing the depth of God's love and guiding her toward her divine purpose. She became deeply committed to her faith and dedicated her life to serving those in need.

With an ardent desire to involve her friends and peers in her mission, Pauline organized prayer groups centered around the Eucharist and devotion to the cross. When she learned of the financial struggles of a missionary group from Paris through letters from her brother Philéas, she hatched a simple yet impactful idea: to invite others to pray for the Mission and contribute a small donation each week to support their efforts. She began gathering small groups —mostly workers from her family's silk mill. She asked each member to offer daily prayer and a weekly sacrifice of a sou (the equivalent of a penny at that time) for the Church's worldwide missionary work. Pauline insisted that her efforts were to be directed to all the missions of the Universal Church.

This small act of faith quickly gained momentum. Pauline and her group took to the streets of Lyon, requesting donations for the Mission, and on May 3, 1822, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith was officially founded. Astonishingly, Pauline Jaricot was just 22 years old at the time. She continued her work, founding the Living Rosary at age 27, proving that age is never a barrier when answering God's call.

On May 3, 1922, The Society for the Propagation of the Faith was granted Pontifical status by Pope Pius XI. The status "pontifical," which means relating to the authority of the Pope, dictates that the Propagation of the Faith is one of the Pope's official arms to collect donations for his missionary work. In 1926, Pope Pius XI also established "World Mission Sunday," an event dedicated to the collection of donations for missionary work. World Mission Sunday, which occurs every year on the second-to-last Sunday of October, is organized by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Pauline Jaricot's story continues as her cause for sainthood was opened in 1930. In 1963, she was declared 'Venerable' by Pope St. John XXIII after he concluded that she had lived with heroic virtue. Then, on May 26, 2020, Pope Francis recognized a miracle attributed to her intercession as the final requirement for beatification. Pauline Jaricot was beatified on May 22, 2022, with a ceremony in her home in Lyon, France. The story of Blessed Pauline Jaricot has inspired so many people over the years and remains integral in the work of The Pontifical Mission Societies. Let her story ignite your own passion for mission and remind you that you, too, have the power to make a difference.

Her legacy

Out of Pauline's vision, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith was born. The very first collection of the Propagation of the Faith in 1822 supported the vast diocese of Louisiana, which then extended from the Florida Keys to Canada, as well as the missions of Kentucky and China.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith continues to revive the missionary ardor of Christian communities and individual faithful through missions around the world, now present in 1,100 dioceses across Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America.¹

As of 2024, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is managing 10 projects, including the construction of churches, chapels, and convents, training, and accompaniment.² It also collected 150 million dollars on World Mission Sunday 2023 for pastoral and social projects. Additionally, the Society has national offices in 120 countries, expanding its reach exponentially since its conception.

¹ https://youtu.be/zZCTx_dkKM8

² <https://blessedpauline.org/>

Why is she an example of a missionary?

A missionary is generally regarded as someone who travels around the world spreading the Gospel, but this is a misconception. In his message for World Mission Day 2019, Pope Francis asserts that *all* Catholics are called to be missionaries by virtue of their baptism.³ He tells us, “Let us not forget that every Christian is called to take part in this universal mission by offering his or her own witness to the Gospel in every context so that the whole Church can continually go forth with her Lord and Master to the ‘crossroads’ of today’s world.”⁴ It is possible to be missionaries in our own lives, from our own homes. But what does this look like?

Pauline Jaricot gives us a perfect example of what it means to be a missionary. When she was a young girl, she gathered small groups, even smaller than the size of your congregation, organized circles of prayer, and collected donations to support the missions abroad. Without her efforts, missionaries all over the world would not have received the support and financial aid required to continue their important work.

This mission we as Catholics are called to also invites us to follow Jesus and his example of closeness to the poor. Pauline was attentive to the poor around her and trained her daughters in constant proximity with them, by sharing meals with the disadvantaged and welcoming them into her home. This closeness led her to develop a keen awareness of all social injustices and to research how to fight the roots of these evils. By remaining close to the poorest among us and coming to understand their realities, we can help battle the malady of poverty.

³ Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2019 - https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/missions/documents/papa-francesco_20190609_giornata-missionaria2019.html

⁴ Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2024 - <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/missions/documents/20240125-giornata-missionaria.html>

How can we continue her work today?

Pauline's life was a testament to walking in the light of the Gospel. She reminds us that being a disciple of Love means always being with Him in the great Universal Mission. 'Let Jesus and the Spirit do it in all the circumstances of your life committed to the service of the Kingdom.' She lived as a beggar of Love, always allowing Jesus to work through her. We can continue her work today by doing as she did, by walking in the light of the Gospel and living our lives in service to others.

Every baptized person is called to be a missionary, to be a witness of Jesus wherever he or she is, and we can fulfill this mission without traveling abroad by supporting the Pope's missions through prayer and donations. Today, donations to the Society of the Propagation of the Faith help to provide medical, educational, and spiritual resources to mission territories, places where the Church is too young, poor, or persecuted; places like Cambodia, Pakistan, and South Sudan.

Pray the Novena

Now that you know the story of Pauline Jaricot, the importance of her accomplishments, and how we can carry out her mission, we invite you to pray this novena in honor of Pauline Jaricot. May your meditation on her life and example bring you closer to God and inspire your missionary heart.

Introduction

For us to be missionary disciples well engaged in our Christian community and the society, let us discover some secrets of Pauline-Marie Jaricot's life. Beatified, she becomes a model proposed to all the baptized envoys who bring us back to the essence of the life of discipleship: a life well anchored in Jesus Christ through prayer, fraternal and universal love!

Day 1: To Love and Respect Oneself

"To respect oneself is to respect our profound nature of being made to love. At a very young age, Pauline-Marie Jaricot discovered that her heart was made to love and sought infinite Love. She then listened to this source in her who told her: 'Come to the Father!' This source that made her to pray, allowed her to discover that Jesus is love."

Let us pray together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father...

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

May this first day of our novena inspire you to embrace the love that you are destined to give and receive.

Day 2: Stay With Me in Your Heart

"Jesus revealed the secret to Pauline: 'Stay with me in the depths of your heart.' She discovered that she was a small living church inhabited by this Presence of Love, God wanted to manifest his Love to the men and women she met. True contemplative prayer opens us to love our brothers and sisters with divine Love in our hearts!"

Let us pray together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father...

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

May this day's reflection deepen your connection to the loving presence of Jesus in your heart and empower you to act with His love in all you do.

Day 3: Embracing Ardent Charity

"The conversion of a disciple's heart leads that heart to become close to the needs of our loved ones, especially those many poor faces around us. Pauline was committed to the sick, abandoned children, street children, and those born from prostitution. At the same time, she was concerned with helping the poor in mission countries and she established a work with inspiration from heaven: the propagation of the faith."

Let us pray together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father...

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

May today's contemplation ignite in us the flame of ardent charity, to reach out to those in need and to share the compassionate love of Jesus with all.

Day 4: Overcome by Infinite Love

"The conversion of a disciple's heart is a long process that leads to the development of a poor heart, whose only richness is to be filled by the infinite love of Jesus. Pauline, an active woman with many initiatives of charity, passed from resistance to this love through prayer and the Eucharist which became the two great secrets of her life."

Let us pray together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father...

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

May we, like Blessed Pauline, find our hearts overcome by the infinite love of Jesus and let this love flow through our lives to touch everyone we meet.

Day 5: Walking Step by Step with Jesus

"Every missionary disciple walks in the footsteps of the Master and great Missionary. Pauline developed a spirituality of the laity committed in the name of her faith and baptism. Not founding a religious community, but a Marian association of women at the service of the poor, not making the option of a consecrated life. Pauline invites us to value the vocation of each baptized person, God's plan for her was to follow the Missionary Master step by step: 'As the Father sent me, so I send you too!'"

Let us pray together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father...

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

May we follow Jesus closely today, making each step a testament to our faith and commitment to His mission.

Day 6: Prayer is the Kingdom of God Within Us "Let us always pray, let us pray with confidence, let us pray without getting tired... Let us pray and seek the Kingdom first." - Blessed Pauline Jaricot

Let us pray together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father...

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

May we be steadfast in our prayer life, seeking the Kingdom of God first, as we continue to walk this novena journey together.

Day 7: The Poor are God's True Courtiers

"The Mission invites us to follow Jesus and his example of closeness to the poor. Pauline was attentive to the poor around her and trained her daughters in constant proximity with them, by sharing meals and welcoming them into their homes. This closeness led her to develop a keen awareness of all social injustices and to research how to fight the roots of these evils."

Let us pray together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father...

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

May today's meditation inspire you to grow in closeness to the poor and commit to the advent of a Kingdom of justice, sharing, and fraternity.

Day 8: When the Current is Strong, Double the Effort

"Being a missionary disciple engaged in the advent of the Kingdom requires doubling our efforts. The last years of Pauline's life were dedicated to the poor and the cause of the Kingdom. 'My only treasure is the Cross,' she said. In the face of challenges, she found strength and courage in her mission."

Let us pray together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father...

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

May you find in today's reflection the courage to embrace your cross and follow the Master with strength and conviction.

Day 9: Walk Only After Him

"Pauline's life was a testament to walking in the light of the Gospel. She reminds us that being a disciple of Love means always being with Him in the great Universal Mission. 'Let Jesus and the Spirit do it in all the circumstances of your life committed to the service of the Kingdom.' She lived as a beggar of Love, always allowing Jesus to work through her."

Let us pray together:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father...

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

As we conclude our Novena, may you carry the light of Christ into every aspect of your life, trusting in His way, truth, and life.