

Pauline Jaricot

A young lay woman with remarkable faith

Venerable Pauline Jaricot is one of Missio's founders. She created the Association for the Propagation of the Faith in 1822, now known as Missio's APF. Two hundred years later, we are delighted that she is to be beatified on 22 May this year in Lyon, France!

Pauline Jaricot was born during the French Revolution in 1799. Her life was to become a testament to the power of lay people in our Church. She believed that if we all dedicate ourselves to praying a little and giving a little, we can help share God's love throughout the world. This approach continues to give momentum to Missio's work today.

Pauline's parents gave her a loving upbringing and a living faith; she witnessed, and was inspired by, their acts of generosity and charity. In her teens, Pauline was a pretty and worldly young woman who enjoyed socialising and her life in high society.

But then her life was changed forever due to a severe fall which affected her mobility. Pauline's health deteriorated and she became depressed. A local Priest visited her and reinvigorated her faith. With his guidance, Pauline's love of God was renewed.

'Warm my poor soul with some spark of faith and hope'

– Pauline Jaricot



Pauline committed herself to small acts of charity – she believed that in alleviating the suffering of those around her, she was alleviating the suffering of Christ. She changed her life: she gave away her finery and began to take care of people living in poverty, making daily trips to a hospice to tend and accompany those who were dying. Pauline also devoted her time to the young workers from the city's silk factories – she started meetings and catechism sessions with them.

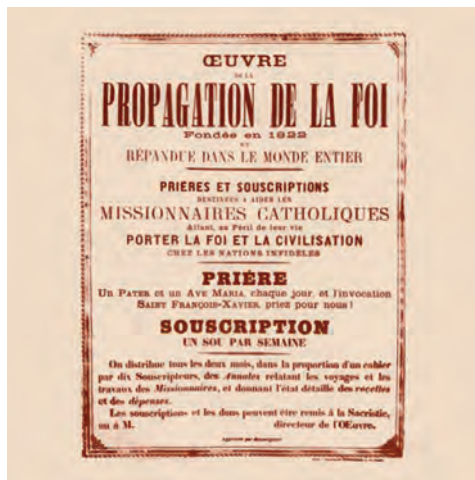
'The poor are God's true favourites... they bear his mark and his benevolence... God's love gives value to the smallest actions...'

– Pauline Jaricot

All of Pauline's efforts and energy were channelled into fulfilling her missionary calling. She wanted to be a missionary overseas but because of her health, and constraints as a woman of her time, she was unable to fulfil this role. So, she became a missionary from her own home.

At age 19, Pauline established a penny collection among her father's employees: the first social missionary network. Supporters met in small groups of ten to donate pennies, pray and exchange news about 'the missions'. In turn, they created more groups. This network became the Association for the Propagation of the Faith in 1822. It then spread throughout the world.

Pauline realised that for people to pray for 'mission' and support missionaries, they needed to know about the real challenges these missionaries were facing. What was it like to travel for months on a boat to the unknown? To become ill just after you stepped off the boat? To share Christ with those who had never heard of him? To adapt to very different languages and cultures?



She instigated *The Annals of the Propagation of the Faith* – translated into many different languages, it was once the most widely read publication in the world. These are the origins of *Mission Today* – the very magazine you are reading!

In 1936, the Mill Hill Missionaries combined their fundraising efforts with Missio's APF through the Red Box. This partnership continues to this day. For Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries, the Red Box fulfils Pauline's vision.

From Pauline's foundations, Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries continue to build a vibrant missionary family around the world. Thank you for helping us bring practical and spiritual help to those most in need.

'As fire penetrates and melts the hardest metals... so charity gives the power to do what is naturally impossible...'

– Pauline Jaricot

For more information about this inspiring lay missionary, please visit missio.org.uk/pauline