Good <morning/evening>. My name is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I'd like to speak to you about Venerable Pauline Jaricot, one of the founders of Missio. She <is being/was> Beatified on Sunday 22 May 2022 in her hometown of Lyon, France, which takes us a step closer towards Blessed Pauline becoming a Saint.

Pauline was born in 1799 to a wealthy family. Amid the turmoil of the French Revolution, her parents gave her a loving upbringing and a living faith. She was inspired by her parents’ faith and acts of charity.

She suffered illness, injury and the loss of her older brother and Mother, all of which changed her life. She gave away her finery and began to take care of people living in poverty, making daily trips to a local hospice to tend and accompany those who were dying.

Prayer, including her devotion to the Rosary, was central to Pauline’s life. At the age of only nineteen, she came up with the idea of gathering people together in groups of ten to pray for missionaries, and to support the Church in mission areas by contributing a penny each week.

Around the age of 30, Pauline suffered more personal hardship. Both her brother, Phileas, and sister, Laurette, died and shortly afterwards Pauline suffered a heart attack.

Through it all, she took refuge in prayer. And although she had to step back from some of her charitable works, she established the Daughters of Mary, a community of young lay women devoted to prayer.

Pauline also wanted to help workers living in terrible conditions and poverty. She created a factory in Lyon, called Our Lady of Angels, which produced devotional objects and sacred art, and ensured good living and working conditions. It was one of the first ‘fair factories’.

Sadly, her business managers swindled her, and the enterprise collapsed. Many tried to discredit Pauline. Financially and socially ruined, she remained strong in her faith until she died peacefully on 9 January 1862.

Like so many of the volunteers in our parish, Pauline Jaricot had a passion for mission and was fervently committed to supporting the missionary activities of our Church. Her love, determination and vision created the *Association for the Propagation of the Faith* (APF), which forms the backbone of Missio’s work through the Red Box with our partners – the Mill Hill Missionaries.

Through you, our global Church can continue to show the love of Christ to everyone, especially those in greatest need. Our wonderful network of prayer and charity continues to ensure missionaries are provided with the spiritual and material support they require, so that they can work with local people to build and sustain their own faith communities.

You are following in Pauline’s footsteps; echoing her love for those who suffer and providing the gift of faith to those who are yet to hear the Good News.

Pauline’s life shows us that every prayer, however short, and every contribution, however small, is valued by God. By joining together, we really can transform our world.

Please join us in praying for our parish volunteers, for missionaries and the communities they serve. You can visit missio.org.uk to find out more about this remarkable woman and ways to celebrate her life.

Thank you.