

TRAINING FUTURE PRIESTS



missio
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

The Holy Father has asked the worldwide Missio network to support mission dioceses in training the future leaders of the Church.

Missio supports the training of over 25,000 future Priests and 11,000 Religious Sisters every year by providing young churches in developing countries with funding to train their own future Church leaders.

Today, these Priests and Sisters are building the vibrant Catholic Church of tomorrow, ensuring the gift of faith is passed on to future generations worldwide.

Missio is unique in its commitment to supporting each and every diocesan seminary in the missionary world; a challenge set by Pope Pius XI in 1922 and still embraced by Missio today.

Without Missio, very few men would have the opportunity of studying for the priesthood, and good vocations would have to be turned away. This risk has now become a reality due to crippling economic crises affecting many countries around the world.

Through prayer and your financial help, Missio builds seminaries, contributes to their running costs, and subsidises the seminarian's education and formation.

THANK YOU FOR BUILDING THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW

Missio helps Catholics share the gift of faith by supporting vocations in areas where the Church is new, young, or poor.

Why sponsor a seminarian?

For new and growing faith communities to become self-sufficient and flourish, it is essential they train their own Priests and Religious men and women. In mission dioceses across Africa and Asia, it costs at least £700 a year to train one future priest. Even with significant sacrifices made by families, parishes and the self-sustaining efforts of the seminary community, local dioceses struggle to cover the full cost of seminary training.

Contributions to Missio are distributed to seminaries in mission dioceses throughout the world according to need. This system of allocating funds helps ensure that money is distributed fairly and that those who are most desperately in need receive support.

How does it work?

Missio England and Wales runs a Sponsorship Programme with five seminaries in five countries, which we support every year. These are seminaries with which we have had a long-standing friendship: **India (St John's Regional Seminary), Kenya (Christ the King Major Seminary), Malawi (St Peter's Major Seminary), Nigeria (Bigard Memorial Seminary), Sri Lanka (Our Lady of Lanka National Seminary).**

Each year, Missio also supports the training of seminarians in other countries wherever the need is greatest. You can donate to our future priests training fund at missio.org.uk/donate

Supporters who wish to become sponsors (individuals, parishes, families or prayer groups) and who can commit to £500 per year for four years (£2,000 in total), are given the name and photograph of an individual seminarian in the first of his final four years of Theology studies. He will also be given his sponsor's name, so that they can pray for each other.



BEING A SPONSOR

You may sponsor more than one student at a time. Missio allocates seminarians to sponsors when the new academic year begins.

Missio cannot guarantee that every seminarian will be ordained. With the support of his Bishop and seminary staff, he will be helped to discern whether he is called to the priesthood. If he is called to serve God in a different way, he will not continue his studies. This should not be considered a failure. Our experience is that former seminarians put their education and formation at the service of the Church, and society at large. If a seminarian leaves, the sponsor will be offered a new seminarian in the same year.

Parishes and individuals are encouraged to take on the sponsorship of a seminarian at different times of the year. Possibly as part of Lent or Advent.

The money does not go to the individual seminarian directly but to the seminary as part of the seminary grant. Donations can be made in the most convenient way to you, for example, monthly, quarterly or annually and may be made by Direct Debit, cheque, card or CAF.

Visit missio.org.uk/sponsor for additional information.

Please sponsor a seminarian

If you wish to sponsor a seminarian please fill in the form below and overleaf, and return it to Missio, or contact us for further information (details overleaf):

YOUR DETAILS (please also see overleaf)

Name	Parish
Address	
Postcode	
Email	Tel

By providing us with your email you give your consent for Missio to contact you. Missio does not make fundraising telephone calls and will not disclose your contact details to external organisations. For details go to missio.org.uk/privacy. To change your mailing preferences at any time, please call us on 020 7821 9755 during office hours.

BEING A SPONSOR

Corresponding with your seminarian

Sponsors are given the opportunity to correspond with their seminarian. Some prefer not to correspond; others feel that correspondence is an essential part of being a sponsor. Letters, prayer or Mass cards and photographs can be exchanged.

For privacy purposes, the sponsor's address is not disclosed to the student and all correspondence goes through Missio and Seminary administrative offices.



When Vincent was studying at St Peter's Major Seminary to become a Priest in Malawi, Teresa Gleeson from Bury St Edmunds began sponsoring him.

'Teresa was my (spiritual) mother... of course we never met in person but she shared her faith through her letters, her prayers, and her financial support. She used to write me faith-filled letters encouraging me, telling me what she was doing as a faithful Catholic, and praying for me.'

'Teresa's prayers were answered. She produced me! She offered prayers for me, and here I am: I'm a Priest. I'm the living example; the response to Jesus Christ and the Blessed Sacrament.'

Bishop Vincent
Former Missio National Director, Malawi

MISSIO SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME



I/we would like to sponsor a student/s in (please tick)

- ☐ India ☐ Malawi ☐ Kenya ☐ Sri Lanka ☐ Nigeria ☐ Any of these
- ☐ I would like to receive the Missio eNewsletter (please include email address overleaf)

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Missio is part of the global network of Pontifical Mission Societies. In England and Wales, Missio continues the vital work of the Society of St Peter the Apostle (SPA).
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