



Saint of the Month Heaven's Heroes



Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot Foundress of the Propagation of the Faith

Goal: To provide a lesson for children about a saint or saint-in-the-making who exemplify a deep relationship with God and the ability to share it with others

Materials Needed: This lesson plan, accompanying story, and any necessary materials for follow up activities

Objectives:

1. To assist children in developing the understanding that all of God's people are called to a life of holiness
2. To help children respond appropriately to the question: What is a saint?
One who:
 - is proclaimed by the Church, after their death, to have lived a life of holiness
 - teaches others about Jesus by their example
 - lives like Jesus
3. To introduce one of our Church's saints-to-be, Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot, telling as much of the story that you feel will interest the children at your grade level
4. To learn that Pauline is on the path to sainthood saint because she lived in a way that respected the Gospel of Jesus
5. To learn that we are called by God to share the Gospel with our lives
6. To help the children develop listening skills

Procedure:

1. Prepare the children to listen to Pauline Jaricot's story. (Have map posted or globe available)
2. Read, or have read, the attached story of Blessed Pauline. Elaborate or abbreviate as necessary for time constraints or age level of listeners.
3. Use the follow up questions (below).
4. Present follow-up activity below (optional). Any follow-up activity can be substituted.

Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot

The youngest of seven children, Pauline Marie Jaricot was born on July 22, 1799 to Antoine and Jeanne Jaricot in Lyon, France. By all accounts, as the youngest, Pauline was a bit spoiled by her parents and her siblings and developed a headstrong personality. She was someone who was used to getting her own way and could have a quick temper that flared when she did not! Pauline loved to sing—her father called her his “nightingale”. Although Pauline loved pretty clothes, dancing, and parties, she was also a young girl of great faith. Her family attended daily Mass, which was not common in her day.

Pauline grew up in a very close family. She loved her parents very much and favored one brother in particular—Phileas. Her love of writing would help her stay connected to Phileas when he became a missionary priest and was stationed in Vietnam. His stories of mission work deepened Pauline's faith, though she, herself, did not feel called to religious life.

As a young teenager, Pauline's happy, easy-going life took a turn for the worse. First, she fell from a step-stool as she over-reached and lost her balance. Pauline hit her head and began to have many health problems including heart palpitations. Her eye-sight, which had never been perfect, suffered. Next, Pauline's beloved mother died. Her

solace became her letters from Phileas. She began to experience God more directly in her life after hearing a priest preach on vanity and the importance of focusing on others. She began to dress plainly, sold her jewelry to help support Phileas' mission, and even apologized to her family for being so demanding as a child! Pauline consecrated herself to God and decided she would never marry or have children in order to serve Him.

When she was 18 years old, Pauline had an idea while praying: she decided to go into the silk factory that was run by her brother and sister in Lyon and organize the girls who worked there into "Prayer Circles" of 10 people each. She asked the groups to come together once a week to do two things to help the missions: first, they should pray and second, they should sacrifice a "sou" a week (about a penny). Then, each person in the circle would go out and find ten more people to start a new circle; she wrote in her journal, "It astonished me that no one had thought of such a simple plan before. Then I wrote to my brother to tell him (it)." By 1820, there were over 1,000 people involved, sending their pennies to Pauline!

Soon, prayer circles were popping up across France and then all of Western Europe. Catholics were coming together to pray for the missions and sacrificing for missionaries; they would send their offerings to Pauline for distribution. Some of the first donations that Pauline sent out were to one of the largest mission lands of her day—the United States. She also sent funds to help children in China among other places. Pauline's vision was that all the missions of the world would be given a fair share, not that just a single place be helped.

As Pauline's health declined, others took over the management of The Society for Propagation of the Faith. The Society became Pontifical, that is, belonging to the Holy Father in 1922. Pauline would go on to found another membership society, that of the Universal Living Rosary, encouraging members worldwide to pray a single decade of the rosary while others—unknown to the prayer—would say the other decades.

Pauline Marie Jaricot died penniless, having spent her family's fortune on the missions, on January 9, 1862. She was declared Venerable by Saint Pope John XXIII in 1963 and named Blessed in May of 2020 by Pope Francis.

Pray: Venerable Pauline, you were inspired to help make Jesus known through the support of His missionaries around the world at a very young age and continued the work throughout your life. Help us to hear the call of the Holy Spirit, as you did, and act for others every day so that the name of Jesus may be known to the ends of the earth! Amen.

Follow-up Questions: (add, omit, re-word as appropriate for your grade level)

1. Pauline Jaricot had many advantages as a child—a loving family, a good school, a proper house to live in, and enough to eat. When tragedy struck her, she turned to God and began to think of others. How did her family's faith life prepare her to act in this way?
2. Are you surprised that Pauline was able to start something so big at such a young age? Why or why not? What do you think you will do to make a mark on the world through your faith?
3. What personality traits do you think helped Pauline accomplish all that she did?

Follow-up Activities:

1. Pauline liked to make actions that she called "chain reactions": encouraging others to add their actions to hers and make a bigger impact on the world. Every time you do an act of kindness this month, write it on a strip of paper and make a paper "chain reaction" in your classroom. Let us know how far your chain reaches!
2. Form "Prayer Circles" within your classroom. Split the class into even numbers within groups. Pray for the missions. Find any spare change this month? Put it in your classroom bank for the missions—very penny counts! Need a classroom bank? Call our office or make one from a plastic container or a shoe box!
3. Pauline Jaricot loved the rosary and encouraged others to pray it for the missions. This month, learn more about the World Mission Rosary with the attached sheet. Assign a continent to each grade and ask students to come to class dressed in the corresponding color. Ask students to donate \$2 each for the missions of "their" continent and to pray a rosary that day. Be sure to take lots of pictures for social media so all can see your love for the missions!
4. A penny from 1822 would be worth \$.22 today. Plan a 'Pennies for Pauline' walkathon and ask family and friends to pledge a quarter (easy!) for each time you walk around your school or church building. Too cold this month? Walk around your gym or the inside of the church, with your pastor's permission. Say the rosary while you walk!



What is the World Mission Rosary?

In 1951, Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen created the **World Mission Rosary** as a way to pray for missionaries and the people they serve. Each colored decade represents a different part of the mission world. To pray the **World Mission Rosary**, pray for the part of world the colored bead represents as you announce each mystery.

- **GREEN** symbolizes the forests and grasslands of **AFRICA**.
- **BLUE** is for the ocean around the **ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC**.
- **WHITE** stands for **EUROPE**, home of our Holy Father.
- **RED** shows the fire of faith brought to the **AMERICAS** by missionaries.
- **YELLOW** is for **ASIA**, where the sun rises first.

Color the beads of the World Mission Rosary as you pray for children in the Missions as part of your new Prayer Circle.

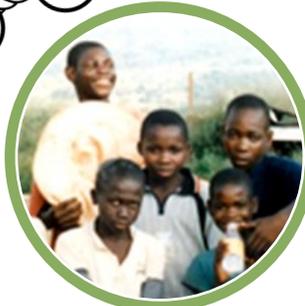


The Sisters at the Mother Andreoli Center in Albania use MCA donations to buy school supplies

and food, including milk and flour, for 160 preschool students. The children learn about Jesus and teach their parents, who grew up under Communism.



Thanks to MCA, the Sisters at the Yurinaki Mission in the Amazon jungle in Peru have been able to buy notebooks, pencils, pens, text books, Bibles, backpacks and uniforms for children in indigenous communities spread out in the jungle.



Sacrifices of MCA members provide religious education materials for 1,500 children and three motorcycles for catechists to travel to remote villages in the Diocese of Lwena, Angola.



In the Diocese of Chiang Rai, Thailand, donations to MCA provide food, school supplies, clothing, and maintenance of the Good Shepherd Youth Center, serving children of ethnic minority groups.



These children attend a school in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, built with donations from MCA members around the world.

