

THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF MALAWI



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OUR REF:

YOUR REF:

20th January 2022

To: Pastoral Diocesan Coordinators, PMS Directors and All Pastoral Collaborators

Dear Reverend Fathers and All Pastoral Agents,

LAUNCH OF PREPARATIONS FOR MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARIES ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2022

On Behalf of the Pontifical Missionary Societies in Malawi, I write to inform you that this year 2022, the Catholic Church across the world will celebrate the following anniversaries or Jubilees:

1. 400 years of the establishment of the Congregation for the Propaganda Fidei/Evangelisation of Peoples by Pope Gregory XV in 1622.
2. 200 years of the foundation of the Missionary Society for the Propagation of Faith by Pauline Marie Jaricot in 1822.
3. 100 years of the establishment of Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) by Pope Pius XI in 1922.
4. 150 years of the birth of Blessed Paulo Manna, born in 1872, founder of the Pontifical Missionary Union (PMU).

These anniversaries are a moment of thanksgiving to God for the gift of these institutions and persons behind them that helped the Catholic faith come to other continents and countries including Malawi. Through these missionary anniversaries the Church in Malawi has an opportunity to reflect about the past missionary activities that brought the Catholic faith. With these anniversaries we also have an opportunity for missionary reflection about the future of the Catholic Church in Malawi in the coming 50, 100 and 500 years. Therefore, Catholic communities are encouraged to prepare and celebrate the anniversaries in their ordinary daily activities as faith communities. The anniversary celebrations should have these three dimensions:

- i. **Prayer:** Offering thanksgiving prayers for the growth of the Church in many continents with so many parish Churches, Rectories or Convents, hospitals, schools, seminaries and other houses of formation constructed with the guidance of the *Propaganda Fidei* and spiritual and financial support from PMS. Offering prayers for the future of the Church in Malawi and the whole world in the years to come.
- ii. **Historical and missionary reflections** on the strategies and activities done in the universal and local Church in past the 400, 200 and 100 years with support from these institutions.

Vision: Family of God filled with the Holy Spirit living in Harmony, Peace and Solidarity

All official correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary General

- iii. **Missionary awareness and missionary/pastoral plans:** Communities should spend time reflecting on each Christian's and community's obligations in building a strong, vibrant missionary Church in Malawi and beyond for next 50, 100 and 500 years.

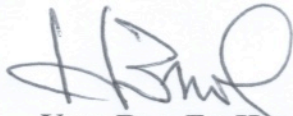
The national launch for these preparations will be held in the Diocese of Chikwawa on the 5th February 2022 on which we will also celebrate the Day for the Consecrated life and PMU Day. We therefore, kindly request all the Archdioceses/Dioceses to launch the preparations for the Anniversaries on 5th February 2022.

The Anniversaries will be led by the Pontifical Mission Societies in collaboration with the Pastoral Office and all pastoral agents. The theme of the anniversary celebrations is: ***"You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth"*** (Acts 1:8). This is also the theme for 2022 World Mission Sunday.

The actual celebration for these anniversaries will be on 23rd October 2022, World Mission Sunday. Again, we request the Pastoral Coordinators and all Pastoral Agents to help the people of God prepare for these anniversaries at different levels through prayers and missionary reflections.

We will really appreciate your collaboration and cooperation on these celebrations.

Devotedly yours in Christ and Mary,



Very Rev. Fr. Henry Saindi
SECRETARY GENERAL

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Cc: Bishop Chairman of Pastoral Commission, Rt. Rev. Peter Musikuwa
All Archbishops and Bishops
PMS National Director, Rev. Fr. Vincent Mwakhwawa
National Pastoral Coordinator, Rev. Fr. Henry Chinkanda
AWRIM Secretary General, Sr. Bernadette Munyenembe
AMRIM Secretary General, Rev. Fr. Bill Turnbull
National Chairperson of the Laity