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THERE are two hills in the city of Lyon. In the early 19th century factories began to be set up on one hill while on the other the beautiful Basilica of Notre Dame de Fourvière was built and different religious congregations established communities around it. Thereafter the hills became known as the 'Working Hill' and the 'Praying Hill.' The house of Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot sits high on the slopes of the Praying Hill and looks out over the city below.

Because of a simple desire to support her brother who was a missionary in China, Pauline asked ten friends to give a penny a week and to pray the Rosary. She asked those ten people to get ten of their friends to do the same. Before long, the tens became hundreds, the hundreds became thousands and the movement spread throughout France and beyond to every country where the Church exists.

In 1822, that movement became the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the branches of Missio. The Society was declared 'Pontifical' in 1922 and so fell under the direction of the Holy Father. It became his instrument for helping the Church in mission lands and the means by which Catholics throughout the world could show solidarity with one another. Each year, in every parish, from Scotland to Argentina, from Malawi to Fiji, from the USA to Bangladesh, every member of the Church has the opportunity to unite in prayer and giving on Mission Sunday during October. All this started with Pauline.

I recently went to visit the house of Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot along with other National Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies. We had come to Lyon for our annual meeting and were from 130 different countries. Our pilgrimage to Pauline's house was to see where it all began 200 years ago and to pray in thanksgiving for this remarkable woman and her legacy. Even today, there is still a strong sense of her presence. There is a profound atmosphere of prayer and copies of letters to her from missionaries who were in every part of the globe are on display. The Almighty did great things through this simple woman and Missio tries to continue her vision: prayer, giving, solidarity among the People of God.

Pauline was Beatified on Sunday, May 22, this year and you can read about her and her life in this newsletter and on our website (www.missioscotland.com). We hope you enjoy it. Thank you.

PAULINE Marie Jaricot, the foundress of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith—one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies—was Beatified on Sunday May 22 in her home city of Lyon.

She was proclaimed 'Blessed' in a solemn Eucharistic celebration held at the Lyon Expo (right), which saw more than 12,000 faithful in attendance from all over the world.

At the Beatification ceremony, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle—Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples, who presided over the Eucharist together with more than 500 priests from five continents—told the faithful present: "Pauline Jaricot was a woman who loved Jesus Christ, letting Him, the Word of God, live, act and love in her and through her. We see in her a living testimony of the power of love for Jesus, a love that identifies with Jesus."

Cardinal Tagle—together with the Archbishop of Lyon, Olivier de Germay—welcomed the 120 National Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies who wanted to pay tribute to Pauline during the annual General Assembly of the PMS in Lyon. All of them were there to recognise the work of a woman who—during a life dedicated to evangelisation—founded exactly 200 years ago, a work that can be summed up in the motto, 'a prayer and a penny for the missions' and that was decisive for the growth and development of the particular Churches in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania.

Spiritual and missionary insights

Noting Pauline's extraordinary spiritual and missionary insights, Cardinal Tagle said: "The Holy Spirit opens new paths, so that the Word and love of Jesus can reach more people. Pauline Jaricot was docile to the



Pauline Jaricot is Beatified in Lyon

Holy Spirit who pushed her with new ideas and initiatives to spread the Gospel and serve the poor. In this, she followed the great spiritual, missionary and social tradition of the Church of Lyon."

Cardinal Tagle recalled that Pauline 'accepted the loss of all things to gain Christ' (Philippians 3:8), ending up in misery, having spent her life serving the poor and exploited, near and far. However, Pauline, at the foot of the cross, did not lose her peace of heart and hope in God.

"Serving Jesus in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned, leads to eternal beatitude," the Prefect of Propaganda Fide recalled. "It is the peace of Jesus. The peace of Christ gave Pauline Jaricot serenity, patience and courage to face physical difficulties, calumnies and humiliations."

"The new Blessed lived her love for Jesus, by being a missionary of the Church, a sister of the poor and an instrument of universal brotherhood," Cardinal Tagle concluded.

During the celebration, a relic of Pauline's heart was brought to the altar, entrusted to the hands of a teenager, Mayline Tran—who, ten years ago when she was three years old—choked on a mouthful of food and ended up in a coma. After a chain of prayer and a Novena of prayer to Pauline Jaricot, the doctors certified the girl's extraordinary recovery. After the diocesan process and the subsequent examination by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, in 2020 Pope Francis recognised the miracle worked by God through the intercession of Venerable Pauline Jaricot, paving the way for her Beatification.

Holy Father's tribute

The Holy Father also paid tribute to Pauline on the same day in the Vatican after the Regina Caeli prayer with the faithful and pilgrims gathered in St Peter's Square.

"This faithful lay woman lived during the first half of the 1800s," Pope Francis said. "She was a courageous woman, attentive to the changes taking place at the time, and had a universal vision regarding the Church's mission. May her example enkindle in everyone the desire to participate through prayer and charity in the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. A round of applause for the new Blessed!"

In a message that was read during the Beatification Mass, the Holy Father joined the joy of the Church in Lyon, hoping that 'the figure of the new Blessed, around whom you are gathered today, may be an inspiration and a strength to continue walking together towards the Lord Jesus.'

The Pope then recalled that Pauline dedicated her entire life to the mission, to the service of the poor and to prayer.

"Let our charity be as inventive and effective as hers, let us learn to generously offer what we are, our talents to God and to our brothers, especially the poorest, to give our means to support the mission that belongs to all of us in the Church to bring the Gospel to the world," the Pope said.

In conclusion, the Holy Father stressed that Pauline's prayer life must constantly remind us 'that we must seek holiness.'

"May this Beatification be an occasion for a greater rooting of all in charity and for a renewed impetus in the common journey of each one towards holiness," the Holy Father said, sending his Apostolic Blessing.

Gerard Gough

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St Kevin's cheque in for Missio Scotland



St Kevin's Primary School in Bargeddie held their Feast Day Mass in the parish early due to the schools being off for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. At the end of the Mass, the pupils presented a number of charities with cheques as a result of their excellent fundraising efforts, including Missio Scotland who the school supported to the tune of £709.62.