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PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED STATES

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Missionary Childhood Association
The Society of St. Peter the Apostle
Missionary Union of Priests and Religious
www.onefamilyinmission.org

For many, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is remembered as the charismatic bishop who captivated millions through his television program *Life Is Worth Living*. But, before he became a household name, Archbishop Sheen served as National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States from 1950 to 1966.

During that time, he transformed missionary awareness in our country. His voice reached far beyond parish mission appeals; he invited American Catholics to see themselves as personally responsible for the spread of the Gospel.

Under his leadership, support for the Missions flourished. Catholics across the United States began to understand that missionary activity was not

“someone else’s job” in a distant land. It was the work of the whole Church.

Through his radio broadcasts, national speaking engagements, and especially his television program, he spoke not only about theology and morality, but about the real lives of missionaries across the globe. He shared stories of priests traveling by foot to bring the sacraments to remote villages, of sisters educating children in poverty-stricken regions, and of lay catechists risking persecution to proclaim Christ.

Archbishop Sheen often reminded people that “the Missions” were not simply about charity. They were about love — about sharing the greatest gift we have received: Jesus Christ. He helped Catholics see that missionary cooperation is not optional or secondary; it is a natural fruit of faith.

His upcoming beatification shines a light on that missionary spirit at a time when the Church is once again emphasizing the call to evangelize.

Mission today looks different in some ways. We speak of “missionary discipleship,” of reaching the peripheries, of encountering others in charity and

truth. Yet the heart of the mission remains the same: *proclaim Christ to the world.*

The Pontifical Mission Societies continues the work Archbishop Sheen championed so passionately: supporting young churches, forming seminarians and catechists in mission territories, assisting children through the Missionary Childhood Association, and strengthening the bonds of communion between local churches worldwide. His leadership helped root that mission deeply in the hearts of American Catholics.

His upcoming beatification highlights this missionary dimension of holiness. He did not separate media work from mission work. For Archbishop Sheen, proclaiming Christ through television and raising support for the Missions were part of the same calling: to make Jesus known and loved.

As we look toward his beatification, we give thanks for a shepherd who understood that the Church is most alive when she is missionary. May his example renew in each of us the conviction that the world still longs to hear the Good News — and that *WE* are the ones sent to share it.

MISSION MESSAGE

Fulton Sheen: A Missionary for the Modern Age

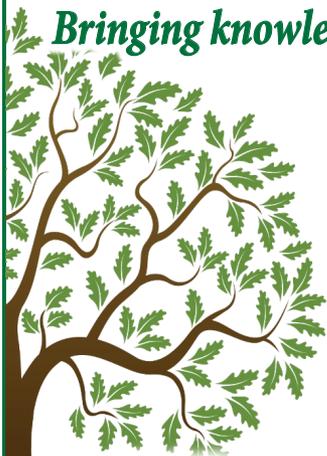
By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director,
of Pontifical Mission Societies



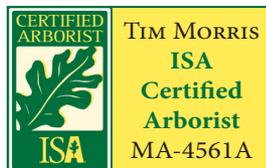
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Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for February 2026

For Children with Incurable Diseases —

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.