









“GO INTO THE  
WHOLE WORLD  
AND PROCLAIM  
THE GOSPEL  
TO EVERY  
CREATURE.”

**MARK 16:15**



• Burma in the 1930's, Msgr. Erminio  
Bonetta meets Fr. Clemente Vismara.

## Who we are

Founded by Bishop Angelo Ramazzotti in 1850 as the Lombard Seminary for Foreign Missions, the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME) was the first missionary institute to originate from Italy.

The PIME Missionaries are a society of apostolic life; a community of priests, (who do not take vows, much like diocesan priests) brothers, and lay people who dedicate their lives entirely to the proclamation of the Gospel and to humanitarian aid for people from different countries, with a preference for people who are marginalized both geographically and socially.

PIME Missionaries dedicate themselves to a variety of activities, depending on the environment of their mission, the needs of the local church,

and their own talents, all with a common objective; to bear witness to Christ and the building of God's Kingdom.

In the century and a half of its existence, PIME has sent more than 2,000 missionaries to different continents. PIME can count 70 bishops, apostolic prefects and vicars among their missionaries. The Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions currently has 450 members with five associate members operating in missions located in 18 countries.

Most members are of Italian origin, however vocations in recent decades have come almost exclusively from the mission countries where PIME has historically worked. All PIME communities in the world today are multi-ethnic and multicultural.



## Not just in Asia...

After the first few years operating only in Oceania, PIME operated almost exclusively in Asia up to the mid-twentieth century in India and Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan), in China (in the territory of the current People's Republic, as well as in Hong Kong and Taiwan), and in Myanmar (formerly Burma).

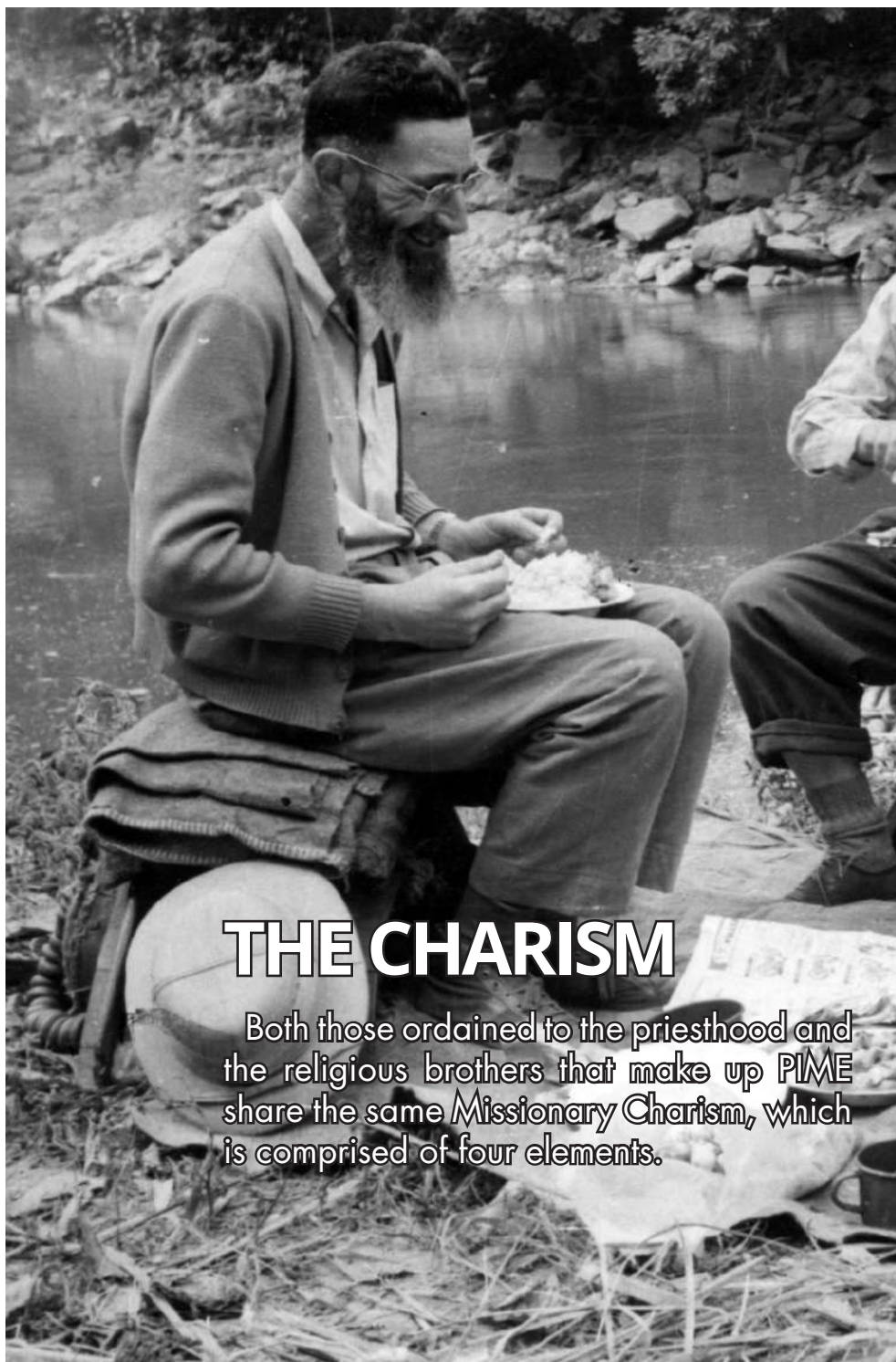
PIME continues to have the largest concentration of its missionaries in the East (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China-Hong Kong, Philippines, Japan, India, Myanmar, Thailand). However, today missionaries are also present in Africa (Algeria, Cameroon, Chad, Ivory Coast and Guinea Bissau), the Americas (United States, Mexico and Brazil), Oceania (Papua New Guinea), and in Italy.

- 1933: A group of PIME Missionaries leaving for Asia.



- Fr. Augusto Gianola in the Brazilian Amazon and Fr. Dino Dussin, active in Ivory Coast.





## THE CHARISM

Both those ordained to the priesthood and the religious brothers that make up PIME share the same Missionary Charism, which is comprised of four elements.

• A rest stop from the fatigue of the trip (Burma).





## **Ad Gentes (Latin for “to the people”):**

The primary recipients of the work of the PIME Missionaries are those who do not know the Gospel. The basis of PIME’s work is proclaiming God’s Kingdom; supporting the development and growth of young Catholic communities in and around their area of operation, promoting active participation in the evangelization of non-Christians.



- General Superior Fr. Ferruccio Brambillasca during the traditional annual missionary gathering (“Congressino”) presents the crucifix to Fr. Ace Valdez, leaving for Brazil.





## **Ad Extra (Latin for “Abroad”):**

PIME Missionaries are sent from their homeland; since PIME is an exclusively missionary institute, all of its work is implemented outside of each missionary's birthplace. Their work is realized among people and groups who have not heard the word of the Messiah.

- A classic image of the “no frills” mission of the last century, when a bicycle was the habitual means of transportation.
- Father Enrico Uggé on a boat crossing the Amazon River.

# Ad Vitam (Latin for “For Life”):

The PIME Missionaries dedicate themselves to their mission for life, because the task entrusted to them requires their complete dedication.



- Fr. Luciano Benedetti, a PIME Missionary in the Philippines, who was kidnapped for several weeks in 1998.
- The cemetery of the PIME Missionaries in Myanmar restored for the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first PIME Missionary, which took place in 2018.





- From the top: Frs. Marco Pagani and Davide Carraro in Algeria; Frs. Daniele Mazza, Raffaele Pavesi and Franco Legnani in Cambodia; Fr. Jomon Varghese welcomed by his confreres in Hong Kong upon his arrival in China.



## Together:

The Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions defines itself as a "family of apostles". The members of PIME, both priests and brothers, are united by the same vocation and charism. Being a part of PIME means living the charism together, and accepting the responsibility of all confreres who have made the same choice.

# Secular Priests and the Laity

PIME Missionaries operate in coordination with the local diocese, especially within the parishes of their respective missions. As a Pontifical Institute however, it has evolved to be independent of its founding dioceses, transitioning from the “Lombard Seminary” to “Pontifical Institute”.



- **Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini** (who has always had a close relationship with PIME) on a visit to Hong Kong.



- Fr. Fabrizio Calegari during a Baptism in a mission in Bangladesh.



The lifestyle and method of apostolate of the PIME priests is so similar to that of diocesan priests that they are often perceived as “diocesan clergy”, so much so that local bishops in the missions will send their priests to minister with the PIME Fathers.

- In the middle: Bishop Lorenzo Bianchi, PIME, the last Italian Bishop of Hong Kong.



Although PIME focuses on founding Catholic communities, there is another important, yet distinctive step, in the process. When PIME has finished this task, it leaves everything to the local diocese, heading to the next destination, never keeping anything for itself (neither parishes nor money). PIME does not live for itself, but to nurture and develop these new mission churches and make them communities that will continue this evangelization mission on their own.

In some cases, PIME has opened missions together with Italian dioceses that decided to send some of their priests to work as Fidei Donum priests (diocesan priests working in the missions).



- Celebrations of 50 years of PIME presence in Cameroon in the Spring of 2017.



## An International Institute

In 1989, PIME became an international institute, welcoming into its ranks young people from churches of the Southern Hemisphere. In the age of globalization, the Italian origin of the Institute could no longer remain an obstacle to admitting personnel from other countries who desired to be missionaries.





- At the top: PIME seminarians in India.
- In the middle: seminarians and formators at the theological seminary in Monza (Italy).
- On the left: Seminarians from Cameroon, Guinea Bissau and Ivory Coast in the seminary of Yaoundé (Cameroon)



PIME Missionaries of a wide variety of nationalities, traditions, and cultures work side by side in all of the 18 countries where the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions is present.









• PIME  
Missionaries  
in Guinea  
Bissau, Cameroon  
and Thailand.





PIME gave the Brazilian Church its first Brazilian Bishop abroad, Bishop Pedro Zilli, who was appointed to lead the Diocese of Bafata in Guinea Bissau. Bishop Mathew Cheriankunnel, a native of the Archdiocese of Changanassery and currently retired Bishop of the Nalgonda and Kurnool Dioceses as well as the former head of the Episcopal Conference for the Evangelization of non-Christians, was a PIME Missionary.

- From the top: Bishop Pedro Zilli and Bishop Mathew Cheriankunnel.





**July 30, 1850**

The "Lombard Seminary for Foreign Missions" was born in Saronno, Italy, created by **Bishop Angelo Ramazzotti**, who was then Bishop of Pavia and Patriarch of Venice.



**1852**

The very first group of missionaries, five priests and two lay catechists (the initial name for "brothers"), departs for Melanesia (modern day Papua New Guinea). The expedition will prove to be a failure, ending with the martyrdom of **Fr. Giovanni Mazzucconi** in 1855. In the decades following this event PIME chose to open missions in different Asian countries instead.

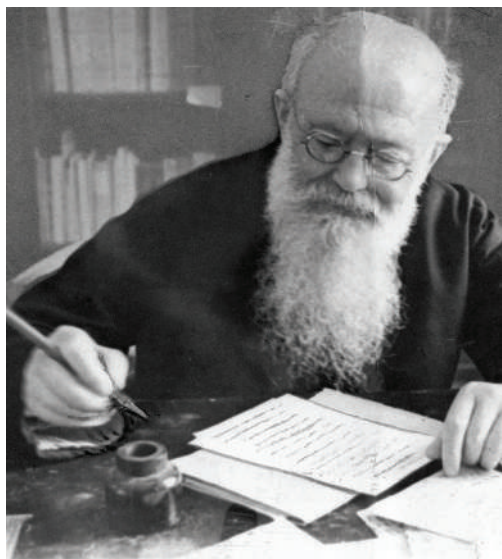
For additional information:

- Fr. Gheddo, PIME 1850-2000: (Pime 1850-2000: 150 anni di missione), Emi, Bologna, 2000
- D. Colombo, PIME: documenti di fondazione, Emi, Bologna, 2000

In Rome **Msgr. Pietro Avanzini** founded the "Pontifical Seminary of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul for the Foreign Missions", with identical characteristics to the Lombard Seminary.  
**December 23, 1871**



Given the similarities in Charism and approach, the two institutes merged, united by Pope Pius XI, giving birth to PIME. Leading the Institute for the first ten years was **Blessed Paolo Manna**, one of the most significant figures in the history of the Missionary Church.  
**1926**



## 1937

PIME opens a mission in a territory outside of Asia for the first time, in Neghelli, Ethiopia; ten years later PIME Missionaries arrive in Guinea Bissau.

## 1946-1947

PIME initiates a presence in the Americas (Brazil and the United States), previously PIME Missionaries had operated in Colombia (1856-1896) and in Mexico (Baja California) for a few years in the second half of the nineteenth century.

## March 3, 1958

Cardinal Angelo Roncalli, who would become Pope John XXIII a few months later, transferred the remains of Bishop Ramazzotti to Milan. He later defined PIME as "the most outstanding missionary creation in all of Italy, in the last century".

- The arrival of the first PIME missionaries in Brazil in 1946.

- A kindergarten run by PIME in the 1950's in one of Japan's missions.







## 1950-1973

After the expulsion of many missionaries from China and Burma, PIME opened a series of missions in other Asian countries (Japan, Philippines and Thailand) and African countries (Cameroon and Ivory Coast).

## 1971-1972

The seventh General Assembly of the Institute enacted the aggrornamento (updates proposed by the Vatican II Council), a unique fact in the history of PIME.

## 1981

PIME Missionaries returned to Papua New Guinea 134 years after the tragic end of the Pontifical Institute's first missionary expedition.

## 1989

By admitting personnel from other countries without any restrictions, PIME initiated the internationalization of the Institute.

- A group of young people from Papua New Guinea with a portrait of Father Mazzucconi.

## **Ties with Popes and Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (Propaganda Fide)**

Historically, PIME has always had a close relationship with the sitting pope; we refer to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (Propaganda Fide), which sends members of the Institute where the local bishops ask for its presence.



- **Pope John Paul II with Fr. Piero Gheddo, PIME Missionary and journalist, long-time director of Mondo e Missione magazine, and Vatican consultant on the Redemptoris Missio editorial staff.**



- Pope Benedict XVI in September of 2007, embraces Fr. Giancarlo Bossi, PIME, released after 40 days of captivity in the Philippines.

- Pope Francis meets and blesses two young Indian PIME missionaries in a classroom in Nervi, Italy.

Over almost 170 years of history, PIME has founded nine dioceses in India, three in Bangladesh, five in Burma (today Myanmar), one in Hong Kong, eight in China, and four in Brazil. In addition to these, PIME has also contributed to the foundation of Catholic communities in other parts of the world.



## Saints and Blessed

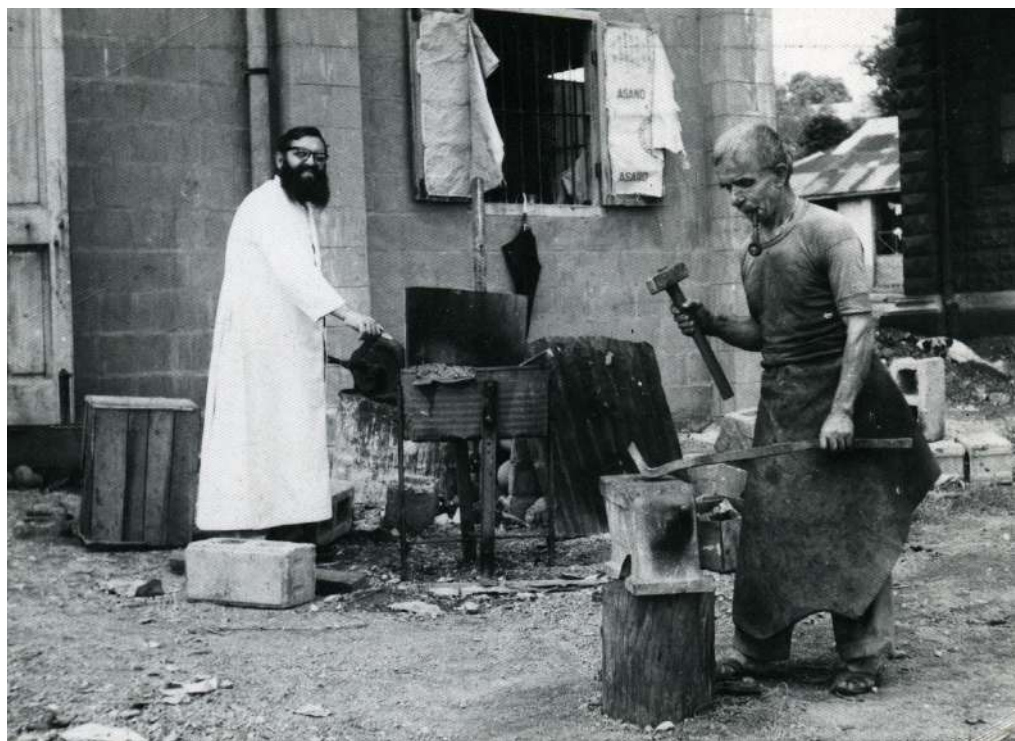
PIME has a saint among its members, **St. Alberic Crescitelli**, martyred in China during the Boxer Uprising. Born in Altavilla Irpina, Italy, in 1863, he entered the then Pontifical Seminary of Saints Peter and Paul for Foreign Missions at the age of 17. Meant to depart for his mission-destination of Shaanxi, China, in 1887, he was delayed due to helping others generously during a cholera epidemic. Once reaching China after an adventurous journey, he dedicated himself to the Christians of the Han River, also going to other places and inspiring many conversions. In 1900 he was the victim of the revolt against Westerners, including missionaries. Since he ran a kindergarten for poor children, Fr. Alberic was unjustly accused of contributing to the lack of food that the population suffered. Trapped inside the customs post in Yentsepien, he was tortured, and eventually killed, then torn into pieces and thrown into the river. He was Canonized in the year 2000, by Pope John Paul II.



PIME has four Blessed: John Mazzucconi (1826-1855), martyred in Oceania and beatified in 1984; Paolo Manna (1872-1952), founder of the Pontifical Missionary Union of clergy and religious, beatified in 2000; **Clement Vismara** (1897-1988), a missionary in Burma (now Myanmar), beatified in 2011; Mario Vergara (1910-1950), also martyred in Burma and beatified in 2014 together with a local catechist, Isidoro Ngei Ko Lat, who was killed alongside him.



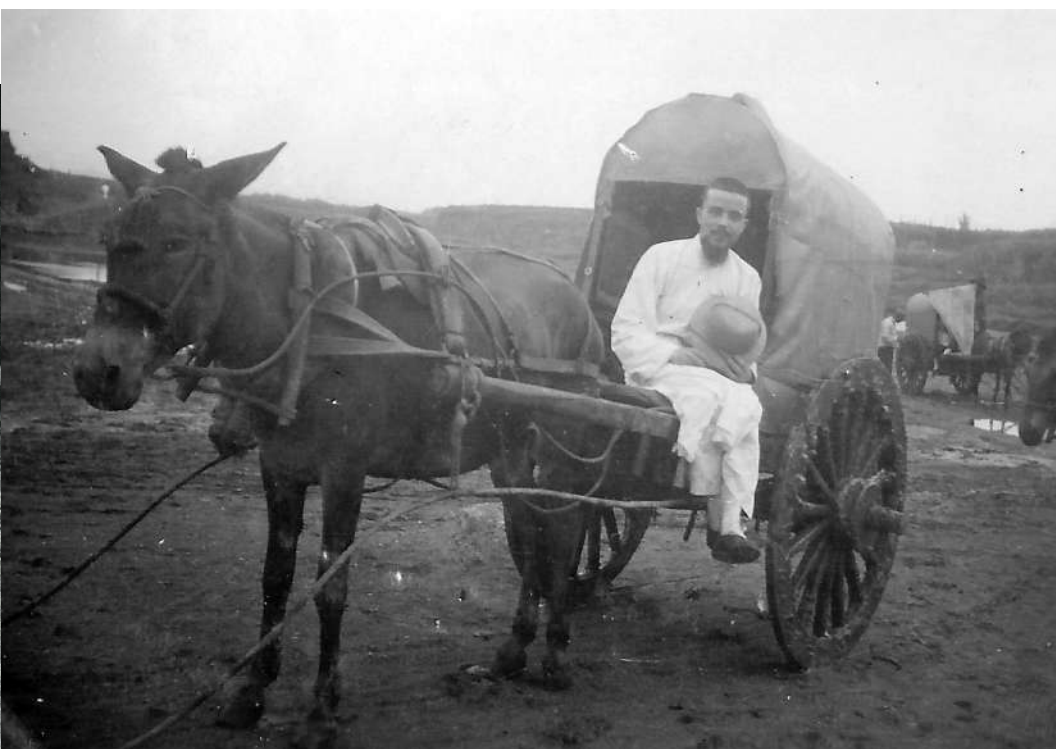
Causes for beatification and canonization have also been opened for founder Bishop Angelo Ramazzotti (1800-1861); **Brother Felice Tantardini** (1898-1991), a PIME Religious Brother active for several decades in Burma; Fr. Carlo Salerio (1827- 1870), a PIME Missionary in Oceania and founder of the Sisters of Reparation; Fr. Alfredo Cremonesi (1902-1953), martyr in Burma; Fr. Silvio Pasquali (1864-1924), PIME Priest in India and Marcello Candia, doctor, volunteer, benefactor, and "son of PIME".





## Martyrs for the Gospel

Since 1850, 19 PIME Missionaries have been martyred (in addition to Frs. Mazzucconi and Crescitelli): **Fr. Cesare Mencattini**, Msgr. Antonio Barosi, Fr. Girolamo Lazzaroni, Fr. Mario Zanardi, Fr. Bruno Zanella, Fr. Carlo Osnaghi and Fr. Emilio Teruzzi all shed their blood in China between 1941 and 1942.



Between 1950 and 1955, five other PIME Missionaries paid their testimony of faith with their lives, in a then turbulent Myanmar (in addition to **Blessed Mario Vergara**): Frs. Pietro Galastri, Alfredo Cremonesi, Pietro Manghisi and Eliodoro Farronato. Fr. Angelo Maggioni was killed in Bangladesh in 1972, and Fr. Valeriano Fraccaro in 1974 in Hong Kong.





More recently, **Frs. Tullio Favali (1985), Salvatore Carzedda (1992) and Fausto Tentorio (2011)** were killed in the Philippines, confirming that martyrdom is forever a possible component of the missionary experience.

The three missionaries killed in the Philippines reflect PIME's style of presence in the country, and the methods of PIME's witnessing in the past and present: the denunciation of abuses by the powerful; the desire to establish a dialogue between Christians and Muslims; and the struggle in favor of tribal peoples and their rights.





# DIOCESES BEARING



\*\* PIME's mission is to proclaim the Gospel where it is not yet known, and Once these communities are established and are able to function independently We currently work in Italy and the United States to provide financial assistance

# PIME'S FOOTPRINTS



to assist newly-founded Catholic communities in their development.  
ntly, PIME Missionaries move on to other locations where their aid is needed.  
tance to PIME's missions, foster vocations, and raise mission awareness.

## **ITALY (since 1850)**

Born in the Italian Region of Lombardy in the mid-nineteenth century, the Institute still has several houses in various regions of Italy, both in the North and South. The activities carried out serve the Church, society and focus on missionary, vocational, cultural awareness (with a special emphasis on young people), and global education.

## **INDIA (since 1855)**

PIME has a storied history with the India, giving rise to numerous dioceses, especially in Andhra Pradesh. The seminary for young Indians who wish to dedicate their lives to the missions is based in Pune, several Indian PIME Missionaries are already working in other countries around the world.

## **BANGLADESH (since 1855)**

PIME is present in four of the eight dioceses in the country that has the largest Muslim presence, and for a long time these dioceses were among the poorest on the entire Asian continent. PIME is located in the capital of Dhaka and in the North (Dinajpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet).

## **CHINA-HONG**

## **KONG (since 1858)**

The mission in China is one of the oldest. Today PIME Missionaries work in Hong Kong and in the southern Chinese mainland of Guangzhou. Before missionaries were expelled in the early 1950s, they were active in the central and northern part of this huge country in the Henan and Shaanxi provinces.







## MYANMAR (since 1868)

The first PIME Missionaries set foot in Myanmar 150 years ago, where they founded six dioceses in the eastern part of the country. Some PIME missionaries who are natives of Myanmar serve today in various missions in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

## BRAZIL (since 1946)

For a long time, the presence of the PIME Missionaries has been substantial in some areas of the immense Amazon (Amapá, Amazonas) and in the southern area of the country, particularly in cities including São Paulo. PIME has founded several dioceses in both areas.

## THE UNITED STATES (since 1947)

PIME has aimed at creating mission-awareness and support for the needs of foreign missions since being invited to the U.S.; this includes the spiritual adoption and education of children in the missions.

With the publication of *Mission World* magazine and other publications, as well as mission appeals at various parishes throughout the U.S. PIME spreads awareness. PIME also cares for several parishes in the Archdioceses of Detroit, New York, Brooklyn, and especially with immigrant communities from Latin America and China.

## GUINEA BISSAU (since 1947)

PIME operates mainly in the rural areas of both the dioceses of the country; the second diocese (Bafatá) created in 2001 was entrusted to PIME Missionary Bishop Pedro Zilli.

## **JAPAN (since 1950)**

Currently PIME is present in five dioceses of the country both in the metropolitan area (in the capital of Tokyo and nearby in Yokohama and Saitama) and in the south-western area of Kyushu (Hiroshima and Fukuoka).

## **THE PHILIPPINES (since 1968)**

PIME works in the metropolitan area of Manila and in some nearby dioceses. PIME is especially active in Mindanao (an area with a strong Muslim presence) and in the dioceses of Zamboanga, Kidapawan and Ipil.

## **CAMEROON - CHAD (since 1967)**

PIME's Mission was launched in the southern area of the country in collaboration with the Italian Diocese of Treviso. Today, PIME works in the capital and in the Far North Region of Cameroon, which has a predominantly Muslim and animist population. A seminary for young Africans interested in becoming missionaries is also present in Yaoundé. A presence has also begun in Chad, in the Diocese of Pala.

## **THAILAND (since 1972)**

PIME is committed in two main areas: in the Thai (Buddhist) environment around the capital of Bangkok and with the tribal minorities of the North, the so-called "hill tribes", who are mostly animists.





## IVORY COAST (since 1973)

The presence of the PIME in the Ivory Coast was initiated in support of the *fidei donum* priests of the Italian Dioceses of Gorizia and Belluno-Feltre. Today, our members are engaged in the Dioceses of Bouaké, Odienné and Abidjan.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA (since 1981)

PIME returned to Papua New Guinea more than a century after the arrival of the first contingent (1852). PIME Missionaries are present in the Dioceses of Alotau, Port Moresby, Madang and Vanimo.

## CAMBODIA (since 1990)

PIME works in the Apostolic Vicariate of the capital, Phnom Penh, and in the Apostolic Prefecture of Kompong-Cham, both in the Khmer and Vietnamese communities.

## MEXICO (since 1992)

PIME is currently present in two locations: in the indigenous area of the State of Guerrero and, since 2015, serving the indigenous community in the Diocese of Ecatepec on the outskirts of Mexico City.

## ALGERIA (since 2006)

PIME Missionaries are active in the capital of Algiers and in Touggourt, 435 miles south of Algiers, immersed in an almost entirely Islamic context.



## What we do

### **First evangelization of the Gospel and support for the missionary nature and spirit of local Churches**

PIME has always dedicated its efforts to the first proclamation of the Gospel to non-Christians on the different continents in which it is present.

In collaboration with local Churches, PIME has made and is making its best efforts at inculturation, translating liturgical texts into local languages and training catechists, pastoral workers and community leaders. Among others, the center for catechists promoted by Fr. Silvano Zoccarato in the North of Cameroon is of special importance.

While PIME - like other missionary institutes - was entrusted with the task of creating structures (buildings of worship, schools, hospitals, dispensaries ...), today that kind of contribution is being restructured, while a specific contribution of the Institute to local Churches concerns other areas such as the formation of the clergy.





Today PIME continues its commitment to ensuring a strong impulse to the missionary spirit of local Churches. A few examples: PIME missionary Fr. Adriano Pelosin is head of the Thai Missionary Institute, an expression of the local Church. In Brazil, there is collaboration and a partnership between the local Church in the State of Sergipe and the Colombian Diocese of Antioquia, which has sent some priests as PIME associates to a mission in Bangladesh with the PIME members there.

## Humanitarian Aid

Witnessing the Gospel calls for or implies being driven by charity, serving others and pursuing justice and materializes into the concrete choices of living among the people who are served, promoting the dignity of each person. In the past as nowadays PIME's sense of multifaceted commitment is to the literacy and education of young people and adults, the protection of health, the revindication of the rights of the poor and disadvantaged, help for community development, aid and closeness to them in emergencies and efforts toward reconciliation and peace.

In almost all the countries where PIME is present, we have contributed to the creation of schools, with a commitment to ensuring solid educational programs for children that come from poor or disadvantaged families, as well as vocational training for young people.

In India, Fr. Augusto Colombo founded schools and even universities for the outcaste. In Thailand, Cambodia, and even boys and girls from the most remote areas, have access to school while living the rest of the day in their communal lodging. A particular pride of PIME is found in the northern region of Bangladesh; the "Novara Technical School" offers woodworking, carpentry and metal working shops; giving professional training to young people looking for employment in the country's big cities. No less valuable are the activities of the technical schools in Eluru, India, which reap the benefits of the efforts of many years of lay missionaries, such as Brothers Enrico Meregalli and Francesco Sartori.





Today, one approach of prophetic missionary presence is undoubtedly that in the suburbs of large cities. PIME is present in the suburbia of Manaus, Dhaka, Phnom Penh, Sao Paulo and Algiers. Recently in Ecatepec, Mexico, PIME has started a mission with Fr. Damiano Tina among the poor population of the area made up largely of indigenous people who moved from rural areas to the outskirts of the great metropolis. Also noteworthy are pastoral experiences with ethnic communities in the U.S. (Latin American and Chinese) and in Japan.

Urban reality is often synonymous with anonymity and social exclusion; it is not uncommon for young people to pay the highest price as the most vulnerable. How does PIME respond to this challenge? In Yaoundé, Cameroon, PIME Missionaries created the "Edimar Center", a recovery, prevention and assistance center for street children and those recently released from prison, managed by Fr. Maurizio Bezzi with the support of local staff. In Bangladesh, with the support from a group of volunteers belonging to different religions, PIME Religious Brother Lucio Beninati works with the street children of the immense and chaotic Dhaka.

Though a large part of the population is now living in an urban context, missionary work with indigenous groups in villages and rural areas remains significant. Examples include: the PIME presences in Guinea Bissau (between Balanta and Felupe tribes), with the Mixtec in Mexico, with the "hill tribes" of Thailand, alongside the Oraon and Santal minorities in Bangladesh and the tribal groups (Manobo and others) in the Philippines. In the North of Brazil, Fr. Nello Ruffaldi is part of a team that is devoted to a "traveling mission" at the service of the local indigenous Karipuna and Galibi-Marworno peoples.



Access to health services, healthcare and assistance to the most vulnerable are all areas in which a testimony of charity has been expressed over the years. Numerous hospitals and dispensaries have been set up through the initiative of PIME in various locations of Africa; particularly relevant examples are the Touloum Hospital in North Cameroon and the St. José em Bòr Pediatric Hospital, the only one of its kind in Guinea Bissau.

In Bangladesh, a PIME missionary doctor, Fr. Piero Parolari, created a tuberculosis treatment center and three sub-centers that provide home care for hundreds of patients. In India, the commitment of missionaries, Fr. Luigi Pezzoni and Fr. Carlo Torriani, created centers for the treatment of leprosy patients and the reintegration into society of former lepers.

Along the same lines of proclaiming the Gospel through works of mercy, are the initiatives for the disabled of Frs. Fernando Cagnin and Franco Bellati, active in the NGO (Non-governmental Organization) "Huiling" in Guangzhou, Southern China. Also, in Hong Kong, Fr. Giosué Bonzi founded the "Fu Hong Society" to provide a warm, family-like environment to its guests and not just mere assistance. Also, in the "Bethlehem" Center in Mouda in Northern Cameroon, Fr. Danilo Fenaroli welcomes people with physical and mental disabilities, orphans, and teen mothers, to whom he offers the opportunity to advance socially and economically.





Since the 1920s, PIME has created a credit union system (microcredits) in Bangladesh to advance the living conditions of the less fortunate; in recent times, Fr. Giulio Berutti developed it further, creating health insurance for the poorest.

Frequently throughout history PIME Missionaries have found themselves in the midst of very strong tensions and bloody conflicts; in recent years these have included the Ivory Coast and Guinea Bissau, on the Filipino island of Mindanao, and in the State of Guerrero in Mexico. Even today some of them continue to serve refugees, even in war zones. This is the case of Brother Fabio Mussi, who as the head of Caritas in the Diocese of Yagoua, for years has overseen tending to the needs of the displaced people in Northern Cameroon who are fleeing from Nigeria under the constant threat of Boko Haram fundamentalists.

For the PIME Missionaries, love of neighbor is at times inseparable from the struggle for social justice. Examples include Frs. Sisto Magro and Dennis Koltz in the Amazon defending the rights of peasants, while Fr. Peter Geremia for years has been engaged in social struggle to protect the cultural identity of the tribes of Mindanao (in the extreme southern area of the Philippines) and to guarantee for them the peaceful coexistence with the rest of the country.



## Interreligious dialogue

This is perhaps the most demanding, but also the most stimulating, challenge that PIME has undertaken for several decades. If, in fact, the testimony that results from the proclamation of the Gospel remains an absolute priority, the Church cannot limit itself to it. Evangelizing also means recognizing and welcoming all that the Spirit has sown in the communities outside the visible confines of the Church through dialogue.

Fr. Giorgio Bonazzoli must certainly be mentioned among the pioneers of interreligious dialogue in PIME; he dedicated himself for a long time to dialogue with Hinduism in India in the footsteps of pioneers such as Raimon Panikkar and Henri Le Saux.



A particularly important experience, because of its length and the results obtained, is that of the “Silsilah”, the movement for dialogue between Christians and Muslims founded in 1984 by Fr. Sebastiano D’Ambra in Zamboanga in the Philippines. It is a commitment to peace in an area of high tension due to Islamic fundamentalist groups, as a result, Fr. Salvatore Carzedda, another member of the “Silsilah” movement and PIME Missionary, was murdered in 1992.

Other dialogue initiatives with Muslims have been started in Bangladesh thanks to Fr. Francesco Rapacioli, and in Northern Cameroon, by Fr. Giuseppe Parietti; together with missionaries from other congregations. In Japan, some PIME Missionaries, including Fr. Ferruccio Brambillasca, founded the “Kakehashi” group together with Xaverian Missionaries. In Thailand, Fr. Daniele Mazza, continuing the testimony of his late confrere Fr. Angelo Campagnoli, is engaged in dialogue with Buddhists.



## A passion for peoples and cultures

Since the beginning, missionaries have dedicated themselves to the study of the ethnic groups and cultures with which they came into contact. Examples of this are Fr. Carlo Salerio (1827-1870), a missionary in Oceania and an anthropology enthusiast who collected more than 250 objects that document the customs and habits of the inhabitants of Woodlark, an island in Micronesia; Bishop Simeone Volonteri (1831-1904), Apostolic Vicar of the Chinese province of Henan, who compiled and printed a map of the Hong Kong colony, for a long time the best and most used by British authorities themselves; Fr. Raffaello Maglioni (1891-1953), also a missionary in Hong Kong fond of archeology, who brought to light a large quantity of finds from the Neolithic cultures of southern China. Finally, Fr. Leone Nani (1880-1935), a PIME Missionary between 1903 and 1914, immortalized the China of his time in a series of highly technical photographs of immense historical value.







Many PIME Missionaries in India, Bangladesh and Burma have studied the cultures of different ethnic groups, putting local languages (previously only oral) in writing and translating the Bible into those languages.

In recent times, the patient linguistic work of Fr. Luigi Scantamburlo at the service of the inhabitants of the Bijagos islands in Guinea Bissau, as well as the tenacious and passionate commitment of Frs. Mario Frigerio and Piergiorgio Cappelletti on the Tupuri languages and Fr. Antonio Michielan with the Guiziga language (both in North Cameroon) and Fr. Ferdinand Kouadio Komenan with the Mixtec language in Mexico deserve mention.

A precious contribution to the knowledge of Japanese culture was offered by Fr. Luigi Soletta, who has admirably translated into Italian several masterpieces of Japanese tradition and literature.

## Information and communication

PIME continues to invest personnel and financial resources in social communications, convinced that this is a modern-day "aeropagus" (public forum). Thanks to the work of Fr. Piero Gheddo, the foundation of the AsiaNews agency dates to 1986. Under the direction of Fr. Bernardo Cervellera, AsiaNews went on the web in 2003, becoming an irreplaceable tool for those involved in the East. It provides a daily news service in four languages, including Chinese.

In Africa, radio is a formidable tool for getting information and educating people on subjects that foster peace, protection of the environment, and respectful coexistence among different ethnic groups and religions. An example of this experience is the *Radio Sol Mansi* station founded in Guinea Bissau by PIME Missionary, Fr. Davide Sciocco, and directed by a professional journalist; both Muslims and Christians work in the editorial office and the station played a crucial role in the process of reconciliation after the civil war. In the Amazon there is Radio Alvorada, founded in 1967 by Bishop Angelo Cerqua of PIME and subsequently operated by confrere Fr. Enrico Uggé; it has become an important means of communication for 500 villages scattered and isolated from one another in the forest.





As for publishing, PIME publishes books and magazines in several languages: in Italy it publishes the magazine *Mondo e Missione*; in Brazil it publishes the monthly *Mundo e Missão*; and in the US, PIME has the mission-education magazine, ***Mission World***. Begun originally as Catholic Life back in 1950, the magazine has a long history of mission awareness paired with a worldly knowledge of the Catholic Church across the globe. With the goal of inspiring the missionary spirit in mind, ***Mission World*** strives to educate supporters with an unbiased news source focused on the principles of the Catholic Church.



## PIME Brothers

Among the seven who left for the first mission in Oceania on April 10, 1852, there were two lay missionaries, at that time called "catechists": Giuseppe Corti and Luigi Tacchini. The first of a long list of missionaries who would give their lives for the Kingdom of God, Corti died of tropical fever on March 17, 1855, a few months before the martyrdom of Blessed John Mazzucconi.

Since the founding of the Institute, priests and lay people have experienced the joys and efforts of evangelization together, often enduring heroic hardships for the love of Christ and their brothers. The 1971 PIME Renewal Assembly discussed the term "brothers" in depth and placed them on equal footing with priests: "The basis of our belonging to PIME is a missionary vocation, which is the same in priests as in lay missionaries: ministerial priesthood and laity are different ways of implementing this fundamentally equal vocation". The General Assembly of 1989 in Tagaytay and subsequent interventions by different Superior Generals further reaffirmed the role of lay missionaries within the Institute.





PIME Brothers stand out for their commitment to daily life: the consecration of Baptism leads them to be “salt of the earth” and “light of the world”, wherever God calls them to be; work with people and for people becomes a privileged way of bearing witness to the Gospel. Through this testimony of life, a consecrated lay missionary (ecclesiastic name) becomes a “brother” to all because, in his conscious and radical choice for God, he can’t but share what he is and what he has with all of humanity.

- **Brother Enrico Meregalli**  
with some students  
in Eluru’s carpentry  
workshop.
- **Brother Lucio Beninati**  
dressed the wound of a  
street child in Dhaka.

In the history of PIME there are many examples of religious brothers involved in service, in a style of work that is as unassuming as it is effective. A figure and model of this is undoubtedly that of Felice Tantardini, a long-time missionary in Myanmar and an example the Institute highlighted in the year dedicated to the rediscovery and celebration of PIME Brothers (2017-2018).



- **Brother Massimo Cattaneo** with a young man attending the “Novara Technical School” in Bangladesh.
- **Brothers Domenico Vicari and Ottorino Zanatta**, both active in Cameroon.



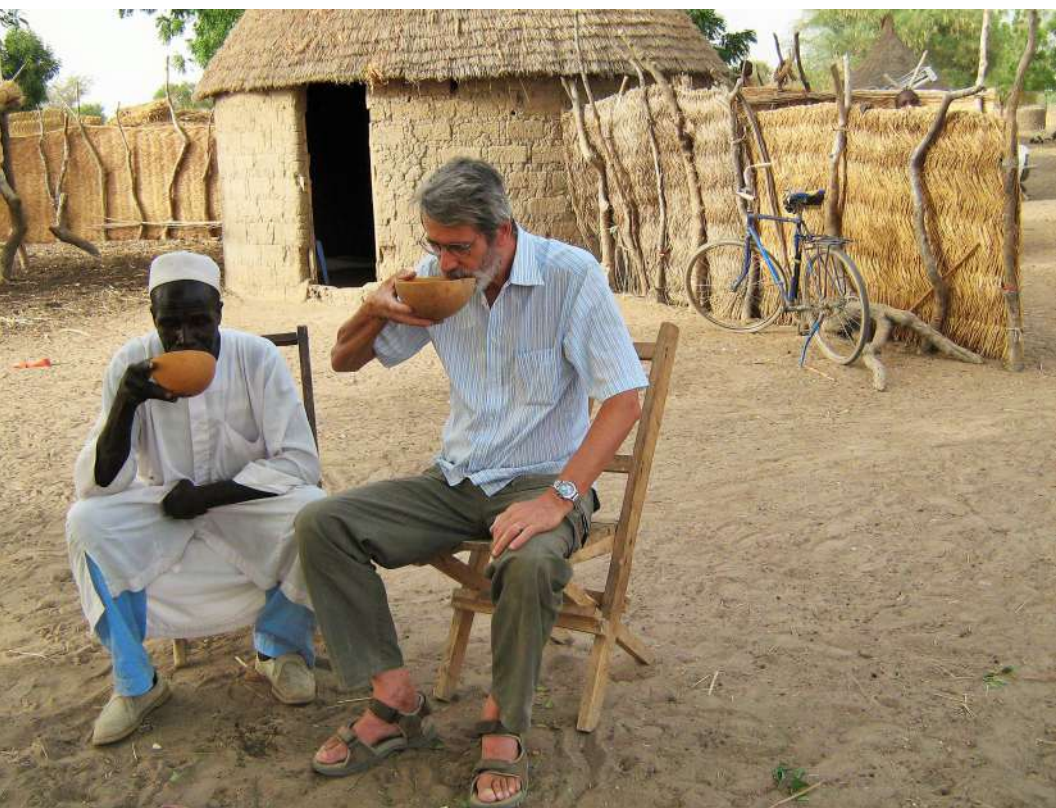
The mission today often requires professionalism and specific contributions to the local Church. The "handyman" missionary has long been outdated; specific services are asked of him. This professionalism is often better suited to lay missionaries than priests and involves many

fields: health, administrative, social, legal, educational, communications. Not only that, there are situations where a priest could be denied access including to his priestly ministry, while a lay missionary can express his missionary Charism also in that situation.



## PIME Lay Association

The PIME Lay Association (ALP), founded in 1989, is made up of non-consecrated baptized persons (individuals, couples, families) who intend to live the same missionary Charism of the Institute, providing skilled service in the missions for a limited period (from 3-5 years, renewable only once).



- ALP lay volunteers engaged in different tasks in PIME missions in Cameroon.



They mainly handle humanitarian assistance in social, educational, technical, health and agricultural projects and assist with parish activities in the pastoral field; they help local populations become protagonists in the development of their country and in the life of the local Church.

Approximately 80 people have helped in the missions over a period of almost thirty years; currently ALP members are active in Guinea Bissau, Cameroon, Thailand and Algeria.

•PIME Lay Association, via Mosè Bianchi 94 -  
20149 Milan - Tel. 02 43822374 (secretary 339  
8027469) e-mail: [alp@pimemilano.com](mailto:alp@pimemilano.com)



## The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate (MSI)



The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate are a religious Congregation that share the same apostolic spirit as PIME. They were founded by Giuseppina Dones (then a Sister of Reparation) on December 8, 1936 and by the young Giuseppina Rodolfi, who later became Mother Igilda. They recognize Blessed Fr. Paolo Manna as the inspirer of the Charism matured on the fertile missionary soil of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions and Bishop Lorenzo Maria Balconi (also of PIME) as co-founder.





Today there are more than 900 sisters in the MSI congregation. About 150 are Italian and over 600 are from India, which was the first mission land they reached in 1948; there are also about 50 Brazilian nuns and as many as Bengali sisters.

They are present on all the continents and are located in more than 120 international communities.

- The general house of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate is on Via di Torre Gaia 45 - 00133 Rome – Tel. 06 2050862 [info@mdipime.org](mailto:info@mdipime.org)  
Their website is: [www.mdipime.org](http://www.mdipime.org)

# Useful Addresses

**[www.pime.org](http://www.pime.org)** - website of the PIME Institute

**[www.pimeusa.org](http://www.pimeusa.org)** - PIME USA website

**[www.pime.org.br](http://www.pime.org.br)** – PIME Brazil website

**[pimephilippines.wordpress.com](http://pimephilippines.wordpress.com)** - PIME Philippines website

**[www.pimejp.com](http://www.pimejp.com)** - PIME Japan website

**[www.pimehkc.org/homeen.html](http://www.pimehkc.org/homeen.html)** - PIME Hong Kong website

**[www.misionenaccion.org](http://www.misionenaccion.org)** - PIME Mexico website

**[www.pimeseminariomonza.weebly.com](http://www.pimeseminariomonza.weebly.com)** – PIME Monza Seminary website

**[www.pimemilano.com](http://www.pimemilano.com)** - PIME Milan Mission Center website

**[www.asianews.it](http://www.asianews.it)** – AsiaNews website

**[www.mondoemissione.it](http://www.mondoemissione.it)** - *Mondo e Missione* Italian magazine website

**<http://pimemissionnews.blogspot.com>** - *Mission World* magazine website

**[www.editoramundoemissao.com.br](http://www.editoramundoemissao.com.br)** - *Mundo e Missão* magazine website

---

**GENERAL DIRECTORATE-** Via Monte Rosa, 81 - 20149 Milan, Italy -  
[rettore.milano@pime.org](mailto:rettore.milano@pime.org)





Missionaries all over the world  
proclaiming and bearing witness  
to the Gospel since 1850

[www.pime.org](http://www.pime.org)



