**A MILE OF PENNIES** **FOR THE GLOBAL MISSIONS**
When Pauline Jaricot, foundress of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, learned of the financial struggles of a missionary group in Paris, she hatched a simple yet impactful idea: to invite others to pray for the Mission and contribute a penny each week to support their efforts.

Watch [Pauline Jaricot, creativity at the service of the Universal Church](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZCTx_dkKM8&t=164s) to get inspired to raise funds for the global missions!

**Let's get started collecting A MILE OF PENNIES!**

Each student/participant will have their own mite box to use to collect their pennies. Each week (during a set period of time), they will bring the jars and count the pennies or perhaps borrow a coin counter occasionally from a local bank. It is suggested no larger than a quart jar is used, as pennies are heavy when collected. Jars may be purchased or supplied by the participants or donated through the school or church congregation. Paper labels can be decorated, wrapped around, and taped onto the jars. Encourage the students/participants to come up with ways to collect their pennies.

Some possibilities are:
\* door to door to ask neighbors,
\* ask family and friends,
\* ask permission to set up outside of businesses,
\* enlist others to help them collect the pennies, (i.e. parents ask at their work place)
\* seek permission to set up a booth at school events, (i.e. ballgames, or in the lunch room cafeteria)
\* booths at church events or jars could be set on a welcome table

On regular copy paper, print a label that will fit the jar. The label can be decorated with markers, crayons, colored pencils, and/or stickers. Laminate them for durability. Here is a label example:

**A Mile of Pennies
for the Global Missions**We are all called to be missionaries or Responding to our missionary call

Make large posters to be displayed with the following information:
1/8 a mile = 10,560 pennies
1/4 a mile = 21,120 pennies
1/2 a mile = 42,240 pennies
3/4 a mile = 63,360 pennies
1 mile = 84,480 pennies! End to end. (That's $844.80!)

Also, print four mini posters of this information on copy paper and cut them apart. You may also want to laminate the posters for durability. Give each student/participant a mini poster, so they, too, can share their personal goals with others during the collection project.

Equip the participants with:
\* A quart jar with the project label
\* The mini poster of the distance of pennies in the mile breakdown goals (above)

\* A paper tablet to be used as a log, for writing the names of those that donate pennies (cash or checks accepted and recalculate as pennies)

\* Information about the [**Pontifical Mission Societies**](https://onefamilyinmission.org/tpms/)through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, which will receive the finalized collection:

*The****Pontifical Mission Societies****support the proclamation of the Gospel, the building of the Church, and the work and witness of mission priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay pastoral leaders. These missionaries provide food, education, and medical care to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope’s missions. Through their work, they reveal the compassionate heart of Jesus. Help support their efforts ~ and be right there with them, offering hope.*

\* **How will the funds be used?**

Your financial support helps fund missionary activities around the world, such as:

* $20 assists with renovation of a chapel in the Fiji Islands
* $40 provides support for a catechist in Peru
* $100 supports a sister in Kenya serving among homeless children
* $1,000 can provide a home, food, medical help and education for orphans in Thailand
* $3,500 helps support two girls' homes in Sri Lanka

AND

* 26 million children in primary school
* 844,000 catechists teaching the faith
* 38,140 seminarians receiving an education
* 258,540 Sisters caring for families
* 8,750 homes for orphans and the elderly
* 11,840 health clinics in rural area

**Enhancement Activities:**
\* A math project: A penny is .75 inch across. The kids could do the math to figure this out for themselves, measure the penny; maybe lay out 10, then 100 and even 1,000 pennies for them to get the idea of the length of 1 mile. This information is from a Google search: A flat penny is .75" across 16 pennies per foot. Hence, 16 pennies per foot. 16 X 5280 feet =84,480 pennies in a line one mile long.

Take a 1-mile hike together. Pre-mark increments of the mile along a path. Preset signs that state how many pennies it takes for that distance (see amounts in the above table for the large posters) Discuss encouragement about the project, how long they think it will take to collect 84,480 pennies, how much might a mile of pennies weigh, how should they store the money? (Highly suggest pennies are banked in each collection to keep it safe) Take photos of participants as they fill a penny jar and keep it in an album or display it on the school/parish bulletin board. See the difference in the number of pennies in a quart jar. This will vary as some will be fuller, due to the position of the pennies collected in the jar.

Weigh each empty jar, (before the pennies are inside) and weigh the jar after to find out how much the pennies weigh (deduct the weight of the empty jar from the full jar for penny weight.) Designate a person to keep a tally of the number of jars and the weight of each as the money is prepared to be banked. Each time one of the "mini-goals" is reached: Walk that distance and have a celebration! Pray and dedicate yourself to completing your next goal. Share stories about the collection and serve a simple snack, drink, or ice cream.

On the final goal (1 mile, 84,480 pennies):
\* Through the school/parish website or parish bulletin, report the stages and interesting things learned during this project
\* Invite a representative of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to participate and give the presentation of the $844.80. (This can be in the form of a check.) You may also give statistics on the weight and number of the pennies.
\* Have a pizza party or a snack pitch-in
\* Share stories and fun things of all that was learned during this community effort

Suggestions of reports to make note of:
\* how long did the project take
\* how many individuals helped collect,
\* how many individuals donated,
\* how much 84,480 weighs in pounds,
\* what was the most challenging way to collect,
\* what were people's reactions to participating,
\* share information about the chosen recipient and the project for which this money will be used
\* add any other interesting findings

Steer away from reporting who collected the most money.

From the beginning of the project, stress that this is a fundraising project in support of the global missions inspired by our baptismal call to be missionaries. Working together for a goal is rewarding in so many ways. Big projects take dedicated hardworking leaders. It is always a blessing to be on a team that works together for the same goal, encouraging everyone involved along the way. Working together and sharing talents and time to complete good work will prove to bless EVERYONE. ALL are winners!

There are many good lessons to learn from this project that the participants will carry throughout their lives.