

# Solidarity and support from Germany for Northern Europe

from the Diaspora Kommissariat and the  
Bonifatiuswerk of German Catholics 2018



DIASPORA-KOMMISSARIAT  
DER DEUTSCHEN BISCHÖFE/  
DIASPORAHILFE DER PRIESTER



Hilfswerk für den Glauben

**bonifatius  
werk**

# What is the Diaspora Kommissariat?

## From priests for priests

This is the guiding principle of the work of the Diaspora Kommissariat of German Bishops / Diaspora Aid of Priests. It supports the pastoral care in the area of the Nordic Bishops' Conference by funding building projects, providing salary subsidies and offering motorisation grants. The financial means for this are provided by the priests in the German dioceses as every priest pays one percent of his personal salary to the Diaspora Kommissariat.

Further information about the Diaspora Kommissariat can be found here: [www.diaspora-kommissariat.de](http://www.diaspora-kommissariat.de)

# What is the Bonifatiuswerk?

## “No-one should have to believe alone.”

The Bonifatiuswerk of German Catholics helps where Catholic Christians live their faith in a minority situation in the diaspora of Germany, Northern Europe and the Baltic states.

With its commitment, it calls attention to a hardship that does not blatantly catch our eye: Being alone in your faith, being alone among people who follow a different faith, who do not belong to any religion, or to whom the Christian belief has always been or become strange. The Bonifatiuswerk has supported projects in the diaspora since 1849, it promotes the propagation of faith and enables the faithful to live their faith in a community.

**The President** of the Bonifatiuswerk is Heinz Paus; Monsignore Georg Austen has been the Executive Director since 2008.

Further information about the Bonifatiuswerk can be found here: [www.bonifatiuswerk.de/english](http://www.bonifatiuswerk.de/english)

Whom do you trust?



## Our identity: *To testify to Christ*

### Diaspora Sunday 2018: “Our Identity: To testify to Christ” 18th November 2018

Every year the Bonifatiuswerk prays for its fellow Christians in the diaspora regions. In 2018 Diaspora Sunday takes place on 18th November.

God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord. (2 Tim 1, 7-8)

The mission of Christianity is to guide people to God and to a successful life and to accompany them along this path. Therefore we need people who live convincingly; Christians who say what they believe, who testify through their lives to Christ in whom they believe. Testify to Christ doesn't mean to have a mission but to be mission, to be a model of Christ in my behavior, activity, and speech. Therefore: Show outside, what you believe inside.

We are pleased if you would talk about our request and the Bonifatiuswerk during mass on Diaspora Sunday.

Let's pray with one another and for one another on Diaspora Sunday.

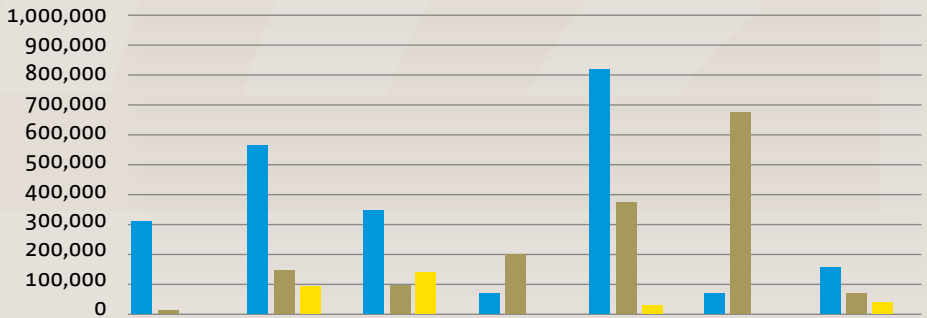
# Aid of the Diaspora Kommissariat for the Northern European diaspora dioceses 2017



## Iceland

Inhabitants: 337,028  
Registered Catholics: 12,901  
Percent: 3.8  
Priests: 16  
Parishes: 7

## Aid by type and diocese



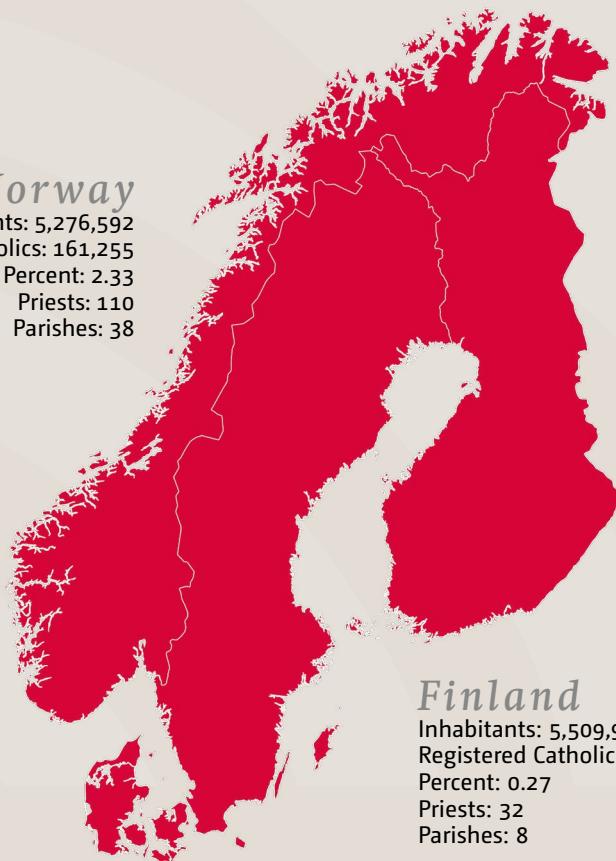
	Helsinki	Copenhagen	Oslo	Trondheim	Tromsø	Stockholm	Reykjavik
Salary subsidies	309,140.00	562,545.00	347,460.00	69,435.00	69,424.00	818,912.00	156,840.00
Building grants	11,000.00	145,000.00	95,000.00	200,000.00	675,000.00	374,000.00	70,000.00
Motorisation grants	0.00	93,459.00	140,000.00	0.00	25,400.00	0.00	39,710.00

Figures: Diaspora Kommissariat, 2017



## Norway

Inhabitants: 5,276,592  
Registered Catholics: 161,255  
Percent: 2.33  
Priests: 110  
Parishes: 38



## Finland

Inhabitants: 5,509,984  
Registered Catholics: 14,949  
Percent: 0.27  
Priests: 32  
Parishes: 8

## Denmark

Inhabitants: 5,778,570  
Registered Catholics: 47,673  
Percent: 0.82  
Priests: 72  
Parishes: 40

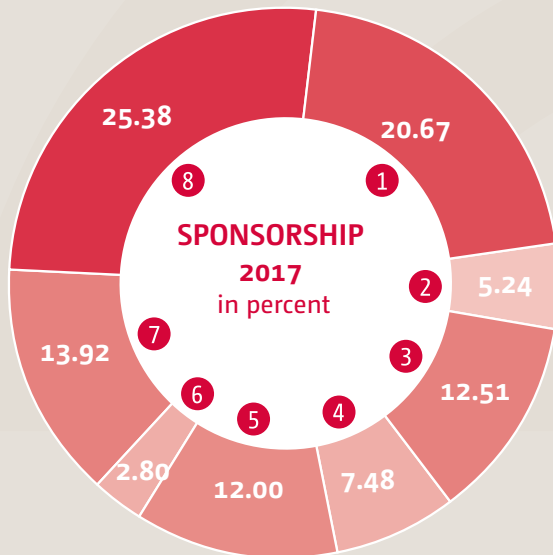
## Sweden

Inhabitants: 10,128,320  
Registered Catholics: 119,765  
Percent: 1.18  
Priests: 169  
Parishes: 44

Figures: NBC, 2017, Map: [www.freevectormaps.com](http://www.freevectormaps.com), 2016



# Sponsorship with funds provided by the Bonifatiuswerk in 2017 – by types of aid



Project Type	Subsidy Amount
1 Building aid	<b>2,990,034.41</b> EUR
2 Transport aid	<b>758,509.76</b> EUR
3 Aid for children and youths	<b>1,809,650.00</b> EUR
4 Faith aid	<b>1,082,084.48</b> EUR
5 Comprehensive projects / sponsorship for a specific purpose	<b>1,735,995.56</b> EUR
6 Project monitoring and support	<b>405,526.44</b> EUR
7 Educational, campaign and awareness training	<b>2,013,748.32</b> EUR
8 Project sponsorship from the funds of the Diaspora Kommissariat	<b>3,672,175.00</b> EUR
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,467,723.97</b> EUR

Of these funds, the following were allocated specifically to Northern Europe:

FIGURES IN EUR

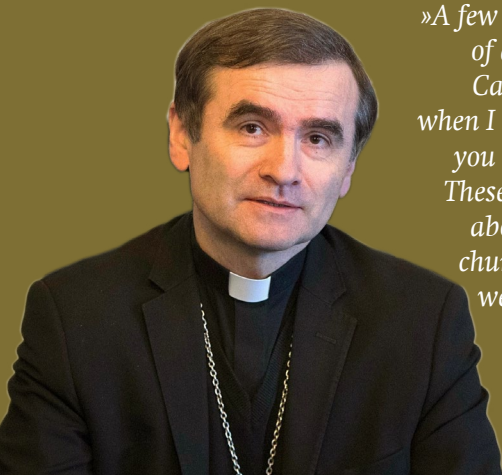
DIOCESE / COUNTRY	TOTAL	BUILDING AID	AID FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS	FAITH AID
Denmark	208,500.00	153,500.00	55,000.00	—
Finland	171,000.00	161,000.00	10,000.00	—
Iceland	47,250.00	45,000.00	2,250.00	—
Norway	399,900.00	386,500.00	13,400.00	—
Sweden	357,500.00	215,000.00	54,500.00	88,000.00

Earmarked funding Nordic Bishop’s Conference: € 1,310,420.56

For further information, please read the annual financial report on the homepage of the Bonifatiuswerk:

[www.bonifatiuswerk.de/werk/zahlen-fakten/](http://www.bonifatiuswerk.de/werk/zahlen-fakten/)

You can find the most important information about the Bonifatiuswerk of German Catholics in english on the homepage of the Bonifatiuswerk as well: [www.bonifatiuswerk.de/english/](http://www.bonifatiuswerk.de/english/)



»A few months ago, a Baptist pastor from Tallinn, a man of a certain age, told me: „I knew the situation of the Catholics of Tallinn in the 70s, in the Soviet era. And when I see the Catholics of Tallinn these days, I think that you really have a lot of reasons to give thanks to God.“ These few words helped me a lot. Sometimes I complain about the problems and difficulties typical of a small church in the situation of extreme diaspora. But when we see where we come from and where we are today, we can actually only say „Thank you my God!«

Msgr. Philippe Jourdan,  
Apostolic Administrator of Estonia

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p. 8: employees (Bonifatiuswerk), Bishop Philippe Jourdan (Apostolic Administratur Estonia)

