

Solidarity and support from Germany for Northern Europe

from the Diaspora Kommissariat and the
Bonifatiuswerk of German Catholics 2017



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

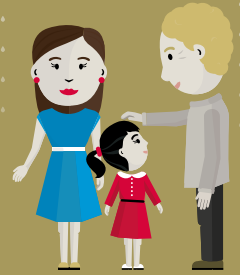
What is the Bonifatiuswerk?

“No-one should be alone in his faith.”

The vision of the Bonifatiuswerk is that Catholic Christians – no matter whether they live in Germany, Northern Europe or the Baltic states – never feel alone in their faith and are given help to self-help.

Since 1849 the Bonifatiuswerk has sponsored Catholics who live as a minority, promoted the propagation of faith and enabled the faithful to live their faith in a community.

Further information about the Bonifatiuswerk can be found here: www.bonifatiuswerk.de/english



Our identity: *To be a blessing*

Diaspora Sunday 2017: “Our Identity: To be a blessing” 19th November 2017

Every year the Bonifatiuswerk prays for its fellow Christians in the diaspora regions. In 2017 Diaspora Sunday takes place on 19th November.

The Lord said to Abraham: “I will bless you, and you will be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:2)

God’s promise and mission to Abraham are valid for each one of us. To bless someone means to entrust somebody to God, to place him under God’s protection. To bless someone also means to be good to others, to say something good to them and to talk well about them.

Those small Catholic minorities in the German diaspora regions, in Northern Europe and in the Baltic States are a blessing for others. They commit themselves for their fellow men in a dedicated and creative way. They accept long distances and bravely oppose different-minded majorities.

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

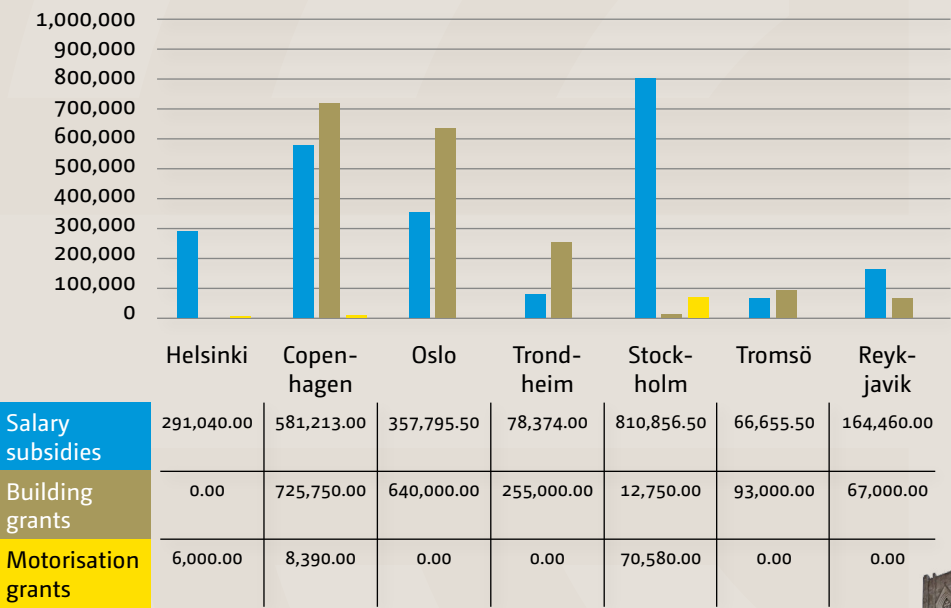
Let’s pray with one another and for one another on Diaspora Sunday.

Aid of the Diaspora Kommissariat for the Northern European diaspora dioceses 2016

Iceland
Inhabitants: 338,405
Registered Catholics: 13,000
Percent: 3.8
Priests: 15
Parishes: 7



Aid by type and diocese

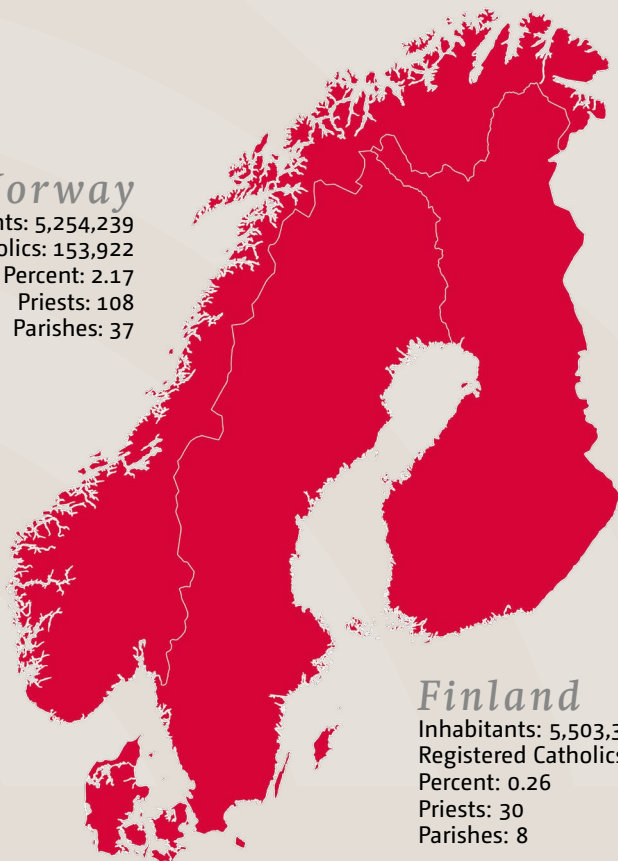


Figures: Diaspora Kommissariat, 2016



Norway

Inhabitants: 5,254,239
Registered Catholics: 153,922
Percent: 2.17
Priests: 108
Parishes: 37



Finland

Inhabitants: 5,503,347
Registered Catholics: 14,447
Percent: 0.26
Priests: 30
Parishes: 8

Denmark

Inhabitants: 5,853,320
Registered Catholics: 44,644
Percent: 0.76
Priests: 73
Parishes: 42

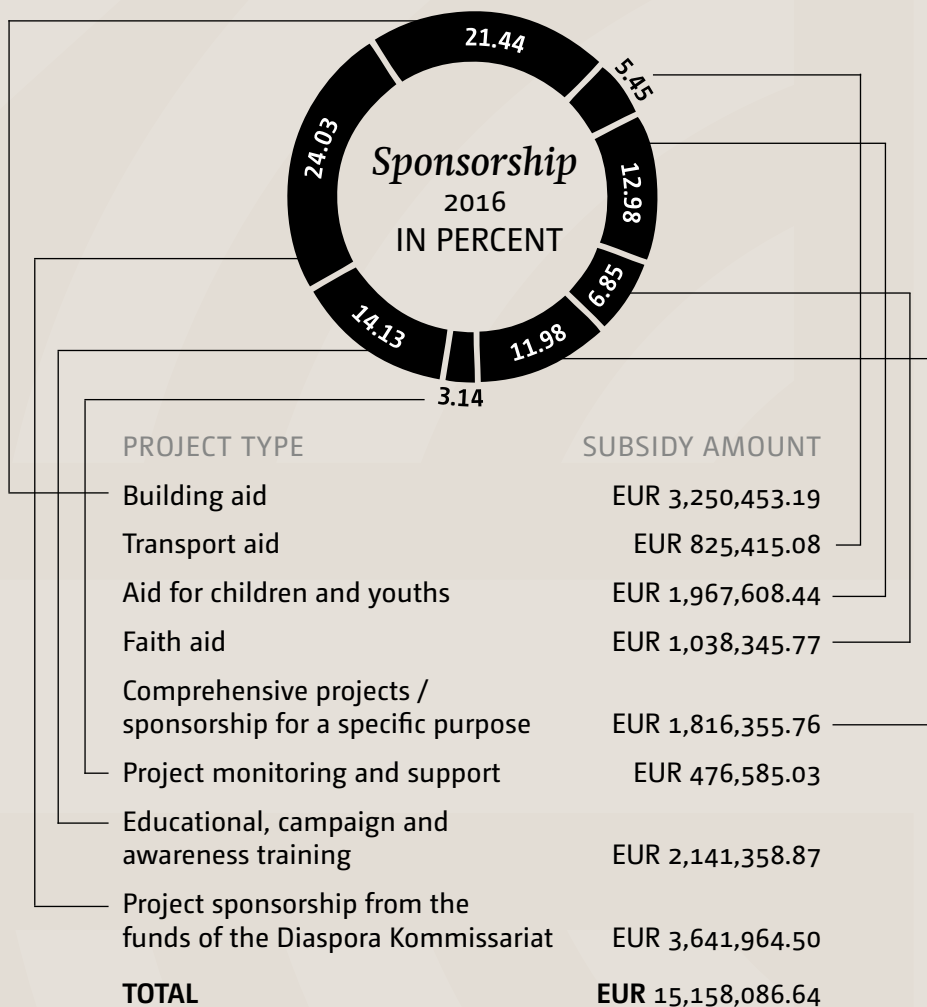
Sweden

Inhabitants: 9,981,799
Registered Catholics: 116,031
Percent: 1.16
Priests: 157
Parishes: 44

Figures: NBC, 2016, Map: www.freevectormaps.com, 2016



Sponsorship with funds provided by the Bonifatiuswerk in 2016 – by types of aid



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

FIGURES IN EUR

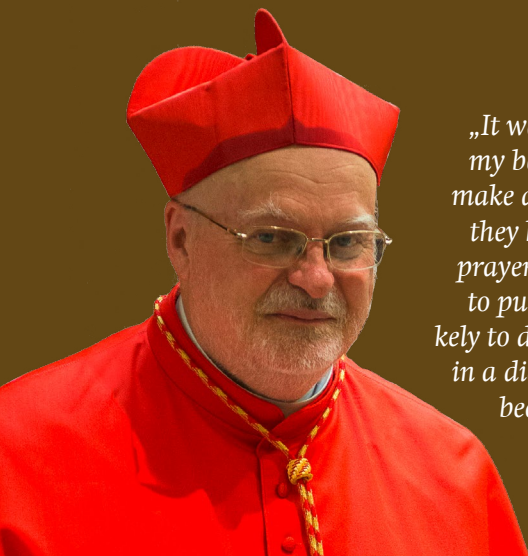
DIOCESE / COUNTRY	TOTAL	BUILDING AID	AID FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS	FAITH AID
Denmark	257,000.00	197,000.00	60,000.00	—
Finland	209,000.00	62,000.00	37,000.00	110,000.00
Iceland	219,500.00	217,700.00	1,800.00	—
Norway	299,050.00	298,150.00	900.00	—
Sweden	330,000.00	185,000.00	75,000.00	70,000.00

Earmarked funding Nordic Bishop's Conference: € 1,209,587.18

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

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/



»A Christian from Poland once said to me:
„It was in Sweden when I first became truly aware of
my belief.“ Those who are Catholic in Sweden have to
make a special effort in order to remain faithful. Often
they have to strive alone towards their belief through
prayer and spiritual reading. If you are not committed
to put effort into growing your faith, you are most li-
kely to drift away from it. It is a challenge indeed to live
in a diaspora region but also a wonderful opportunity
because you really have to say „yes“ to your faith.«

Anders Kardinal Arborelius,
Bishop of Stockholm

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Publisher: Bonifatiuswerk der deutschen Katholiken e.V.
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Photos: p. 1: Cover: Sveden (Lena Reiher); p. 3: illustration diaspora sunday 2017 (LIGALUX GmbH); p. 4/5: Trond-
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<http://statues.vanderkrogt.net>), Reykjavik (Martin Putz); p. 8: employees (Bonifatiuswerk), Bishop Arborelius
(Patrick Kleibold)

