

# Solidarity and support from Germany for Northern Europe

from the Diaspora Kommissariat  
and the Bonifatiuswerk of German Catholics 2020



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 is Chief Executive Officer, Ingo Imenkämper has been Managing Director since January 2020.

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



# Diaspora Sunday 2020: „Become a bearer for hope“

**15th November 2020**

Every year the Bonifatiuswerk prays for its fellow Christians in the diaspora regions. In 2020 Diaspora Sunday takes place on 15th November.

*„Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.“ (1 Peter 3:15).*

Hope is not optimism, which proclaims that everything will be good again. Hope is the conviction that we are in God's hands, whatever happens and how difficult and worrying times may be. Hope doesn't deny immeasurable suffering, inhumane violence and man-made disasters. But it discovers in the darkness the gleam of the belief that God does not lose sight of us.

A bearer for hope is someone who shares his unbreakable hope with others and encourages to believe that the decisive word spoken about our life and our world is the love of God.

We are pleased if you would talk about our request and the work of 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 2019

*Iceland*

Inhabitants: 364,143

Registered Catholics: 14,632

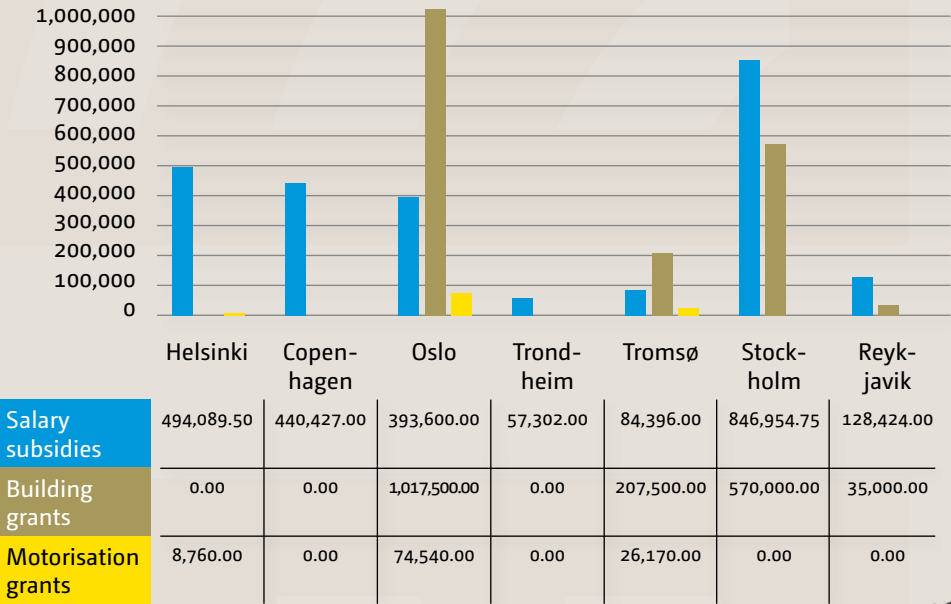
Percent: 4.02

Priests: 14

Parishes: 8



## Aid by type and diocese



Figures: Diaspora Kommissariat, 2019



## Norway

Inhabitants: 5,134,344  
Reg. Catholics: 166,933  
Percent: 2.35  
Priests: 106  
Parishes: 38

## Finland

Inhabitants: 5,517,919  
Reg. Catholics: 15,483  
Percent: 0.28  
Priests: 28  
Parishes: 8

## Estonia

Inhabitants: 1,228,624  
Reg. Catholics: 5,500  
Percent: 0.45  
Priests: 14  
Parishes: 5

## Latvia

Inhabitants: 1,881,232  
Reg. Catholics: 370,000  
Percent: 19.5  
Priests: 150  
Parishes: 269

## Denmark

Inhabitants: 5,806,015  
Reg. Catholics: 50,960  
Percent: 0.88  
Priests: 73  
Parishes: 40

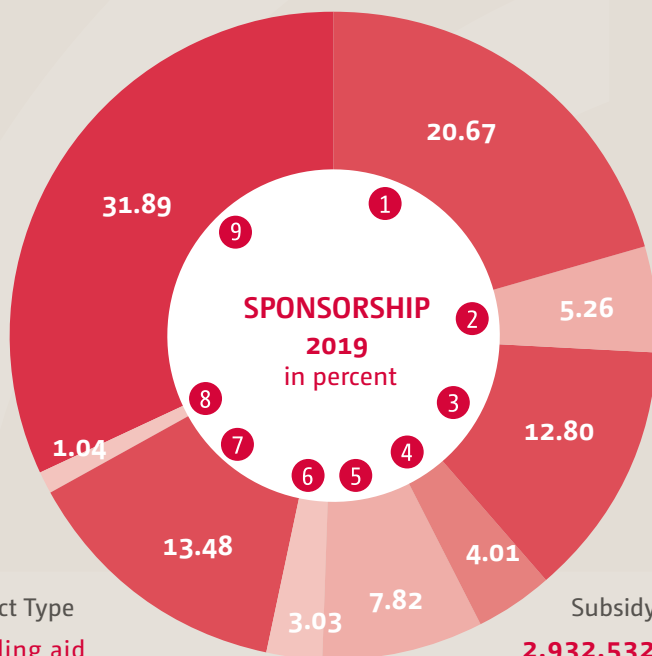
## Sweden

Inhabitants: 10,333,456  
Reg. Catholics: 123,930  
Percent: 1.2  
Priests: 172  
Parishes: 44

Figures: <https://www.nordicbishopsconference.org>, Figures Baltic states: [www.renovabis.de](http://www.renovabis.de), Map: [www.freevectormaps.com](http://www.freevectormaps.com), 2016



# Sponsorship with funds provided by the Bonifatiuswerk in 2019 – by types of aid



Project Type

- 1 Building aid
- 2 Transport aid
- 3 Aid for children and youths
- 4 Faith aid
- 5 Comprehensive projects / sponsorship for a specific purpose
- 6 Project monitoring and support
- 7 Educational, campaign and awareness training
- 8 Support for pastoral care
- 9 Project sponsorship from the funds of the Diaspora Kommissariat

**TOTAL**

Subsidy Amount

**2,932,532.00 EUR**  
**745,653.09 EUR**  
**1,815,330.00 EUR**  
**569,011.86 EUR**  
**1,109,194.08 EUR**  
**430,128.99 EUR**  
**1,912,650.75 EUR**  
**148,196.71 EUR**  
**4,523,529.18 EUR**  
**14,186,226.66 EUR**

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

FIGURES IN EUR

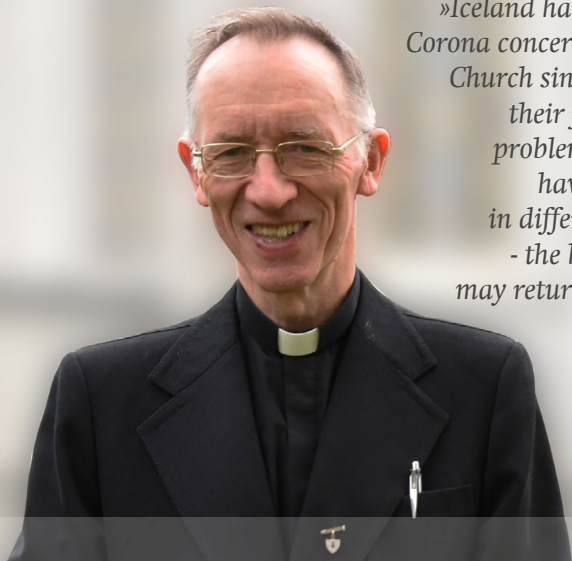
COUNTRY	TOTAL	BUILDING AID	AID FOR CHILD-REN AND YOUTHS	FAITH AID	TRANS-PORT AID
Denmark	218,000.00	158,000.00	60,000.00	—	—
Finland	283,500.00	233,500.00	23,000.00	—	27,000.00
Iceland	97,300.00	95,500.00	1,800.00	—	—
Norway	492,830.00	473,500.00	19,330.00	—	—
Sweden	308,400.00	145,000.00	53,400.00	110,000.00	—
Estonia	151,832.00	151,532.00	300.00	—	—
Latvia	241,000.00	168,500.00	64,500.00	—	8,000.00

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/)





*»Iceland has a strong tourist business, the problems of Corona concern the loss of jobs. Hence this does affect the Church since many of our people will lose or have lost their jobs. In the near future this unemployment problem will be one of the main problems that we have to deal with. This may affect our Church in different ways, e.g. some of our Polish members - the biggest section of our Catholic population - may return to their native land. We ask St. Þorlákur, our Patron-Saint, to help our Church in the present situation.«*

**Msgr. Patrick Breen,**  
Vicar general of Iceland

## Your contact persons:



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## Legal Notice

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