



Solidarity and support from Germany for Northern Europe

2023



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 priests in the German dioceses as they pay one percent of their 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 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 obviously 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 since November 2022 is Manfred Müller; Monsignore Georg Austen is Secretary General, Ingo Imenkämper is the Managing Director since January 2020.

Further information about the Bonifatiuswerk may be found here:

➤ www.bonifatiuswerk.de/en



Diaspora Sunday 2023:

Discover who strengthens you.

19th November 2023

Each November, the Bonifatiuswerk prays for its fellow Christians in the diaspora regions. In 2023 the Diaspora Sunday takes place on the 19th of November.

This year's diaspora campaign has the motto "Discover who strengthens you." On the occasion of the Bonifatius Celebration Day, the Bonifatiuswerk presented this motto at the beginning of June.

"Discover who strengthens you." — With this encouraging motto, we introduce this year's Diaspora campaign of the Bonifatiuswerk. In the routine of everyday life, we are all sometimes inclined to first recognize the negative. Considering the situation our world finds itself in with all the wars and crises, as well as the crisis-ridden news from our church, this is also all too understandable. However, as Christians, we know that in the end, the life-hostile does not prevail, and evil will not have the final word. To (re)discover the hopeful message of our faith in Jesus Christ in the small and big things of everyday life, the motto of the 2023 Diaspora campaign is an encouraging invitation," says Monsignore Georg Austen, General Secretary of the Bonifatiuswerk.

"I can do all things
through Him who strengthens me."

(Phil 4,11b-13)

Aid of the Diaspora Kommissariat for the Northern European diaspora dioceses 2022



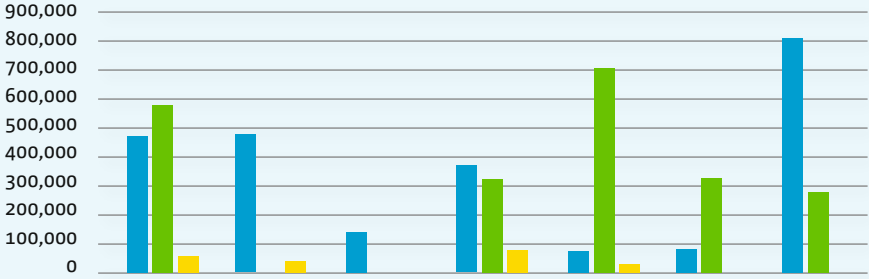
DIASPORA-KOMMISSARIAT
DER DEUTSCHEN BISCHÖFE/
DIASPORAHILFE DER PRIESTER

ICELAND

Inhabitants: 376,010*
Reg. Catholics: 14,702*
Percentage: 3.91%*
Priests/Religious: 16/33*
Parishes: 8*

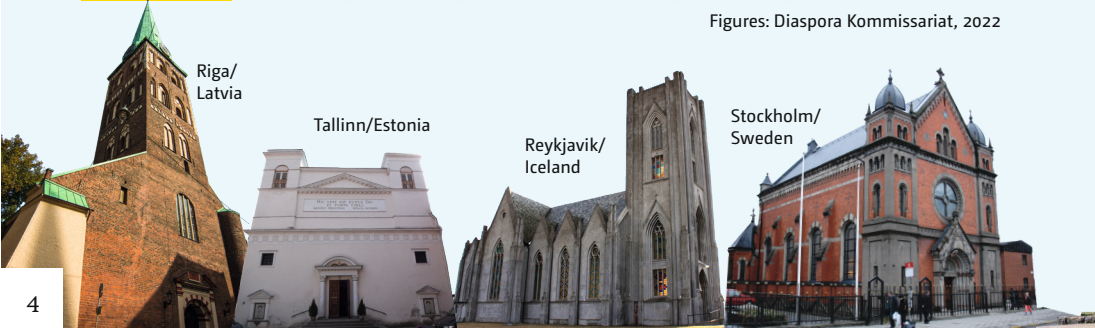


Aid by type and diocese



	COPENHAGEN	HELSINKI	REYKJAVIK	OSLO	TROMSØ	TRONDHEIM	STOCKHOLM
Salary subsidies	468,000	473,300	138,600	367,200	75,000	81,000	804,000
Building grants	575,000	-	-	323,500	700,000	325,000	275,000
Motorisation grants	55,700	37,000	-	78,300	28,700	-	-

Figures: Diaspora Kommissariat, 2022



NORWAY

Inhabitants: 5,488,984
Reg. Catholics: 168,482
Percentage: 3%
Priests/Religious: 104/130
Parishes: 39

FINLAND

Inhabitants: 5,638,621
Reg. Catholics: 16,352
Percentage: 0.29 %
Priests: 28
Parishes: 8

ESTONIA

Inhabitants: 1,202,762
Reg. Catholics: 5,900
Percentage: 0.5%
Priests: 14
Parishes: 5

LATVIA

Inhabitants: 1,821,750
Reg. Catholics: 355,241
Percentage: 19.5 %
Priests: 150
Parishes: 269

DENMARK

Inhabitants: 5,800,000
Reg. Catholics: 54,144
Percentage: 1%
Priests/Religious: 76/83
Parishes: 40

SWEDEN

Inhabitants: 10,420,000
Reg. Catholics: 128,365
Percentage: 1.2 %
Priests/Religious: 168/143
Parishes: 44

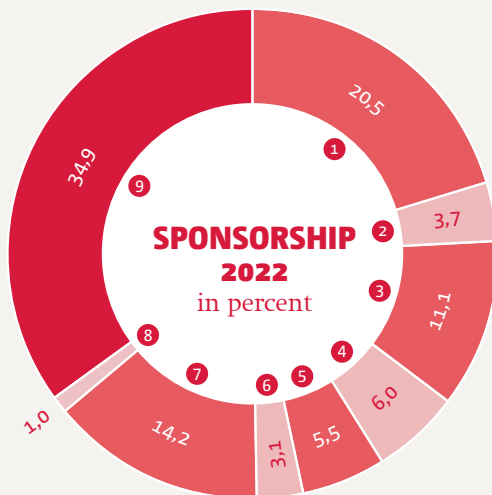
Figures Northern Europe: <https://www.nordicbishopconference.org>
Figures Baltic States: <https://www.renovabis.de>, <https://www.wikipedia.org>
Map: <http://www.freevectormaps.com>
*Figures from 2021

Helsinki/
Finland

Copenhagen/
Denmark

Trondheim/Norway

Sponsorship with funds provided by the Bonifatiuswerk in 2022 – by types of aid



Project Type	Subsidy Amount
① Building aid	2,926,000.00 EUR
② Transport aid	531,534.28 EUR
③ Aid for children and youths	1,589,126.22 EUR
④ Faith aid	853,419.98 EUR
⑤ Earmarked funding / Sponsorship for specific purposes	788,170.94 EUR
⑥ Project support and monitoring	445,131.07 EUR
⑦ Education and campaign work	2,032.386.27 EUR
⑧ Support for pastoral care	148,500.00 EUR
⑨ Project sponsorship from the funds of the Diaspora Kommissariat	4,984,400.00 EUR
TOTAL	14,298,668.76 EUR



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

FIGURES IN EUR

COUNTRY	TOTAL	BUILDING AID	AID FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS	FAITH AID	TRANSPORT AID
DENMARK	185,000.00	132,500.00	52,500.00	—	—
FINLAND	61,500.00	36,000.00	25,500.00	—	—
ICELAND	111,500.00	111,500.00	—	—	—
NORWAY	549,400.00	506,000.00	43,400.00	—	—
SWEDEN	438,200.00	244,500.00	43,700.00	150,000.00	—
ESTONIA	169,600.00	100,000.00	—	—	69,600.00
LATVIA	309,500.00	215,000.00	11,000.00	—	53,500.00

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

➔ www.bonifatiuswerk.de/de/ueber-uns/zahlen-fakten

You may 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

The application forms for project support you can find here:

➔ www.bonifatiuswerk.de/en/en/application-details

Examples of sponsored projects in Northern Europe

* Sponsored by the Bonifatiuswerk (BW)

** Sponsored by the Diaspora-Kommissariat (DK)

Diocese of Copenhagen: Apartment furnishings

The residence of the French-speaking priest of the Sacrament Church in Copenhagen is located in the same building as the community spaces. In order to improve the living conditions, an apartment will be set up on the upper floor, freeing up the ground floor for community facilities.

Funding: 55,000 Euros**



Prelature Tromsø: Rectory renovated

The 300-year-old rectory in the parish of the Holy Family in Storjford, including the priest's residence, was partially structurally unsound and in need of extensive renovation. Beams and flooring were replaced, drainage was installed, wood paneling, windows, and the entrance door were renewed, and the roof was retiled.

Funding: 200,000 Euros**

You can find more information at [↗ www.bonifatiuswerk.de/projekte](http://www.bonifatiuswerk.de/projekte) (german) and www.bonifatiuswerk.de/en (english)

Diocese of Reykjavik: Re-roofing of Church

The roof of the Cathedral of Christ the King (Landakotskirkja) in the Icelandic capital, Reykjavik, needs to be replaced. The nearly 100-year-old concrete structure in the neo-Gothic style will undergo a complete re-roofing with copper. During its consecration in 1929, Iceland had only around 200 Catholics, but today there are already over 14,700.

Funding: 62,000 Euros *



Diocese of Stockholm: Support for Ukraine Mission

Millions of people have been displaced since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. A significant source of assistance is the Ukrainian mission in Stockholm, which provides spiritual, emotional, and supportive services. A 4.5-room apartment is being sought for the priest and his family who are dedicated in the Greater Stockholm area.

Funding: 117,500 Euros**

Sponsored projects in Estonia and Latvia

* Sponsored by the Bonifatiuswerk (BW)

** Sponsored by the Diaspora-Kommissariat (DK)

Archdiocese Riga: Outdoor Facilities for Educational Center

The Bonifatiuswerk has supported the redesign of the outdoor facilities at the Catholic Education and Information Center in the Latvian capital, Riga. The complex also houses a Catholic high school, the Parish of St. Maria Theresa, Radio Maria Latvia, and a day care facility run by Caritas.

Funding: 40,000 Euros*



Apostolic Administration of Tallinn: Michael's School

The Catholic Michael's School in Tallinn now has over 270 students. While digitalization efforts are strongly supported by the Estonian government, the school must fund its own construction and renovation projects, with a high demand, for instance, for new classrooms.

**Funding (2022): 100,000 Euros
(310,000 Euros in total)***

Sponsored project “Praktikum im Norden“

Sponsored by the Bonifatiuswerk (BW).

The Bonifatiuswerk invites young people for six to 14 months to get to know the Catholic Diaspora Church in Northern Europe and the Baltic States. It is a cooperation programme between the Bonifatiuswerk and the Newman Institute in Uppsala, Sweden. More than 220 people have completed or are part of the project "Praktikum im Norden".



No one should have to believe alone — 50 years of Northern Europe Aid

Next year, the Bonifatiuswerk celebrates its 175th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of supporting the diaspora regions in Northern Europe (Baltic States since 1995). Over the decades, the Bonifatiuswerk and the Diaspora Commission of the German Bishops have supported numerous projects in the four areas Child and Youth aid, Faith aid, Transportation aid and Construction aid. True to our motto "No one should have to believe alone".



Help for Ukraine — also in Northern Europe and the Baltic States

The inhumane war of aggression against Ukraine has been a concern for us for over a year now. Our project partners in Northern Europe and the Baltic States have been and continue to be involved in providing shelter, transportation and aid to refugees. The Bonifatiuswerk supports the project partners and the refugees through various forms of assistance — not only through financial support but also, notably, through transportation assistance in the form of the yellow BONI buses.



Traveling to the Northern Diaspora

Experience the work of our project partners in the Nordic and Baltic diaspora firsthand: The Bonifatiuswerk offers donors, priests, press representatives and all interested individuals the opportunity to do so several times a year through our travel offerings. Whether it's retreats in a monastic setting or visits to current sponsored projects, participants are regularly warmly welcomed by our partners!



Priest Trip to Iceland 2023

Between impressive natural spectacles and peaceful monasteries, eleven priests and two spiritually inclined individuals set out with the Bonifatiuswerk to discover Iceland. During their journey, they delved deep into the country's diaspora, gaining a vivid impression of Iceland's Catholic community.



Retreats in Norway 2023

15 enthusiasts embarked on a spiritual retreat journey to explore Norway together. Organized and accompanied by the Bonifatiuswerk, the journey led them into the very heart of Christian Norway. The incumbent Bishop of Trondheim, Erik Varden, personally provided spiritual guidance.



Press Trip to Baltic States 2022

The press trip organized by the Bonifatiuswerk to Latvia and Estonia proved to be impressive for all participants. The accompanying journalists gained a firsthand insight into the work of the Catholic Church in the two Baltic states, which are part of the supported regions.

Funding of staffing positions

The Bonifatiuswerk also supports project partners in the diaspora through the funding of staffing positions with a missionary character – including Northern Europe and the Baltic states. A current example:



Project: Caritas Academy Riga

Name: Marija Diaza

Diocese: Archdiocese of Riga

Funding period: 2022-2023

Funding: 44,000 Euro

The project strives to strengthen the Caritas volunteer groups in Latvia, who are an indispensable part of the church. The service includes, among other, educational trainings, experience exchange and supervisions for volunteers.

Connecting youth pastoral care in the diaspora

The Bonifatiuswerk will celebrate a triple anniversary next year: the 175th anniversary of the Bonifatiuswerk, the 75th anniversary of transport aid, and the 50th anniversary of support for Northern Europe.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, a networking meeting for the coordinators of youth pastoral care in the diaspora dioceses of Germany, Northern Europe, and the Baltic States will take place in Paderborn from September 22 to 26, 2024. An exchange that promotes young faith in the diaspora across borders!

175



Hilfswerk für den Glauben

**bonifatius
werk**

175 JAHRE DIASPORAHILFE

"We are deeply grateful
for the assistance of
the Diaspora-Kommissariat,
which enables larger construction
and renovation projects and
constitutes a significant contribution
to the support of the priests."

Czeslaw Kozon
Bishop of Copenhagen



Your contact persons:



Monsignore Georg Austen
Secretary General of the Bonifatiuswerk
and Diaspora Kommissariat
georg.austen@bonifatiuswerk.de
Phone: +49 (0)5251-2996 11



Thomas Twents
Responsible for the Building and Transport aid
thomas.twents@bonifatiuswerk.de
Phone: +49 (0)5251-2996 57



Matthias Band
Head of Communication
matthias.band@bonifatiuswerk.de
Phone: +49 (0)5251-2996 43



Julian Heese
Responsible for the Faith aid and
the aid for children and youths
julian.heese@bonifatiuswerk.de
Phone: +49 (0)5251-2996 50



Ulrich Franke
Responsible for the Bonifatius Foundation Center
ulrich.franke@bonifatiuswerk.de
Phone: +49 (0)5251-2996 60



Katrin Keller
Head of Fundraising
katrin.keller@bonifatiuswerk.de
Phone: +49 (0)5251-2996 33

Legal Notice

Publisher: Bonifatiuswerk der
deutschen Katholiken e. V.
Generalsekretär Monsignore
Georg Austen
Kamp 22 · 33098 Paderborn
www.bonifatiuswerk.de

Person responsible: Matthias Band
Edited by: Harald Ebner
Design: Dr. Korinna Kuhnert

Photos: p. 1: Cover: landscape in norway
(Bonifatiuswerk) p. 3: illustration dias-
pora sunday 2023 (elfgenpick GmbH);
p.4/5: Riga (Blumesser – stock.adobe.
com), Tallinn (Bonifatiuswerk), Reykjavik
(Martin Putz), Stockholm (Bonifatius-
werk), Helsinki (René und Peter van der
Krogt <http://statues.vanderkrogt.net>),
Copenhagen (Bonifatiuswerk), Trond-
heim (Bonifatiuswerk); p. 8-10: Denmark
(Jule Müller), Norway (Bonifatiuswerk),
Iceland (Amelie Tepper), Sweden (Matea
Renic), Riga (Aivars Līcis), Tallinn (Marius
Thöne); p. 12, 14,15: Bonifatiuswerk;
p. 13: Bonifatiuswerk, Caritas Latvia;
p. 16: employees (Wilfried Hiegemann,
Bonifatiuswerk), Czeslaw Kozon (Boni-
fatiuswerk)



Hilfswerk für den Glauben

**bonifatius
werk**