



JESUS BIKER® International

A Group Member of Union Corps Saint Lazarus International
Dr. Thomas Draxler (First Member)



Press Release #3

Peace, Power & Papal Blessing – JESUS-BIKER® Ride for Missio

With a spectacular motorcycle tour through Bavaria, Austria, and Italy, the “Jesus Bikers” are making a bold statement for peace – and raising funds for children in Madagascar.

Schweinfurt / Vatican – On August 31, the German JESUS-BIKER® will embark on their second “Peace Ride.” The route leads from Schaafheim through Altötting and Verona to Rome – with the final destination being St. Peter’s Square in the Vatican. There, on September 3, Pope Leo XIV will personally sign an extraordinary motorcycle: a specially customized BMW R18, redesigned in a papal style.

This unique bike will then be auctioned in support of a children's aid project run by Missio Austria in Madagascar. The campaign aims not only to raise funds but also to draw attention to the harsh living conditions of disadvantaged children in one of the world’s poorest countries.

For the second time, the JESUS-BIKER® will ride across the Alps for peace – this time with a particularly symbolic goal: Alongside the papal audience, they will be collecting peace messages from people along their route. These messages will be personally handed over to Pope Leo. A downloadable template for a personal peace message is available on the website:

👉 <https://jesus-biker.de/peace-ride-to-rome-ii/>

The motorcycle itself was modified over several weeks by a specialized team at Motorradhaus Witzel – with great attention to detail and inspired by the iconic white Popemobile. The result is a moving symbol of faith, solidarity, and peace.

Peace Ride® Tour Schedule

- August 31, 09:00 – Departure from Schaafheim
 - August 31, 18:00 – Church service in Altötting, St. Magdalena
 - September 1, 18:45 – Church service in Verona, Franciscan Community
 - September 2, 18:00 – Arrival in Rome
 - September 3, 10:00 – Audience with Pope Leo XIV and handover of the BMW motorcycle
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The Project:

For a Hopeful Future for the Mica Children

The Jesus Bikers' peace tour aims to raise awareness about the dire situation faced by thousands of children in Madagascar. Around 20,000 people work under slave-like conditions in approximately 176 mica mines in southern Madagascar – a mineral in high global demand. Half of these miners are children.

Families earn about five cents per kilogram of mica. The same quantity is later sold in China as a processed product for around 12 euros – a staggering 5,614% markup. Madagascar is the world's largest exporter of mica (also known as glimmer), which gives many cosmetic and paint products their characteristic shine. Around 1,545 tons of the mineral are exported annually to the electronics, construction, paint, and cosmetics industries – primarily to China.

Missio Austria is supporting the local Malagasy NGO TSIMOKA in building a school for the children working in the mines. The future of these children depends on access to education.

Press Contact:

Dr. Thomas Draxler

Phone: +49 6073 / 740 64 64

Email: instgesundheits@aol.com

Müllerweg 93, D-64850 Schaafheim

www.der-gesundheitskapitaen.de

PEACE-RIDE[®]

to Rome II