



Office of the Archbishop
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October 20, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Love for God's people and the mission entrusted to us as disciples stands at the heart of *Renew My Church*. Each October on World Mission Sunday, we join with the Church across the globe in joyful response to the call to "go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature" (Mk 16:15). This year, the Holy Father, Pope Francis calls for an Extraordinary Mission Month throughout the month of October in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* which, "sought to give new impetus to the missionary task of proclaiming the Gospel."

In calling for this Extraordinary Mission Month, the Holy Father invites us to transcend national boundaries in these troubled times in our world, bearing witness "to God's saving will through the Church's universal mission." The World Mission Sunday collection, celebrated worldwide on October 20, supports the efforts of over 1,000 economically poor dioceses to provide spiritual and material aid to people across Africa, Asia, and remote areas of Latin America and the Pacific Islands. Recipient churches and congregations also bring hope to people facing poverty, violent conflict, and displacement in the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe.

In honor of the Holy Father's call to renewed fervor for the Church's universal mission, every parish engaged in works of solidarity and charity with our global neighbors are invited to join the diverse community of Archdiocese of Chicago in a Mass of Thanksgiving for missionaries next Sunday, October 27 at St. Ferdinand Church beginning at 5:00 p.m. Together we will give thanks for the local parishes that are dedicated to the Catholic Church's world mission.

It is my prayer that each parish is inspired to embrace World Mission Sunday as an opportunity to join with the global Church in making disciples throughout our world, as we are called to do during the *Renew My Church* process. May our witness inspire others in our Chicago community, especially young people, to embrace the call to love and follow Christ. With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Cardinal Czysz".

Archbishop of Chicago