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October 23, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today we join Catholics worldwide in the annual Eucharistic celebration of World Mission Sunday. We remember our common call to both live the mission that is entrusted to us and proclaim the person of Christ and His message. Pope Francis reflects on this year's theme: "You shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). He emphasizes the call to every Christian to bear witness to Christ, to participate in a mission of universal evangelization, and to seek strength and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Beginning in 1822, the universal fund of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith provided approximately seven million dollars in help to the new and growing Church in the United States. Blessed Pauline Jaricot began this work 200 years ago and established a network of prayer and collections for missionaries so that the faithful could actively participate in the mission "to the ends of the earth." Her vision would lead to World Mission Sunday, which helps the Pope support global missionary activity.

Your prayers and generous support today sustain communities of faith in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor. When you contribute to the World Mission Sunday collection, you provide for the formation of our seminarians and religious men and women. You assist in building the schools and orphanages that care for children in places few visit. Missionaries can build churches in areas with scarce resources. Priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay leaders can buy food and the bare essentials that make it possible to proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the Sacraments.

In this bicentennial anniversary year, I encourage your generosity on World Mission Sunday. Your prayers remain your greatest gift, and your financial support is life-giving to our brothers and sisters in the world's most vulnerable communities. Wishing you every blessing, with kind regards I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago