



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 20, 2024

“Go and invite everyone to the banquet.” – cf. Matthew 22:9

The Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14)

Pope Francis connects mission with the Gospel parable of the wedding feast. He says, “Mission... is a tireless going out to all men and women, in order to invite them to encounter God and enter into communion with him.” The Church is true to the mission she received from Jesus by continuing to go to the ends of the earth over and over again, without growing weary or losing heart in the face of difficulties and obstacles. Let us thank God for all those missionaries who have left everything behind, and go far from their homeland to share the Good News.

“Everyone, Everyone, Everyone”

The **Pontifical Mission Societies** are a worldwide network within the Church that foster universal missionary cooperation on both the spiritual and material levels. Every one of us has a responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters in mission areas and to support young local churches. The Societies have been pontifical since 1922, which means they are official instruments of the universal Church under the guidance of the Holy Father himself. Historically, the Church in the United States was once a beneficiary of these missionary efforts, now we have the opportunity to give back and support our brothers and sisters around the globe.

The **World Mission Sunday** collection contributes to the Pontifical Society of the Propagation of the Faith, enabling:

- Over 844,000 catechists to share the faith.
- 258,540 Religious Sisters to tend to families and children.
- 38,140 seminarians journeying towards the priesthood.
- Education for 26 million children.
- Medical assistance in 12,000 health centers.
- Comfort and safety in 8,750 shelters and orphanages.

How to participate:

Pray: According to Pope Francis, prayer is the soul of mission! Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you to go forth and witness to the Gospel in your daily life. Talk with Jesus about solidarity with our brothers and sisters who struggle for dignity and freedom around the world. Listen for God’s call in your life.

Sacrifice: Offer your time and energy to people and organizations who carry out the loving mission of Jesus at home or far away. Offer a financial gift in the World Mission Sunday collection to build churches, provide healthcare and education and train future priests and religious women and men.

What is World Mission Sunday?

Established in 1926, World Mission Sunday is an annual global celebration within the Catholic Church. This special day is observed in every local church around the world on the second to last Sunday in October.

How do we celebrate it?

Participating in World Mission Sunday is a tangible way we live out the Great Commission, bringing the message of Christ to the ends of the earth. It is an expression of solidarity with missionaries and the communities they accompany, and a means to share Christ’s love universally.