

World Mission Sunday 2025

Homily Helps



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Introduction

Dear Fellow Laborer in the Vineyard of the Lord,

As we enter into October — World Mission Month, dedicated to reflection on the central mission of the Church: sharing Christ and the Good News to the ends of the earth — I am writing you in the name of the missionaries proclaiming the Gospel in 1,124 mission territories around the world, asking for your prayerful leadership especially as we prepare to celebrate World Mission Sunday on October 19.

This year, under the theme chosen by the late Pope Francis, “Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples”, we are invited to reflect deeply on the meaning of hope in the Christian life. As Saint Paul reminds us, “Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5).

Christian hope is not a vague optimism; it is the fruit of divine love—alive in us and active through us. That is why our missionary efforts, our sacrifices, and above all, our proclamation of Christ crucified and risen are powerful acts of hope, especially for communities suffering from poverty, violence, or religious persecution.

In May, I had the privilege of attending the annual meeting of The Pontifical Mission Societies in Rome. Pope Leo XIV, who himself ministered in the missionary territories where we support priests, religious, and lay catechists today, reminded us that these Societies are the “primary means for awakening missionary responsibility among all the baptized [and for] supporting ecclesial communities in areas where the Church is young.”

Indeed, the Church in the United States was itself mission territory until 1908, sustained by the prayers and donations from the Catholic countries of Europe.. Today, we have the privilege of paying that goodness forward. Our prayers and sacrifices sustain seminarians, religious sisters, catechists, and lay leaders in places where the Church is too young, too poor or faces persecution. Thanks to the generosity of Catholics in the United States, including those in your parish, we help build churches and schools and make the healing presence of Christ known through the sacraments and charity.

To assist you and your parish during this month of missionary reflection and action, we have put together many helpful resources. They are all available online, making it easier to share them digitally and use them electronically. Of course, you can also download them and print them. If you go to www.pontificalmissions.org/wms or use the QR code below, you will have access to:

- **Homily Helps**, with some inspiration and ideas for your homilies for each of the Sundays in October, World Mission Month
- **Prayers of the Faithful** for every Sunday in October
- **Bulletin and pulpit** announcements for every Sunday in October, and
- **General resources** to accompany your community through World Mission Month, including the young people in your flock.

QR

Introduction

The invitation to be “Missionaries of Hope among the peoples” is not reserved for just some of us — it belongs to all of us by baptism. In these challenging times, your words from the pulpit, your encouragement in pastoral encounters, and your inspiring leadership are all acts of hope for a world so often gripped by anxiety and despair and in need of the hope that is only found in Christ.

I am praying that your parish may World Mission Month this October with renewed missionary zeal. Pope Francis urged us in this year’s message to “set out anew... as at the dawn of Christianity,” bearing Christ’s light to all peoples. Our new American Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, is leading that apostolic summons. Let’s join him and help him care for our brothers and sisters in missionary lands all across the globe.

Thank you for being part of this mission.

With gratitude and prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Msgr. Roger J. Landry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" being particularly prominent.

Monsignor Roger J. Landry
National Director

The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States

What is World Mission Sunday?

Each year, on the second-to-last Sunday of October, Catholics around the world unite in celebration of **World Mission Sunday**—a day of prayer, reflection, and financial support for the Church's missionary work in **1,124 mission territories**. These are regions where the Church is still young, growing, and often facing poverty, conflict, or persecution.

World Mission Sunday is **not just the occasion of another second collection**. It is **the one Sunday** when the entire Catholic Church—every parish, in every country—comes together to pray for and support the missionary efforts of the Church through **The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies.



What Is the Society for the Propagation of the Faith?

Founded in 1822 by a young laywoman, **Blessed Pauline Jaricot**, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith was created to support missionaries through **prayer and small weekly offerings**. Pauline's vision was simple: ask friends to give **a penny a week** and pray daily for those bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Her model was adopted by the Church worldwide. In 1922, Pope Pius XI made the Society for the Propagation of the Faith one of **The Pontifical Mission Societies**, placing it under the direct care of the papacy and giving it a central role in funding and sustaining the Church's global mission.

As Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, former National Director of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, never ceased to say, the **Church in the United States** would never have grown as fast as it did without the support of the Society. Between 1822 and 1908, American dioceses received the equivalent of more than **\$250 million** in today's dollars to build parishes, schools, and seminaries.



Why Does World Mission Sunday Matter?

World Mission Sunday is a **visible sign of Catholic communion and solidarity**. It is our opportunity to respond to Christ's Great Commission: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

The collection taken up on this Sunday supports:

- The **formation of seminarians** and future religious sisters and brothers
- The **education of children** in Catholic schools
- **Healthcare and pastoral care** in remote and underserved regions
- The **training of catechists** and lay leaders
- The **construction of churches, chapels, schools** and **mission centers**

When we give, we are not simply making a donation—we are participating in a **spiritual and missionary act of love**, sustaining the Church where it cannot yet sustain itself. And when we pray for the missions, especially during **World Mission Month**, we are united with those bringing Christ's hope to the peripheries of the world.

In this year in which we are celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea and the formulation of the Creed we profess together as a family each Sunday, we cannot help but ponder how each of the four marks of the Church has a missionary thrust to it.

We are **one**, united with our brothers and sisters throughout the world; **holy**, seeking to bring Christ and the means of holiness to everyone; **catholic**, meaning universal and interested in everyone everywhere; and **apostolic**, not just built on the apostles but missionary by nature.

We are therefore, in one sense, never more Catholic than when we are living out Christ's command to go and teach all nations, sharing the treasure of our faith in Jesus. Every October is an opportunity for us to be renewed in our personal and ecclesial missionary identity.

Bulletin Announcements

October 5, 2025

Week 1: World Mission Month Begins

World Mission Month: A Call to Hope

Each October, the Church invites us to rediscover our missionary vocation. This year, **Pope Leo XIV**, following the inspiration of Pope Francis, calls us to become “Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples,” inspired by St. Paul’s words: “Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (Rom 5:5).

In the 50th anniversary year of *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, we are reminded that “modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers” (41). Through prayer, sacrifice, and giving, we too become witnesses—bringing the hope of Christ to those who long for love, justice, and peace. Let us begin this month with open hearts, ready to respond to the Church’s call to support the **1,124 mission territories** where the Church is young, growing, and often persecuted. Together, may we be bearers of hope where it is needed most.

October 12, 2025

Week 2: Praying with the Mission Church

United in Prayer with the Missions

As World Mission Month continues, we are invited not only to give but to pray for the Church in mission territories. One powerful way to do this is by praying the **World Mission Rosary**, introduced by Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen in 1951. Each decade is a different color, representing a region of the world.

In *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, St. Pope Paul VI reminds us that prayer is the soul of all mission: “It is the Holy Spirit who, today just as at the beginning of the Church, acts in every evangelizer” (75). Through our prayers, we unite ourselves with missionaries bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Let us offer our rosaries and Masses this week for those who bring Christ’s love to the margins, often at great personal cost. And let us ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle the fire of hope in our own hearts, that we may also be missionaries, wherever we are.



October 19, 2025

Week 3: World Mission Sunday

Today is World Mission Sunday!

Today, every parish across the globe joins together for the only **worldwide collection** mandated by Canon Law—**World Mission Sunday**. Your generosity today supports the **Pope's missions** in more than 1,124 territories where the Church is young or struggling.

This year's theme—“*Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples*”—is a call to embody the love of God, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 5:5). Your offering today provides hope where despair too often dominates—through the building of churches, formation of seminarians and religious sisters, healthcare clinics, and Catholic schools.

Thank you for responding with faith, love, and generosity. As Pope Francis told us, “Each of us is a mission on this earth” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273). Together, we share in that mission by ensuring that no one is excluded from the invitation to encounter Christ.

October 26, 2025

Week 4: Continuing the Mission

Mission Does Not End with October

As we conclude World Mission Month, we remember that the Church's missionary work is ongoing. Our baptismal call to share the Gospel continues beyond this season, inviting us to remain engaged—through prayer, storytelling, and generous action.

The first World Mission Sunday was celebrated nearly a century ago in 1926. The need today remains urgent: missionaries still serve in remote villages, conflict zones, refugee camps, and urban slums. They bring more than aid—they bring Jesus Christ.

As St. Paul VI reminded us 50 years ago in his historic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*: “The Church exists in order to evangelize” (14). We are grateful for your support this October—and we invite you to continue the journey. Subscribe to Mission Magazine, join us in praying the World Mission Rosary year-round, and stay connected to the Pope's missions through www.pontificalmissions.org.

Hope does not disappoint—and the world still needs hope.



Mass Announcements

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Mass Announcement — Beginning of World Mission Month



“Good morning/afternoon/evening, everyone.

As we begin the month of October, we enter into a sacred time dedicated to the Church’s mission around the world. Pope Leo XIV has called us to be Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples. This month, let us pray for missionaries serving in over 1,124 mission territories and ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the courage to share Christ with others. Look for ways to participate throughout the month—through prayer, formation, and support.”

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Mass Announcement — Prayer and Preparation



“Good morning/afternoon/evening.

Next Sunday is **World Mission Sunday**, a day when Catholics around the globe unite in prayer and generosity for the Church’s missionary work. This week, we invite you to pray the **World Mission Rosary**, created by Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen. Each decade represents a region of the world, reminding us that we are one family in mission. Please consider how you will participate next Sunday through your prayer and support.”

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Mass Announcement — World Mission Sunday



“Good morning/afternoon/evening.

Today is **World Mission Sunday**. We join Catholics around the world in prayer and generosity for the missions. The second collection today supports the Pope’s missions in some of the most vulnerable places on earth. This year’s theme, *‘Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples,’* reminds us that our prayers and sacrifices bring light to those in darkness. Thank you for your generosity and for being part of this global mission.”

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Mass Announcement — Thanksgiving and Invitation



“Good morning/afternoon/evening.

On behalf of **The Pontifical Mission Societies**, thank you for your support of World Mission Sunday last week.. Your prayers and contributions are making a real difference in mission territories across the globe. As we close this World Mission Month, let us continue to pray for those bringing hope to difficult places—and look for ways we can be missionaries of hope in our daily lives. The mission of the Church is ongoing—and it belongs to all of us.”



Prayers of the Faithful

October 5, 2025

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: **Opening World Mission Month with Hearts of Hope**

- 01** For the Church throughout the world, that she may proclaim the Gospel with courage and inspire in all believers a spirit of missionary discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
 - 02** For missionaries serving in difficult and remote areas, that the Holy Spirit may strengthen them so that their witness may be a beacon of hope to the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord.
 - 03** For our parish community, that we may begin this World Mission Month with a renewed commitment to pray, learn, and share the gift of our faith; let us pray to the Lord.
-

October 12, 2025

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: **Praying with the Global Church**

- 01** For Pope Leo XIV, and all who guide the Church's missionary efforts, that they may be instruments of Christ's peace and hope to the nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 02** For those who have never heard the name of Jesus, and for those who long for truth and love, that they may encounter the Gospel through the Church's missionary work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 03** For the grace to pray fervently for the missions this week, especially through the World Mission Rosary, let us pray to the Lord.



October 19, 2025

World Mission Sunday / 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: **Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples**

- 01 For all missionaries who give their lives in service to the Gospel, that they may be filled with joy, perseverance, and hope in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 02 For mission territories—especially where the Church is young, poor, or persecuted—that today's offerings and prayers may bring hope, healing, education, and the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 03 For ourselves, that our hearts may be open to the missionary call of our baptism and that we may become signs of hope in our homes, communities, and world, let us pray to the Lord.



October 26, 2025

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: **Continuing the Mission Beyond October**

- 01 For the Church, that the spirit of World Mission Month may inspire all her members to continue living the missionary call every day of the year, let us pray to the Lord.
- 02 For all who support the missions with prayer and giving, that God may bless their generosity and deepen their commitment to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 03 For our parish, that we may grow as a community of faith, hope, and charity, eager to share our faith and open to the needs of the universal Church, let us pray to the Lord.



Parish Printable Activities

World Mission Rosary Guide

For Parishes, Prayer Groups, and Households – October 2025

Theme: **Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples**

Biblical Inspiration: "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

Introduction

Each October, the Church around the world gathers in prayer and solidarity for the missions. Pope Francis, in his 2025 message for World Mission Sunday on October 19, summoned us "to set out in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus to become, with him and in him, signs and messengers of hope for all, in every place and circumstance that God has granted us to live."

Then he prayed, "May all the baptized, as missionary disciples of Christ, make his hope shine forth in every corner of the earth!"

By praying the World Mission Rosary, we unite ourselves spiritually with missionaries who bring this hope to the ends of the earth—often in places marked by suffering, poverty, and persecution.

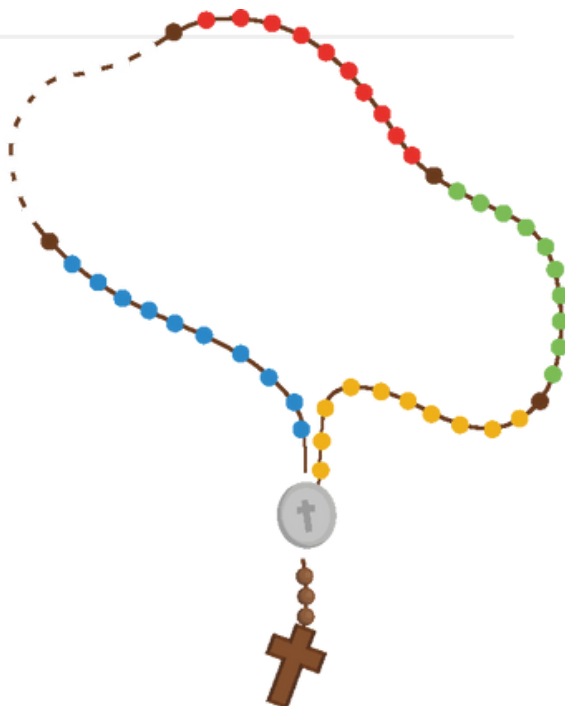
What is the World Mission Rosary?

The World Mission Rosary was first promoted in 1951 by Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, then National Director of The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States. He envisioned a rosary that would embrace the whole world in prayer, assigning each decade a color representing a region of the world where the Church continues its mission work.

The Colors and Their Meanings:

- **Green** – for Africa, signifying its lush forests and rich natural resources
- **Red** – for the Americas, recalling the fire of faith and the blood of martyrs
- **White** – for Europe, symbolizing the seat of the Holy Father and the heart of tradition
- **Blue** – for Oceania, representing the vast waters surrounding its many islands
- **Yellow** – for Asia, evoking the sunrise and the light of the East

Praying five decades of the Rosary each day with these regions in mind is a concrete way to respond to Christ's call to go and make disciples of all nations and to be missionaries of hope among the peoples.





How to Pray the World Mission Rosary

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
2. Pray the Apostles' Creed on the crucifix.
3. Pray the Our Father on the first large bead.
4. Pray Three Hail Marys for an increase in faith, hope, and charity.
5. Pray the Glory Be before the first decade.

Then pray five decades of the Rosary, meditating on the Mysteries of the day. For each decade, focus your prayer on one of the five regions:

1st Decade – Africa (Green Beads)

Pray for children, families, and communities facing poverty, disease, and lack of education everywhere, but especially in Africa, for missionaries building schools, hospitals, and churches.

2nd Decade – The Americas (Red Beads)

Pray for indigenous communities, migrants and refugees, and those living in urban poverty, especially in the Americas, for missionary catechists and pastoral agents.

3rd Decade – Europe (White Beads)

Pray for the Holy Father and for a renewal of faith in traditionally Christian countries, for young people searching for purpose, and for evangelizers in secular societies that have forgotten the Joy of the Gospel, especially in Europe.

4th Decade – Oceania (Blue Beads)

Pray for missionaries bringing sacraments by boat or plane, island nations affected by extreme climate conditions, and the spiritual needs of remote communities, especially in Oceania.

5th Decade – Asia (Yellow Beads)

Pray for those who have never heard the Gospel, for persecuted Christians, and for missionary schools sharing faith and education, especially in Asia.

Conclude with:

- Hail, Holy Queen
- Prayer for the Intentions of the Holy Father

Optional Mission Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, when Your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He commissioned His followers to 'go and make disciples of all nations.' May the Holy Spirit grant us the courage to live as missionaries of hope. Strengthen us to bear witness to the Gospel, that all peoples may come to know the saving love of Christ. Amen."

Pope Francis' prayer for the Extraordinary World Mission Month, 2019.

Suggested Use:

- Pray the full World Mission Rosary — five decades — each day during the month of October. If your parish community prays the rosary regularly, request that special attention be paid to mission territories and the evangelizing challenges each continent has.
- Encourage families, small groups, and classrooms to join in as a daily commitment, imitating the prayer circles created by Blessed Pauline Jaricot, a lay French woman who, in the 19th century founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of four Pontifical Mission Societies and the one overseeing World Mission Sunday. In 1822, in Lyon, France, she invited her friends to pray daily for the missions and donate a penny a week, inspiring what is today the most important universal collection in support of evangelization in missionary territories.

Let us pray as one Church, united in hope, for the evangelizing work of missionaries across the globe.

For more mission resources, visit: www.pontificalmissions.org/wms



Homilies

October 5, 2025

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Two weeks before WMS.

Today's readings invite us to reflect on what authentic faith looks like—not just faith in theory, but faith in action. Not just a private conviction, but a living, visible commitment to Christ.

The prophet Habakkuk begins with a lament: “How long, O Lord?” He sees injustice and violence around him and wonders why God seems silent. It's a familiar cry—the same cry we've heard from so many throughout history, especially the poor and the suffering. Yet Habakkuk doesn't walk away. His prayer of complaint is itself an act of faith: he dares to speak to God because he still believes God is listening. And God answers: “The just one, because of his faith, shall live.” In other words, the one who truly trusts God will keep going—not because things are easy, but because they believe that God's promises are sure.

In the second reading, Paul urges Timothy to “stir into flame the gift of God.” That's an important reminder. Faith isn't something that automatically stays strong—it needs to be rekindled, nurtured, and lived out. And in the Gospel, the apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith. His response reminds them—and us—that real faith, even in small measure, has power to move the seemingly impossible. But that power isn't about spectacular miracles; it's about steadfast discipleship, humble service, and trust in God's work through us.

All these passages point us to this truth: faith is not just belief—it's mission. It calls us to step out, to serve, and to proclaim.

There's perhaps no better example of this than St. Damien of Molokai, the Belgian priest who brought the Christian faith to those exiled to the leper colony on the Hawaiian island of Molokai. Damien did not simply come to do humanitarian work—though he certainly brought comfort, dignity, and care to those suffering from Hansen's disease. But more than that, he came as a missionary of Jesus Christ.

He preached the Gospel. He celebrated the Eucharist. He baptized children and heard confessions. He restored not only health and hope but also a sense of sacred belonging. He reminded the people of Molokai that they were not forgotten—neither by the Church, nor by God.

When he first arrived, many of the residents were resigned to despair. But through his faithful presence, his tireless labor, and above all his preaching of Christ crucified and risen, they came to know they were beloved children of God. And many embraced the Christian faith, not just in name, but in a deep and transforming way. When Fr. Damien finally contracted the disease himself, he wrote to his superiors and referred to the community as “we lepers”—a sign of the total identification that faith in Christ had produced.

His example reminds us: mission is not simply about doing good works. It's about bringing Jesus—his Word, his Sacraments, his saving love—to people who long for meaning, hope, and belonging.

That's why, as we prepare for World Mission Sunday in two weeks, we should remember that we, too, are called to support the Church's missionary work—not just in remote parts of the world, but wherever the Gospel needs to be heard, including in our own communities. Today, thousands of missionaries follow in Damien's footsteps—teaching the faith, celebrating the sacraments, forming communities of prayer and charity. But they cannot do it alone. They depend on the prayers and generosity of Catholics like us.

Let us believe boldly. Let us serve generously. Let us proclaim Christ—by our lives and with our support—so that the faith we treasure may reach every corner of the earth.

October 12, 2025

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time. One week before WMS.

At the very start of his public life, Jesus makes a bold proclamation in his hometown synagogue: he has come to bring liberty to those held captive. But that declaration wasn't just for his listeners in Nazareth—it continues to echo into our lives today. Our Scripture readings this Sunday lead us to consider what it means to be captive and how Christ brings freedom in surprising and powerful ways.

We begin with St. Paul, writing from a prison cell. Though bound in chains for preaching the Gospel, Paul refuses to see himself as defeated. His body may be confined, but his spirit remains free. "The word of God cannot be chained," he writes. Paul's suffering doesn't silence him; instead, it becomes a testimony. Even his imprisonment proclaims Christ's death and resurrection. And he's confident that whatever fate awaits him—even death—cannot separate him from the life Christ promises: "If we have died with him, we shall also live with him."

Paul's captivity is physical and political. But in today's Gospel, we see a very different kind of imprisonment—one caused by illness and social rejection. The ten lepers who approach Jesus are outcasts. Their disease has pushed them to the edges of society, forced them to live at a distance from others, and cut them off from worship and community life. The rules of purity in their time demanded that they not only suffer physically but also endure loneliness, fear, and shame. When they cry out to Jesus, they do so from afar—both literally and figuratively.

But Jesus crosses that divide. His healing does more than cure their bodies—it restores their place in society and in the faith community. And when one of them—a Samaritan, an outsider among outsiders—returns to give thanks, he models what true freedom looks like: not just physical wholeness, but a heart drawn close to God in gratitude.

While we may no longer follow the same purity laws, our modern culture creates its own forms of exclusion. We often turn away from those whose sickness or suffering reminds us of our own vulnerability. The elderly, the chronically ill, the disabled—too often they are left on the margins, invisible in a world obsessed with youth, beauty, and image.

But as Christians we are called to be different. Through the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we remind ourselves and one another that illness does not make someone less worthy of love or belonging. In this sacrament, the suffering are not cast out—they are drawn into the heart of the Church. Their pain becomes a channel of grace, their perseverance a reflection of Christ's own Passion. Whether or not healing comes in the way we hope, God is present with them, transforming their experience into something sacred.

Yet our responsibility doesn't stop there. As Catholics, we are called to extend that same compassion and proclamation of freedom beyond the walls of our own community. As we approach World Mission Sunday next week, we remember that countless people around the world still live in spiritual, economic, and social captivity. And to these imprisoned populations, Catholic missionaries—priests, religious, and lay workers—bring the message of Christ's healing and hope to those who hunger for more than bread. In order to do this, often in extraordinarily difficult circumstances, they depend on our prayers, our support, and our generosity.

Let us not take for granted the freedom we have received in Christ. Like the Samaritan who returned, let us give thanks—not only in words, but through action: by standing with the sick, by welcoming the forgotten, and by supporting those who carry the Gospel to places we may never go ourselves. In doing so, we help unchain the word of God for others—just as it has set us free.

October 19, 2025

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. World Mission Sunday.

If you were listening closely to today's readings, one theme would have leapt out at you: the power of **persevering prayer**. In our first reading, we see Moses on the hilltop, hands raised in intercession as Joshua fights the Amalekites below. As long as Moses prays, the Israelites prevail. When his hands grow weary and begin to drop, the battle shifts against them. So Aaron and Hur support his arms—an image as beautiful as it is practical—showing us that even the strongest among us need help in prayer sometimes.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of a poor widow who keeps badgering an unjust judge to rule in her favor. She's got no status, no husband to speak up for her, and little legal leverage. But what she does have is determination—and her relentless persistence wears down the resistance of the judge. If even an unjust judge can be moved by tireless pleas, how much more will our just and loving God respond to those who cry out to him day and night?

These stories are simple but powerful. They show us that prayer is not a quick transaction. It's a relationship that asks for perseverance and faith. It's not always easy; prayer can feel like a struggle, a waiting game, or even like silence. But we are called to keep at it—to pray whether it is convenient or inconvenient.

And that brings us to the second reading from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, where we hear another essential message: the enduring, life-giving power of Scripture. Paul tells Timothy that "all Scripture is inspired by God"—that is, "God-breathed." That image alone is enough to take our breath away. The very breath of God animates the words we proclaim each Sunday. These are not dead letters or ancient sayings, but living words, filled with the Spirit, capable of teaching, correcting, challenging, and sanctifying.

The Bible isn't a science textbook or a history chronicle. It was written to guide us to salvation as we meet the living God. That means we have to approach it not just with our intellect, but with faith, humility, and a sense of reverence. Scripture teaches us who God is, who we are, and how we are to live in relationship with God and one another.

So today, we're given two essentials of Christian life: prayer and Scripture. Like the widow, we must pray without losing heart. And like Timothy, we must remain faithful to the Word handed down to us, studying it, pondering it, letting it shape the way we think and act.

Now, as today is also **World Mission Sunday**, it's particularly fitting that today's readings speak of perseverance, faith, and the power of the Word. Our missionaries—priests, religious, lay men and women—are modern-day Timothys and widows. They persist in proclaiming the Gospel in places where the Church is small, persecuted, or just beginning to take root. They continue in prayer and in faith, even when the soil is dry and the labor seems unfruitful.

And they need our help. They need our **prayers**—to support them as Aaron and Hur supported Moses. And they need our **financial generosity**—to ensure that the Word of God continues to be preached to the ends of the earth. Today, as we pray for all missionaries and those they service, the second collection will go to support Pope Leo through his Pontifical Mission Societies in caring for the 1,124 missionary Dioceses and territories across the globe.

In proclaiming this as the “Year of Hope,” Pope Francis before his death called us all, as we celebrate World Mission Sunday, to be “Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples.” May our spiritual and practical assistance of Catholic missionaries around the world continue to give them hope as well as the support they need to bring Christ to those who may not know him yet, so that their lives, too, may be transformed with his hope, help, and healing.

October 26, 2025

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Week following WMS.

Of all the parables Jesus tells, this might be the most dangerous—because it's so easy to misunderstand. It draws us in with a simple moral contrast: a proud Pharisee and a humble tax collector. But it's not just a story about two men who go up to the Temple to pray. It's a spiritual mirror, and it has a way of reflecting our own hidden postures. We begin by siding with the tax collector—“God, be merciful to me, a sinner”—but before long, we find ourselves quietly thinking, “Thank God I'm not like that Pharisee... so arrogant, so full of himself.” And just like that, we're caught in a paradox—boasting in our humility, feeling righteous for rejecting self-righteousness.

Jesus tells this parable not just to teach us about prayer, but to expose the hidden tendency in all of us to use religion as a measuring stick. It's the **paradox** of the spiritual life: even our repentance, even our virtue, can become ways we try to elevate ourselves above others.

But, let's be fair. The Pharisee isn't necessarily a bad man. He fasts. He tithes. He avoids serious sin. By any external standard, he's a model Jew. His prayer, while self-congratulatory, even begins with thanks to God. Meanwhile, the tax collector has nothing to offer—no record of virtue, no defense. He doesn't even lift his eyes.

And yet it's he who goes home justified. Why?

Because the tax collector isn't performing. He's not calculating how he compares to anyone else. He knows he's poor in spirit—and he places his entire trust in God's mercy. And this is what St. Paul does so well in our second reading. At the end of his life, from a Roman prison, he writes not with pride but with gratitude. “I am already being poured out like a libation,” he says that he's offering his life—completely, willingly, for the sake of the Gospel. And even when he speaks of finishing the race and, keeping the faith, he immediately adds: “The Lord stood by me and gave me strength.” His focus is not on his own accomplishments but on God's faithfulness and grace. Paul's life is no longer a competition or comparison. It's a gift poured out, a life emptied in love and filled by God.

At the heart of the mission of sharing and spreading the Gospel is not spiritual superiority. It's not about bringing Christ to others because we've somehow earned him—but because we've encountered his mercy. Like the tax collector, we know we are sinners. Like Paul, we've been strengthened by grace. And now we are sent—each in our own way—to share what we've received.

Last weekend, as we celebrated World Mission Sunday, we were reminded that we are part of something larger than ourselves and even our local parish. We are part of a global Church pouring itself out in love. Missionaries around the world—many in dangerous, poor, or forgotten places—aren't preaching because they are perfect.

They preach because they know Christ has met them in their weakness. When we support them—through prayer, through spiritual sacrifice, through generous giving—we take our place in that same pattern of self-giving love. We stop trying to justify ourselves. We stop comparing. We start living as people who are thankful just to be forgiven, and eager to let our lives serve others.

So today, may this parable work on us. Not just to disturb our pride, but to awaken our need for grace. Let us not walk away thinking, "Thank God I'm not like him."

Let us walk away saying, "God, have mercy on me. And help me be poured out in love."

For only then can we go home justified—not because of what we've achieved, but because of the mercy we've received and shared.



October 19th, 2025. 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

World Mission Sunday Mass Preparation Guide

World Mission Sunday joins all Catholics of the world into one community of faith. At Mass that Sunday, we recommit ourselves to our common vocation, through Baptism, to be missionaries, through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

It is encouraged that each diocese celebrates a diocesan wide mass for World Mission Sunday with the local ordinary or diocesan director (if priest) as presider or homilist. Some dioceses may choose to do this in their own cathedral or another parish.

To assist your worship office or parish liturgy team in preparing for a mass, this guide lists suggestions for Mass formularies, eucharistic prayers and song selections.

MASS FORMULARIES

World Mission Sunday falls on the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time and the prayers for that day can be used.

However, the Roman Missal gives a beautiful option to utilize the mass formularies that pray for the mission of the Church in the world. They can be found in the missal under:

Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions

For Holy Church For the Evangelization of Peoples

This mass may be used even on Sundays of Ordinary Time, whenever there are special celebrations for the work of the missions, provided it does not occur on a Sunday of Advent, Lent or Easter, or on any Solemnity.



The collect, prayer over the offerings and prayer after communion options have beautiful imagery about evangelization and mission work. The rubrics indicate that these prayers can replace the regular Sunday prayers on occasions such as World Mission Sunday.

Formulary for the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Cf. Ps 17 (16): 6, 8

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and to serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Prayer Over the Offerings

Grant us, Lord, we pray,
a sincere respect for your gifts,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The Son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.

MK 10:45

Prayer After Communion

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,
we may be helped by what you give in this present age
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.



Entrance Antiphon

O God, be gracious and bless us, and let your face shed its light upon us, and have mercy. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your salvation.

Cf. Ps 67 (66): 2-3

Collect

O God, whose will it is that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, look upon your abundant harvest and be pleased to send workers to gather it, that the Gospel may be preached to all creation and that your people, gathered by the word of life and sustained by the power of the Sacraments, may advance in the path of salvation and love Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

or

O God, who send your Son into the world as the true light, pour out, we pray, the Spirit he promised to sow seeds of truth constantly in people's hearts and to awaken in them obedience to the faith, so that, being born to new life through Baptism, all may become part of your one people. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Prayer Over the Offerings

Look, O Lord, upon the face of your Christ, who handled himself over as a ransom for all, so that through him, from the rising of the sun to its setting, your name may be exalted among the nations and in every place a single offering may be presented to your majesty. Through Christ our Lord

Communion Antiphon

Teach all nations to keep whatever I have commanded you, says the Lord. And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Cf. Mt 28: 20

Prayer After Communion

Nourished by these redeeming gifts, we pray, O Lord, that through this help to eternal salvation true faith may ever increase Through Christ our Lord.

Formularies "For the Evangelization of Peoples"

OPTION B

Entrance Antiphon

Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the peoples, for the Lord is great and highly to be praised.

Ps 96 (95): 3-4

Collect

O God, you have willed that your Church
be the sacrament of salvation for all nations,
so that Christ's saving work
may continue to the end of the ages;
stir up, we pray, the hearts of your faithful
and grant that they may feel a more urgent call
to work for the salvation of every creature,
so that from all the peoples on earth
one family and one people of your own
may arise and increase
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Prayer Over the Offerings

May the offerings and prayers of your Church, O Lord,
rise up in the sight of your majesty and gain acceptance,
just as the glorious Passion of your Son
was pleasing to you
for the salvation of the whole world.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

O Praise the Lord, all your nations; acclaim him, all you peoples! For his merciful love has prevailed over us, and the Lord's faithfulness endures for ever.

Ps 117 (116): 1-2

or

Go into all the world, and proclaim the Gospel, says the Lord. I am with you always.

Ps 117 (116): 1-2

Prayer After Communion

May our participation at your table sanctify us,
O Lord, we pray,
and grant that through the Sacrament of your Church
all nations may receive in rejoicing
the salvation accomplished on the Cross
by your Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

LECTIONARY READINGS

For the Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

First Reading (Exodus 17:8-13)

In those days, Amalek came and waged war against Israel.
Moses, therefore, said to Joshua,
"Pick out certain men,
and tomorrow go out and engage Amalek in battle.
I will be standing on top of the hill
with the staff of God in my hand."
So Joshua did as Moses told him:
he engaged Amalek in battle
after Moses had climbed to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur.
As long as Moses kept his hands raised up,
Israel had the better of the fight,
but when he let his hands rest,
Amalek had the better of the fight.
Moses' hands, however, grew tired;
so they put a rock in place for him to sit on.
Meanwhile Aaron and Hur supported his hands,
one on one side and one on the other,
so that his hands remained steady till sunset.
And Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people
with the edge of the sword.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 121: 1-2.3-4.5-6,7-8)

R.(cf. 2) Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes toward the mountains;
whence shall help come to me?
My help is from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

May he not suffer your foot to slip;
may he slumber not who guards you:
indeed he neither slumbers nor sleeps,
the guardian of Israel.

R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The LORD is your guardian; the LORD is
your shade;
he is beside you at your right hand.
The sun shall not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The LORD will guard you from all evil;
he will guard your life.
The LORD will guard your coming and your
going,
both now and forever.

R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Second Reading (2 Timothy 3:14-4:2)

Beloved:

Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed,
because you know from whom you learned it,
and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures,
which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus.
All Scripture is inspired by God
and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction,
and for training in righteousness,
so that one who belongs to God may be competent,
equipped for every good work.
I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who will judge the living and the dead,
and by his appearing and his kingly power:
proclaim the word;
be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient;
convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

Gospel (Luke 18: 1-8)

Jesus told his disciples a parable
about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.
He said, "There was a judge in a certain town
who neither feared God nor respected any human being.
And a widow in that town used to come to him and say,
'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.'
For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought,
'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being,
because this widow keeps bothering me
I shall deliver a just decision for her
lest she finally come and strike me.'"
The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says.
Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones
who call out to him day and night?
Will he be slow to answer them?
I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes,
will he find faith on earth?"

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS

In the appendix to the order of mass, the celebrant may use "Eucharistic Prayer for Use in Masses for Various Needs III – Jesus, the Way to the Father".

The rubric notes: "The following form of this Eucharistic Prayer is appropriately used with Mass formularies such as, For the Evangelization of Peoples".

MUSICAL SUGGESTIONS

As World Mission Sunday occurs during Ordinary Time, there is some flexibility in song selections in concert with the music minister. What follows is a list of suggestions that you may want to include.

Chant Propers for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

From ccwatershed.org
Ego Clamavi (Introit)
Meditabor in mandatis tuis (Offertory)
Domine Dominus Noster (Communion)
Simple English Propers (Introit, Offertory and Communion)
Complete chants for the mass

Processional

Jesus Christ by Faith Revealed (Dix)
Lord You Give the Great Commission (Abbot's Leigh OR Hymn to Joy)
Lord Whose Love in Humble Service (In Babilone)
O God Beyond All Praising (Thaxted)

Preparation of the Gifts

Many and Great (Manalo)
The Servant Song (Gillard)
The Summons (Kelvingrove)
Whatsoever You Do (Jabusch)

Communion

A Place At Your Table (Walther)
Bread for the World (Farrell)
Gift of Finest Wheat (Westendorf)
Ubi Caritas (Multiple Settings)

Recessional

Take Christ to the World (Inwood)
Go Make of All Disciples (Ellacombe)
Go to the World (Sine Nomine)
Faith of Our Fathers (St. Catherine)

Spanish/Bilingual Songs:

Cancion del Misionero (Alma Misionera)
Id y Enseñad (Gabarain)
Para Amar Como Tu (Fernandez/Manibusan)
Pan Del Cielo (Diaz)
Qué Detalle, Señor (Cubiella/Viejo)
Todos los Pueblos de la Tierra (Castillo)