



World Mission Sunday 2026

Homily Helps



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Monsignor Landry's Introduction

Letter for Homily Helps 2026

Dear Brother Priests and Deacons,

As we enter the month of October—World Mission Month, a time when the Church invites us to renew our commitment to proclaiming the Gospel to the ends of the earth—I write to you on behalf of the many missionaries serving in 1,130 mission territories throughout the world.

This year's World Mission Sunday, to be celebrated on October 18, holds particular significance, as we mark the 100th anniversary of this global day of prayer and solidarity, established by Pope Pius XI in 1926.

In his message for this centenary year, Pope Leo XIV invites the entire Church to reflect on the theme: "One in Christ, united in mission." He reminds us that the Church's evangelizing mission begins in communion with Christ and is sustained by unity among his disciples. Indeed, "the evangelizing mission that Christ entrusted to his disciples requires, above all, hearts that are reconciled and eager for communion." This call speaks directly to our priestly life and work.

Through our preaching, pastoral care, and leadership, we help our parishioners recognize that mission is not the responsibility of a few, but the vocation of all the baptized. In a world often marked by division and uncertainty, our witness of unity in Christ becomes itself a proclamation of the Gospel.

As we reflect on this centenary, we are reminded that the Church in the United States was once mission territory. The faith we now live was nurtured through the prayers and sacrifices of Catholics around the world, inspired by the vision of Blessed Pauline Jaricot, who invited ordinary believers to pray daily and give regularly for the missions. Today, we are blessed to carry that mission forward.

The offerings entrusted to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith continue to sustain the life of the Church in places where she is just getting started, young, poor, and often facing persecution.

These generous gifts make possible the building of Churches and parishes, the formation of seminarians and religious, the training and sustenance of catechists, and the bringing of Christ's saving love to more and more for whom he died.

Monsignor Landry's Introduction Letter for Homily Helps 2026

The beatification of Fulton Sheen on September 24 makes this centennial year even more special. As National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies from 1950-1966, he did more to raise missionary awareness among American Catholics, and more support for the Church in missionary areas, than any figure in Church history. "My greatest love," he used to emphasize, "has always been for the missions of the Church." This October 18 is an opportunity for us to imitate that love in our parishes.

To assist you in promoting the missions in your parish throughout this Mission Month, we have made available a variety of resources, accessible through the QR code below or at www.pontificalmissions.org/wms. These include Prayers of the Faithful, bulletin and pulpit announcements, and additional materials to help build missionary awareness among the faithful of all ages.

Dear Brother Priests and Deacons, the call to be one in Christ and united in mission belongs to every disciple, but in a particular way, it is entrusted to us, as shepherds and servants, to help our people recognize their place within the universal Church and their responsibility to share in the mission the Lord Jesus has entrusted to her.

I pray that this Mission Month may be a time of renewal for you and for your parish, and that, through your ministry, many may come to see themselves as participants in the Church's mission of love.

Thank you for your faithful service.

With gratitude and prayers for a fruitful Mission Month,



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 throughout the world celebrate World Mission Sunday—a day of prayer, solidarity, and support for the Church's mission in more than 1,300 mission territories.

In 2026, this celebration takes on special significance as the Church marks the **100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday**, established by Pope Pius XI in 1926 as a universal expression of the Church's missionary identity.

World Mission Sunday is unique. It is the one day each year when the entire Catholic Church—every parish, in every country—comes together to pray for and support the missions. On this day, the faithful participate directly in the Church's evangelizing work, responding to Christ's command to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

The collection taken up on World Mission Sunday is entrusted to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies. These offerings are distributed, in the name of the Holy Father, to sustain the Church in places where it barely exists yet, where it is young, growing, and often facing poverty, isolation, or persecution.

More than a collection, World Mission Sunday is a visible sign of the unity of the Church. It is the best way by which we can share in the universal mission of the Church to spread the faith through prayer and sacrifice. We may not be able to GO to the missions, but we can SEND to the missions both our prayers as well as the material means they need so much.



What is the Society for the Propagation of the Faith?

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith was founded in 1822 by Blessed Pauline Jaricot, a young laywoman in Lyon, France, who sought to support missionaries through a simple but powerful idea: invite ordinary people to pray daily for the missions and to give small, regular offerings.

Her vision spread rapidly, forming a global network of prayer and charity that continues to sustain the Church's missionary work to this day.

In 1922, Pope Pius XI recognized the importance of this work by establishing the Pontifical Mission Societies, placing the Society for the Propagation of the Faith under the direct care of the Pope and entrusting it with a central role in supporting the missions.

The Society remains at the heart of World Mission Sunday, ensuring that the offerings of the faithful are distributed equitably to mission dioceses throughout the world.

It is worth remembering that the Church in the United States was once a beneficiary of this generosity. Throughout the 19th century and into the early 20th century, American dioceses received substantial support through the Society—support that helped build parishes, schools, hospitals, and seminaries.

Today, that same spirit of missionary solidarity continues, as Catholics in the United States now support the Church in mission territories across the globe.



Why Does World Mission Sunday Matter?

World Mission Sunday is a profound expression of the Church's unity and her missionary calling. In many parts of the world, the Church is vibrant and growing, yet lacks the resources needed to sustain that growth. Communities may have limited access to the sacraments, rely heavily on catechists for formation, or face the challenges of poverty, conflict, or persecution.

Through the prayers and offerings of the faithful, World Mission Sunday helps ensure that these communities are not forgotten. It supports the formation of future priests and religious, the education of children in the faith, the care of the sick, and the life of parishes where the Gospel is still being proclaimed for the first time.

At its heart, World Mission Sunday is not simply about meeting material needs. It is about sharing the gift of faith. It is a participation in the Church's mission to make God's love known in Jesus Christ.

In this centenary year, we are reminded that mission is not the task of a few, but the responsibility of all the baptized. Each prayer offered, each sacrifice made, and each gift given becomes an act of missionary communion—helping to bring the light of Christ to every corner of the world.

Bulletin Announcements

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Week 1: World Mission Month Begins

One in Christ, United in Mission

Each October, which is World Mission Month, the Church invites us to reflect upon our missionary vocation. This year's theme, *One in Christ, United in Mission*, chosen by Pope Leo XIV, invites us to rediscover the profound unity we share in Christ through baptism and how our baptismal missionary identity overflows into the mission of the Church to bring all creatures into communion with God and us.

The highlight of World Mission Month is the annual celebration of World Mission Sunday, which this year will take place on Oct. 18. Pope Leo XIV has stressed how important World Mission Sunday is for the Church. He spent a large part of his priestly ministry as a missionary in Peru and has noted how dependent he was on the prayers and financial support of the universal Church through World Mission Sunday.

Let us pray this week for those missionaries who bring Christ's love to far-off places, often at great personal cost and risk. And let us ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle a zeal in our own hearts, that we may also be missionaries, wherever we are.

Sunday, October 11, 2026

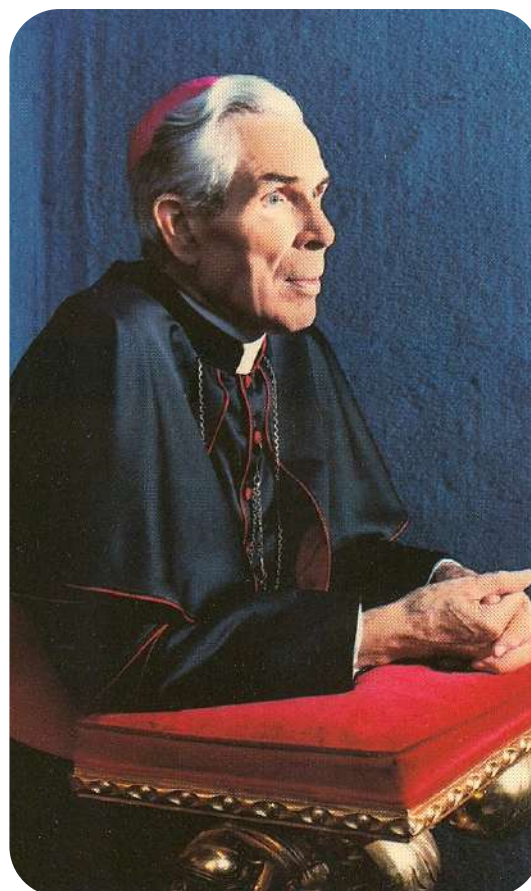
Week 2: Praying with the Mission Church

World Mission Sunday and Blessed Fulton Sheen

The beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen on September 24 was a great gift to the Church in the United States. While many know him best for his TV presence, books, and charismatic eloquence, he repeatedly said, "My greatest love has always been for the missions of the Church."

He is the greatest National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the history of the Church, helping raise \$200 million (in today's money, \$2.1 billion) to support the growth of the Church.

Under his leadership (1950–1966), World Mission Sunday became a defining moment in the life of the Church in the United States. We can surely count on his intercession for World Mission Sunday 2026, which will take place next week on October 18, as we together reflect upon, pray for and take a collection to support the missions. Blessed Fulton Sheen, pray for us!



Sunday, October 18, 2026

Week 3: World Mission Sunday

We Celebrate 100 Years of World Mission Sunday!

This World Mission Sunday marks the 100th anniversary of its establishment by Pope Pius XI in 1926. This centenary is an opportunity to celebrate with renewed missionary zeal.

Last year, Pope Leo XIV made an appeal to us in a personal video for World Mission Sunday. His request echoed around the world: “Please help me help missionaries everywhere.”

That’s what World Mission Sunday does: it helps Pope Leo care for the 1,130 missionary dioceses and territories under his supervision through the Dicastery for Evangelization.

We are all called to be a part of this missionary work and we have a singular means to do so: World Mission Sunday.

The second collection we take up today helps extend the Church’s evangelization work to missionary lands where the Gospel is being proclaimed for the first time, as well as to places where the Church barely exists, or is too young, too persecuted, or too poor to sustain herself. Thank you for responding to Pope Leo’s call to help him help missionaries everywhere!

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Week 4: Continuing the Mission

The Mission is Far from Over!

In his last words before ascending to heaven, Jesus told us, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19), and for 2,000 years the Church has been at work in this task.

Last week, we celebrated World Mission Sunday. We must never forget that 5.5 of the 8.1 billion people alive are not Christian, even now two millennia after Pentecost. The World Mission Sunday collection helps the Church to reach out to these brothers and sisters of ours who have yet to hear the message of Christ.

Prior to 1908, the United States was considered missionary territory. The Church in America grew thanks to the support of World Mission Sunday, which built many of the first churches on American soil. Now, many years later, it’s our turn to pay that generosity forward, as we care for the needs of our brothers and sisters across the globe.

We are grateful for your support this October—and we invite you to continue the journey. To find out more about how to do so, please visit www.pontificalmissions.org.



Mass Announcements

October 4, 2026

Mass Announcement — Beginning of World Mission Month



Good morning/afternoon/evening, everyone.

As we begin the month of October, the Church invites us to rediscover our missionary vocation. The month of October is World Mission Month, a sacred time dedicated to praying for and supporting the Church's mission around the world.

Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, the first pope from the missions since St. Peter, recognizes how important World Mission Sunday is for the Church, having spent many years as a foreign missionary to Peru.

In this Mass, let us remember to pray for all those who, like Pope Leo, have left their homes and countries to bring the light of the Gospel to all peoples!

October 11, 2026

Mass Announcement — Prayer and Preparation



Good morning/afternoon/evening.

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday, a day when we, together with all the Catholics around the globe, unite in prayer and generosity for the Church's missionary work.

This year's theme, One in Christ, United in Mission, chosen by Pope Leo XIV, invites us to rediscover the profound unity we share in Christ through baptism and how our baptismal missionary identity overflows into the mission of the Church to bring all creatures into communion with God and us.

The beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen on September 24 was a great gift to the Church in the United States. While many knew him for his TV presence, books, and charismatic eloquence, he repeatedly said, "My greatest love has always been for the missions of the Church."

This week, we invite you to pray the World Mission Rosary, promoted by Blessed Fulton Sheen. Each decade represents a region of the world, reminding us that we are one family in mission.

We can surely count on his intercession for World Mission Sunday 2026. Blessed Fulton Sheen, pray for us!

October 18, 2026

Mass Announcement — World Mission Sunday



Good morning/afternoon/evening.

Today is World Mission Sunday. Last year, Pope Leo XVI made an appeal to us in a personal video. His request last year echoed around the world: "Please help me help missionaries everywhere."

That's what World Mission Sunday does: it helps Pope Leo care for the 1,130 missionary dioceses and territories around the world.

World Mission Sunday is the best way we can help the Holy Father and share in the universal mission of the Church to spread the faith through prayer and sacrifice. We may not be able to GO to the missions, but we can SEND to the missions both our prayers as well as the material means they need so much.

Today's second collection will help the Holy Father to extend the Church's missionary work to places where the Gospel has never been heard before and where the Church is too young, too persecuted, or too poor to sustain herself.

Thank you for your generosity and for being part of this global mission.

October 25, 2026

Mass Announcement — Thanksgiving and Invitation



Good morning/afternoon/evening.

On behalf of **The Pontifical Mission Societies in our Diocese and across the United States**, thank you for your support of World Mission Sunday last week. Your prayers and contributions will make a real difference in mission territories across the globe. Together, we are bring the Gospel to places where it can finally be heard, sometimes even for the first time!

Prior to 1908, we in the United States were ourselves considered a missionary territory. Thankfully, the Church in America grew with the support of World Mission Sunday, which built many of our first churches. Now it's our turn to pay that generosity forward, as we care for the spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters across the globe.

Thank you again for your generosity!

Prayers of the Faithful

October 4, 2026

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 01** For the Church throughout the world, that she may courageously proclaim the Gospel and inspire all believers to participate in a new missionary age for the Church, let us pray to the Lord.
 - 02** For missionaries serving in dangerous and remote areas, that the Holy Spirit may protect them and guide their missionary endeavors to bring the Gospel to all peoples and nations, let us pray to the Lord.
 - 03** For our parish community, that as we begin World Mission Month, we may have the courage to share the message of Christ, being missionaries to those we encounter in our day-to-day lives. Let us pray to the Lord.
-

October 11, 2026

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 01** For Pope Leo XIV and all who guide the Church's missionary efforts, that they may be instruments of Christ's saving truth and love to the nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 02** For those who have never heard the name of Jesus, that they may encounter the saving truth and love of the Gospel through the Church's missionary work, let us pray to the Lord.
- 03** For our parish community, that we may recognize the abundance that we possess and may remember our brothers and sisters in distant lands who have yet to hear the message of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. For a spirit of missionary cooperation in our parish, that we may recognize our responsibility to support the Church throughout the world through prayer and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.



October 18, 2026

World Mission Sunday / 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 01** For all missionaries who give their lives in service to the Gospel, that they may be filled with joy, perseverance, and fruitfulness in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- 02** For mission territories, especially in those places where the Church barely exists, and where she is young, poor, or persecuted, that today's offerings and prayers may bring Christ, his Gospel and the love of his Church to them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 03** For ourselves, that our hearts may be open to the missionary call of our baptism and may radiate Christ's love in our homes, communities, and world, let us pray to the Lord.



October 25, 2026

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 01** For the Church, that the spirit of World Mission Month may renew in us the fire of our missionary vocation and help us to advance together in our commitment to evangelization, let us pray to the Lord.
- 02** For all who support the missions with prayer and giving, that God may bless their generosity and reward 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.



World Mission Rosary Guide

Activity for Parishes, Prayer Groups, and Households – October 2026

Theme: **One in Christ, United in Mission**

Biblical Inspiration: *“that they may all be one... so that the world may believe that you sent me” (John 17:21)*

Introduction

Each October, the Church throughout the world unites in prayer and solidarity for the missions. This year, as we celebrate the **100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday**, we are invited to renew our commitment to the Church’s mission with hearts united in Christ.

In his message for this centenary year, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that the Church’s mission flows from our communion with the Lord and with one another. When we pray for the missions, we enter into that communion in a profound way, becoming spiritually united with those who proclaim the Gospel in every corner of the world.

The World Mission Rosary is a beautiful expression of this unity. Through it, we embrace the whole world in prayer, lifting up the needs of every continent and every people, and asking that all may come to know the saving love of Jesus Christ.

What is the World Mission Rosary?

The World Mission Rosary was introduced in 1951 by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, then National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States.

He envisioned a rosary that would reflect the universality of the Church, with each decade representing a different region of the world where the Gospel is proclaimed and lived.

By praying the World Mission Rosary, we are reminded that we are **one Church, united in Christ**, and that the mission entrusted to us belongs to all the baptized.

The Colors and Their Meanings:

- **Green – Africa** – For the continent’s rich lands and the life of its growing Church.
- **Blue – Oceania** – For the waters that connect its many island communities.
- **White – Europe** – For the Holy Father and the Church’s historic roots.
- **Red – The Americas** – For the fire of faith and the witness of martyrs.
- **Yellow – Asia** – For the light of Christ rising where many have yet to hear the Gospel.





How to Pray the World Mission Rosary

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross
2. Apostles' Creed
3. Our Father
4. Three Hail Marys (for faith, hope, and charity)
5. Glory Be

Then pray five decades of the Rosary, meditating on the Mysteries of the day.

For each decade, offer your prayer for a different region of the world:

The Five Decades

1st Decade – Africa (Green Beads)

2nd Decade – Oceania (Blue Beads)

3rd Decade – Europe (White Beads)

2nd Decade – The Americas (Red Beads)

5th Decade – Asia (Yellow Beads)



Conclude With:

- **Hail, Holy Queen**
- **Prayer for the Intentions of the Holy Father**
- **Mission Prayer (Optional)**

Heavenly Father,
 you have called us to be one in Christ and united in his mission.
 Strengthen us through your Spirit,
 that we may bear witness to your love
 and help bring the light of the Gospel to all peoples.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

“ ***We must pray, and not for ourselves, but **for the world.*****

— ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN ”

Suggested Use:

- Pray the World Mission Rosary daily or weekly during October
- Include it in parish prayer groups or before Mass
- Encourage families and children to participate
- Offer each decade intentionally for the needs of the world

In doing so, we echo the vision of Blessed Pauline Jaricot, who invited the faithful to unite in prayer and sacrifice for the missions. Today, that same spirit continues, as we join together as one Church—**united in Christ and in his mission of love.**

More mission resources: www.pontificalmissions.org/wms



Homilies

October 4, 2026

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Two weeks before World Mission Sunday.

We live in a culture that constantly seems to measure people. Who is successful? Who is attractive? Who is useful? Who matters? And very often, the people who do not seem strong, productive, or desirable are pushed to the margins. Into that kind of world, Jesus speaks these startling words: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

History shows us how dangerous it can become when a society begins deciding that some lives matter less than others. The twentieth century gave a horrifying example of that. In Nazi Germany, the disabled, the mentally ill, and others considered "unproductive" were labeled burdens on society. Many were sterilized; others were killed. What began with the vulnerable eventually expanded into a machinery of death that consumed six million Jews and another six million other innocent souls.

One of the few leaders who publicly challenged those policies was Bishop Clemens von Galen of Munster. In a series of sermons in 1941, he condemned the Nazi euthanasia program and warned that once the state claimed the right to decide which lives were valuable and which were not, no one would ultimately be safe. He spoke especially about the disabled, the elderly, and the helpless, insisting that every human life possesses God-given dignity.

Von Galen's words spread throughout Germany and even beyond, deeply embarrassing the Nazi regime. Some officials urged Hitler to have him arrested or executed, but they feared turning him into a martyr while the war continued. Although this brave bishop could not stop the evil that was unfolding, he remains one of the clearest Christian witnesses against the culture of death that had overtaken Nazi Germany.

Again and again, the Scriptures reveal a God who draws especially close to the vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the outcast. Not because their lives matter more than others, but because society so often treats them as though their lives matter less.

Throughout the Gospels, we find Jesus befriending and identifying himself with the rejected, the forgotten, and the burdensome. And then Jesus himself becomes the rejected one. The crucified one is cast aside by the world, deemed expendable, put out of sight. Yet precisely there, God reveals his glory. "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

That teaching continues to challenge us today. It should shape how we see the unborn, the elderly, the disabled, the migrant, the prisoner, and even the difficult person who tests our patience. A Christian does not ask first: "What does this person contribute?" A Christian asks: "How is Christ present in this man, this woman, this child?"

This teaching also says something about ourselves. Our value does not come from success, beauty, or status. Our dignity comes from this alone: we are made in the image of God. Which means that even in moments when we feel overlooked, forgotten, or inadequate, God has not abandoned us. Very often, it is precisely there, in weakness and vulnerability, that Christ draws closest.

Perhaps that is why the Church celebrates World Mission Sunday each year on the second-to-last Sunday in October. The Church's mission is not simply humanitarian work or the spread of ideas. The mission of the Church is to bring people to a living encounter with Jesus Christ. It is to proclaim that every human life has dignity because every human person is made in God's image and likeness, and it is this same God's will that all come to know Christ, his son, and find redemption and new life in his Body and Blood.

In many parts of the world, people live with poverty, violence, persecution, loneliness, or despair. But there is also another kind of poverty: never having heard that they are loved by God, never having encountered the hope of the Gospel, never having experienced the grace of the sacraments as celebrated by the Church.

Through our prayers, sacrifices, and financial support on World Mission Sunday, we help missionaries bring that message to the world. We help build churches, support schools and hospitals, form seminarians and catechists, and most importantly, help others come to know Jesus Christ. The rejected stone has become the cornerstone, and the Church's mission is to help the whole world discover in him the foundation of hope and new life.

October 11, 2026

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time. One week before World Mission Sunday.

Weddings are supposed to be joyful occasions. People gather with family and friends. There is music, celebration, food, laughter, and hope for the future for the bride and groom. And yet Jesus tells a wedding parable that turns dark almost immediately. The guests refuse to come. Others become violent and kill the servants sent to invite them. By the end of the story, a city is in flames and another guest is cast out into the darkness. It is one of the strangest and most unsettling parables Jesus ever tells.

Perhaps that is because the parable is not really just about a wedding feast. It is about God's invitation to humanity. The king represents God the Father, and the banquet is the joy of communion with his Son. Again and again, God calls people not simply to perform religious duties, but to enter into a relationship of life and love with his Son. Yet so often the invitation is ignored, resisted, or pushed aside. Matthew's parable presents us with a world that feels painfully familiar — a world that keeps turning away from the very One who alone can give it life.

The prophet Isaiah describes this condition as "the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations." Human beings long for joy, peace, meaning, and love, yet we become trapped in selfishness, division, fear, and sin. We search for fulfillment in so many places, but our hearts remain restless. Beneath much of the sadness and confusion of the world is the tragedy that people do not yet know Christ, or no longer recognize him as the source of life.

But the striking thing in the parable is that the king does not give up. Again and again, he sends servants out into the streets, continuing to invite people to the feast. That persistence tells us something important about God. God never stops seeking us. He never stops desiring that people come to know his Son and share in his life. And the Father loves so much that he even sends his own Son, who ultimately gives his life so that we might have salvation and eternal life with the Father through him.

Every Mass is a foretaste of that banquet that we hope to come to in heaven. Each Sunday, in the midst of a wounded and divided world, Christ gathers us around his table and feeds us with himself. Beneath the ordinary signs of bread and wine, the risen Lord gives us his own life, which gives us the grace and the strength to live as he calls us to live.

And yet Matthew's parable includes that unsettling image of the guest without a wedding garment. In Scripture, clothing often symbolizes the condition of the heart. St. Paul speaks of clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and above all, love. If the banquet represents life in Christ, then love is the garment we are meant to wear. It is not enough simply to accept the invitation outwardly. Christ desires gradually to transform us inwardly.

That is not easy. It is often much easier to remain resentful, indifferent, or even cynical. Yet the closer we draw to Christ, the more he teaches us how to love. The good news is that God himself provides what he asks of us. As St. Paul says today, "My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." We come to the banquet unworthy and unprepared, but Christ slowly clothes us with his grace.

And that gift is never meant to remain only with us. Next Sunday, the Church celebrates World Mission Sunday. At the heart of the Church's mission is the same invitation we hear in today's Gospel: Come to the feast. Come and know Christ. Come and discover the life only he can give.

There are still many people in the world who have never truly encountered Jesus Christ or heard the Gospel proclaimed in a meaningful way. Through our prayers, sacrifices, and generosity, we help the Church continue sending servants into the streets — helping missionaries preach the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments, care for the poor, and invite others into the joy of Christ's Kingdom. The invitation continues to go out, and every one of us is called not only to accept it, but also to help others hear it.

October 18, 2026

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. World Mission Sunday.

There are some words that we hear and quickly forget: a slogan, a campaign promise, an advertisement. Even kind words can sometimes evaporate almost as soon as they are spoken. And then there are words that somehow change the course of a life, especially if we are open to a change, a conversion even.

A doctor says, "The tests came back clear." A spouse says, "I love you." A priest says, "I baptize you..." Words like these can communicate something powerful. And in the case of the sacraments, the words of the priest do not merely describe something. They actually bring about a new reality. In baptism, those simple words wash away sin and death and make someone a child of God and a member of the Body of Christ.

That is the kind of language St. Paul uses in today's second reading when he speaks about the Gospel. Writing to the first Christians in Thessalonica, he says: "Our Gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit." Not in word alone. But in power.

Paul knew the difference firsthand. When he first arrived in Thessalonica, he did not come with wealth, political influence, or military force. He came simply preaching Jesus Christ crucified and risen. Yet somehow that message took hold. Lives changed. A formerly fully pagan city became home to a vibrant Christian community. And from there the Gospel spread outward to the rest of Europe.

That is the story of Christianity from the beginning: the Gospel taking root in human hearts and becoming something lived, something visible, something powerful. And that is still how the Church grows today.

In every generation, the Gospel moves forward because someone carries it. Someone teaches it, lives it, suffers for it, shares it, hands it on. Sometimes that happens in dramatic ways. A missionary priest travels to a remote village. A religious sister builds a school or cares for the sick. A catechist quietly teaches the faith under difficult circumstances.

But often the Gospel spreads in much quieter ways. A parent teaches a child to pray. A family remains faithful during hardship. Someone forgives instead of retaliating. A young person says yes to a vocation. A Christian quietly lives with integrity in a world that often rewards the opposite. Again and again, the Gospel becomes more than words. It becomes power. And it changes and transforms lives.

That is part of what we celebrate on World Mission Sunday. Today the Church reminds us that the mission of Christ extends far beyond our own parish or neighborhood. At this very moment, throughout the world, the Gospel is being preached in poor villages, crowded cities, refugee camps, mission territories, hospitals, schools, and prisons. In some places, the Church is flourishing. In others, she survives under persecution, poverty, or violence. Yet the same Gospel continues to move from heart to heart, culture to culture, generation to generation. And the remarkable thing is this: God chooses to work through ordinary people.

The first reading gives us a surprising example of this. The prophet Isaiah speaks about Cyrus, the king of Persia. Cyrus was not an Israelite. Yet God still used him for his purposes. Through him, the Jewish people were allowed to return from exile and rebuild their lives. It is a reminder that God's providence is always larger than we imagine. God is at work in places we do not expect, and through people we might never anticipate.

The Gospel reading brings everything into sharpest focus. Jesus says, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." And if these ancient coins once bore Caesar's image, then every baptized Christian bears the image of Christ. We belong to him, which means faith cannot remain something private or passive. The Gospel is meant to move through us into the world. The question is not only whether we believe the Gospel, but whether others can see its power at work in us—through our choices, our sacrifices, our compassion, and our witness.

Today, on World Mission Sunday, the Church asks us not only to admire the missionary work of others but to participate in it ourselves. Through our prayers, through sacrifices offered in union with the missions, and through our financial support of the Church's missionary work, we help carry the Gospel into places we may never personally see. In God's providence, even the smallest act of generosity can help bring Christ's light to another corner of the world. And so may the Gospel we hear today become not merely a matter of words, but of power — alive in us, and through us, for the salvation of the world.

October 25, 2026

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Week following World Mission Sunday.

Have you ever met someone whose enthusiasm was simply contagious? Perhaps it was a teacher who loved the subject she taught, a coach who inspired a team, or a friend who was so passionate about a hobby that before long everyone around him became interested too. Enthusiasm has a way of spreading. We are naturally drawn to people who believe deeply in something and whose lives reflect that conviction.

That is precisely what St. Paul sees in the Christians of Thessalonica. They were not famous because they were numerous or influential. Thessalonica was a bustling port city, and the Christians there were a relatively small minority. Yet Paul tells them that their faith had become

known throughout the surrounding region. People were talking about them everywhere he went. Why? Because their faith was contagious.

Paul tells us the Christians here had “turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God”; Their encounter with Christ had changed them and embraced the Gospel with conviction. They remained faithful even in the midst of difficulties and opposition. Their faith was not something they practiced for an hour each week. It shaped the whole of their lives. As a result, they became what Paul calls “models”; for other believers. Their lives were a kind of living sermon. People could look at them and see what Christianity looked like in practice. I wonder if the same could be said of us.

Some Catholics today can be hesitant to speak openly about their faith. We live in a culture where religious belief is often regarded as a private matter. In some circles, Christian faith is viewed with indifference; in others, it is met with suspicion or even hostility. It can seem easier to keep our beliefs to ourselves, to blend in rather than stand out. Yet the Christians of Thessalonica did not hide their faith. While they did not seek attention for themselves, their faith was so genuine and so visible in the way they lived that others could not help but notice it. They were enthusiastic believers.

The word “enthusiasm”; comes from a Greek word that literally means “God within”; In the ancient world, when someone displayed extraordinary zeal or joy, people assumed that a god had taken possession of them. For Christians, that image took on a deeper meaning. Through their baptism and confirmation, the Thessalonians had become dwelling places of the Holy Spirit. They knew that they belonged to Christ who had delivered them from a life centered on false gods and empty promises. They had discovered the joy of serving the living and true God. And that joy overflowed into their daily lives. And the faith spread. That is how the Church has always grown.

The Church did not spread throughout the Roman Empire because Christians possessed wealth, or political power. It spread because ordinary believers lived differently and their love attracted others to Christ. People saw something in them that they wanted for themselves. The same remains true today.

The most effective evangelization begins with Christians whose lives reflect the presence of Jesus. A generous family. A parishioner who quietly serves others. A young person who lives the faith with joy. A believer who remains hopeful in difficult circumstances. These are the witnesses through whom the Gospel continues to spread. And that brings us to this month of October, which the Church dedicates in a special way to the missions.

When we hear the word “missionary”; we often think of a priest, sister, or lay volunteer serving in a distant country. Certainly, they deserve our prayers and support. But missionary work belongs to the whole Church. Every baptized person is called to share in Christ’s mission, each in our own way. Earlier this year, Pope Leo reminded the Church that the Pontifical Mission Societies are one of the principal ways that all Catholics can participate in that mission. Most of us will never travel across the world as missionaries. Yet through our prayers, our sacrifices, and our generosity, we can help bring the Gospel to places where the Church is still young and growing. Just last month, the Church celebrated in St. Louis, Missouri the beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, one of the great missionary figures in American Catholic history. Although he is remembered for his radio and television ministry, Bishop Sheen spent decades promoting and supporting the Church’s missionary work throughout the world. He often reminded Catholics that we are not only responsible for our own parish or our diocese, but for the spread of the Gospel to every people and every land.

The Christians of Thessalonica allowed their faith to ring out across an entire region. Blessed Fulton Sheen challenged American Catholics to do the same. May our faith ring out through the witness of our lives, and may our prayers and support of the Church’s missionary work help others come to know and serve the living and true God.

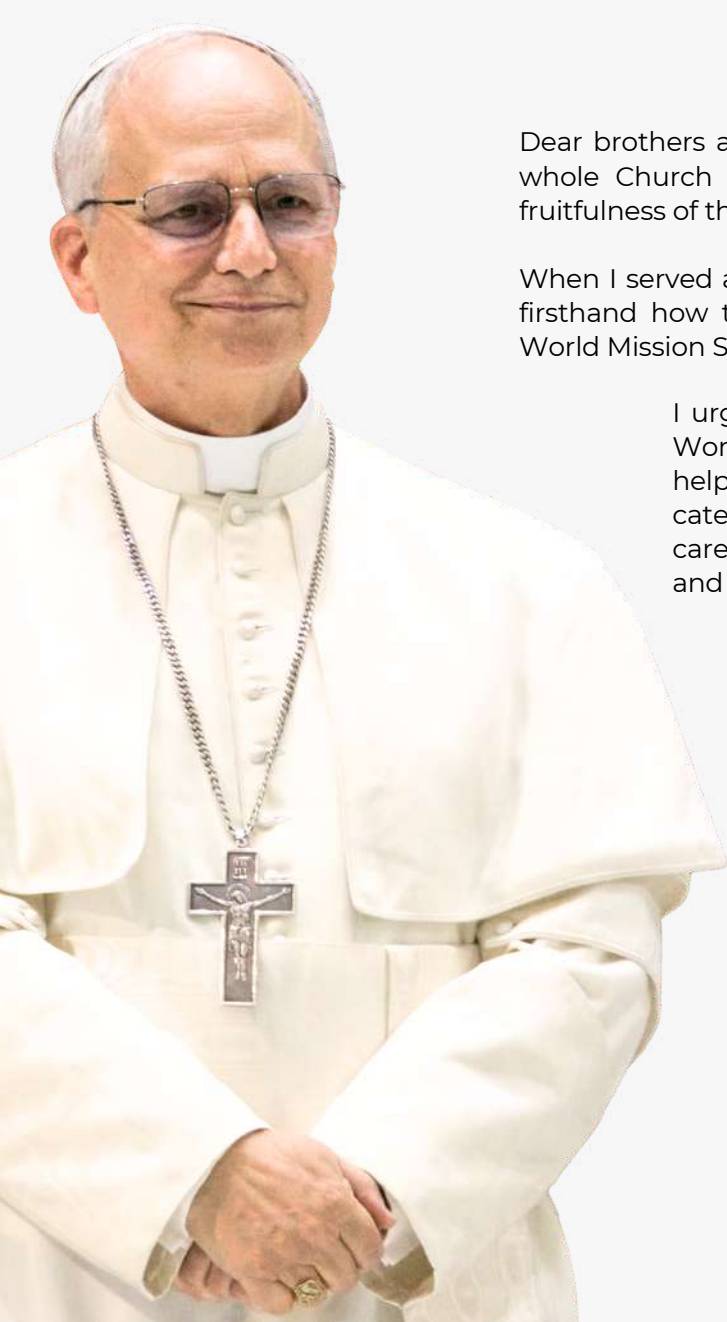
October 18th, 2026. 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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.



“”

Dear brothers and sisters, on World Mission Sunday every year, the whole Church prays united, particularly for missionaries and the fruitfulness of their apostolic labors.

When I served as a missionary priest and then bishop in Peru, I saw firsthand how the faith, the prayer, and the generosity shown on World Mission Sunday can transform entire communities.

I urge every Catholic parish in the world to take part in World Mission Sunday. Your prayers, your support will help spread the gospel, provide for pastoral and catechetical programs, help to build new churches, and care for the health and educational needs of our brothers and sisters in mission territories.

This October [18th], as we reflect together on our baptismal call to be missionaries of hope among the peoples, let us commit ourselves anew to the sweet and joyful task of bringing Christ Jesus, our hope, to the ends of the earth. Thank you for everything you will do to help me help missionaries throughout the world. God bless you all.

**WATCH THE HOLY
FATHER'S VIDEO**



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. One such option is *For the Evangelization of Peoples*, found in the section *Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions*:

FOR HOLY CHURCH

18. *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.



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 A

First Reading ([Isaiah 45:1, 4-6](#))

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus,
whose right hand I grasp,
subduing nations before him,
and making kings run in his service,
opening doors before him
and leaving the gates unbarred:
For the sake of Jacob, my servant,
of Israel, my chosen one,
I have called you by your name,
giving you a title, though you knew me not.
I am the LORD and there is no other,
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you, though you know me not,
so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun
people may know that there is none besides me.
I am the LORD, there is no other.

Responsorial Psalm ([Psalm 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10](#))

R. (7b) Give the Lord glory and honor.

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

For great is the LORD and highly to be praised;
awesome is he, beyond all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are things of
nought, but the LORD made the heavens.

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

Give to the LORD, you families of nations,
give to the LORD glory and praise;
give to the LORD the glory due his name!
Bring gifts, and enter his courts.

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

Worship the LORD, in holy attire;
tremble before him, all the earth;
say among the nations: The LORD is king,
he governs the peoples with equity.

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

Second Reading ([1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b](#))

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians
in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you,
remembering you in our prayers,
unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love
and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ,
before our God and Father,
knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God,
how you were chosen.
For our gospel did not come to you in word alone,
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction.

Alleluia ([Philippians 2:15d, 16a](#))

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Shine like lights in the world
as you hold on to the word of life.

R. Alleluia, alleluia. ch conviction.

Gospel ([Matthew 22:15-21](#))

The Pharisees went off
and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech.
They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying,
"Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man
and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.
And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion,
for you do not regard a person's status.
Tell us, then, what is your opinion:
Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"
Knowing their malice, Jesus said,
"Why are you testing me, you hypocrites?
Show me the coin that pays the census tax."
Then they handed him the Roman coin.
He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?"
They replied, "Caesar's."
At that he said to them,
"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God."

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. Below is a list of suggestions that you may want to include.

Chant Propers for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Click any title below to download)

Gregorian Propers (from CC Watershed)

[Ego clamavi \(Introit\)](#)

[Meditabor in mandatis tuis \(Offertory\)](#)

[Domine Dominus noster \(Communion\)](#)

Simple English Propers (from CC Watershed)

[Complete score \(Introit, Offertory, and Communion\)](#)

[Complete Chant Settings for the Mass](#)

Suggested Hymns

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)