

MISSIONARY MONTH—OCTOBER 2023

World Mission Sunday: October 22

Theme: "HEARTS ON FIRE, FEET ON THE MOVE" (CF. LK. 24:13-35)

This year, in a series of catechesis, Pope Francis calls us to develop **the passion for evangelization**, which is a **vital dimension for the Church!** The theme that has been chosen for the 97th World Mission Day (WMD), which will be celebrated on October 22, within the context of the Missionary Month is "**Hearts on fire, feet on the move**" (cf. Lk 24:13-35), inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus.

World Mission Sunday joins all Catholics of the world in one family of faith. That Sunday, we commit 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.

Pope Francis in his Mission Sunday message, titled "Hearts on fire, feet on the move (**Lk 24:13-35**)", tells missionaries who are experiencing tough times at present that, "the Risen Lord is always with you" (January 25, 2023), that the Lord is greater than all our problems, above all if we encounter them in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel to the world. The Lord sees your generosity and the sacrifices you are making for the mission of evangelization.

In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation, we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

This World Mission Sunday, I ask you to ponder how God is calling you to share the Good News to fulfill the Great Commission. It could be as simple as an act of kindness to a newly arrived refugee. Perhaps God is calling you to pray for the unreached people and groups to hear and believe in the Gospel.



Fr. Alex Osei, C.S.Sp.
National director of the PMS
English Canada

2022 SUBSIDIES

Donations of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Canada

English-speaking Canada's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 2022	
Antigonish	7 927
Calgary	140 888
Charlottetown	13 869
Churchill-Hudson Bay	—
Corner Brook and Labrador	4 331
Edmonton	64 120
Grand Falls	4 422
Grouard-McLennan	-
Halifax	5 000
Hamilton	57 500
Kamloops	-
Keewatin-Le Pas	909
Kingston	33 721
London	71 000
Mackenzie-Forth Smith	2 065
R.C. Military Ordinary of Canada	1 617
Nelson	26 740
Ottawa-Cornwall	85 379
Pembroke	12 421
Peterborough	19 266
Prince Albert	3 718
Prince George	4 245
Regina	33 350
St. Catharines	27 827
St. John's, NL	8 003
Saint John, NB	9 937
Saskatoon	21 198
Sault Ste-Marie	28 774
Thunder Bay	9 000
Toronto	451 809
Vancouver	227 369
Victoria	8 839
Whitehorse	1 740
Winnipeg	1 776
TOTAL	\$1 388 763

French-speaking Canada's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 2022	
Amos	3,336
Baie-Comeau	2,953
Bathurst	6,923
Chicoutimi	5 412
Edmundston	5,604
Gaspé	4,667
Gatineau-Hull	420
Grouard-McLennan	-
Hearst-Moosonee	2,603
Joliette	6,433
Moncton	9,450
Montréal	85,256
Nicolet	8,262
Ottawa-Cornwall	12,660
Québec	57,725
Rimouski	2,826
Rouyn-Noranda	5,133
Sault-Sainte-Marie	7 400
Sherbrooke	28 376
Saint-Boniface	17,049
Saint-Hyacinthe	34,085
Saint-Jean-Longueuil	5,800
Saint-Jérôme-Mont-Laurier	5,098
Saint-Paul	7,883
Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière	4,208
Timmins	5,849
Trois-Rivières	3,835
Valleyfield	9,359
Other dioceses	240
TOTAL	\$348 845

Other contributions of the PMS in Cana (CAD)	
Society of St. Peter the Apostle and Œuvre pontificale de Saint-Pierre-Apôtre	\$961,206
Holy Childhood Association and Œuvre pontificale de l'enfance missionnaire – Mon Amie	\$319 344

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

We thank all of you who contributed to our fundraising campaigns.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS FOR EVERY SUNDAY OF OCTOBER 2023

Sunday Gospel Reflections for parish bulletins and homilies

By Father Alexandre Kabera

Sunday, October 1, 2023 (Mt 21:28-32)

“Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.” (Mt 21:28)

Today, we begin the month of October, which is Missionary Month. For this year’s theme **“Hearts on fire, feet on the move”** (cf. Lk 24:13-35), Pope Francis makes reference to the disciples on the road to Emmaus after the Lord’s resurrection. Hearts on fire **“while he opened the scriptures to us.”** The Word of God enlightens and transforms the heart within the mission. In his message for World Mission Day (WMD), the Holy Father says: “Today, as then, the Risen Lord remains close to his missionary disciples and walks beside them, particularly when they feel disoriented, discouraged, fearful of the mystery of iniquity that surrounds them and seeks to overwhelm them. The Lord is greater than all our problems, above all if we encounter them in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel to the world. For in the end, this mission is his and we are nothing more than his humble co-workers, ‘useless servants’ (cf. Lk 17:10).” (1. “Hearts on fire,” message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2023).

In today’s Gospel, the Lord Jesus draws the attention on doing God’s will and the struggle with oneself. The son who says no to his father, but carries out the task, is better than the one who says yes, but disobeys. For a human being worthy of the name is judged by his actions, not by his changing intentions. Indeed, faith is more an “acting right” than a “thinking right.” With these words, **“Son, go out and work in the vineyard today,”** Jesus invites us, through mission, to be a Church that welcomes sinners who have been touched by conversion. Also, a Church that invites everyone to work in the Lord’s vineyard!

This year, Pope Francis gave a series of catechesis on an urgent and decisive theme for Christian life: the *passion for evangelization*, in other words, the *apostolic zeal*. It is a vital dimension for the Church: the community of Jesus’s disciples was in fact born apostolic, born missionary. Without apostolic zeal, faith withers. Mission, on the other hand, is the oxygen of Christian life: it invigorates and purifies it. During Missionary Month, let us embark, then, on a process of rediscovering the evangelizing passion, starting with the Scriptures and the Church’s teaching, to draw apostolic zeal from its sources. Then, let us get closer to some witnesses who have rekindled the passion for the Gospel within the Church, like Therese of the Child Jesus, Francis of Assisi, John XXIII, John-Paul II, so that they may help us rekindle the fire that the Holy Spirit wants to keep burning within us.

(cf. Pope Francis, catechesis 2023, N° 1. The call to the apostolate).

Sunday, October 8, 2023

“The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.” (Mt 21:43)

Today the metaphor describes a cultivated vineyard that must be tended and protected. In order that its life force be put to the best possible advantage, it needs to be watered and pruned and protected from whatever might hamper its growth. What is also necessary is protection from predators and from those who might rob the owner of its produce. The Gospel suggest that while the vines themselves might be hardy, they are also vulnerable. So is the reign of God. It must be tended and protected from what might endanger it so that it can produce abundant and delectable fruit. The image of the vineyard is a valuable one. It offers us a valuable confidence, a real freedom from anxiety. But let us remember that in this image we are not only the vine, we are the caretakers as well.

Sunday, October 15, 2023

“He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast” (Mt 22:3)

There is wealth of meaning carried by the imagery used in the readings of today. The end-time is depicted as a banquet, a time of great happiness. The power of that image was much evident to the people of Isaiah’s or Christ’s time, than it is to our own. The feast celebrated on the mountain in Isaiah, the wedding feast in the Gospels in a word, a meal done well, experienced rightly, all of that is life as God intended it to be, life done well, acted out rightly. Matthew’s story is so overlaid with symbols that it is easy to forget the central image of God as a gracious host who hopes that everyone will come to his banquet. We hold precious the image of God who calls the good and the bad to the banquet of life. The invitation to the banquet that is given us is an invitation to nothing less than life itself, life as God means it to be. And that, it done rightly, is a thing to celebrate.

Sunday, October 22, 2023

“Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” (Mt 22:21)

This Sunday, which is World Mission Day, has the following theme: **“Hearts on fire, feet on the move”** (Lk 24:13–35). Pope Francis is amazed by the eternal youth of a Church that is always going forth. In his message, he says: “The image of ‘feet setting out’ reminds us once more of the perennial validity of the *missio ad gentes*, the mission entrusted to the Church by the risen Lord to evangelize all individuals and peoples, even to the ends of the earth. Today more than ever, our human family, wounded by so many situations of injustice, so many divisions and wars, is in need of the Good News of peace and salvation in Christ.” Pope Francis explains to us that the Pontifical Mission Societies are rooted in a twofold love namely Christ’s love for us and our love for Christ: “All of us can contribute to this missionary movement: with our prayers and activities, with material offerings and the offering of our sufferings, and with our personal witness. *The Pontifical Mission Societies* are the privileged means of fostering this missionary cooperation on both the spiritual and material levels. For this reason, the collection taken on World Mission Sunday is devoted to the *Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith*.” (3. “Our feet set out on the way,” message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2023).

Sunday, October 29, 2023

“You shall love the Lord, your God and your neighbour as yourself.” (Mt 22:37–39)

Tools for the Missionary Month

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith offers you free tools for the Missionary Month 2023 on the following website: missionsocieties.ca

- The animation kit for the Missionary Month (6 pages)
- World Mission Day poster
- Prayer of the Missionary Month
- Pope Francis’ message for World Mission Day



List of free material to order

- The animation kit for the Missionary Month
- Envelopes for the collection (to be placed on church benches)

ROSARY INSPIRED BY POPE FRANCIS

With the collaboration of **Gérald Fabrice Endaména**,
a seminarian from Cameroon.



JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Meditations of the Mysteries of the Rosary in light of Pope Francis' catechesis on the passion for evangelization, his

First Mystery: The Annunciation

"The Word is for everyone, the Word calls everyone to conversion, the Word makes us heralds." (Pope Francis, Homily for Sunday of the Word of God 2023). In the mystery of the Annunciation, the Angel announces the word to Mary; by saying "yes," she adheres to conversion and to the mission of the annunciation, which will go on during the visit to Elizabeth. Furthermore, in light of World Mission Day's theme "**Hearts on fire, feet on the move,**" doesn't the final conversation between the Angel and Mary illustrate that her heart was burning as much as the disciples of Emmaus? Let us pray so that the call of the annunciation may always be answered through conversion and zeal, by following the example of the Virgin Mary.

Second Mystery: The Visitation

The obvious and common point of this mystery, in the context of mission, is "the Church which goes forth." "How to go forth?" should interest us more, as the Holy-Father insisted, by distinguishing mission and proselytism. Mary's visit to Elizabeth teaches us everything: Mary doesn't visit Elizabeth thinking about herself, but rather about Elizabeth who is pregnant. She doesn't publicize the fact of being the Emmanuel's Mother, Elizabeth notices it by herself. Mary praises God through the "Magnificat." A good example of going forth is to put God and others first rather than us. Let us pray so that we can receive that grace.

Third Mystery: The Nativity

The Holy-Father's prayer is that the missionary disciples' reward lies in the Joy of proclaiming the Good News, by being aware of the sorrows and difficulties they might encounter in their different contexts, especially in the places that are struck by poverty, misery and wars. Meditating Jesus' birth in a stable should comfort us and renew our zeal. Jesus as "model of the annunciation" shows himself in poverty since his birth. May the Virgin Mary intercede for us to that end.

Fourth Mystery: The Presentation in the Temple

The best-known fruit of this mystery is the purity of body and mind. In mission's language, it is a matter of exemplary nature: Jesus is a model for the missionary disciples, who should be themselves, an example in the world and for the world. In Pope Francis' catechesis on passion and evangelization (2), he invites us to experience intimacy with Jesus, the Good Shepherd (Jn 10), without whom we can do nothing (Jn 15:5), let alone be exemplary shepherds. Let us develop an intimate relationship with Jesus through prayer, so that we can be good examples in the world and for the world.

Fifth Mystery: The Finding in the Temple

Jesus's parents were looking for him on their way back to Jerusalem. They found him in the Temple, the place where the Word of God was proclaimed and taught. When his parents asked him why he did such a thing, he replied that he should be about his Father's business: thus, Jesus, the Word of God, makes it his priority. The Pope teaches us in this sense, in parallel with the disciples of Emmaus, that the knowledge of the Holy Scripture is necessary to know and proclaim Christ. Let us pray so that the Love for the Word of God enliven us and for the promotion of every work of evangelization.

"Our Lady of the Way, Mother of Christ's missionary disciples and Queen of Missions, pray for us!"
(Pope Francis)

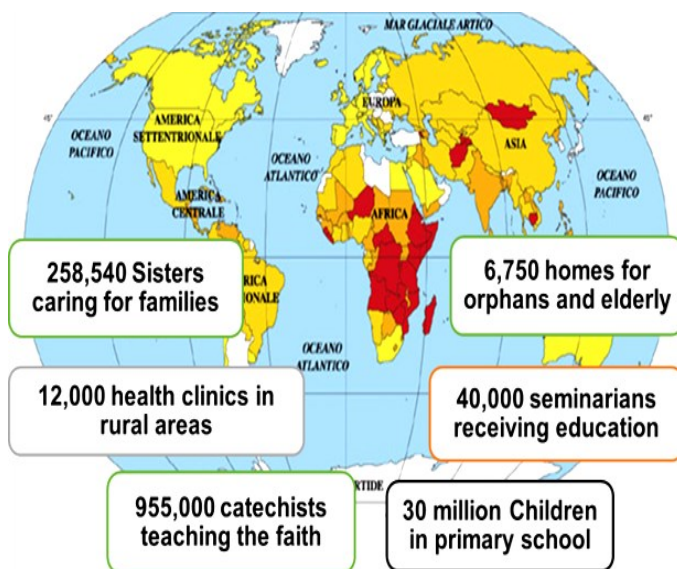
Collection for World Mission Day

The universal collection for World Mission Day is unique: its fruits are distributed worldwide, according to the needs of the poorest dioceses. Everyone contributes to the cause and this allows the survival of the poorest dioceses, especially those that do not benefit from twinning or privileged contact with the West. The universal collection provides each bishop the means and freedom of action for the formation of catechists, solidarity, priestly vocations and consecrated life, education, health care, etc. Therefore, it represents a tool of justice and fraternity between all the dioceses. Furthermore, it aids in supporting the permanent effort of the Universal Church to go and proclaim the Gospel to all nations. This mandate, received from Christ, is assumed by the baptized people and those who are jointly responsible for the Universal Mission along with the Church of Africa, Asia, South America, Central America, Europe, and Oceania.

SUBSIDIES SENT IN 2022

English-speaking Canada's contribution (\$ CAD) Society for the Propagation of the Faith		French-speaking Canada's contribution (\$ CAD) Œuvre pontificale de la propagation de la foi	
Ghana	25,468	<i>Domus Missionalis</i> Foundation—Italy	209,784
Gambia	117,611	Burundi	278,942
Tanzania	276,349	Madagascar	412,872
Zambia	538,382	India	290,851
<i>Domus Missionalis</i> Foundation—Italy	202,164	<i>Pontificium Opus A Propagatione Fidei</i>	57,551
International Secretariat	55,467	Mass stipends	2,660
Total for English Sector	1,215,441	Total for French Sector	\$1,252,660
TOTAL FOR ENGLISH AND FRENCH SECTORS		\$2,468,101	

Where does your World Mission Sunday gift help?



How does your World Mission Sunday gift help?

- ◆ \$50 assists with renovation of a chapel
- ◆ \$150 provides support for a catechist in Asia, Africa, and Oceania
- ◆ 300 can provide a home, food, medical help, and education for orphans in Thailand.
- ◆ \$500 helps support girls home in Sri Lanka.

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