



MISSIONS TODAY

VOL 81, NO. 4

Fall 2023

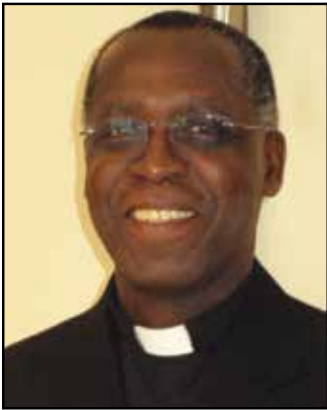


World Mission Sunday
Hearts on Fire...Feet on the Move

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

National Director's Message

Missions Today Fall Issue 2023



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

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

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-speaking Canada

PRAYER OF THE MISSIONARY DISCIPLE

O Risen Lord, walk with us on our paths of suffering. As missionary disciples, open our eyes. Enlighten them with hope for a new beginning. Bread of the pilgrims come into our home when the night falls. Open our whole being to your grace and stay with us, always! Most Loving and Holy Presence of Jesus, make our hearts burn and rejoice, filled with your Fire and Light, brightening our way. We will go out, all together, as enthusiastic witnesses of the Mission to announce the good news of your Gospel to all nations! O Risen Lord, stay with us! On the way, walk with us! Make our hearts burn and rejoice! Amen.

The Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intentions:

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father’s request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

SEPTEMBER: For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

OCTOBER: For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

NOVEMBER: For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

DECEMBER: For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

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Sr. Rosario on the move, spreading the Gospel. Where your donations might go.



PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

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Across the Globe

*The Pontifical Mission Societies host their own web news service called **agenzia fides**. The news service is updated daily and allows us to keep current about events around the world and within Catholic missions. Below are three articles from the website and other news can be found at fides.org.*



■ AMERICA/MEXICO - For a dignified job: transforming precariousness and injustice, recognizing workers' rights

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/73655>

Monday, 17 April 2023 - Mexico City (Agenzia Fides) - Three out of ten Mexicans, according to the Encuesta Nacional de Ocupación y Empleo, work in the informal sector, that is, without having access to any type of social or work benefit. Job insecurity is accentuated in the most vulnerable sectors of the population. 85% of indigenous people work in the informal sector. According to INEGI (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía), women earn 15% less than men in similar positions and have access to fewer social benefits.

These are the figures reported in the latest issue of the weekly of the Archdiocese of Mexico "Desde la Fe", which titles its editorial "For a society with dignified working conditions", thus taking up the theme indicated by the Mexican Episcopal Conference for the Day of Prayer on Sunday 16th April. "In a world where the prices of basic goods and services are rising like foam due to inflation, more and more people are forced to accept precarious working conditions in order to survive", underlines Desde la Fe.

Citing the social doctrine of the Church, according to which work gives dignity to man, the editorial invites us to reflect on what hap-

pens when working conditions violate fundamental rights. "The work of all sectors of the population must ensure a decent salary, give the possibility of saving and guarantee free time, for cultural and recreational activities. Until this right is a reality for all Mexicans, we will not be able to speak of a real fight against inequality or for integral well-being".

The Catholic weekly therefore

joins the intentions of the Mexican Episcopal Conference, which has invited the faithful to participate in the monthly day of prayer on Sunday April 16 to ask God "to transform the precariousness and injustice of work, to recognize the rights of workers and the efforts of employers".

The Episcopate recalls that, according to data from the Oxfam organization, the minimum wage in Mexico is the lowest of the 38 member countries of the OECD. The Covid-19 virus pandemic has further aggravated labor insecurity and injustice, the bishops point out, recalling that according to the ILO (International Labor Organization), Mexico has been one of the countries in the region where the loss of formal jobs was greatest, with a 3.5% drop in employment.

The Catholic weekly calls for solidarity in prayer. The business sector is called upon to prioritize the welfare of workers within their business systems and the government to strengthen the enforce-

ment of workers' rights. Finally, quoting the words of Pope Francis, he invites us to pray "that no one lacks work and that everyone is fairly remunerated and can enjoy the dignity of work and the beauty of rest".

According to figures provided by INEGI, the population of Mexico in 2020 was 126,014,024. The monthly inflation rate in March 2023 was 0.27% and the annual rate was 6.85%. The unemployment rate for the labor force was 2.8% (February 2023). (SL) (Agenzia Fides, 17/4/2023)

■ AFRICA/SOUTH AFRICA - "Justice and Peace" launches collective action in favor of miners affected by diseases linked to coal extraction

http://www.fides.org/en/news/74105-AFRICA_SOUTH_AFRICA_Justice_and_Peace_launches_collective_action_in_favor_of_miners_affected_by_diseases_linked_to_coal_extraction

Tuesday, 22 August 2023 - Johannesburg (Agenzia Fides) - "Very often workers do not have the means to seek legal recourse from large companies which have huge resources at their disposal", says Cardinal-elect Stephen Brislin, Archbishop of Cape Town, in explaining why the Commission for Justice and Peace of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC), has filed a lawsuit against some mining companies.

The appeal filed at South Africa's High Court, Gauteng Local Division, aims to compensate miners who have contracted lung disease due to coal dust in the form of pneumoconiosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. In addition to the workers still in service, the lawsuit is being pursued for the benefit of those who have retired or resigned and the families of miners who died of illnesses caused by coal dust. "Very often ex-mine workers are no longer members of trade unions and, therefore, lack the means and capacity to seek legal recourse from large companies which are responsible for their lung diseases", underlines the Archbishop of Cape Town. "It is thus incumbent on the Church to give assistance where it can so that the rights of the vulnerable are respected and so that they can access compensation that is legally due to them. Many companies are amenable to settling such cases, but in some instances court action is necessary". "Coal mine dust can cause miners to develop lung diseases including pneumoconiosis and COPD.

Despite knowing the risks to coal miners, members of the coal mining industry failed to provide their workers with adequate training, equipment, and a safe working environment", says the class action which, if upheld, could pave the way for other lawsuits by miners affected by coal-related illnesses.

Coal is a mainstay of South Africa's economy, which employs nearly 100,000 people and accounts for 80% of electricity production. (L.M.) (Agenzia Fides, 22/8/2023)

■ ASIA/PAKISTAN - The political and social crisis affects above all the poor

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/73770>

Friday, 12 May 2023 - Karachi (Agenzia Fides) - "The current political crisis in Pakistan is the manifestation of a confrontation between powers and potentates which is not beneficial for the country. Tensions and street demonstrations have a negative impact on trade, education and the economy, worsening an already serious situation. People are suffering terribly, especially the poorest who are being strangled by inflation. Politicians should look and act for the common good of the nation", says to Fides Father Mario Rodrigues, diocesan priest of Karachi, principal of the prestigious St. Patrick's High School, an important Catholic educational institute which welcomes more than 4,000 students, including Christians, Muslims and Hindus. The priest notes that, due to the street riots that started after the arrest of political leader Imran Khan, "there are further problems with the supply and supply of basic necessities".

"People are suffering from misery and rampant inflation. The prices of flour and bread have skyrocketed, which is very serious. People have to think about subsistence and survival. Feelings of anger, ready to explode, are also emerging".

In such a situation, "we call on political leaders to exercise responsibility, respect the rule of law and put the good of the country before personal or party interests, prioritizing development, prosperity and the future of Pakistan", notes Father Rodrigues.

Catholic communities and institutions, in their own way, have taken initiatives of solidarity with regard to the neediest. St. Patrick's High School, thanks to the commitment and generosity of its students, collected food and basic necessities for 300 families in need. Father Mario is very impressed by the commitment of the young people: "We launched the solidarity initiative and all the students contributed to it. I am happy to see all this. Despite everything, there is hope in our country".

Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday ruled that the arrest of political leader and former prime minister Imran Khan was unlawful, two days after his detention sparked violent protests across the country. Mr Khan was arrested on May 9 on charges of bribery by paramilitary troops in a raid by officers who broke into a courtroom in Islamabad. Activists of the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, of which Khan is one of the leaders, took to the streets, mainly in the cities of Lahore, Peshawar and Islamabad, and clashed with the army and the police. Eight people died and hundreds were arrested during these demonstrations which turned violent. (PA) (Agenzia Fides, 12/5/2023)

The Passion for Evangelization: The apostolic Zeal of the Believer.

General Audience: August 23, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In our journey of rediscovering the passion for proclaiming the Gospel, seeing how apostolic zeal, this passion to proclaim the Gospel, has developed in the history of the Church; on this path, we look today to the Americas, where evangelisation has an ever vital source: Guadalupe. She is a living source. The Mexicans are happy! Of course, the Gospel had already reached there prior to those apparitions, but unfortunately it had also been accompanied by worldly interests. Instead of the path of inculturation, too often the hasty approach of transplanting and imposing pre-constituted models — European, for instance — had been taken, lacking respect for the Indigenous peoples.

The Virgin of Guadalupe, on the other hand, appears dressed in the clothing of the Indigenous peoples, she speaks their language, she welcomes and loves the local culture: Mary is Mother, and under her mantle every child finds a place. In her, God became flesh, and through Mary, He continues to incarnate Himself in the lives of peoples.

Our Lady, in fact, proclaims God in the most suitable language; that is, the mother tongue. And Our Lady also speaks to us in the mother tongue, the language we understand well. The Gospel is

transmitted through the mother tongue. And I would like to say thank you to the many mothers and many grandmothers who pass [the Gospel] on to their children and grandchildren: faith is passed on with life; this is why mothers and grandmothers are the first evangelizers. [Let's give] a round of applause for mothers and grandmothers! And the Gospel is communicated, as Mary shows, in simplicity: Our Lady always chooses those who are simple, on the hill of Tepeyac in Mexico, as at Lourdes and Fatima: speaking to them, she speaks to everyone, in a language suitable for all, in understandable language, like that of Jesus.

Let us dwell then on the testimony of Saint Juan Diego, who is the messenger; he is the young man, he is the Indigenous man who received the revelation of Mary: the messenger of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He was a simple man, an indio of the people: God, who loves to perform miracles through the 'little ones', had rested his gaze on him. Juan Diego was already a married adult when he embraced the faith. In December 1531, he is about 55 years old. While walking along, he sees on a hill the Mother of God, who tenderly calls out to him. And what does Our Lady call him? "My most beloved little child Juanito" (Nican Mopohua, 23). Then

she sends him to the Bishop to ask him to build a church there where she had appeared. Juan Diego, simple and willing, goes with the generosity of his pure heart, but he has to wait a long time. He finally speaks to the Bishop, who does not believe him. Sometimes, we bishops [are like this]... He meets Our Lady again, who consoles him and asks him to try again. The indio returns to the Bishop and with great difficulty meets him, but the Bishop, after listening to him, dismisses him and sends men to follow [Juan Diego]. Here is the ordeal, the test of proclamation: despite zeal, the unexpected arrives, sometimes from the Church herself. To proclaim, in fact, it is not enough to bear witness to the good; it is necessary to know



how to endure evil. Let's not forget this: it is very important to proclaim the Gospel; it is not enough to bear witness to the good, but it is necessary to know how to endure evil. A Christian does good, but also endures evil. Both go together; life is like that. Even today, in many places, inculturating the Gospel and evangelising cultures requires constancy and patience, not being afraid of conflict, not losing heart. I am thinking of a country where Christians are persecuted because they are Christians, and they can't practice their faith easily and in peace. Juan Diego, discouraged because the Bishop sent him away, asks Our Lady to dispense him and appoint someone more respected and more capable than him, but he is invited to persevere. There is always the risk of a type of surrender in proclamation: something doesn't go right and one backs down, becoming discouraged and perhaps taking refuge in one's own certainties, in small groups, and in some personal devotions. Our Lady, on the other hand, while she consoles us, makes us push ahead and thus allows us to grow, like a good mother who, while following her son's steps, launches him into the world's challenges.

Thus encouraged, Juan Diego returns to the Bishop, who asks him for a sign. Our Lady promises Juan one, and comforts him with these words: "Let nothing frighten you, let nothing trouble your heart: [...] Am I not here, I who am your mother?" (ibid., 118-119). This is beautiful. Many times when we are in desolation, in sadness, in difficulty, Our Lady say this to us, too, in our hearts: "Am I not here, I who am your mother?". [She is] always close by to console us and give us the strength to go on.

Then she asks him to go to the arid hilltop to pick flowers. It is winter, but, nevertheless, Juan Diego finds some beautiful flowers, puts them in

his cloak and offers them to the Mother of God, who invites him to take them to the Bishop as proof. He goes, patiently waits his turn and finally, in the presence of the Bishop, opens his tilma, which is what the Indigenous used to cover themselves. He opens his tilma to show the flowers, and behold! The image of Our Lady appears on the fabric of the cloak, the extraordinary and living image that we are familiar with, in whose eyes the protagonists of that time are still imprinted. This is God's surprise: when there is willingness and when there is obedience, He can accomplish something unexpected, in the time and in ways we cannot foresee. And so, the shrine requested by the Virgin was built, and it can be visited even today.

Juan Diego left everything and, with the Bishop's permission, dedicated his life to the shrine. He welcomed pilgrims and evangelised them. This is what happens in Marian shrines, pilgrimage destinations, and places of proclamation, where everyone feels at home — because it is the house of their mamma, the house of their mother — and experiences nostalgia for home, that is, the longing for the place where you find the Mother, Heaven. Faith is welcomed in these places in a simple way; the faith is welcomed in a genuine way, in a popular way. And as she told Juan Diego, Our Lady listens to our cries and heals our sorrows (cf. ibid., 32). We should learn this: when there are difficulties in life, we go to our Mother; and when life is happy, we also go to our Mother to share these things. We need to go to these oases of consolation and mercy, where faith is expressed in a maternal language; where we lay down the labours of life in Our Lady's arms and return to life with peace in our hearts, perhaps with the peace of little children.



Photos: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2023/8/25/pellegrinaggio.html>

JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Rosary Inspired by Pope Francis

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

(Meditations of the Mysteries of the Rosary in light of Pope Francis' catechesis on the passion for evangelization.)



***“Our Lady of the Way,
Mother of Christ’s
missionary disciples and
Queen of Missions,
pray for us!”***

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.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux: Patroness of the Missions

Mission month begins with the memorial of St. Thérèse of Lisieux (of the Child Jesus) on October. During this memorial, we recall a popular saint great in her humility and holy in her desire to do only and always what would please God. She was born to an extremely devout French couple, the Martins, who, in 2015, became the only husband and wife ever canonized at the same time. Thérèse, along with her sisters, was drawn to a religious vocation. She entered the Carmelite convent at Lisieux at age 15 and would also experience much spiritual and physical struggle and suffering. The nun who would one day be known around the world as the Little Flower lived only to be 24. Yet during that time she lived to love and serve God. That loving service was expressed through simple and practical acts of charity, the embrace of the Sacraments, and a rich prayer life. She was fervent in praying for priests and all missionaries, as well as for those who did not yet know Christ, or who had rejected Him. St. Thérèse died in 1897. Within a few years, her autobiographical writings which included her “little way” of holiness drew the attention and appreciation of people around the world.

She was canonized in 1925. On World Mission Sunday in 1997, Pope St. John Paul II declared St. Thérèse a Doctor of the Church. In his homily that day, he said that she had “ardently desired to be a missionary. She was one, to the point that she could be proclaimed patroness of the missions. Jesus Himself showed her how

she could live this vocation: by fully practicing the commandment of love, she would be immersed in the very heart of the Church’s mission, supporting those who proclaim the Gospel with the mysterious power of prayer and communion... The Church is missionary by nature. Not only those who choose the missionary life but all the baptized are in some way sent ad gentes (to the nations).” That is as true for us as it was for a young woman in a cloistered convent whose love for our Lord touched all nations. When we recognize World Mission Month, let us pray for the intercession of St. Thérèse to guide and protect all missionaries, as we ourselves pledge daily prayer and generous help on World Mission Sunday for the priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay pastoral leaders who proclaim the Gospel and serve the poor.

https://www.usccb.org/resources/Preaching_Mission_Oct1_EN.pdf

Prayer for the sixth American missionary congress

O merciful Father, who revealed through your Son the “Good News,” proclaimed in these lands of America by so many missionaries, in words and deeds; help us rediscover our vocation as baptized people in order to give a renewed zeal to our missionary activity proclaiming, like them, the joy of the Gospel. O loving Father, you pour your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth, wounded by injustice and suffering; give us strength to walk, as God’s people, in synodality and mutual listening, towards the next American Missionary Congress, witnessing together the love that conquers the world. O God the Father, you chose Mary as a model of evangelization to offer Christ to all humanity; grant us that, by imitating her example of dedication and sustained by her maternal and providential care, may we always be your missionary disciples to the ends of the earth.

Amen.



World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, 22 October.

INTRODUCTION: World Mission Sunday falls on the penultimate Sunday in October. It is the one Sunday in the year when the Mass is celebrated exclusively for missionary activity.

In 2023, World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, 22 October.

Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses and they go, in their entirety, to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

Pray with the Global Church

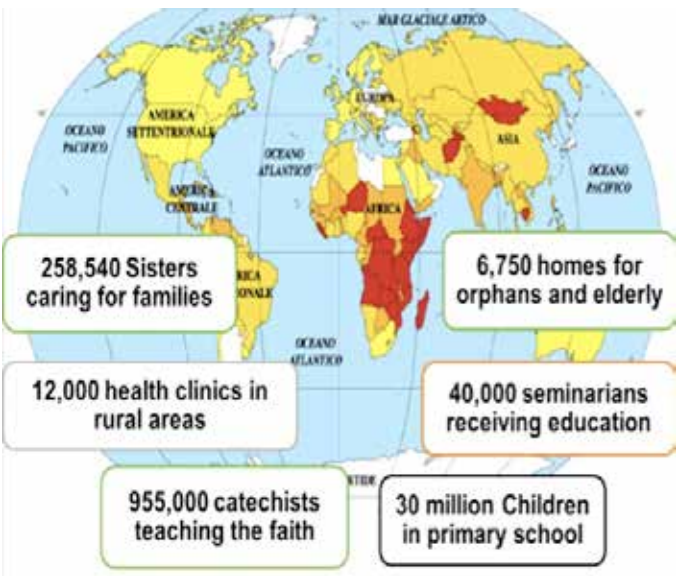
World Mission Sunday is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas who share our faith. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ’s call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Why WMS is so important to us

PMS is responsible for coordinating World Mission Sunday and provides new, young or poor dioceses with the essential support they need on their journey to becoming self-sufficient.

We work through local bishops, churches and missionary congregations to ensure that resources are distributed equitably and justly – on the basis of need. The money goes directly from Canada to the bishops in the mission territories – local Church directly helping local Church!

Where does your World Mission Sunday gift help?



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.

SUBSIDIES SENT IN 2022

English-speaking Canada’s contribution (\$ CAD) Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Ghana	25,468
Gambia	117,611
Tanzania	276,349
Zambia	538,382
Domus Missionalis Foundation—Italy	202,164
International Secretariat	55,467
Total for English Sector	1,215,441

French-speaking Canada’s contribution (\$ CAD) Œuvre pontificale de la propagation de la foi

Domus Missionalis Foundation— Italy	209,784
Burundi	278,942
Madagascar	412,872

India	290,851
Pontificium Opus A Propagatione Fidei	57,551
Mass stipends	2,660
Total for French Sector	\$1,252,660

TOTAL FOR ENGLISH AND FRENCH SECTORS \$2,468,101

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.

CONCLUSION: For 95 years, the Catholic Church has taken

up a collection on World Mission Sunday to assist the work of the missions and missionaries in countries around the globe. While the Church shares the joyful message of God’s mercy, it also assists our neighbors who struggle with material needs. Priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and laypeople continue to reach out to men, women, and children who do not know Christ or do not yet entrust themselves to His mercy. We must live our faith by sharing our faith. Today – and every day – we need to commit ourselves to follow in the footsteps of our Lord by welcoming others to His gracious and glorious embrace.

On this World Mission Sunday, let us witness to our faith through our prayers and financial help to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Our generosity on this Sunday, combined with what is offered in churches and chapels around the globe, join us to the efforts of missionaries who proclaim the Gospel and serve the poor.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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



MARIA'S FAITH

Hearts on Fire



By Maria Fornasier

“Hearts on Fire”, the spiritual approach that is essential to understanding, cherishing and being alive to this year’s theme for Mission Sunday, is a vivid and inspiring metaphor for how we should strive to live our fundamental calling: doing our best, throughout our lives, to integrate and model the mission message of Jesus’ teachings.

According to Pope Francis, our mission, our lifelong goal, is to share the Gospel with others “to ensure that God’s grace may touch the heart of every man and of every woman and lead them to him.” In other words, we must incorporate the fundamental lessons of the Gospels and try to live them in our daily approach to life and our interactions with others.

“Hearts on Fire” means being uplifted and inspired to fulfill our spiritual vocation: understanding and accepting our unique and important role to be the presence of Jesus in the world. By doing so, we are carrying forward our missionary work. Catholics have

a fundamental responsibility to share the teachings of Jesus, who set an example through his words and deeds and then encouraged his disciples to spread the Word. We must do our best to treat others, regardless of how different from us they may be, with respect, understanding and acceptance. We ask the Lord to “make our hearts burn within us; may he enlighten and transform us, so that we can proclaim his mystery of salvation to the world with the power and wisdom that come from his Spirit.” The mission of the Church not only unites people from different parts of the world, but also bridges and builds relationships among generations.

This year, Pope Francis reminds and encourages all Catholics to try to be brave and rise above our fears and discouragement by reminding ourselves that we have a tremendous responsibility to “build relationships that are life-giving.” With enthusiasm and an open heart, we must do our best to spread the Good News and be an example of how the gift of the Holy Spirit inspires us to experience and share Jesus’ message; prayer helps us on our spiritual journey to recognize and receive the inspiration to fulfill our mission.

A View from the Pew...



Before retiring, Lori Lisi was the Coordinator of Programs for Secondary Schools at the York Catholic District School Board. Lori is a member of St. David’s Church in Maple, ON.

way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), Pope Francis chose the theme: “Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move.”

This year, on October 22, 2023, we celebrate World Mission Sunday, which is always celebrated on the penultimate Sunday in October. This year, inspired by the story of the disciples on the

Whether we are missionaries in far away lands or missionaries in our own communities, the way we live our lives must mirror the same three images which we reflect upon when we read about the disciples on the walk to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35): **eyes open in recognition of Jesus as our Risen Lord, hearts on fire in love with Him, and feet on the move to proclaim the Good News.** Since, as Pope Francis reminds us, these images ‘reflect the journey of all missionary disciples’, we, too, have the duty to do the same.

Feet on the Move.

*Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him,
and he vanished from their sight.
They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us
while he was talking to us on the road,
while he was opening the scriptures to us?”*

~Luke 24: 31-32

The disciples who, ‘by encountering Christ in the Word and in the breaking of the bread, were sparked with the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen’, are an example to us of how we are to be true missionaries. As Catholics we encounter Christ and strengthen our relationship with Him, repeatedly, by listening to the Word and participating in the Eucharist, every time we attend Mass. That’s how we come to know Him. In the words of St. Jerome, ‘ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ’. So, like the disciples, we must be sure to ‘know’ Jesus, not just talk about him, in order that we may be ‘sparked’ to proclaim that the Lord has truly risen. Every time we participate in the Eucharist, we are on fire with love for our Lord. We cannot contain this great love within our hearts, alone, so we must share it with others. When our hearts are filled with this burning desire, it prompts us to continue the mission of revealing the risen Lord to all the world.

During our lives, however, there may be times when this may prove to be a challenge, because like the disciples, we may be feeling ‘confused and dismayed’ in our mission, and we may begin to lose hope. In those times, we may not feel the ‘spark’. It is then that we must remember what Jesus tells us: “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20) We mustn’t allow anything to rob us of our hope, for the Lord walks beside us, even in our darkest hour. He doesn’t abandon us when everything else seems to have left us feeling disoriented or discouraged or dismayed. We must continue to trust in Jesus, who reminds us that, ‘In the world you will have tribulations but be courageous: I have conquered the world!’ (John 16:33) Remaining a people of hope gives us the tenacity and the strength to joyfully go out and spread the good news to everyone we meet.

As local missionaries, with **feet on the move to proclaim the Good News**, we start with our families, our friends, our neighbours and all those we encounter in our daily lives. How we live our lives, helps others ‘see’ the Lord, ‘love’ the Lord and become the ‘feet on the move’ in proclaiming Him as their own saviour and Lord. ‘Those who allow themselves to be saved by Him are freed from sin, from sadness, from inner emptiness, from isolation. With Jesus Christ, joy is always born and reborn’. (Evangelii Gaudium, 1). This is the gift of all missionaries to the world. Every one of us is, as Pope Francis says, ‘the primary and principal resource of the mission’. By sharing the Good News, we bring hope to all those who may have lost it and we fulfil the mission entrusted to the Church by Jesus, which is to ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.’ (Mark 15:16)

We continue our missionary outreach, **with feet on the move**, on both a spiritual and material level, by honouring God’s gifts to us and using them to help carry out our missionary calling; thus,

giving them back to God with interest! This requires that we use God’s gifts of time, talent and treasure to do good for others. We need to be accountable to these precious gifts and to the mission to which they are meant to serve. Being true to the mission means to...:

Time - ...use the gift of our time on others:

Time spent on praying, reading scripture and receiving the Eucharist at Mass is a wise use of our time that will help us help others. We can help others by holding space for them and providing our time to listen, to share and to care for them. Caring for those in need is our calling. The gift of our time spent on helping others is our principal goal.

Talent - ...use the gift of our talent for others:

God gifts us all with many talents. These talents are not meant to be hidden under a rock, but rather they are meant to be used to enrich the lives of others. In doing so, we are serving and honouring God, strengthening the Church and its mission.

Treasure - ...use the gift of our treasure with others:

The collection taken on World Mission Sunday is devoted to the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of Faith. It helps to support those missionaries around the world who need financial aid. On a local level, giving to the community food bank, donating to Share Life and other charities, and contributing to the collection at Mass, are just some ways that we can share our gift of treasure, in order to help others.

We can only contribute to the ecumenical mission of our Church, by remaining steadfast in our love for our Lord and our calling which is to care for others and bring them to know our Lord.

*Everyone has the right to receive the Gospel.
Christians have the duty to announce it without
excluding anyone,
not as one who imposes a new obligation,
but as one who shares a joy,
signals a beautiful horizon,
[and] offers a desirable banquet...’*

~ Evangelii Gaudium, 14

Holy Childhood Association

Project Report : Chad Diocese of Doba

Repainting the “Holy Family” Parish School of Mbikou

The “Sainte Famille” Parish School was established on October 1, 2007, as a nursery school. Over time, the classes have increased, and they currently complete the primary cycle. In 2014, after 7 years of working under thatched canopies and brick walls, our students moved into 2 new concrete buildings and started using school desks.

Teaching is in French, and the school is located in the sub-prefecture of Mbikou, on land bordered by a rope fence, located north of the Parish of Mbikou. We received recognition as “ECA” (Ecole Catholique Associé) in June 2015. Currently, there are nine classes with a total of 380 students.

The school is located in a rural area about 120 km from the city of Doba. From the very beginning, the teachers have been subsidized by the parents of the students, most of whom are farmers who struggle to maintain basic family needs and find it very difficult to pay the school fees with which the school is maintained. To guarantee a good quality education, the educational environment is also important.

Some problems of the country have motivated us to carry out this project. The exploitation of oil, which had promised to solve many difficult situations, did not benefit the population, but rather caused dramatic changes in the dynamics of the population, upsetting their concept of life and the internal stability of the families and their traditions.

The school environment has allowed us to see how delicate and



vulnerable the condition of children is, and hence the urgency of providing them with a broader educational system, which is not limited to completing a school program and only teaching them how to read and write. There is a pressing need to support the integral development of children, encouraging them to learn what is essential in life by:

- Offering the possibility of attending school as a dignified place for meeting and developing one’s physical, psychological, and intellectual potential;
- Forming the children’s vision of life, habits and choices, encouraging them to respect and take responsibility for their lives as a point of reference.
- Reorienting the idea of ‘success’: from having a degree with no skills, to acquiring skills and experience through their work and effort commensurate with their personal reality.
- Developing values and attitudes to gain responsibility of one’s own life.

Sr. Ana Medina Medina, Director of ECA “Holy Family”
Sisters of the Poor, Handmaids of the Sacred Heart

Photos by Sr. Ramirez

<https://www.ppoomm.va/en/i-progetti/tutti-i-progetti/2023/diocese-of-doba.html>



St Peter The Apostle Society

Project Report : Ecuador Diocese of Quito

Forming missionary priests for the Amazon - “Santa María la Mayor” Missionary Seminary

The “Santa María la Mayor” Missionary Seminary trains the future priests of the Apostolic Vicariates of **Puyo, Aguarico, Sucumbíos, Esmeralda, Méndez** and **Napo**, from the territories of the Ecuadorian Amazon, thus building a Church with a synodal Amazonian face. It was inaugurated and blessed on November 29, 1996 and is located in the city of Quito.

In the mission territories and in the founding work of the local Church, it is not always easy to dedicate time and personnel to vocation ministry, since generally all the energies of the missionaries are channeled towards areas of evangelization that are usually presented as more urgent. Discovering, accompanying and welcoming the vocations of young people has become one of the pastoral priorities in our Apostolic Vicariates; as well as sensitizing local communities about the need for priests and workers consecrated to evangelization.

The Second Vatican Council in its document *Ad Gentes* tells us: *“The Church gives thanks, with great joy, for the inestimable mercy of the priestly vocation that God has granted to so many young people among the peoples recently converted to Christ. For the Church deepens its firmest roots in each human group, when the various communities of the faithful have among their members their own ministers of salvation in the Order of Bishops, of priests and deacons, who serve their brothers, of Good luck that the new Churches achieve, step by step with their clergy, the diocesan structure”* (AG 16).

These words will make many bishops reflect, especially those who work in mission territories. They will come to the conclusion that a Church that wants to grow and become an adult in the faith must have its own priests and not be satisfied with waiting for priests or missionaries from other Churches to come.

It is necessary to train seminarians in a more personalized environment, where the community dimension is lived and in close relationship with the missionary Church to which they belong. Where the seminarians carry out their ecclesiastical studies, it is where it is important to promote the **missionary dimension**, which should define the seminarians of the “Santa María la Mayor” Missionary Seminary. Where the future priests of the Vicariates of Puyo, Aguarico and Sucumbíos will be able to remain at the service of the indigenous and peasant communities and be willing to serve the Church where it is most needed. For this reason, it is necessary to accompany young people who seek to serve the Missionary Church with generosity and as priests, assuming as particular Churches the challenge of the mission beyond our borders.

The objectives of the Missionary Seminary “Santa María La Mayor” are **to form priests following the example of Jesus Good**

Shepherd and Teacher to serve, teach and sanctify the people of God in the diocesan and missionary Church.

- Accompany, guide and help seminarians in their vocational process towards the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- Live a community and fraternal spirit in which you know how to share in faith and charity (PDV, 60).
- Promote a human and Christian experience that helps to mature the person and make life sincere, responsible and definitive for the Kingdom of God (PO 3).
- Live the ecclesial and missionary dimension through a participatory ministry at the parish level and in the diocesan Church.
- Offer the intellectual knowledge necessary for priestly life through comprehensive formation.

His academic training is taught in the Philosophy and Theology courses of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Ecuador (PUCE). In the pastoral area, the seminarians develop their activity in the parishes, allowing them to enter the missionary environment, in addition to being able to share with the bishop, priests and nuns in workshops, talks, retreats, sporting events and pastoral accompaniment in urban realities. rural and indigenous of the Vicariates.

It is noteworthy the spiritual accompaniment that the priests provide to the seminarians and the fraternal experience that has been possible to live with the clergy of the Vicariate.

In the 2022 academic year, the formation of seminarians is aimed at 17 seminarians from four Apostolic Vicariates (Puyo, Aguarico, Sucumbíos and Esmeralda), 4 in propaedeutics, 5 in philosophy and 8 in theology, encouraged and followed by 3 formators.

Our seminary has celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2021 with the hope of continuing to form priests according to the heart of Jesus, in a total spirit of fraternity and synodality.

<https://www.ppoomm.va/en/i-progetti/tutti-i-progetti/2023/february-28-2023.html>



WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY: HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS ON JULY 23, 2023

Jesus uses parables to teach us about the kingdom of God. He recounts simple stories that touch the hearts of his listeners. Such language, full of imagery, resembles the language that grandparents often use with their grandchildren, perhaps while holding them on their laps. In this way they pass on a wisdom important for life. Thinking of our grandparents and the elderly, whose roots young people need in order to grow into adulthood, I would like to reread the three stories contained in today's Gospel, beginning with an aspect they have in common: *growing together*.

In the first parable, the wheat and the weeds grow together, in the same field (cf. Mt 13:24-30). This image helps us to see things realistically: in human history, as in each of our lives, there is a mixture of light and shadows, love and selfishness. Good and evil are even intertwined to the point of seeming inseparable. This realistic approach helps us to view history without ideologies, without sterile optimism or poisonous pessimism. Christians, motivated by the hope of God, are not pessimists; nor do they naïvely live in a fairy tale, pretending not to see evil and saying that “all is well”. No, Christians are realists: they know that there are wheat and weeds in the world. Looking at their own lives, they recognize that evil does not only come from “outside”, that it is not always the fault of others, that there is no need to “invent” enemies to fight against in order to avoid looking within themselves. They realize that evil comes from within, in the inner struggle that we all experience.

Yet, the parable poses a question: When we see “wheat” and “weeds” living side by side in the world, what should we do? How should we react? In the narrative, the servants would like immediately to pull up the weeds (cf. v. 28). This attitude comes from good intentions, but is impulsive and even aggressive. They delude themselves into thinking that they can uproot evil by their own efforts in order to make things pure. Indeed, we frequently see the temptation of seeking to bring about a “pure society” or a “pure Church”, whereas in working to reach this purity, we risk being impatient, intransigent, even violent toward those who have fallen into error. In this way, together with the weeds we pull up the good wheat and block people from moving forward, from growing and changing. Let us listen instead to what Jesus says: “Let both of them *grow together* until the harvest” (Mt 13:30). How beautiful is this vision of God, his way of teaching us about mercy. This invites us to be patient with others, and – in our families, in the Church and in society – to welcome weakness, delay and limitations, not in order to let ourselves grow accustomed to them or excuse them, but to learn to act with respect, caring for the good wheat gently and patiently. We must also remember that



Photo - <https://pixabay.com/photos/grandparents-love-grandpa-granny-4997796/>

the purification of the heart and the definitive victory over evil are essentially God's work. And we, overcoming the temptation to divide the wheat from the weeds, are called to understand the best ways and times for action.

Here I think of our grandparents and the elderly, who have already travelled far along life's journey. If they look back, they see so many beautiful things they have succeeded in doing. Yet they also see defeats, mistakes, things that – as they say – “if I went back I would not do again”. Yet today the Lord offers us a gentle word that invites us to accept the mystery of life with serenity and patience, to leave judgment to him, and not to live regretful and remorseful lives. It is as if Jesus wanted to say to us: “Look at the good wheat that has sprouted along the path of your life and let it keep growing, entrusting everything to me, for I always forgive: in the end, the good will be stronger than the evil”. Old age is indeed a blessed time, for it is the season to be reconciled, a time for looking tenderly at the light that has shone despite the shadows, confident in the hope that the good wheat sown by God will prevail over the weeds with which the devil has wanted to plague our hearts.



Photo - <https://pixabay.com/photos/grandpa-sleep-grandchild-girl-4051229/>

Let us now turn to the second parable. Jesus tells us that the kingdom of heaven is the work of God acting silently in the course of history, to the point of seeming small and invisible, like a tiny mustard seed. Yet, when this seed grows, “it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches” (Mt 13:32). Brothers and sisters, our lives are like this too, for we come into the world so small; we become adults, then grow old. At the beginning we are like a small seed; then we are nourished by hopes, and our plans and dreams come to fruition, the most beautiful of which become like the tree that does not live for itself but gives shade to all who desire it and offers space to those who wish to build a nest there. Thus those who *grow together* in this parable are ultimately the mature tree and the little birds.

Here I think of our grandparents: how beautiful are these thriving trees, in whose “branches” children and grandchildren build their own “nests”, learning the warmth of home and experiencing the tenderness of an embrace. This is about growing together: the verdant tree and the little ones who need a nest, grandparents with their children and grandchildren, the elderly with the youngest. Brothers and sisters, how much we need a new bond between young and old, so that the sap of those who have a long experience of life behind them will nourish the shoots of hope of those who are growing. In this fruitful exchange we can learn the beauty of life, build a fraternal society, and in the Church be enabled to encounter one another and dialogue between tradition and the newness of the Spirit.

Finally the third parable, where the yeast and the flour *grow together* (cf. Mt 13:33). This mixing makes the whole dough rise. Jesus uses the verb “to mix”. This reminds us of the “art” or “mystique” of “living together, of mingling and encounter, of embracing and supporting one another... To go out of ourselves and to join others” (Evangelii Gaudium, 87). This is the way to overcome individualism and selfishness, and to build a more human and more fraternal world. Indeed, today the word of God calls us to be vigilant so that we do not marginalize the elderly in our families or lives. Let us be careful, so that our crowded cities do not become “centres of loneliness”; that politics, called to provide for the needs of the most fragile, never forgets the elderly nor allows the market to banish them as “unprofitable waste”. May we not chase after the utopias of efficiency and performance at full-speed, lest we become incapable of slowing down to accompany those who struggle to keep up. Please, let us mingle and grow together.

Brothers and sisters, God's word calls us not to separate ourselves, close in on ourselves or think we can do it alone, but to *grow together*. Let us listen to each other, talk together and support one another. Let us not forget our grandparents or the elderly, for so often we have been lifted up, gotten back on track, felt loved and been healed within, all by a caress of theirs. They have made sacrifices for us, and we cannot let them drop down the list of our priorities. Let us grow together, let us go forward together. May the Lord bless our journey!

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2023/documents/20230723-omelia-giornatanonni-anziani.html>



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The Editor's Point of View



Coincidentally, the Gospel reading for World Mission Sunday 2023 concerns money. At the time of Jesus, many Jews did not think it appropriate to pay taxes to Caesar because Rome was an occupying nation. Many Jews felt that the Roman occupation of Palestine was illegal. Palestine was the land given by God to the Jewish people and no other nation had any claim to it. Therefore, paying taxes to this illegal occupation would not be considered inappropriate to some Jews. Not to mention, tax collectors regularly asked for more taxes than was required to line their own pockets, a practice not appreciated by most people. Occupying forces, however, existed primarily to ensure the collection of taxes. Those who refused to pay taxes could get themselves into trouble with the Roman authorities.

In the middle of this national debate, Jesus is asked to weigh in. Is it legitimate to pay taxes to Caesar? It is a no-win scenario and those who posed the question knew it. If Jesus replies in the affirmative, those who oppose Rome, which tended to be those who were his followers, would be upset at him. If he said no, Jesus would risk recriminations from the Roman authorities. Knowing that this is a trap, Jesus deftly negotiates around this question with an enigmatic response of his own. According to Jesus, both God and Caesar should get what is duly owed them. This may sound to some that the Jews should pay taxes. But on further reflection, it should be noted that Jesus does not specify what exactly God or Caesar are due. So, the audience can interpret Jesus's response in any number of ways, depending on what they assume God and Caesar are "due."

While there is no need for us today to debate these political questions, (or should we?), the question about what is due to God is a perennial question that all Catholics should continually ask themselves, especially on World mission Sunday. As God's creation, what do we owe God for the gift of life with which he has blessed us? Certainly, as we celebrate in Canada during the missionary

month of October, we should give God thanks. Our hearts should overflow with constant gratitude for giving us life and all that this life entails: family, friends, love, food, shelter, and many other blessings for which we should be grateful. God deserves our eternal praise because he has brought us to life, a gift that we could never repay. As Catholics, we are a Eucharistic people and the word Eucharist derives from the Greek, meaning to give thanks. One of the more distinguishing characteristics of a Catholic should be a grateful heart and we should begin any prayer addressed to God with an acknowledgment of our gratitude.

This gift of life, moreover, with which we have been blessed is not solely for our own selfish use. As Catholics, we believe that we should offer back up to God the gifts that we have been given, as we do during at Eucharistic celebrations at the time of the offertory. Our lives are not our own but should be given to some good purpose here on this earth. We are all called to some special ministry during our lives. We all need to discern what special vocation that God might have for us. We all need to discern how God wishes us to use this gift that the Creator has given us. Our vocation may change as we enter different stages of life. But we always have some way to serve God, to give back to God what is God's.

As Jesus repeats frequently in the Gospels, our lives are not only for God but, by extension, all of God's creation. What we owe God is to love our neighbour. God has not only given us individually the gift of life. But everyone we meet on our journey through life is also a creation of God the Father and, therefore, a sister or brother. We are a family with all with whom we have been given life and we are all called to create a harmonious world where everyone is loved and safe. We are all called to serve the world or, another way of saying this, as we reflect on this Gospel reading for World Mission Sunday, is that we are all called to be missionary disciples. Jesus's injunction to love our neighbour includes being missionary disciples and supporting the work of the church to bring the Gospel message of love to all the world.

As missionary disciples, World Mission Sunday should remind us of the two ways that any Catholic can support the missionary activ-

ity of the church. These two ways were promoted by Blessed Pauline Jaricot in her missionary movement, which would become The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Each member of the society could donate money, however little it may be to our sisters and brothers of the newer churches around the world. Each member could also pray for the work of the missions and for our fellow Catholics around the globe. Today, Pope Francis reminds us that beyond these two practices, we can all be missionary disciples in our own backyards. It is no longer only those who leave their homelands to preach the Gospel in far off places that are missionaries. People in North America and Europe also need to hear the Gospel message preached to them anew. We too can be missionary disciples by living the Gospel message, so that some might ask, what is the source of our hope and joy? By pledging to be missionary disciples, no matter the stage in life in which we might find ourselves, we can all contribute to building the world of peace that God originally planned for this world.

In conclusion, and speaking of gratitude, on behalf of PMS Canada, I would like to give thanks to all of you, our faithful donors, for your on-going support. We could not do the work we do without your financial contributions, moral support, and prayers. Your example and generosity are inspiring, and we appreciate all that you do for the mission work of the church. Confident that you will continue to support the missions this year again during our WMS appeal, I also thank you for all your support in the future. Together we can do so much good together than we can do apart. So let us continue to have



*“our hearts on fire,”
and our
“feet on the move.”*

In Remembrance

Our Deceased Donors

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased members of the Pontifical Mission Societies:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Joe & Rosemary Campbell | Saskatoon, SK |
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