

SPIRITUAL ANIMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

100th

World Mission Sunday

October 18, 2026



MISSIONARY MONTH
October 2026



For more information visit
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PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

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WORLD MISSION SUNDAY THEME: “One in Christ - United in Mission”

100 years of World Mission Sunday



The month of October is designated as **Missionary Month** by the Vatican, and World Mission Sunday 2026 is on October 18. This annual event is an opportunity for you as teachers, catechists and parents along with the children in your charge who belong to the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) to review our responsibilities and promises as missionaries. It is a chance for you to spread the mission of the HCA to other students and teachers/parishioners within your environment. It is a time to recommit yourselves to the mission we all have as Catholics as given by Jesus. It is a reminder that we may be able to offer concrete assistance to children in missionary countries through our prayers and donations.

At a gathering of Pontifical Missions Societies representatives from around the world, Pope Leo said:

On World Mission Sunday, every Catholic community is invited to pray and offer spiritual and material sacrifices for the missionary efforts in areas of first evangelization and the support of young Churches.



**Pope Leo XIV meets with Pontifical Mission Societies representatives and invites the entire Church to participate in World Mission Sunday.
(Vatican News)**

2026 is especially significant because it is the 100th year anniversary of World Mission Sunday. It was established by Pope Pius XI nearly a century ago. This event remains unique as the only worldwide effort directly sustaining 1,124 mission territories where the Church is young, vulnerable, or facing persecution. Because of the effects on our own lives, it is easy to forget about the difficulties still faced by children in mission countries.

Mission Sunday is an opportunity for our young people to reinforce the three responsibilities of members of the Holy Childhood Association (HCA): **prayer, knowledge and sharing.**

What follows are ideas and reflections you can use with your children on the occasion of our 2026 World Mission Sunday.



REFLECTION ON THE THEME

Read the theme out loud with your children: ***One in Christ, united in mission!***

Points to consider and discuss are:

One – It might appear ridiculous at first to think of discussing the meaning of the word “one”. So let us first think of words or symbols that can appear in our minds when we think of the word “One”, for example:

- Single
- Alone
- Solitary
- Unit
- 1
- Individual
- First

We can then think of concepts, feelings, emotions:

- Friendless
- Isolation
- Fear
- Helpless
- Unity
- Strength in numbers
- Togetherness

What does “**One**” mean in relation to Jesus and his call for help with mission activity? He means having a single-minded objective, the result which is achieved by single minded effort. He wants us to be totally with him and each other in our objective to spread His word throughout the environment in which we live as well as in areas of need far away.

Spend some time with your students discussing the many things that can arise in thinking about the word “one”.

United – The use of the word “united” stems from the meaning of the word “One”. It means “all in together” working on a missionary task. This may seem very obvious but can be difficult as well. Spreading the word of God is not easy in today’s world. How do we do it? Visible example is probably the easiest and best way. However, can you give example to your friends when you risk criticism from those who don’t agree with your actions?

What about helping children in missionary countries far away? Prayer works. So can campaigns to raise money to send to missionary countries. Teachers and students need to work together to be active in supporting missionary activity overseas.

Mission – What does it mean? This is the most important word in our theme! We hear the word **mission** often without really thinking about what it means

Mission – a word used casually to refer to any job or task one is doing

Mission Impossible - A seemingly hopeless task undertaken by trained people (often military or police) to combat something evil or unjust that is happening

Mission in life – reference to a vocation or a paid job

Mission statement – core beliefs of an organisation

A military operation

An important assignment

An organization involved in a long-term assignment, often in a foreign country

An expedition into space

A group of buildings used by a religious organization

A strong calling to do something, often personal or related to a vocation

As members of the HCA, **you know what “mission” means.** It involves helping children learn about ways to strengthen their relationship with Jesus. You strive to educate yourselves about the needs of missionary children. You continually pray for missionary children. You participate, with the help of your parents and teachers, in supporting missionary children overseas so that they can be adequately fed, cared for medically and educated to a high standard.

IS THIS A MISSION POSSIBLE?

**CAN YOU BE ONE WITH CHRIST,
UNITED IN MISSION????**



⇒ **POSTER**

Examine the World Mission Sunday poster. Discuss it with reference to the meaning of the theme. How does the photo show “being one in Christ”? How does it show being united in Mission?

The photo of Pope Leo dominates the poster. Discuss why you think this photo was chosen as the one for this special mission event. What does his body language suggest? How does this photo compare with the many others you have seen of him and previous popes? What does his presentation suggest about his plea for missionary activity? Does it work? Comment on the graphic of the cross and heart. Can you suggest how you would design a poster for World Missionary Sunday? **Why not have a group or individual project?**

⇒ **READINGS for Mission Sunday, October 18** – Reading from St Paul
(1 Thessalonians 1:1)

Read with your students/children the passage from Thessalonians 1:1, the Second Reading for the day.
What does it have to do with Mission Sunday?

This reading emphasizes the importance and power of prayer, one of the three essential responsibilities of members of the HCA. St Paul stresses that God has chosen them for their mission “with full conviction”. The message to us is that you have been chosen by God to be missionaries to one another as well as to less advantaged children around the world. What a tremendous realisation, that you have actually been selected for your mission with the HCA!

Continue to be active in your Catholic life and be an active missionary. Be proud of your mission selection.

⇒ **Mission Sunday, October 18** – Gospel Reflection (Matt 22: 15-21)

Read with your students/children the passage from Matthew 22:15-21, the Gospel reading for the day.

What does this passage have to do with Mission Sunday? What does it have to do with our theme? The poster? How does it relate to being united in Christ?

Having a mission is about pursuing life’s deepest meaning. Jesus’ answer to the Pharisees challenges them and us to look beyond the surface and become involved in what is really important in our relationship with God. This asks us to question what is most important in our lives and in the world around us. To what extent do we have a responsibility to assist our disadvantaged fellow humans? As missionaries, we need to realise how important it is to treat even the poorest of children as our equals and deserving of our hospitality.

PRAYER FOR MISSION MONTH 2026

**Father, make us one in Christ, rooted in his love that unites and renews.
May all members of the Church be united in mission, docile to the Holy Spirit, courageous in bearing witness to the Gospel, proclaiming and daily embodying your faithful love for all creatures.**

**Bless all missionary men and women, support them in their efforts,
and watch over them in hope.**

Mary, Queen of Missions, accompany our work of evangelization in every corner of the Earth: make us instruments of peace, and grant that the whole world may recognize in Christ the light that saves. *AMEN.*

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us.

POPE LEO XIV

DO YOU STILL WANT TO BE A MISSIONARY? **GUESS WHAT??? - YOU ALREADY ARE!!**

Are you a member of the Holy Childhood Association (HCA)? Does your school or Parish belong? Does your teacher know about it? Do your friends know about it? Does your family know about it? Do your friends know about it?

Living the life of a missionary in a far away land can sound exciting. However, what about these important considerations?

- Aren't I too young?
- What about going to school?
- I have no money!
- I don't even know how to start!
- What about my family and my life with them?
- What about my other future plans?

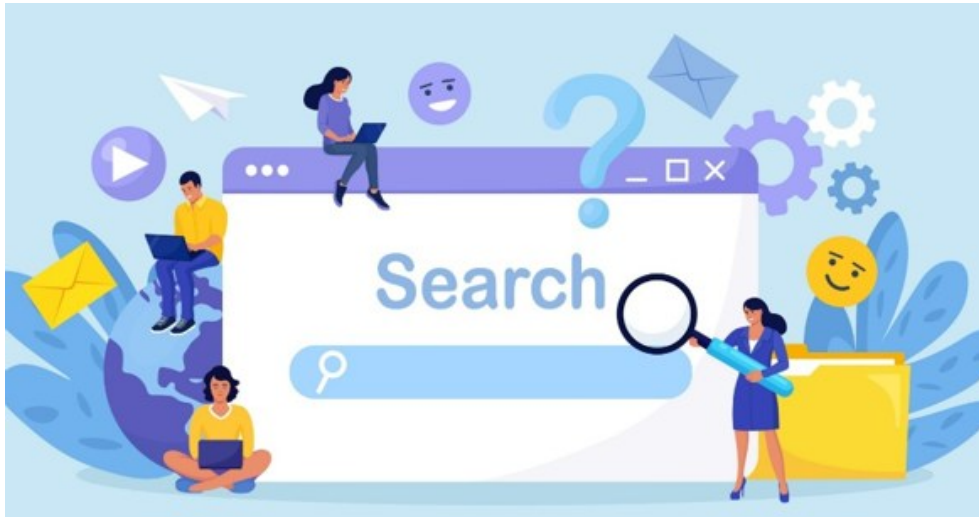
Maybe you don't have to go far away in order to be a missionary. Being a missionary means proclaiming the Gospel to those who have not heard it or who do not really understand it. **You can do that every day!** How, you ask? Just look ...



Bible.com

- Go to Mass, sometimes during the week
- Go to Confession (Reconciliation) at least once a month
- Say grace before eating - even when out in public
- Read the Bible and Catechism
- Make regular visits to the Church before the Blessed Sacrament
- Fast, even when it's not Lent. Abstain from meat on Fridays
- Ask your friends why they don't go to Mass
- Join your Parish Youth Group
- Be a Church Minister, for example an altar server
- Dress as a Saint for Halloween
- Wear religious jewelry, or if you "need" a tattoo, have a religious one
- Don't judge
- Don't take yourself too seriously
- Read some Christian books
- Dress modestly but look awesome
- If you can't say something nice, say nothing
- Ask someone to pray for you
- When you receive Communion, act like you really believe it
- Ask for people's forgiveness

- Forgive
- Believe that other people have at least 5 things about him/her that are better than you
- Be completely present to everyone who is talking to you
- Don't be a hypocrite
- Donate to the HCA
- Pray more than you talk
- Pray the Rosary. Keep it with you as part of your personal gear
- Remember that you don't have all the answers
- Pray, love, then be yourself



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What else can you do? **Search the internet** for activities that you and your friends can do to promote mission activity. Believe it or not, there are many sites that present ideas that you could consider doing that would promote mission activity.

See?? You are already a missionary!

100 years of World Mission Sunday