



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

October 9, 2016

Dear Faithful Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Church's celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy casts a distinct light on **World Mission Sunday 2016**. It invites us to consider the *missio ad gentes* as a great, immense work of mercy, both spiritual and material. On this **World Mission Sunday**, all of us are invited to "go out" as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom and experience to bring the message of God's tenderness and compassion to the entire human family.

Pope Francis' sentiments above for the celebration of the 90th World Mission Sunday, on October 23, call each of us to be a "*Witness of Mercy*," the theme of this year's Archdiocesan celebration.

Missionaries know from experience that the Gospel of forgiveness and mercy can bring joy and reconciliation, justice and peace. The mandate of the Gospel to "*go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*" Mt 28:19a-20 has not ceased; rather this command commits all of us, in the current landscape with all its challenges, to hear the call to a renewed missionary "*impulse*."

If we want our faith to be fruitful, we need to bring it alive first in prayer, and then in action. The greatest way we can show love to other persons is by sharing Jesus Christ with them. And that means all of us are called to be Missionaries. I have said this in the past and it holds true today.

This Jubilee year marks the 90th anniversary of World Mission Sunday, first approved by Pope Pius XI in 1926, and organized by the *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith*. Your prayers and material support will help the *Society* provide resources to missionaries in 1,111 mission dioceses throughout the world to care for Christian communities in need and for the proclamation of the Gospel to the ends of the earth Gospel.

I thank you in advance for your generous response to the needs of others. **World Mission Sunday** invites you to be a "Witness of Mercy" to communities throughout the globe. With your help, the Lord's mercy, extended by your acts of solidarity, your prayers and your help, will change the world!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners on the weekend of October 8 and 9, 2016; the collection can be taken the weekend of October 15 and 16, 2016 or the weekend of October 22 and 23, 2016. For more about this important celebration of the universal Church, please visit our local website at www.phillymissions.org.)