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

October 14, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pope Francis has called for an "Extraordinary Missionary Month" to be celebrated in October 2019 with the goal of fostering an increased awareness of our baptismal call to be missionaries.

In light of this request by the Holy Father, I am happy to announce that beginning this World Mission Sunday, October 21, 2018, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will dedicate the year leading up to October 2019 as the Extraordinary Year of Mission.

On World Mission Sunday, as we begin this Extraordinary Year of Mission, you are asked for a response in the way of your prayers and help to reawaken this calling to be missionary and to work with a new impulse to further the missionary transformation of life and pastoral activity. The Pontifical Mission Societies were born of devoted hearts as a means of supporting the preaching of the Gospel to every nation contributing to the human and cultural growth of all those who thirst for truth.

The prayers and the material aid generously given and distributed through the Societies enable the Holy See to ensure that those who are helped in their personal needs can in turn bear witness to the Gospel in the circumstances of their daily lives.

It is my hope during this year each one of us is frequently reminded of our vocational call, by our baptism, to be missionaries. "We need to bring Jesus Christ to the whole world and the whole world to Jesus Christ." I have said this before, and it holds true today.

I pray that beginning on World Mission Sunday and throughout the year, each of you will pray daily, increase your heartfelt generosity and sacrifice for missionaries and the people they serve, and embrace missionary discipleship.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Charles J. Chaput O.F.M. Cap.

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

Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners on October 13-14; the collection to be taken October 20-21. Collection remittal should be made payable to: ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith*, 222 North Seventeenth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. For more about this important celebration of the universal Church, please visit our local website at www.phillymissions.org.