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World Mission Sunday, 2020
Society for the Propagation of the Faith



110th Anniversary of the *Pontifical Mission Societies* in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

EVERY YEAR, SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENS on the next-to-last Sunday of October. World Mission Sunday joins all Catholics of the world into one community of faith. At Mass on this Sunday, we recommit ourselves to our common vocation, through Baptism, **to be Missionaries**, through prayer, participation in the Eucharist and by giving as best we can to help Missionaries world-wide.

In his message for World Mission Sunday this year, Pope Francis asks us to respond to our baptismal call to mission by saying, **“Here I Am, Send Me.”** This is the Mission that all Christians have received, and God gives us the grace to live it out wherever we may be.

In this time, when life is so different, the Pope’s message is more important than ever. The world is facing devastating circumstances and, as with most catastrophic events, the *world’s poor have been hit the hardest*. From Ecuador to Kenya, Pakistan to Vietnam – in all Mission countries world-wide – where food and necessities were scarce before the pandemic, life is worse.

And yet, in this time, when life is so different . . . we see great Missionary heroes emerge. Today’s Missionaries around the globe are working to slow the spread of pandemic among the poor. Today’s Missionaries are providing food and medical assistance, to those where no one else will visit: the elderly, the orphans, the mentally impaired.

Your prayers and your help reach the most the most remote Mission areas. And it will reach them, in this year, like no other, the people who have the least possibility of finding assistance from other sources. In a time, when life is so different, World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as Missionaries by our Baptism, as it offers each of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,111 Mission dioceses.

And in this year, when life is so different, we here at the **Mission Societies** in Philadelphia have been blessed to have been **supporting the Missions for 110 Years**. World Mission Sunday will begin our year-long Anniversary celebration.

The celebration of this World Mission Sunday, even when life is so different, is an occasion for reaffirming how prayer, reflection and the material help of your offerings are so many opportunities to participate actively in the Mission of Jesus in his Church. The charity expressed aid and support the Missionary work carried out in my name by the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, in order to meet the spiritual and material needs of peoples and Churches throughout the world. *I deeply appreciate your help!*

Sincerely in Christ’s Mission and in prayer,

Reverend Monsignor Arthur E. Rodgers
Archdiocesan Director



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Parish Communication Kit and Materials

This mailing contains the following materials to help your parish communicate the celebration of World Mission Sunday:

Posters: *Place the posters at entrances DURING October or elsewhere in prominent display.*

Envelopes: *Please make available at the entrances of your parish [or where you place your parish bulletins at this time] for each Mass for the weekend of October 17 & 18. These are additional for your parish to provide information about World Mission Sunday, recognizing that most parishes have mailed Collection envelopes.*

Universal Prayer & Homily Helps: Plan to incorporate the Universal Prayer in your World Mission Sunday Masses, as well as any Mass throughout the Mission month of October. Ideas for your message on the weekend of Mission Sunday are also included here.

Virtual Message from Archbishop Nelson Perez: This short video will be sent electronically to your parish and parish Mission contacts—please plan on sending it with any of your electronic parish communications, place it on your website and if possible add it to your video screens during the Mission month of October.

Bulletin announcements: Announcements leading to and during the weekend of World Mission Sunday, October 17 & 18, will also be sent electronically; if you would include in all communications, both at your parish and virtually.

