



## ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

October, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual, worldwide celebration of our shared call to Mission, **World Mission Sunday**, is celebrated on **October 18, 2020** this year. That Sunday will also mark the beginning of a year-long commemoration marking the **110th Anniversary** of the *Pontifical Mission Societies* in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

This special year begins at a time marked by the suffering and challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic. Still, as Pope Francis reminds us, “the Missionary journey of the whole Church continues”. During the Mission Month of October, Pope Francis reminds us that, as baptized Christians, we are called *personally* to Mission. When the Lord asks us to respond to his call - ‘*Whom shall I send?*’ - what will your answer be? Hopefully, each of us will respond in the same way as the prophet Isaiah: “***Here I am . . . Send me.***”

“***Here I Am, Send Me***” is the response we can endeavor to live out throughout the *Societies’ 110th Anniversary Year-Long Celebration*. This response is displayed through our prayer, through our participation in the Eucharist and in our generosity to the **World Mission Sunday** collection for the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith*.

Through supporting the Pope’s own Missionary *Societies*, you, too, become partners with missionaries and those whom they serve. Your gift helps sustain priests, Religious and lay pastoral leaders in 1,111 Mission dioceses around the world as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church and serve the poor. In supporting missionaries, you also answer, “***Here I Am, Send Me.***”

This year, in response to the challenges facing the Mission Church from the pandemic, I invite you to respond in the most generous way you are able. I offer you my sincere gratitude for your kindness in praying for and supporting the missionary work of the Church throughout this Mission Month and our local 110th Anniversary Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

*Please communicate the contents of this letter, via at the pulpit, via bulletin and through all your means of communication, to your parishioners on October 10-11 or earlier; the collection to be taken October 17-18. For more about this important celebration of the universal Church, please visit our local website at [www.phillymissions.org](http://www.phillymissions.org).*