



DIOCESE *of* GAYLORD

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Sunday, October 20th is World Mission Sunday – a special day that unites Catholics worldwide in prayer, solidarity, and support for the Church’s mission efforts.

This year’s theme, chosen by Pope Francis, is rooted in the Gospel of Matthew: “*Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet,*” reflecting the urgent call to bring God’s love to everyone.

Instituted in 1926 by Pope Pius XI as a mandatory, global second collection, the *banquet* that is World Mission Sunday has since then been hosted by the Pope, and the table set by those who answer Christ’s call to “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19), extending an invitation to all corners of the Earth. Meant to be held in every parish in the world, the proceeds benefit 1,150 territories where the Gospel has not yet been received, has been only recently embraced, or is courageously upheld in the face of persecution.

Your gift on World Mission Sunday answers the call to help more than 1,150 dioceses that cannot sustain themselves because they are too poor, young, or actively persecuted. In addition, your gift actively supports more than 38,000 seminarians, 8,750 shelters and orphanages, and more than 250,000 religious sisters. Together, our prayers and generous donations, support our Church’s shared mission to proclaim the Gospel and serve the poorest and most marginalized throughout the world.

Thank you for your generous support to spread the life-giving presence of the Church throughout the world on World Mission Sunday. May God continue to keep us “mission minded,” and our eyes fixed on Jesus.

In Christ our Life!

Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh
Bishop of Gaylord