

Homilies



THE
PONTIFICAL
MISSION
SOCIETIES

WMS 2024
**GO AND INVITE
EVERYONE**
to the banquet
(MT 22:9)

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Introduction letter

Brother in Mission,

As we move into October, a month that has traditionally been a powerful period of reflection and mobilization for our Church's missionary efforts, I write on behalf of the missionary men and women spreading the Gospel in 1,150 mission territories, to humbly and boldly seek your support.

This October presents us with another profound opportunity to renew our commitment to the Great Commission. World Mission Sunday, celebrated globally on the second-to-last weekend of October, falls on the 20th this year. It serves as a clarion call to mobilize faith, resources, and action in introducing the Gospel to our brothers and sisters living in the furthest reaches of our world. Importantly, it is the only collection mandated by the Code of Canon Law.

As the theme for this year's World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis has chosen: "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," inspired by the parable of the wedding banquet in Matthew 22:9. This theme calls us to reach out and welcome all to the feast of God's love, echoing the inclusivity and urgency of the king's invitation. Our mission is to reflect this divine hospitality, bringing joy, compassion, and hope to everyone we encounter, especially in territories where the Gospel has not yet been received, has been only recently embraced, or is courageously upheld in the face of persecution. To aid you in fostering this spirit, we are providing you with Homily Helps for the first four Sundays of October. These resources have been crafted with care, aiming to help you guide your congregation through a journey that builds momentum toward World Mission Sunday. Additionally, we have enclosed prayers of the faithful, bulletin announcements, and general information concerning World Mission Sunday. These materials are designed to both inform and inspire your community, fostering a deeper connection to our shared missionary calling.

Reverend Father, the invitation to the banquet is more than just a call; it is a transformative journey of embracing and sharing God's love. As shepherds of His flock, may we guide our communities in a similar transformative experience this World Mission Month. Through our shared efforts and God's unceasing grace, may our hearts remain open to His call, and may our actions reflect His boundless love!

Wishing you a grace-filled Mission Month and looking forward to a united celebration of World Mission Sunday,



Fr Anthony Andreassi

*National Secretary for the Society of the Propagation
of the Faith The Pontifical Mission Societies*



What is World Mission Sunday?

World Mission Sunday, celebrated on the second-to-last Sunday of October, is a day set aside by the Catholic Church to remember and support the mission work being done around the world. This special day is mandated by the Code of Canon Law and is crucial for sustaining the Church's outreach in over 1,150 mission territories.

01 The impact of World Mission Sunday for the Church in the United States:

- The Church in the United States was once mission territory, heavily reliant on support from Catholics worldwide. Today, U.S. Catholics have the opportunity to return that generosity by supporting global missions.
- Run by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of four Pontifical Mission Societies, this day of giving has seen the Church come together on the Pope's request since 1926, when Pope Pius XI made this the only canonically mandatory universal collection.
- The World Mission Sunday collection is inspired in the efforts made by laywoman Blessed Pauline Jaricot, who founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith back in 1822. She asked her friends to pray for the Church in mission territories daily, and donate a penny a week. Two-thirds of those first pennies raised were sent to the vast diocese of Louisiana, which then extended from the Florida Keys to Canada. In the United States, we benefited from the collection held by the Society until 1908. Throughout the years, we received \$7 million, the equivalent of over \$250 million today.

02 Supporting Mission Territories:

- We are here today, extending to you the Gospel's call to "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," that is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's World Mission Sunday celebration.
- This table is set by those who answer Christ's call to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19), extending an inclusive invitation to all corners of the Earth, especially in territories where it has not yet been received, has been only recently embraced, or is courageously upheld in the face of persecution: From the windswept plains of Mongolia to the dense forests of the Amazon, contributions from the faithful all over the world your contributions have made you a partaker in this holy mission—a mission that continues to invite everyone to experience the boundless love of God.

03 Faith in Action:

- Participating in World Mission Sunday is a tangible way for Catholics to live out the Great Commission, bringing the message of Christ to the ends of the earth. It's an expression of solidarity with missionaries and a means to share Christ's love universally.

Theme for 2024: "Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet"

Pope Francis has chosen the theme "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," inspired by the parable of the wedding banquet in Matthew 22:9. This theme emphasizes two core aspects:

**GO AND INVITE
EVERYONE**
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(MT 22:9)

01 Going Out:

- Mission work involves going out into the world, reaching out to those who have not heard the Gospel, and inviting them to experience God's love. It's a call to be active and engaged in spreading the faith.

02 Inviting Everyone:

- The invitation is universal, reflecting God's love for all. It calls on us to welcome everyone to the feast of the Eucharist and the ultimate banquet in the Kingdom of God.



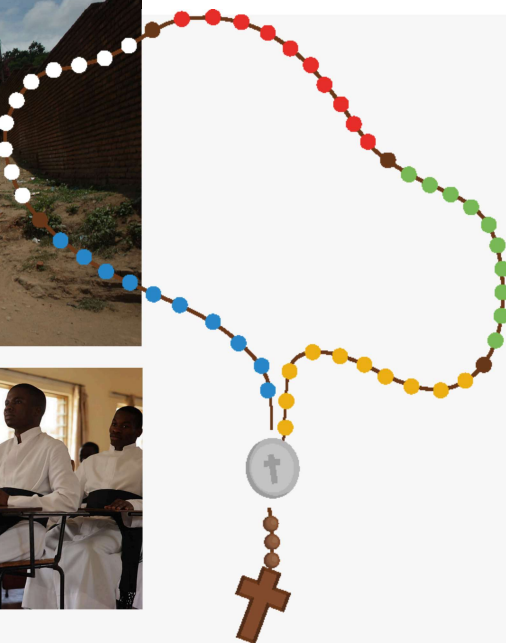
Much more than a collection

World Mission Sunday is meant to be the culmination of a month dedicated to praying and learning about the missions. You should have received this past year several copies of Mission Magazine, the quarterly publication of The Pontifical Mission Societies. There, you can find stories of missionaries, and the impact this day of prayer and giving has all over the world.

You can also find resources for celebrating the missions throughout October on our website, www.onefamilyinmission.org, and you can hear stories from missionaries on our podcast, Frontiers of Faith.

A great way to get the entire parish community involved is through the World Mission Rosary, created by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in 1951. It is a unique way to pray for the missions around the world. Each decade of the rosary is represented by a different color, symbolizing different regions of the world.

- **Green Beads:** Represent the forests and grasslands of Africa.
- **Blue Beads:** Represent the ocean surrounding the islands of the Pacific.
- **White Beads:** Represent Europe, symbolizing the seat of the Holy Father.
- **Red Beads:** Represent the Americas, symbolizing the fire of faith brought by missionaries.
- **Yellow Beads:** Represent the morning light of the East, symbolizing Asia.



Bulletin Inserts

Week 1: Introduction to World Mission Month

October is Mission Month

As we begin the month of October, we enter a special period of reflection and action for our Church's missionary efforts worldwide. World Mission Sunday, which will be celebrated on October 20th, is a vital time for all Catholics to support the spread of the Gospel in mission territories. This year's theme, chosen by Pope Francis, is "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," emphasizing our call to bring God's love and message to all corners of the world.

The contributions collected on World Mission Sunday are crucial for sustaining the Church's mission in over 1,150 territories where the Church is still young or struggling. Historically, the Church in the United States was once a beneficiary of these missionary efforts, and now we have the opportunity to give back and support our brothers and sisters around the globe. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to engage fully in this mission throughout the month.



Week 2: The Importance of World Mission Sunday

Why World Mission Sunday Matters

World Mission Sunday, observed on October 20th this year, is not just another Sunday; it is a powerful reminder of our call to be missionaries. The collection taken up on this day is unique as it is mandated by the Code of Canon Law and is essential for the survival and growth of the Church in mission territories.

These funds support the pastoral and evangelizing work of the Church, including building churches, providing healthcare and education, and training future priests and religious. In places where resources are scarce, your generosity makes a profound difference. As we reflect on the theme "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," let us remember that our participation and support help invite countless souls to the feast of God's love.

Week 3: Our Missionary Legacy

Our Missionary Legacy

As we approach World Mission Sunday on October 20th, it's important to remember the legacy of missionary work. The Church in the United States was once mission territory, supported by the generosity of Catholics worldwide. Today, we continue this legacy by supporting the Pontifical Mission Societies, ensuring that the Gospel reaches the ends of the earth.

Our contributions help build and sustain communities of faith in places where the Church is still growing or facing persecution. This mission is a testament to our faith in action, reflecting the universal call to share Christ's love. As we reflect on this year's theme, "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," let us recommit to supporting our global Church family.

Week 4: Thank You for Your Generosity

Thank You for Supporting World Mission Sunday

On behalf of the missionary men and women serving in over 1,150 mission territories, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support on World Mission Sunday. Your contributions ensure that the Gospel continues to spread, bringing hope, love, and salvation to those in need.

This year's theme, "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," reminds us of our universal call to evangelize and support our brothers and sisters around the world. Your generosity helps build churches, train clergy, and provide essential services in mission territories. Thank you for being part of this vital mission and for making a lasting impact on the global Church.



Sunday October 20th

World Mission
Sunday 2024

**GO AND INVITE
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Mass Announcements for World Mission Month

Two Sundays Before World Mission Sunday (October 6th)

Announcement: "Good morning/afternoon/evening, everyone. As we begin the month of October, we enter into a special period dedicated to supporting the Church's missionary work around the world. World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on October 20th, and it is a time for us to remember our call to be missionaries and to support those who bring the Gospel to the farthest corners of the earth. Please look out for upcoming events and ways you can participate and contribute. Thank you."

One Sunday Before World Mission Sunday (October 13th)

One Sunday Before World Mission Sunday (October 13th)

Announcement: "Good morning/afternoon/evening, everyone. Next Sunday, October 20th, is World Mission Sunday. This is a unique opportunity for us to support the Church's mission work in over 1,150 territories worldwide. Our prayers and contributions help build churches, train clergy, and provide essential services to those in need. Please consider how you can participate and give generously next week. Thank you."

On World Mission Sunday (October 20th)

On World Mission Sunday (October 20th)

Announcement: "Good morning/afternoon/evening, everyone. Today is World Mission Sunday. We join Catholics around the globe in supporting the mission of the Church in places where the faith is young, growing, or facing particular challenges. Your generous contributions today will make a significant impact on the lives of many and help spread the Gospel message to all corners of the world. Thank you for your prayers and support."

Sunday After World Mission Sunday (October 27th)

Sunday After World Mission Sunday (October 27th)

Announcement: "Good morning/afternoon/evening, everyone. On behalf of the Pontifical Mission Societies, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support on World Mission Sunday. Your contributions will help sustain the Church's missionary work and bring the light of Christ to those who need it most. Let us continue to pray for our missionaries and the people they serve, and may we always be mindful of our call to be missionaries in our own lives. Thank you."



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time [B]

6 October 2024

We have just heard words which speak to us of the enduring bond arising between a man and a woman in marriage. Catholics appreciate this bond in a special way because we recognize it as the sign of a relationship uniquely open to the support and assistance of God's grace. Those here today who have experienced marriage themselves -- or who are considering entering into the vocation of marriage at some point in the future -- will know the joy which this kind of personal commitment can bring.

Even for people who are not (or who will never be) bound to another person in marriage, the readings for today's Mass still teach us about our relationships. Because, at heart, Jesus calls all of us into relationships requiring faithfulness, not just in marriage. And more: using the language of the Gospel, faithfulness is not just a call, it is a command. Jesus commands us to be faithful.

But faithful to what? Maybe the better way of asking this question is as "faithful to whom?"

In Mark's Gospel Jesus refers back to the same chapters of Genesis from which we heard a few lines read earlier. In those chapters from the book of Genesis we witness many important "firsts." These include the first moments of time at the beginning of the universe; the creation of the very first forms of life to exist on earth; the first experiences of humankind in the story of Adam and Eve, man and woman. At the beginning of Genesis, we appreciate how God creates everything -- the world, life, human beings -- in order, it seems, to be able to be in relationship with something other than himself. So, if Jesus is commanding us to be faithful, in an important sense he is saying first we need to be faithful to God, to the Creator. In a deeply mysterious way, we are created to be in relationship with God.

But more, human beings who are created in diversity as male and female, placed in the Garden of Eden to work together to continue the goodness of the world, are also created to be in relationship with other people. So, while we are called to be faithful to God we are also commanded to be faithful to each other.



In marriage this kind of fidelity will look a certain way and bear fruit in certain kinds of actions. But, back to our Catholic understanding of this bond, marriage is not just about the commitment of two people alone. Marriage expands and extends relationships. In most cases, a couple will have children and so will invite new life into the world. Further, marriage and family are also about hospitable invitations to other people, especially the poor and those who might not have the support of such loving relationships already in their lives. Marriage casts a wide net of relationships into which we are all enmeshed in some way.

This is well known in the work of the Missions. In a profound way, missionaries may have given up the limited bonds of marriage and family in order to be hospitable to and inviting of the human and spiritual needs of other people -- in particular those who experience most acute human and spiritual needs in the developing world. But still, whether for the married couple or for the missionary, fidelity lived well is a sign of grace -- a demonstration of God's loving, hospitable involvement in the world that he has created.

As we move from reflecting on the words of Scripture to receiving the grace of the Eucharist into our bodies and souls let us give thanks to God for who and what he has given to us, the very people and relationships to which we have been called to be faithful.



Prayers of the Faithful for the First Sunday of Missionary October

Introduction by the Priest:

Brothers and sisters, as we begin this special month dedicated to the missions, let us present our prayers and petitions to our loving Father, confident that He hears and answers our needs.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

- **For the Church:** That she may continue to proclaim the Gospel with courage and compassion, inviting all to the banquet of God's love. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For Pope Francis, our bishop (NAME), and all Church leaders:** That they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit to lead the faithful in missionary discipleship. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For missionaries around the world:** That they may be strengthened and protected as they spread the Good News to the farthest corners of the earth. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For our parish community:** That we may be generous in supporting the Church's missionary efforts through prayer, financial contributions, and personal involvement. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For those who have not yet heard the Gospel:** That their hearts may be open to receiving the message of Christ's love and salvation. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For the success of the Synod on Synodality:** That the Holy Spirit may guide the participants in fostering communion, participation, and mission within the Church. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For the sick, the lonely, and the marginalized:** That they may find comfort and hope through the compassionate outreach of the Church. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **That anxiety, fear or shame** would never prevent us from seeking to reconcile with one another when we have caused harm and, in sorrow, working to heal the wounds of division. Let us pray to the Lord.

Concluding Prayer by the Priest: Heavenly Father, we bring these prayers before You, trusting in Your mercy and love. Grant us the grace to be faithful witnesses of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in our words and actions. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time [B]

13 October 2024

People who read Scripture very carefully appreciate the small, human details of Mark's Gospel. Consider, for example, some words in the passage just proclaimed where the rich young man does not just approach Jesus. He "runs up" and "kneels down" in front of him. The man is not just disappointed. His "face falls." In the midst of the dialogue, Jesus does not simply glance at the man, rather, he "looks at him, loving him." These details lend a special flavor to the action.

Many of us may feel comfort when we can figure out the big things and appreciate the big picture. But the literary details found in Mark's Gospel remind us that little things are important, too. Maybe the big picture is what, overall, we want to view in life but the little details have to be part of that appreciation. Sometimes it is good to limit the frame of our vision and concentrate on small things which link together to draw out the large view. Life often is truly more manageable when we concentrate on the small and not let the big overwhelm us. There is truth and beauty to be discovered in limitation.

The relationship between the large and the small feels important in the readings today. In the first reading from the book of Wisdom, the author recognizes the virtue of prudence as a powerful gift and force for good. These days when we use the word "prudence" we might mean something like 'careful' or 'cautious.' "She made a prudent financial decision by paying off her credit card debt instead of going on an expensive vacation," we might say. But the deeper, longer traditional understanding of that word refers not so much to caution but, rather, to strategy. Prudence is the virtue by which a person has skill to figure out how to reach an important goal. Prudence is what helps us put all the little pieces together into the big picture of an action.

In the work of the Missions, prudence is crucial. The missionary has a big, overall purpose: to proclaim the Kingdom of God. But how can that happen? What are the best, right little steps that lead to that solemnly important goal? If, like the author of the book of Wisdom, the missionary prays and receives prudence as a gift then he can have faith that the way will be made clear over time, step-by-step.

Still, we might get caught up too much in the little things and forget about the big picture. Prudence, if nurtured, allows us to have patience but still to see progress. Notice how the rich young man gets mixed up here. He's a good person and Jesus loves him but he wants to hurry, hurry, hurry. He has difficulty figuring out how to give away, or at least manage, his many possessions, with the ultimate goal of enjoying eternal life. It must feel like a puzzle to him, yet not an unsolvable one if he would only take the time to go step-by-step.

Prudence is hospitable -- it invites our hearts and minds to consider many possibilities but doesn't let us shirk the responsibility of narrowing down to what is good and possible.

Still, we have to be humble enough to settle into the details -- to spend time doing things that are worthy of action. There is no shame in little steps and small things.

As we continue with this Mass, Christ encourages us to have our sights set on a distant goal while he also strengthens us in this Eucharist to be patient in pursuing the small steps needed to get there. Let us pray to become people willing to take the risk of following Christ right now in order to enjoy eternal life with him in time to come.

Prayer of the Faithful on the Second Sunday of Missionary October

Introduction by the Priest: As we continue our journey through Mission Month, let us turn to God with hearts full of faith, presenting our needs and the needs of the world.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

- **For the Church:** That she may joyfully embrace her missionary calling, inviting all people to the feast of God's Kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For the Holy Father, bishops, priests, and deacons:** That they may inspire the faithful to participate in the Church's mission of evangelization. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For all missionaries:** That their work may bear much fruit, bringing many to faith in Christ and the fullness of life in Him. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For our community:** That we may grow in our commitment to supporting the missions through prayer, sacrifice, and action. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For those who live in mission territories:** That they may receive the support and resources needed to grow in faith and community. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For the participants of the Synod on Synodality:** That their discussions may be fruitful and lead to greater communion and participation in the Church. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **That like the rich young man we might appreciate the benefits we have** and, at the same time, reach out to Christ and ask for help deciding how to make the best use of them. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For those who are suffering or in need:** That they may experience the love and care of the Christian community through our missionary efforts. Let us pray to the Lord.

Concluding Prayer by the Priest: Gracious God, hear these prayers we offer for the Church and the world. Strengthen us in our mission to spread the Gospel, and help us to be instruments of Your peace and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time [B]

20 October 2024

Some people like to be in charge. Whether it is the person first to accept a new project at work or school, or the enthusiastic teammate who readily volunteers to organize an event, or the generous individual who always offers to assist, there are people all around who raise their hand and jump in when help is needed.

But being in charge presents certain temptations. Sometimes, in order to really get things done the leader has to be firm in setting expectations and correcting coworkers if everyone is not pulling their weight. This might lead the boss to act with impatience or rudeness. At other times, the leader might fall into the trap of thinking that good was accomplished only because of them, and not the joint effort of the whole team working together as one unit.

We are reminded in the Gospel reading at today's Mass that Jesus is okay with someone stepping up and being in charge -- but Jesus is also very concerned that this person, the generous leader-volunteer, be aware of their attitude about responsibility. Quite simply, to the Christian, authority and leadership is not about being served by others or being the boss. It is about being of service **TO** others.

This weekend the Church universally celebrates World Mission Day, a yearly commemoration which highlights the important role missionary organizations and mission-oriented individuals have in sharing the Good News of God's Kingdom and working in co-operation with God to make the Kingdom more visible right now. This year the Holy Father encourages us to consider how the work of the Missions is at heart one of invitation and hospitality. Meaning, the missionary is effective when mission work lovingly and generously offers to share God's gifts with persons and communities who might not be aware of what those gifts are.

The work of Mission is not about force, control or status. It is fundamentality about open hospitality, an offering of an invitation into better, fuller life within the earthly setting we find now -- and, ultimately into the fullness of God's life in the Kingdom.

On World Mission Day we pay special attention to the organizations and individuals who do this work in places of dire need. But, in truth, each one of us is called to be a missionary. Each of us is asked by Christ to share with others our love and commitment to discipleship within the specific circumstances of our own lives. The deeper our commitment to discipleship the more passionate our desire to share it with others can be. But in all this, we should take to heart the truth of the scriptures today. It is good to step up and take responsibility, but not in ways which "lord it over" others. Responsibility and authority in Christ are not about issuing commands or bullying. True Christian leadership is service of one another in response to the real earthly and spiritual needs of the world.

Prayer of the Faithful on World Mission Sunday

Introduction by the Priest: Gathered in the love of Christ, let us bring our prayers and petitions to God, who desires that all people come to know His saving love.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

- **For the Church:** That she may be a beacon of hope and light, guiding all people to the banquet of God's love. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For our Holy Father, bishops, and all Church leaders:** That they may lead us in living out our missionary call with zeal and faithfulness. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For those who work in mission fields:** That they may be blessed with the strength and perseverance needed to share the Gospel message. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For our parish community:** That we may open our hearts to the needs of the missions and respond generously on this World Mission Sunday. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For the Synod on Synodality:** That the Church may grow in unity and shared mission through the insights and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For the conversion of all people:** That they may come to know and accept the love and salvation of Jesus Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For the sick, the suffering, and the oppressed:** That they may find healing and hope through the Church's missionary outreach. Let us pray to the Lord.

Concluding Prayer by the Priest: Loving Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Son and the call to share His love with the world. Hear our prayers and help us to be faithful witnesses of Your mercy and grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time [B]

27 October 2024

The Old Testament and Gospel readings this weekend encourage us to be optimistic and confident. In them we witness how God acts when people ask for something important to them. He responds and gives them what they need!

Consider this: Jeremiah, a prophet who often comes across as sad and dark, proclaims to his hearers in the passage we just heard words of joyful reassurance and optimism. Jeremiah's message today is one of brightness. He reassures the people who have been in brutal exile that they will come home because God has said so. This message is full of light and faith.

In the Gospel, with similar optimism but focused not on an entire nation but only a single person, Jesus does something for Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus asks Jesus for sight. Jesus quickly and completely responds by giving it to him. In this case the light surrounding the action is not just the illumination of optimistic hope, like in Jeremiah, but it is the real, true light of bodily sight.

So, we witness how decisively God responds to those who are in need.

But this applies not just to the Exiles and to Bartimaeus. It also applies to us. We want God to do things: to heal us, to forgive us, to strengthen us, to include us.

At times it may seem God responds. At other times, it may feel that he does not. And when we think God does not respond it may be particularly difficult to bear because that perceived divine silence is inconsistent with what we know of God. Why would God want someone to be blind? Why would he want a people to be in exile? Well, he gave sight to Bartimaeus and he brought back the people in exile so why can he not grant what we ask of him as well?



Our world surely is a place in need of many interventions. Lest we fear that God does not respond to our needs today, we should notice something more about his actions. Here is some important background to today's first reading -- when God reaches out his glorious, liberating hand to the people in exile (Jeremiah's people) he works through the pagan, Persian king Cyrus to bring them home. God uses a surprising earthly power to accomplish his will. And when Jesus reaches out to Bartimaeus to heal his blindness he does it only after the man's friends encourage him to continue to reach out to Christ. Jesus uses the man's friends to get him to come closer.

There is wisdom here. In this world, God cannot intervene without help, often our help, maybe even help that comes from an unexpected source. God must use us in order to accomplish his good works. So, our works can be part of the broader tapestry of God's works if we invite him into what we do and say through invitation to others.

In the life of the Missions this is experienced all the time. In some mysterious way, we believe God has asked us to work his loving will through what we do. And in reply, by inviting God into our hearts seeking to do good, our actions have something more than just ourselves behind them. That's a wonderful thing -- that we can be part of God's work to accomplish liberation, illumination, salvation. But to do this we have to be open to collaborating with God. We also must have our eyes open to recognize invitations when they are extended.

As we come to the Eucharist together may we be grateful for God's call to us to be "on the way" with Jesus, confident that God responds to our needs and that we have a role in helping him accomplish his good work.



Prayers of the Faithful for the last Sunday of Missionary October

Introduction by the Priest: As we conclude World Mission Month and the second assembly of the Synod on Synodality, let us bring our prayers and petitions before God, trusting in His mercy and love.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

- **For the Church:** That she may continue to be a light to the nations, spreading the Gospel and inviting all to the banquet of God's love. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For Pope Francis, our bishop (NAME), and all Church leaders:** That they may be filled with the wisdom and strength of the Holy Spirit as they lead the Church in its missionary and synodal journey. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For all missionaries:** That their dedication and sacrifice may bear abundant fruit in bringing many to faith in Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For our parish community:** That we may continue to support the missions through our prayers, resources, and active participation. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For the success of the Synod on Synodality:** That the insights and decisions made may strengthen the Church's mission of communion, participation, and outreach to the world. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For those who have not yet heard the Gospel:** That their hearts may be opened to the message of Christ's love and salvation. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For the sick, the suffering, and the marginalized:** That they may find hope and healing through the Church's missionary efforts and the compassion of its members. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For our personal intentions:** (pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

Concluding Prayer by the Priest: Gracious and loving Father, we thank You for the call to be part of Your mission. Hear these prayers we offer today and grant us the grace to be Your faithful witnesses in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

