



DIOCESE *of* GAYLORD

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Sunday, October 18, 2026, marks the 100th anniversary and celebration of World Mission Sunday. Each year, on the third Sunday of October, Catholics worldwide unite in support of the missionary work of the Church, reaching communities across the globe with the message of the Gospel.

“One in Christ, United in Mission” is the theme for the World Mission Sunday Appeal this year and further emphasizes the great importance of proclaiming the Gospel. In his video message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that “through baptism, each one of us becomes a member of the Body of Christ and has a unique role in contributing to Jesus’ saving work.”

For 16 years, Blessed Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen served as National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the United States. This Society remains at the heart of World Mission Sunday, ensuring that the offerings of the faithful are distributed equitably to mission dioceses throughout the world. We are reminded through the treasury of Archbishop Sheen’s broadcasts and writings of the responsibility of all Catholics to mission through prayer and giving of resources. Some answer the call to mission work by radically giving of themselves as Pope Leo and countless other Catholic missionaries throughout history have done.

The Catholic Church in the United States has benefitted profoundly from the support of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith from its inception through the early 20th century. As grateful beneficiaries of this legacy, it is with great joy that we continue to contribute toward the future of the Church through the World Mission Sunday Appeal.

Please join me and Catholics worldwide in supporting the centenary of the World Mission Sunday Appeal. May we answer God in faith and unity as he calls each of us to serve his Church.

In Christ our Life!

Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh
Bishop of Gaylord