World Mission Sunday: One Sunday for the Whole World

As we prepare to take up the World Mission Sunday collection in our parish, we asked the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for more information about this collection, which takes place this year in the Extraordinary Missionary Month, called for by Pope Francis. We thank you in advance for your generous support next week. As Pope Francis says in his message for World Mission Sunday about the Pontifical Mission Societies, which include the Society for the Propagation of the Faith: “Their donations assist the Pope in the evangelization efforts of particular Churches... In renewing my support for these Societies, I trust that the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 will contribute to the renewal of their missionary service to my ministry.”

This year, October 20th marks a very special World Mission Sunday, our annual, worldwide Eucharistic celebration of our shared call to mission. It takes place during an Extraordinary Missionary Month (EMM), called for by Pope Francis in honor of the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV’s Apostolic Letter Maximum Illud, which emphasized the missionary call to proclaim the Gospel.

During this month of October, Pope Francis invites us – all baptized Christians – to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through prayer, meditation on the Word of God, and pilgrimage. We move beyond the typical “heroic vision” of missionaries and reinforce the transforming relationship between faith and the world to which we are all called. Pope Francis reminds us that we are each “Baptized and Sent”; we are all the “Church of Christ on Mission in the World.”

World Mission Sunday provides us with an opportunity to revitalize our ardor, passion, and zeal for the faith with loving missionary hearts. We can respond to our missionary call through charity, giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday. Your help reaches Africa, where those who are sick are provided loving care at 6,500 Catholic hospitals and small clinics, and where 19,000 young men are preparing to be priests, to uplift the poor, celebrate the Sacraments, reach out to families, and comfort the sick and dying. Your help reaches Asia, where six million children receive an education from Religious Sisters in more than 15,000 Church-run elementary schools. Your gifts support and sustain priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor.

And we can respond to this call through mirroring the loving witness exemplified by great missionaries, like martyred Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, a model for missionary witness to our faith and the Gospel, and a passionate advocate for care of our common home, and outreach to indigenous communities.

More information about the collection can be found at this website, including shareable resources for promoting the celebration. Join the conversation in social media as we celebrate #EMM and #WMS2019, knowing that we are all #BaptizedAndSent and are called to #Pray and #Give. And we pray as Pope Francis does: ‘May the love for the Church’s Mission, which is a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people, ‘grow ever stronger!’”

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith