



Archdiocese of New Orleans

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To: Clergy, Religious and Laity in the Archdiocese of New Orleans

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The theme for Mission Sunday this year is “Mission at the heart of Christian Faith”

In reflecting on Mission Sunday, Pope Francis said, “World Mission Day gathers us around the person of Jesus, ‘the very first and greatest evangelizer’, who continually sends us forth to proclaim the Gospel of the love of God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit... The church is missionary by nature; otherwise, she would no longer be the church of Christ.”

By our Baptism, we are not only claimed as the daughter or son of God, but are sent to share our faith with others. We are called to evangelize! We are to share our faith, not only with those we see daily, but with our sisters and brothers in mission countries whom we have never met. Especially on Mission Sunday, we are called to pray for the missionaries throughout the world, to pray for those they serve and to offer a gift in the second collection to support the missionary work of the church.

Very often we do not remember those who have never heard of Christ or missionaries who do not have the resources they need to minister to their people. It is truly a universal effort for the entire church. It is a sacred moment to provide for the building up of over one thousand local churches in Asia and Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, an area that covers more than half the territory of the world. Through the work of these churches and their witness to Christ, the poor receive practical help and experience God’s love, mercy and hope.

I invite all of us to see World Mission Sunday, which is celebrated on October 22, as a special moment of encounter with Christ’s mission throughout the world. Please remember in prayer the priests, religious and lay missionaries who, day in and day out, witness to the Gospel and serve the poor.

Please join me in prayer for the missionary work of the church and please offer a gift next weekend.

Wishing you God's blessings, I am

Gratefully in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

Please publish on October 14 and 15 in a way you deem effective.