



Office of the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 19-20, the Universal Church celebrates World Mission Sunday. I extend you a heartfelt invitation from Pope Francis as he reflects on the theme "Go and invite everyone to the banquet" (Mt 22:9) inspired by the Gospel parable of the wedding banquet (Mt 22:1-14). This is very timely for us during this final stage of the synodal journey with its motto "Communion, Participation, Mission", reinforcing our primary task as believers to 'go and invite' everyone into the Lord's banquet.

It is an opportunity to thank all those missionaries who, in response to Christ's call, have left everything behind to go far from their homeland and bring the Good News to places where people have not yet received it, or received it only recently. Let us not forget that every Christian is called to take part in the Church's universal mission by offering his or her own witness to the Gospel in every context, so that the whole Church can continually go forth with her Lord and Master to the "crossroads" of today's world.

The collections of World Mission Sunday are entirely destined to the universal fund of solidarity that the Pontifical Society of the Propagation of the Faith then distributes in the Pope's name for the needs of all the Church's missions. It directly supports seminaries, future religious sisters, catechists, Catholic schools that provide essential education, and healthcare centers that provide essential care, embodying the love of Christ over 1,150 mission territories across Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East.

I urge you, dear friends, to respond generously to this call. Let us unite in prayer for the success of the Church's missionary activities and for the missionaries who dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel. Your generosity is a powerful witness to the love and compassion at the heart of our faith. Let us pray that the Lord may guide us and help us to be a more synodal and missionary Church. As Pope Francis states "synodality is essentially missionary and, mission is always synodal".

May this World Mission Sunday deepen our commitment to the Church's universal mission. Together, let us rejoice in the opportunity to share God's love with the world, "inviting everyone to the banquet" of the Lord.

With every blessing in gratitude for your generosity to the missions,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Robert Cardinal McElroy
Bishop of San Diego