

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of October 18–19, 2025, we joyfully celebrate World Mission Sunday, a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. On this day, Catholics around the world unite in prayer and solidarity to support the missionary work of the Church.

This year's theme, *"Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples,"* (cf. *Bull Spes Non Confundit*) reflects the heart of our faith and the vision of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, who spent much of his priestly ministry as a missionary in the remote regions of Peru. He calls us to participate actively in the Church's evangelizing mission through our witness of life, prayer, sacrifice, and generosity.

The Church, impelled by the love of Christ, continues her missionary journey, responding to the cries of a suffering humanity. In a world marked by crisis, confusion, loneliness, and indifference—especially toward the elderly and those in need—Christian communities are called to be signs of a new humanity. Despite our technological advancements, true "proximity" is fading. We are increasingly interconnected, yet less relational. The pursuit of efficiency and success often leads to self-centeredness and a diminished capacity for compassion. Yet, the Gospel restores us to a whole, healthy, and redeemed humanity.

Missionaries of hope are people of prayer, for *"the person who hopes is a person who prays."* Through prayer, we keep alive the spark of hope that God has placed within us, allowing it to grow into a fire that enlightens and warms those around us.

Your generous contribution on World Mission Sunday supports the work of The Pontifical Mission Societies, the Pope's official means of assisting Catholic communities in the world's poorest and most remote regions. Your support helps missionaries serving in 1,124 mission territories, where the Church is young, vibrant, and often faces persecution or poverty. It provides vital resources for: Formation of seminarians and religious sisters, training of lay catechists, education for children, basic medical care, construction and maintenance of churches and parish centers. These sacred spaces allow the faithful to gather, worship, and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Each time we support the missions, we affirm that we are one Church, one family in Christ, united in bringing hope and love to all people. I encourage you to respond with a generous heart, knowing that your support makes a real difference in the lives of those who might otherwise never hear the Gospel.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us turn to Blessed Mother Mary, our hope. To her we entrust our missionaries and their efforts. May this World Mission Sunday deepen our commitment to the missionary dimension of our faith. Let us go forth as Missionaries of Hope, bringing God's love and mercy to all.

With every blessing and deep gratitude for your generosity to the missions,
Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael Pham
Bishop of San Diego