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**A LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP ROZANSKI**

Through the Pope's own missionary society, you too  
can be sent out to all the ends of the earth.



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**POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR WMS**

The theme for this year's World Mission Sunday is  
"You shall be my witnesses." Acts 1:8

*Celebrating 200 Years*

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

# WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

## October 23, 2022



# YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES

*Acts 1:8*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 23, World Mission Sunday, we join Catholics worldwide in this annual Eucharistic celebration for the missions of the Church.

Pope Francis reflects on this year's theme: "You shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). He emphasizes the call to every Christian to bear witness to Christ, to participate in the mission of universal evangelization, and to seek strength and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Beginning in 1822, the universal fund of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith provided some \$7 million in help to the new and growing Churches in the United States. Your prayers and generous support today sustain priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor.

Blessed Pauline Jaricot began this work 200 years ago. As Pope Francis reminds us, "She accepted God's inspiration to establish a network of prayer and collection for missionaries so that the faithful could actively participate in the mission 'to the ends of the earth.'" Her vision would lead to World Mission Sunday, which helps the Pope support missionary activity.

When you contribute to the World Mission Sunday collection, you make it possible for the Holy Father to provide for the formation of our seminarians and religious men and women. You assist in building the schools and orphanages that care for children in places few visit. Missionaries can build churches in areas with scarce resources. Priests and religious Brothers and Sisters can buy food and the essentials that make it possible to proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the Sacraments.

I encourage your generosity on World Mission Sunday, especially in this bicentennial anniversary year. Your prayers remain your greatest gift, and your financial support is life-giving to our brothers and sisters in the more than 1,100 mission dioceses of the Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Mitchell T. Rozanski*

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski  
Archbishop of St. Louis

## CELEBRATE WORLD MISSION SUNDAY WITH US!

**This year's World Mission Sunday Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Rozanski at 11:00 am at St. Cecilia's Parish!**

All are invited to join this special celebration at St. Cecilia's Parish, or to celebrate at their home parish, as every parish in the world is called to participate in this special Eucharistic celebration, united as one Church.





## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: A CALL TO COMMUNION

Every year, something special happens on the next-to-last Sunday of October: WORLD MISSION SUNDAY. At Mass that Sunday, we recommit ourselves to our common vocation, through Baptism, to be missionaries, through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies.

As we pray and respond on World Mission Sunday here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world. Together, through our prayers and financial support, we support the life-giving presence of the Church in more than 1,100 mission dioceses.



### AN EXCERPT FROM POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

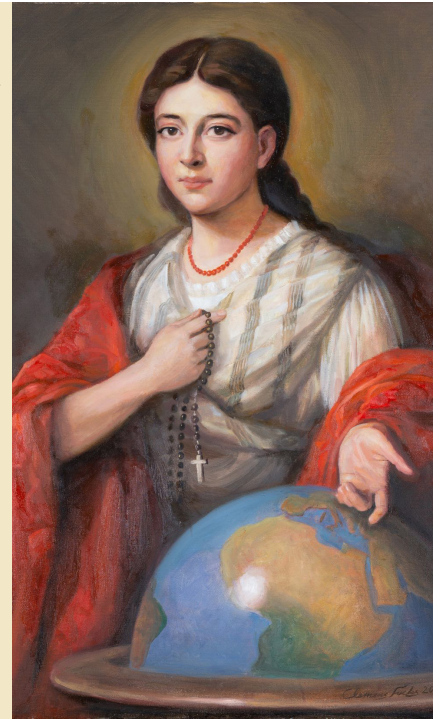
"You shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8)

These words were spoken by the Risen Jesus to his disciples just before his Ascension into heaven, as we learn from the Acts of the Apostles: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (1:8). They are also the theme of the 2022 World Mission Day which, as always, reminds us that the Church is missionary by nature....

Christ was the first to be sent, as a "missionary" of the Father (cf. Jn 20:21), and as such, he is the Father's "faithful witness" (cf. Rev 1:5). In a similar way, every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the Church, the community of Christ's disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ. To evangelize is the very identity of the Church....In evangelization, then, the example of a Christian life and the proclamation of Christ are inseparable. One is at the service of the other. They are the two lungs with which any community must breathe, if it is to be missionary....

### Celebrating 200 Years

Blessed Pauline Jaricot (beatified May 22nd of this year) founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith exactly 200 years ago, creating a "network of prayer and collection for missionaries, so that the faithful could actively participate in the mission 'to the ends of the earth'". This led to the annual celebration of World Mission Sunday which supports the universal fund used for the missionary work of the Church."



The Acts of the Apostles speak of this missionary expansion and provide a striking image of the Church "going forth" in fidelity to her call to bear witness to Christ the Lord and guided by divine providence in the concrete conditions of her life. Persecuted in Jerusalem and then spread throughout Judea and Samaria, the first Christians bore witness to Jesus everywhere (cf. Acts 8:1, 4).... Christ's Church will continue to "go forth" towards new geographical, social and existential horizons, towards "borderline" places and human situations, in order to bear witness to Christ and his love to men and women of every people, culture and social status. In this sense, the mission will always be a *missio ad gentes* [to the nations], as the Second Vatican Council taught....

Just as "no one can say 'Jesus is Lord', except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor 12:3), so no Christian is able to bear full and genuine witness to Christ the Lord without the Spirit's inspiration and assistance. All Christ's missionary disciples are called to recognize the essential importance of the Spirit's work, to dwell in his presence daily and to receive his unfailing strength and guidance.... The Spirit, then, is the true protagonist of mission. It is he who gives us the right word, at the right time, and in the right way...

Dear brothers and sisters, I continue to dream of a completely missionary Church, and a new era of missionary activity among Christian communities.

**Scan to read  
Pope Francis'  
full message for  
World Mission  
Sunday!**



**SCAN ME**



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Archdiocese of St. Louis  
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St. Louis, MO 63119

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## Ways to give...

- Using the giving envelope provided
- In your parish collection on **Oct. 22nd & 23rd**
- Online at [www.archstl.org/wms](http://www.archstl.org/wms)  
or here:



## Thank you for your generosity!



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# YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES *Acts 1:8*



THE PONTIFICAL MISSION  
SOCIETIES

## OCTOBER 23, 2022 World Mission Sunday