



October 15, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 22, we join with the Church throughout the world in observing World Mission Sunday. We renew our baptismal commitment to be missionaries of the Gospel throughout the world in this annual Eucharistic celebration. As Catholics, we are obligated to share in the mission of spreading the authentic Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

Pope Francis has set for this year's theme: "Hearts on fire, feet on the move." The Holy Father invites us to kindle the fire of Christ's love in our hearts and intentionally to share this warmth with the world around us. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we go forth and bring the Good News to all corners of the world.

Founded by French laywoman Blessed Pauline Jaricot in 1822, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is an essential source of aid for the Church's missionary work. The Venerable Fulton J. Sheen who served as the national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith from 1951 through 1966 was fond of saying, "Some go to the missions by giving, others give to the missions by going."

The World Mission Sunday collection assists the Holy Father in meeting his Petrine obligation to build up the Church in over 1,100 dioceses and territories that are too vulnerable to sustain themselves amidst great adversity including poverty and persecution. Our prayers and our offerings support the formation of seminarians and religious men and women, assist in the construction of schools and orphanages, enable missionaries to build churches in remote and resource-limited areas, and meet essential needs to proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the Sacraments.

Embodying this year's theme, I urge you to keep your hearts aflame with the love of Christ and your feet moving with perseverance on this World Mission Sunday. Your prayers are invaluable, and your financial support provides life-giving aid to spreading the Gospel through good works and sound teaching to our brothers and sisters most in need. Please be generous. I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Michael F. Olson*

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA  
Bishop of Fort Worth