



Office of the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We celebrate World Mission Sunday on October 24th this year with the theme “**We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard**” (Acts 4: 20)

This is an important day in the life of the universal Church fortifying the understanding of our shared call to mission bestowed on us at our Baptism.

In reflecting on the theme the Holy Father shares his zeal reminding us that, “as Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves,” as we “recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel.” He invites us to speak of our faith!

“The global pandemic has brought to the fore and amplified the pain, the solitude, the poverty, and the injustices experienced by so many people,” reminds Pope Francis. As the world gradually recovers from the loss and the challenges that resulted from the pandemic, let us respond with reciprocal generosity. I want to thank you for your whole hearted support and generosity last year even in the midst of these difficult times.

World Mission Sunday once again provides us with an opportunity to respond to the invitation to share what we have heard, seen and experienced. We can speak about our faith and respond to our missionary call – *through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and giving generously* to the collection for the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith* on that special day. Your gifts support and 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, serve the poor – and speak about “what they have seen, heard” and experienced.

As we rebuild our lives, let us also reach out in solidarity and support for the Mission Church, and the work and witness of missionaries in the Pope’s missions. As you do, I offer my sincere personal gratitude for your kind missionary heart, reaching out in love throughout the Mission Month.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy
Bishop of San Diego