

World Mission Sunday 2023

Dear Monsignors and Pastors,



On October 21-22, the Universal Church celebrates World Mission Sunday. This global Eucharistic celebration for the Church's missions is an opportunity to remind our parishioners of our own call to be missionary disciples.

This year, Pope Francis' reflects on the theme, "**Hearts on fire, feet on the move,**" inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus in the Gospel of Luke (cf. 24:13-35). This resonates in us the energetic and unwavering faith that fuels our shared mission.

On World Mission Sunday we assist the Holy Father to support the Church in the missions by praying for our missionaries and financially supporting their ministry. For the past 201 years it has enabled the Holy Father to reach out to more than 1,100 mission dioceses across Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, Latin America, and parts of Europe.

This assistance bolsters the proclamation of the Gospel, the building of Churches, supports the formation of seminarians, religious men and women, service to the poor and to meet essential works to proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the Sacraments.

I want to thank you for the continued support you have been providing to the missions in the past. Your generous cooperation and support have helped us assist our missionaries. I am very much aware of the hard and difficult time our diocese is going through. All the same let us make sure that we work together to support the universal causes of the Church.

Kindly share with your parishioners on their missionary task on World Mission Sunday. We have materials that can assist you for the celebration on our website <https://www.sandiegomissionoffice.org/propagation-of-the-faith/world-mission-sunday/>

After October 23, I kindly request that you return the completed World Mission Sunday envelopes and/or provide a list of the donors' names and addresses. This way, we can ensure that they continue to receive updates about the Missions throughout the year through our monthly Newsletter.

As we partner in helping your parishioners live out the theme of "Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move" through the celebration of World Mission Sunday, I extend my sincere gratitude for all that you do for the missionary work of the Church.

Gratefully in the Lord,

Rev. Soney Sebastian, SVD
Director, Office for the Missions, San Diego Diocese