

October 6, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, October 19, the whole church will celebrate World Mission Sunday. This was Instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1926 to make all Christians aware of our obligation to help support missionary efforts worldwide.

By our baptism we are all missionaries. Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, He said to his disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you": (Matthew 28:19-20).

This command was not just given to the twelve apostles but to all His disciples who were present at the moment of His ascension. This means that we are included in this mission. We are, therefore, all called to be missionaries.

But you might ask, how can I be a missionary if I am married and have a family? You, the parents, are the first missionaries for your children. You are your children's first teachers and therefore, are the first to proclaim the word of God to your children. You can also proclaim God's word to those around you and to those you meet everyday by the way you live your life. A life of love, kindness, understanding and compassion is one of the best ways to proclaim God's love for all people.

Children can be missionaries in their families and among their friends by sharing what they learn about Jesus in their catechism classes and by living the way Jesus teaches us.

The elderly can help the missions by offering their prayers, their suffering and their loneliness to God that He may grant the missionaries in the mission field the strength they need to continue their work.

When we think of missionaries, we think of those priests and religious who go to far away poor countries to teach unbelievers about God. We can't all be missionaries like this, but we can all help them spread the good news of God's love by praying for them, by making little sacrifices and offering them for the missionaries and by donating some of our resources to them.

Since 1927, held annually on the second to last Sunday of October, all Catholic Churches throughout the world have held a special collection to help the missions. This year, on Sunday, October 19, we will hold a special collection in all the churches of our diocese to help the missions.

We ask that you be as generous as possible in giving a donation for the missions according to your means. The money collected will be used to support young churches by responding to their requests to help build chapels and churches, pastoral centers, clinics, hospitals, schools and to provide medications, pastoral care and emergency relief.

We thank you for your generosity and ask the Lord to bless all your endeavours.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Margherita Ianni".

Sr. Mary Margherita Ianni, SCGR
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