



World Mission Sunday 2024

Dear Monsignors and Pastors,

We are once again in October the Mission Month, when we celebrate the World Mission Sunday. I want to express my gratitude to you and your parishioners for the wonderful participation and the generous World Mission Sunday contribution each year.

We celebrate World Mission Sunday (WMS) on October 19-20. This year Pope Francis reflects on the theme “Go and invite everyone to the banquet” (Mt 22:9) inspired by the Gospel parable of the wedding banquet (Mt 22:1-14). It is also very apt for us as the Church is in the final stage of its synodal journey reinforcing our primary task as believers to ‘go and invite’ everyone to the Lord’s banquet. Our parishioners’ responses have been always commendable with a spirit of love, service, and generous sacrifice. Their willingness to support the universal mission of the Church shows their passionate commitment to Christ and His teachings.

Their contributions are a testament to their unwavering faith and will greatly assist in spreading God's message of love, hope, and peace to all His children – especially the less fortunate, those suffering persecution for their faith, and those who are yet to experience the redeeming power of the Gospel. It directly supports seminaries, future religious sisters, catechists, Catholic schools that provide essential education, and healthcare centers that provide essential care, embodying the love of Christ over 1,150 mission territories across Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East.

I urge you to encourage our parishioners to respond generously as always. Let us unite in prayer for the success of the Church’s missionary activities and for the missionaries who dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel often endangering their lives.

You can find liturgical aid like parish bulletin announcement, homily and universal prayer help and posters on the Missions Office website (<https://www.sandiegomissionoffice.org/propagation-of-the-faith/world-mission-sunday/>). We have sent World Mission Sunday envelopes to assist you with the collections.

Once more, I express my sincere thanks for all you do annually to foster World Mission Sunday in your parish and for nurturing a missionary spirit of prayer and sacrifice among our parishioners. Be assured of my continued prayers for you and know that the recipients of these offerings are also praying for you in gratitude.

Gratefully in the Lord,

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

