



Office of the Bishop

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2019 – EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH 2019

Dear Father,

World Mission Sunday, this year on the weekend of **October 20-21**, is our annual worldwide Eucharistic celebration for the Missions and missionaries of the world. Pope Francis reminds us that we are *each* “Baptized and Sent”; we are *all* the “Church of Christ on Mission in the World.” We encourage our parishioners to answer their mission call on that Sunday through prayer and generous sacrifice to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

This year, World Mission Sunday is celebrated within the Extraordinary Missionary Month. Pope Francis has called for this special month in honor of the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV’s Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, which emphasized the missionary call to proclaim the Gospel.

Throughout the Extraordinary Missionary Month, and especially for World Mission Sunday, the Pope extends an invitation to all baptized Christians to have a *personal encounter* with Jesus Christ through the Eucharist, prayer, meditation on the Word of God; to *model our lives* on the loving witness of missionary saints and martyrs; to *deepen our formation* regarding the Church’s mission to the world, and to *offer missionary charity* in support of the immense work of evangelization.

Materials to enhance your celebration of World Mission Sunday, as well as for the Extraordinary Missionary Month, are available at www.missio.org/resources. Fr. Jon P. Kirby, SVD, our Director for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, is able to guide you further as you prepare your parish for the fullest celebration of this all-important day for the Church’s Missions.

With gratitude for the generosity to the Missions in October and year round, and with prayers for a fruitful celebration for the Mission Church, I remain

Sincerely in the Lord,

Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy
Bishop of San Diego

For more about World Mission Sunday and the Extraordinary Missionary Month, please visit missio.org/resources for additional materials.