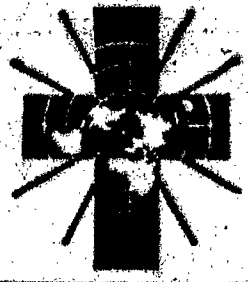


# Mission Sunday Prayers, Alms To Aid Church in Work for Souls



## The Catholic COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

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### Diocese Ranks Fourth in Mission Giving

Catholics of the Rochester Diocese will aid the Church in its worldwide work for souls by offering their prayers and contributions this Sunday, October 18, Mission Sunday.

Pope Paul VI has asked Catholics of the world to join the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Vatican's own mission aid organization, often called the Pope's Community Chest.

Bishop Kearney, in a letter read at Masses in parish churches this past Sunday, asked for an offering of five dollars, totaling this amount "a far more realistic contribution in terms of today's values."

He said bringing the Catholic faith to pagan people "will help put the Rosary into the hands of countless thousands who at present know neither Christ nor His Blessed Mother."

He pointed to the needs of 25,000 missionary priests, 2,000 brothers and close to 70,000 nuns — the Church's vast army of the frontiers of the faith engaged in spreading the Gospel of Christ.

In this corps of more than 100,000 volunteers, the Rochester Diocese has a non-negligible percentage of the total, estimated that U.S. Catholics give to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith \$177,400.

The Rochester Diocese, however, has an average of \$177,400 per person, compared with the national average of 20 cents per person.

The total amount contributed from this Diocese last year to Catholic missions through the Propagation of the Faith Society was \$177,400.

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Father John Duffy, diocesan director of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, hears details of his mission work in the Philippines from Maryknoll Father Howard Bieker of Rochester.

Church's battle for souls in foreign lands.

And Catholics on the home front here rank fourth in the listing by diocese of per capita contributors in the United States.

The diocesan average is 54 cents per person, compared with the national average of 20 cents per person.

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Rev. John F. Duffy, diocesan director of the Propagation of the Faith Society, said Catholics who enroll in the papal organization by using the en-

velopes given them by their pastors will receive the monthly magazine "Mission" published by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, national director of the Society.

The magazine carries reports of mission progress and serves as a reminder to pray for the faithful throughout the year.

An estimated 60,000 people currently receive the magazine each month in the Diocese, Father Duffy said.

SPECIAL PRAYERS will be said at all Masses this Sunday for the mission. These include an "imperata-require" collect prayer from the Mass for the Propagation of the Faith to be added following the regular Sunday collect.

Each parish is also authorized to schedule one Mass in purple vestments, the votive Mass for the Propagation of the Faith. Text for this Mass is published in the back of most missals.

The faithful are also urged to receive Holy Communion, say their Rosary and other prayers as well as offer their work for the Church's mission work.

Goal of this centuries-old program is the conversion to Christianity of 1,100,000,000 pagans, most of whom are in Africa and Asia. Mission programs are also urgently needed in Latin America where the heritage of faith is threatened by critical shortages of priests and nuns and sky-rocketing populations.

### Mission Land in America

By LYNN WATSON  
Special to the Courier  
from Appalachia

"I saw them passing out that Catholic literature, but I wouldn't take none! No, sir! Praise the Lord!"

The bellowing man stamped his feet on the wooden platform, warning the drab mountain women and ragged men to resist the Catholics — "because you won't get to heaven on their Bible!"

Lacerating Catholicism will always shake up a Holiness revival in the hills of eastern Kentucky. But since there were 28 visiting Catholics sitting half around and half around the benches, the tenters ceased shouting and began moving.

Gradually, a horse-faced woman rose from a bench at the rear of the platform and shook herself across the floor. When she mounted loudly a hole showed her front teeth.

(A dentist is just one of the necessities Jackson County, Ky., lacks.)

After a few moments two young mothers in drab, shirt-waist dresses came to the platform. Other participants stepped and chanted a rhythmic hymn. An elderly man hopped off the stage and stamped up and down the aisle.

"I thought he was coming after us," a Boston college girl said afterward.

After about ten minutes of miming the women sank back onto the benches; their songers began to stop wailing. One of the young mothers fell across her seat. However, still moaning, while her little daughter hidged nearby.

The bumps and grinds were over, but the challenge of existence which makes them meaningful to deprived mountain people still continues.

And ironically, it is Roman Catholicism, dreaded by some hill mountaineers by most in the hills, that now offers something for their stomachs and their souls.

This pragmatic philosophy may irritate the fundamentalist ministers into louder exhortations, but it's winning friends for Father Ralph W. Bellini, Dean of Mountain Missions, at Lancaster, Ky.

In 14 years Father Bellini has begged and cajoled money to build three churches in the physically and spiritually parched eastern section of the Bluegrass State.

Father Bellini is an authoritative, energetic 40-year-old man who moves from construe-

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tion boss to street preacher to farmer to family counselor, with relentless single-mindedness.

He is determined that an American baby should not have to lie in a chicken cage so the rats won't get it; that a county of 12,000 people should not be served by only one doctor; that farmland lie unused because there is no one to direct the planting or there is no machinery with which to plant.

"Other religions here do very, very little for the people," he said one evening, as he showed slides of destitute Kentuckians to a group of volunteer workers.

"The fundamentalists preach that life will be better in the next world, but I think it's ridiculous not to do something here and now. . . . God will take care of his own," they say. Well, religion has been of no value to these people. We present an entirely different ap-

proach, if we can possibly keep going on the thing."

The missionary formed a non-profit corporation, named the Christian Appalachian Project, to direct activities designed to help the mountain people bring themselves out of despair.

This year eight farms were purchased and six sheds on the properties were rebuilt by seminarians and lay volunteers for families to live in.

"Next year we hope to pick up some more cows and show a profit on the farms," said Father Bellini. Besides a small dairy herd and 50 goats, the farms produce sorghum, tobacco, strawberries, vegetables, hay and apples.

Father Bellini now has two full-time assistants, Father Terence Hoppenians, 33, and Father William Poole, 28. Like their pastor, both live at St. William's Church in Lancaster, but travel thousands of miles a year, making visits and saying Mass at churches in nearby counties. The church in Rochester County is a converted candy store.

After three in the day, the other three in the day, they are nearly back in the car. Although the hills look so empty, Father Bellini also leads week-end working parties in apple cider press, a pickup truck, farmyard, electric mill, concrete mixer and a Volkswagen bus.

The mountain missions receive \$1,000 a year from the diocese. Most of the funds for Father Bellini come from 4,000 or 5,000 people who receive his "Mountain News," a mimeographed plea for funds which is mailed when volunteers can be found to start evangelize.

"We have no money at all," he said. "We admitted spending."

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They were among the first converts to the faith in a nation that now counts more than two million Christians.

The story of their martyrdom will be printed in next week's Courier.

They were burned to death after brutal torture.

Every missionary is very much aware that he is but an instrument in God's plan. He is a sliver of God's grace—the grace so often merited by the prayers of the faithful. And your daily prayers requested for the missions are but a single "Our Father," "Hail Mary" and the ejaculation "St. Francis, pray for us." How fitting it would be to add these prayers to our daily Rosary!

Our material assistance takes the form of our annual membership offering in the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. And as you prepare your envelopes for next Sunday, we need not remind you that the suggested offering of five dollars is a far more realistic contribution in terms of today's values. But, whatever your offering may be, if given with the proper spirit and if offered along with our Lady's Rosary, it will bring countless blessings upon you and your loved ones.

It will help to put the Rosary into the hands of countless thousands who at present know neither Christ nor His Blessed Mother.

Confident that Mission Sunday, October 18, will rekindle in all of us an ever greater love for and devotion to the Mission, I remain

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

+ John F. Kearney  
Bishop of Rochester

Put Our Lady's Rosary Into Hands of Thousands

My dear People:

Next Sunday, October 18, will be Mission Sunday. And as we look toward this day, we are reminded that among other things the present session of the Council will consider the subject of the Missions of the Church.

Yet, when the Council debates are completed, we can be confident that the most realistic support the Catholic laity can give the missions will differ little from that of the past. Very simply, it will be the renewal of our Membership in the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith—the Holy Father's own mission society.

True, the missionaries may develop new techniques and methods. Yet ultimately all the missionaries—whether bishops or priests, sisters or brothers—all will continue to look to us for two things. The first and most important will be our spiritual support and the second will be our material assistance.

Every missionary is very much aware that he is but an instrument in God's plan. He is a sliver of God's grace—the grace so often merited by the prayers of the faithful. And your daily prayers requested for the missions are but a single "Our Father," "Hail Mary" and the ejaculation "St. Francis, pray for us." How fitting it would be to add these prayers to our daily Rosary!

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### Rochester Nun in Venezuela Outpost

By KESTER JOAN  
Special to the Courier  
from Venezuela

"Go forth out of this country, and from thy kindred and out of thy father's house, and come into the land which I shall show thee."

This was the call given Abram, and in response God's people were on the "onward march" toward a new alliance.

Then Christ mandated another

Sister Joan, author of this article, the former Marcella Streb of Holy Redeemer parish, Rochester, has been a missionary in Puerto Rico and Arizona prior to her assignment in 1962 to Venezuela. Her brothers Gerald and Frank Streb and a sister, Mrs. Robert Scharett, are Rochester residents.

"Go forth into the farthest part of the earth and bear me witness." This call did not terminate with His mortal life but continues through the ages in His Mystical Body.

Even in this twentieth century of adventure it was voiced by our late Holy Father, Pope John XXIII, when he pleaded for North American sisterhoods to "go" into the land of "great

concern" for souls in South America. Response was made by many U.S. groups of nuns including the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart. One who is new in the mission fields of South America is this Rochesterian, a member of the Mission Helpers.

The field ripe for the harvest was found in Venezuela. We found ourselves — two of us — housed in a tiny room in a student's residence for months until we could establish ourselves in the land of a missionary's dream.

Night in the heart of Caracas, heart goes out to heart—yes, in 400,000 souls surrounding us on the hillside.

Poverty?

Is it as true as rumored? We shall see. Up on the hills and under the bridges we meet them in their homes — a hut of mud, cardboard, a piece of tin. They also come to ask for food and clothing. They beg, not because they like to, but because they are driven to it by sheer necessity.

This was clearly exemplified in the person of the thin, haggard mother who came with her four children. We gave her some used clothing donated by friends in the States, food and some dishes brought by an American friend here in Caracas. Her twelve-year-old son wanted to carry the box, but couldn't manage both the box and the old big wheel he had picked up somewhere.

I thought that the wheel was just a bit of rubbish such as all boys like to find and keep, and so suggested that he throw it

(Continued on Page 3)



Sister Joan with some of the 400,000 poverty stricken people in Caracas, Venezuela.

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