

# Mission Sunday: A Chance to Bring P

My Dear People:

October 11, 1970

I feel no sense of shame in begging when the appeal is for the missions and missionaries of the world. In fact, it is with a feeling of urgency and responsibility that I pen this Mission Sunday letter.

This day offers all of us a special blessing of reminding us of our stewardship of the Lord's gifts. The Gospel refers to these gifts as talents. We possess none of them apart from His generosity and His right to demand of us an accounting for their use. Recall His displeasure with the unprofitable servant who buried them in the earth rather than share them with others.

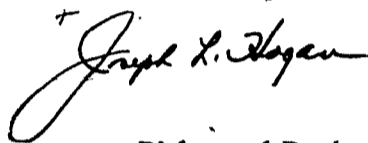
The world will end for all of us with the same frightening question that was asked of Adam's son at its beginning: "What have you done to your brother"? And we can never answer: "Nothing". We will be among the saved only if we have been saviors, for ours is the great dignity and vocation of being the Lord's instruments in the redemption of the world.

The theme of this Mission Sunday urges us to open our vision to the whole world and our hearts to a concern for all in need and to share the talents of our faith and our earthly blessings with those less gifted.

I am happy to report that the Diocese of Rochester ranked 8th among all the archdioceses and dioceses of the country last year in its mission collections. The record will be better this year without asking anyone to give more. It can be accomplished simply if more would give something.

With a blessing, I remain

Your devoted shepherd in Christ,



Bishop of Rochester



The conditions and privations of poverty which imprison two-thirds of humanity are utterly degrading:

- men living in material and spiritual squalor;
- children dying with swollen bellies;
- generation after generation occupying the same patch of sidewalk on an Indian street.

Even our worst city slums cannot compare with the excruciating misery of the Third World.

Pope Paul VI has said over and over again that peace will only come through development. This does not mean simply material or economic progress, but that full development which reaches the depths of motives, attitudes, aspirations and beliefs.

We Christians are called to be "Peacemakers" . . . and we shall be called sons of God. Our response to the modern world — our commitment to Christ today, means commitment to Christ's Missions.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith has been one of the vital influences in the emergence of developing nations. Through its members who offer their prayers and sacrifices, and through the missionaries who offer their lives, the Society has been responsible for the support and expansion of many mission areas.

Each year the offerings of its members are distributed to 819 mission dioceses. Like a family budget, this assistance from the Society provides the missionaries with the means to live from week to week. This money is then translated into food, clothing, salary, transportation, housing — all the daily necessities of life. Without this support, the mission church literally could not exist.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith through the sacrifices of its members also lends its support to special mission projects. In Lyallpur, Pakistan, for example, a new hospital was urgently needed. A request was made to the Society and funds sent immediately. When the earthquake devastated much of Peru during the past year, \$25,000 was sent by the Society to the local bishops for the immediate needs of their flock.

Where does the Society turn to answer these pleas for help? We turn to YOU! We rely solely on the free offerings of the people of God all over the world.

Missionaries give their lives in service and salvation. They ask that you give too. Don't close your heart to them and the world.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith needs your help on Mission Sunday, and every other day of the year.

You, and only you, can respond to this request made upon your love — for the love of God.

— Father Joseph Reinhart



Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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