

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



*"You will be
My witnesses..."*

OCTOBER 20, 1996



A Message from the Bishop

Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

Dear Friends in Christ,

When Pope John Paul II visited the United States last fall, he spoke again and again of the Church's evangelizing mission, and, in particular, of the call to each one of us to be missionaries. "The Church is alive in you!", the Holy Father said. "You have received the gift of new life. You have been charged with bringing the good news 'to all creation' (Mark 16:15)."

Day after day throughout the year, each of us is called to be a witness for our faith in Jesus Christ, in our families, our workplace, our parishes and diocese; indeed, to the very ends of the earth. On World Mission Sunday, we unite with Catholics throughout the world in special commitment to the missionary task we all share.

On the threshold of the third millennium, the Lord Jesus repeats with particular force to the whole Church the same words which He once addressed to the Apostles, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)."

I urge your great generosity for the universal Church on World Mission Sunday. I ask for both your prayers and a gift to the Propagation of the Faith that represents your day-by-day answer to the Lord's call to be a witness to all the world.

With gratitude and every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely in the Lord

Matthew H. Clark

+Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester



A Message from the Diocesan Director

Fr. Robert C. Bradler, Diocesan Director
Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Dear People of God,

On Mission Sunday, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, the fine people of the diocese for your great love and generosity to the Missions. Among the nearly one hundred and seventy-five dioceses throughout the United States, the Diocese of Rochester ranks number twenty-one this year in total contributions to the General Fund of the Propagation of the Faith and to the Society of St. Peter the Apostle. The amount of \$521,992 was given to the General Fund and \$10,082 in support of the mission seminarians through the Society of St. Peter the Apostle. These two figures, plus the many other contributions to the Missions during the year, give witness to a strong faith and a deep sense of commitment to serve God's people. I am truly proud of the great generosity of the people of the Diocese to the Missions.

On the threshold of the third millennium, the Lord Jesus repeats with particular force to the whole Church those same words which he once addressed to the Apostles before the Ascension, words within which the essence of the Christian vocation is contained. Who, in fact, is the Christian? A person "captured" by Christ (Phil. 3:12) and therefore, anxious to make him known and loved everywhere, "even to the ends of the earth." Faith impels us to be missionaries to be his witnesses. If this is not so, then this faith is still incomplete, partial, not yet mature. On the occasion of Mission Sunday, therefore, I urge each one of you to let yourselves be personally challenged by the Lord, in the face of the apostolic urgent demands of our times.

Sincerely in Christ,

Robert C. Bradler

Fr. Robert C. Bradler
Diocesan Director
Society of the Propagation of the Faith

Please be as generous as possible!

TV MASS
7:30 a.m.
Channel 10

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Diocesan Director:
Fr. Robert C. Bradler
Office Assistants:
Sr. Connie Derby, RSM
Marcia Urschel

The Society of the Propagation of the Faith
World Mission Sunday • October 20, 1996

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or my special gift:

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