



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

"I came that they may have life..."

October 19, 1997



A Message from the Bishop

Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

October 1997

My dear Friends in Christ,

As we celebrate World Mission Sunday, October 19th, we are mindful of our preparations for the coming 2000th anniversary of the birth of our Lord. Those preparations this year focus on a most missionary theme: "Jesus Christ, the one Savior of the world, yesterday, today and for ever."

We know that today there are many millions of people who have not heard of the salvation found in Jesus Christ. In his message for World Mission Sunday this year, Pope John Paul II speaks of those "who have not yet been reached by the Good News of salvation." Our Holy Father states: "To a certain degree...each of us is personally responsible, before God, for those...who are 'without faith.'"

On World Mission Sunday, each of us is asked to take our part in the Church's mission to all peoples. We can do this most especially through prayer and participation in the Eucharist. And, through the Propagation of the Faith, we can offer financial assistance to the Church in the Missions as it proclaims the Gospel among two-thirds of our human family.

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Propagation of the Faith by a young French laywoman, Pauline Jaricot. The young Church in the United States benefited greatly from the early support offered by the Catholics of Europe through the Propagation of the Faith. In recent years, Catholics here have provided most generously for the work of today's Missions; the young churches of Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America depend greatly on such continued assistance.

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

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

October 1997

Dear People of God,

Missionary work is not the job of a few selected men and women. It is the vocation and duty of every Christian. It was for this great work that the Church was established as the incarnation of Jesus himself. God calls some to be full-time missionaries, to be men and women who go out in the world to plant new seed, the seed of life, the seed of hope. They can do nothing without the support of the faith, the solidarity of the laity, the charity and prayer of the Church here at home.

An exemplary answer to the universal call to take responsibility for missionary activity was given in the past by St. Therese of the Child Jesus, who will be declared on Mission Sunday a doctor of the church. The life and teaching of Therese demonstrates the close bond between mission and contemplation. In fact, there can be no mission without a life of intense prayer and communion with the Lord.

This World Mission Sunday, nourished in your missionary commitment to the Eucharist, I ask you to be generous through the Propagation of the Faith for the Church's worldwide mission. Your gift will help support the work of the Church in more than one thousand mission dioceses throughout the world, as well as in the home missions of our own country.

Sincerely in Christ,
Robert C. Bradler
Rev. Robert C. Bradler
Diocesan Director

TV MASS
7:30 a.m.
Channel 10

The Society
for the
Propagation
of the Faith
Diocesan Director:
Fr. Robert C. Bradler
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Sr. Connie Debn, R.S.M.
- Marcia Unshel

Please be as generous as possible!

The Society of the Propagation of the Faith
World Mission Sunday • October 19, 1997

Your gift will help bring the gospel to the poor
here at home and around the world.

My mission sacrifice:

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 \$5 Other \$ _____

or my special gift:

\$250 \$500 \$750 \$1000 Other \$ _____

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Deposit with your Sunday offering or mail to:
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