

Sunday October 20th

World Mission
Sunday 2024

**GO AND INVITE
EVERYONE**
to the banquet
(MT 22:9)



What is World Mission Sunday?

World Mission Sunday, celebrated on the second-to-last Sunday of October, is a day set aside by the Catholic Church to remember and support the mission work being done around the world. This special day is mandated by the Code of Canon Law and is crucial for sustaining the Church's outreach in over 1,150 mission territories.

1. The impact of World Mission Sunday for the Church in the United States:

- The Church in the United States was once mission territory, heavily reliant on support from Catholics worldwide. Today, U.S. Catholics have the opportunity to return that generosity by supporting global missions.
- Run by the **Society for the Propagation of the Faith**, one of four **Pontifical Mission Societies**, this day of giving has seen the Church come together on the Pope's request since 1926, when Pope Pius XI made this the only canonically mandatory universal collection.
- The World Mission Sunday collection is inspired in the efforts made by laywoman Blessed Pauline Jaricot, who founded the **Society for the Propagation of the Faith** back in 1822. She asked her friends to pray for the Church in mission territories daily, and donate a penny a week. Two-thirds of those first pennies raised were sent to the vast diocese of Louisiana, which then extended from the Florida Keys to Canada. In the United States, we benefited from the collection held by the Society until 1908. Throughout the years, we received \$7 million, the equivalent of over \$250 million today.

2. Supporting Mission Territories:

- We are here today, extending to you the Gospel's call to "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," that is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's World Mission Sunday celebration.
- This table is set by those who answer Christ's call to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19), extending an inclusive invitation to all corners of the Earth, especially in territories where it has not yet been received, has been only recently embraced, or is courageously upheld in the face of persecution: From the windswept plains of Mongolia to the dense forests of the Amazon, contributions from the faithful all over the world your contributions have made you a partaker in this holy mission—a mission that continues to invite everyone to experience the boundless love of God.

3. Faith in Action:

- Participating in World Mission Sunday is a tangible way for Catholics to live out the Great Commission, bringing the message of Christ to the ends of the earth. It's an expression of solidarity with missionaries and a means to share Christ's love universally.