



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, we celebrate World Mission Sunday, a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. It is a day when Catholics around the world unite in prayer and solidarity to support the missionary work of the Church, affirming that we are one Church, one family in Christ, united in bringing hope and love to all people.

This year's theme, "*Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples*," is particularly moving because, although it was chosen by Pope Francis, it will be the first celebrated under the pontificate of Pope Leo XIV, who spent most of his priestly ministry as a missionary in Peru.

Pope Leo XIV has called the Pontifical Mission Societies "the 'primary means' of awakening missionary responsibility among all the baptized and supporting ecclesial communities in areas where the Church is young." His words encourage us to recognize our vital role in sustaining the life and growth of the Church in over 1,124 mission territories across Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania, and parts of Europe and the Middle East.

The collection we take up on World Mission Sunday for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith – one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies - is not just financial; it is a living sign of our communion with the universal Church. It supports the formation of seminarians, religious Sisters, and catechists; the building of chapels, schools, and clinics; and the ongoing evangelization of people who may be hearing the Gospel for the first time.

I encourage you to respond with a generous heart, knowing that your support makes a real difference in the lives of those who might otherwise never hear the Gospel.

May this World Mission Sunday deepen our commitment to the missionary dimension of our faith. Let us go forth as Missionaries of Hope, bringing God's love and mercy to all people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski  
Archbishop of St. Louis