



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

World Mission Sunday is celebrated this year on Oct. 20.

This year marks a very special World Mission Sunday. It takes place during an Extraordinary Missionary Month, called for by Pope Francis in honor of the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, which emphasized the missionary nature of the Church to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to the ends of the earth.

During October, Pope Francis invites us to a personal encounter with Jesus through prayer, meditation on the Word of God, and pilgrimage. Pope Francis reminds us that we are each baptized and sent to evangelize the message of Christ to the world.

We talk and worry about today's culture in which we live, but we are called to change it to be more like Christ. We do this by revitalizing our ardor and passion for Christ and then, with loving missionary hearts, fill society with the light of Christ.

We ask for your continued generosity to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday. Your gifts support and sustain priests, religious and leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel of Christ, build his Church, and serve His people.

I personally thank you for your continued commitment to the missions, and I extend my gratitude for your generous response throughout the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October. Please join your hearts in prayer with the Holy Father as he said: "May the love for the Church's Mission, which is a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people, grow ever stronger!"

In the Lord's Peace,

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo
Bishop of Charleston

The collection date for the Diocese of Charleston is Oct. 20, 2019.