

October 18, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We celebrate World Mission Sunday on October 18th this year. This annual celebration reminds us of our universal baptismal call to be missionaries for Christ; to bring the Gospel message of hope to the ends of the world.

Pope Francis in his message for World Mission Sunday implores us, "In this year marked by the suffering and challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the missionary journey of the whole Church continues in light of the words found in the account of the calling of the prophet Isaiah: "Here I am, send me" (6:8). This is the ever-new response to the Lord's question: "Whom shall I send?" Both the Church and humanity are challenged by this call from God's merciful heart to bring hope and peace to a world in suffering and crisis. What will your answer be?

"Here I am Lord, send me", is the response that God is looking for! Through our Pope's own missionary society, you too can be sent out to all the ends of the world by your support of the missionaries and those they serve. Your gift sustains priests, religious and lay pastoral 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, build the Church and serve the poor. Your support says, "Here I am Lord, send me."

This year, in response to the challenges to the Mission Church from the pandemic, I invite all of you in our Diocese to respond in the most generous way. As you do, I extend my sincere personal gratitude for your kindness and support. May God continue to bless and protect you and your family.

In the Lord's Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert E. Guglielmonne".

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmonne
Bishop of Charleston