



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday October 22nd, and Pope Francis asks all of us to focus not on the country in which we live, but on the mission fields of our world. Why? Because there are 258,540 Religious Sisters laboring there, there are 844,000 Catechists teaching the faith to the world's villages, there are 38,140 Seminarians studying for the Priesthood, there are 8750 shelters serving the homeless, and there are 26 million children receiving necessary assistance.

In setting the date for World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis has sent a call to each of us to go into our world and proclaim the presence of Christ. To make His love visible and real through missionary work that reaches to the ends of our world. "All of us can contribute to this missionary movement; with our prayers and activities, with material offerings and the offering of our sufferings, and our personal witness."

"Just as the disciples of Emmaus told the others what had taken place along the way (Lk 24:35), so too our proclamation will be a joyful telling of Christ the Lord, his life, his passion, his death and resurrection, and the wonders that his love has accomplished in our lives."

Missio ad Gentes, the Vatican II document on the missionary nature of the Church, reminds us that the Church of Christ is a missionary Church, that the human family has a right to hear the Good News of peace and Salvation, and our God is Emmanuel! The Pontifical Societies for the Propagation of the Faith has the primary responsibility for the Church's missionary work and is always available to you. Under the leadership of Monsignor Lofton and Mrs. Helena Moniz, the office is always ready to help each of you.

I thank you for generous support that you give to the Church's missions, and pray God will grant you many blessings in return.

In Christ's love,

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston