



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach World Mission Sunday on October 20, 2024, I encourage you to reflect deeply on the theme chosen by His Holiness Pope Francis: "*Go and invite everyone to the banquet*" (cf. Mt 22:9). This message, drawn from the parable of the wedding feast, reminds us of our shared mission to extend God's invitation of love and salvation to all.

As Catholics, we are called to actively engage in the worldwide mission of the Church. In his Message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis urges us to *tirelessly* "go out" and "invite" all to the Lord's banquet, ensuring no one is excluded. This banquet represents the final banquet, "ultimate salvation in the Kingdom of God," which is anticipated in every Eucharistic celebration. As a result, "all of us are called to experience more intensely every Eucharist," invigorating our zeal to bring everyone to share in the joy of the Lord's feast.

World Mission Sunday offers us a special opportunity to contribute to this missionary work through the collection organized by the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Our prayers, sacrifices, and contributions on World Mission Sunday are more than mere offerings; they are a means of extending the Lord's invitation to the world, sharing the joy and hope found in Christ. The funds raised are vital in supporting the Church's work in mission territories: helping to educate seminarians, form religious brothers and sisters, train catechists, and provide Catholic education and healthcare—tangible signs of Christ's love in action.

From 1822 to 1872, our own growing Catholic community in St. Louis was nurtured by the generosity of the global Church. During this time, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith provided over \$196,000 to support our young archdiocese, including assistance in building our cherished "Old Cathedral."

Today, we are called to extend that same spirit of generosity to our brothers and sisters in over 1,100 mission territories across the globe. I encourage you to respond with open hearts to this call. Let us pray together for the success of the Church's missionary activity and for the missionaries who dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel.

May this World Mission Sunday renew our commitment to the Church's universal mission. Together, let us rejoice in the opportunity to share God's love with the world, inviting everyone to the banquet of the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski  
Archbishop of St. Louis