

Homily notes & Intercessions

22 October 2023 (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1,4-6

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 95(96):1, 3-10, 7-10

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

Homily notes

For World Mission Sunday in 2023, Pope Francis has chosen the theme: ‘Hearts on fire, feet on the move’ (cf. Luke 24:13-35). Reflecting on the disciples’ encounter with Jesus on the journey to Emmaus in Luke’s gospel the Holy Father writes that ‘their encounter with Christ in the Word and in the breaking of bread sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen. **Their hearts burned within them, their eyes were opened, and their feet set out on the way.**’

We rejoice in the countless examples of men and women missionaries in the past, and who still today, respond with joy to their call to mission overseas. Our mission has only just begun. Most of the world still needs to discover the Good News of Christ who brings truth, love, and freedom from all that enslaves us.

Pope Francis reminds us that wherever we are in the world, ‘the primary and principal resource of mission are those persons who have come to know the Risen Christ in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, who carry his fire in their heart and his light in their gaze. They can bear witness to the life that never dies, even in the most difficult of situations and in the darkest of moments.’

Unlike the Pharisees in today’s Gospel, we are called to open our hearts and minds to the living words of Jesus Christ. We are urged to return to the world all that belongs to the world: our deep-seated prejudices, false assumptions and irrational fears, our worship of society’s current ‘idols’, along with unhealthy desires and cravings for all that is passing and ultimately meaningless; and to give to God our unconditional commitment to his will.

World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every Catholic community in the world. On this day **through prayer, reflection and material help** we express our support of missionaries who today are striving to preach and live the Gospel among those have yet to receive it.

World Mission Sunday provides us with a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence, and oppression. However, this is not just a once-in-a-year celebration. We are called to reflect on our own call to mission and to embrace a missionary spirit every moment of every day.

Missio, the Holy Father's charity for overseas mission, helps the Churches too poor or too young to support themselves. Your prayers and donations today will make a difference, to people like Sister Mary and parishioner Linet in Kenya.

Kibera, the biggest 'slum' in Africa, is rife with all the problems poverty brings including unemployment, malnourishment, addiction, and abuse. It is easy to see Kibera as a place of despair. But missionary Sister Mary and Linet try to meet the challenges of life in Kibera with faith and friendship.

With the support of Sister Mary, Linet courageously lives out her faith by rescuing and fostering children who are at risk of harm. Linet has sometimes faced real danger to rescue the children who have been abandoned, orphaned, or trafficked.

World Mission Sunday is a lifeline for missionaries like Sister Mary, who give their whole lives to bring the love and hope of Jesus to situations of extreme poverty and injustice.

This year, Sister Mary needs your support to ensure her work continues to make a difference for many more vulnerable children.

We all have a part to play in igniting God's love. This World Mission Sunday let us set hearts ablaze with Christ's love through missionaries, like Sister Mary, and the inspiring people they walk alongside.

*Go forth, messengers of God's tender mercy.
May your burning zeal be not shackled by fetters.
Go forth, O sisters and brothers, happy you! go forth.*

Missio

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Missio is proud to be the
Pope's official charity
for World Mission

Reg. Charity No. 1056651



Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: *On this World Mission Sunday, we unite with the whole Catholic Church in praying for the coming of God's Kingdom.*

- **For Pope Francis, our Bishop.... and all the leaders of the Church:** may they continue to guide the Church in her mission of announcing the Gospel to the world.
- **For missionaries on the move, men and women dedicated to witnessing to the Gospel in remote areas of the world:** may they be given the strength and courage to persevere in the mission God has given them.
- **For those who have not yet received the Good News of Jesus Christ:** may their hearts burn within them as they hear the Scriptures explained to them.
- **For those who live in areas of war, poverty, and oppression:** may we be channels of God's love by healing wounds, building bridges, strengthening relationships, and confronting injustice.
- **For the work of Missio across the world:** may our prayers and our gifts continue to give hope and help to those in greatest need.

Celebrant: *God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ calls us all to be missionary disciples. May your Church so abound in love and compassion that the joy of the Gospel will fill the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. We ask all this through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Our Lady of the Way, Mother of Christ's missionary disciples and Queen of Missions, pray for us.
(Pope Francis' Message for World Mission Sunday 2023)

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