



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 22, World Mission Sunday, we join Catholics worldwide to share in the Word and the Eucharist that the Lord may set our hearts aflame within us, filling us with enthusiasm to bring the Good News to all corners of the world.

Pope Francis chose this year's theme: "Hearts on fire, feet on the move." Inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus, the Holy Father invites us to reflect on these three images from the story: *"their hearts burned within them as they heard the Scriptures explained by Jesus, their eyes were opened as they recognized him and, ultimately, their feet set out on the way."* As missionary disciples, we must be illumined by Scripture and recognize Jesus in the Eucharist as the source and summit of the Church's mission so we too can set out with urgency to evangelize.

As we celebrate World Mission Sunday, we call to mind a missionary disciple whose heart burned with the Gospel, French laywoman Blessed Pauline Jaricot, foundress of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith. When Pauline founded the Society in 1822, she recognized that all the baptized are called to participate in the missionary work of the Church through spiritual and material offerings. Pope Francis reiterates that the Pontifical Mission Societies are the "privileged means" of encouraging missionary cooperation, and it is for this reason that the World Mission Sunday collection is taken for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Offerings from the World Mission Sunday collection assist the Holy Father in proclaiming the Gospel and celebrating the Sacraments in over 1,100 mission dioceses and territories that are young and in need of resources. Financial aid supports such essential work as the formation of seminarians and religious men and women, the training of catechists, the construction of schools and orphanages, and the building of churches in remote and resource-limited areas.

Embodying this year's theme, I urge you to keep your hearts aflame and your feet moving this World Mission Sunday so that everyone may come to recognize Jesus in the Word and Eucharist. Your prayers are invaluable, and your financial support provides life-giving aid to our brothers and sisters around the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis