



October  
2019

# EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

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October 2019





From the Pontifical Mission Societies and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

## THE LOGO AND ITS MEANING

“The primary colors of the Cross are referred to the five continents: red for America, green for Africa, white for Europe, yellow for Asia and blue for Oceania. The red recalls the blood of the American martyrs, seeds for a new life in the Christian faith. Green is the color of life and symbolizes growth, fruitfulness, youth and vitality. It is also the color of hope, one of the three theological virtues. White is the symbol of joy, the beginning of a new life in Christ: this is the challenge that the old Europe is facing, so that it may be able to regain the evangelizing strength from which it was generated thanks to so many churches and saints. Yellow is the color of light, which nourishes itself with light by invoking the true Light. Blue is the color symbolizing the water of life that quenches our thirst and restores us along the path to God. It is the color of heaven, a sign of God’s dwelling with us.”



## THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

There are four dimensions, specified by the Pope, to live more intensely the journey of preparation for and implementation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month-October 2019:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in his Church: in the Eucharist, in the Word of God, and in personal and communal prayer.
2. Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs, and confessors of the faith as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world.
3. Missionary Formation: biblical, catechetical, spiritual, and theological.
4. Missionary charity.

## A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS CHRIST

We encounter Jesus Christ living in His Church through the Eucharist, Word of God, and in personal and communal prayer. As Pope St. Paul VI said in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, “The Church is an evangelizer, but she begins by being evangelized herself... In brief, this means that she has a constant need of being evangelized, if she wishes to retain freshness, vigor and strength in order to proclaim the Gospel” (15). We begin our preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month where we must begin all that we do in the Church – with Jesus Christ. Only through having a personal relationship with Jesus - spending time with Him in the sacraments, Scripture, community and talking with Him one-on-one, can we truly know His heart and how to share His Gospel with everyone. To help with this, the Pontifical Mission Societies have prepared daily reflections for October 2019.



## TESTIMONY

“Holiness is the most attractive face of the Church,” Pope Francis says in his Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* (9). When the members of the Body of Christ live an authentic Christian life, they help build up the kingdom of God (CCC, 2044-2045). We are provided with the testimonies of missionary saints, martyrs, and witnesses to the faith to draw us ever deeper in our relationship with God and strengthen our own proclamation of the Gospel.

## MISSIONARY CHARITY

The faithful of the archdiocese are blessed with several opportunities to answer their baptismal call to be “missionary disciples.” Each individual may choose to pray and give financially to support missionaries and mission dioceses around the world through: *(Please click on each program to learn more)*

- **World Mission Sunday.** Donations can be made through the parish collection, by mailing in the enclosed envelope, or online at [www.archstl.org](http://www.archstl.org).
- **The Daily Worldmissionaires.** In this program, members are asked to sacrifice and pray daily throughout the month. Their sacrifices are then collected and sent to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.
- **Society of St. Peter the Apostle.** Donations support the formation of priests and religious in mission countries.
- **The Missionary Childhood Association.** Members are elementary aged children who pray and sacrifice daily throughout the year, with a special focus in their prayer for the children in mission dioceses.
- **Latin America Apostolate.** Since 1956, the Archdiocese of St. Louis has sent missionaries to Bolivia. Currently, Fr. Patrick Hayden and Fr. James Michler serve as pastor and associate pastor of Maria Reina Parish. Gifts are also made through the Latin America Apostolate Appeal at the parish level.
- **Pan y Amor.** Or “bread and love” in Spanish. In the Pan y Amor program, individuals sponsor homes or programs for children primarily in Bolivia, but also in Colombia, Kenya, and Uganda.

To learn more about any of these programs or ways you can be more involved in the missionary work of the Church, please call (314) 792-7655 or visit us online at [www.archstl.org/mission](http://www.archstl.org/mission).



## MISSIONARY FORMATION

What are the biblical, catechetical, spiritual, and theological foundations for the mission of the Church? Jesus says, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20). To provide further reflection, we have compiled different thoughts from the teachings of the Church on the mission of the Church in this newsletter. The following opportunities have also been made available for further missionary formation:

- Emmaus Study Groups
- Diaconate Day of Reflection
- Youth Group Study on Missiology
- Missionary Childhood Association
- Daily Reflections
- Missionary Testimonies
- Special Edition Magnificat



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, October 20th marks a very special World Mission Sunday, our annual, worldwide Eucharistic celebration of our shared call to mission. It takes place during an Extraordinary Missionary Month, called for by Pope Francis in honor of the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, which emphasized the missionary call to proclaim the Gospel.

During this month of October, Pope Francis invites us – all baptized Christians – to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through prayer, meditation on the Word of God, and pilgrimage. We move beyond the typical “heroic vision” of missionaries and reinforce the transforming relationship between faith and the world to which we are all called. Pope Francis reminds us that we are each “Baptized and Sent”; we are all the “Church of Christ on Mission in the World.”

I invite all in the Archdiocese of St. Louis to take this opportunity to revitalize our ardor, passion, and zeal for the faith with loving missionary hearts. We can respond to our missionary call through charity, giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday. Our gifts support and sustain 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.

We can also respond to this call through mirroring the loving witness exemplified by great missionaries, like Blessed Stanley Rother. He is a model for missionary witness to our faith and the Gospel, as he was martyred for his passionate defense of the dignity of every human being in the face of violence.

As I thank you for your continuous commitment to mission, I share my personal gratitude for your generous response on this day, and throughout the Extraordinary Missionary Month, as you are able. Let us join our hearts in the prayer of our Holy Father for this special moment for the Missions: “May the love for the Church’s Mission, which is a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people, ‘grow ever stronger!’”

Invoking every blessing upon you, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

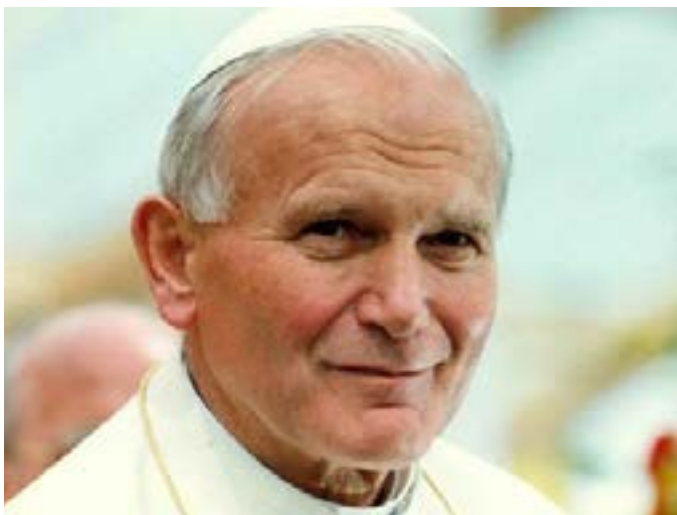
Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson  
Archbishop of St. Louis

### WHY EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH?

Pope Francis announced the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*. “Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World” is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Mission Month. Awakening the awareness of the *missio ad gentes*, and reinvigorating the sense of responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm, are themes that combine the pastoral concern of Pope Benedict XV in his Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, published 100 years ago, with the missionary vitality expressed by Pope Francis in his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. “Missionary action is the paradigm of every work of the Church.” (EG 15)

From the Pontifical Missionary Societies and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.





### ST. JOHN PAUL II'S ENCYCLICAL *REDEMPTORIS MISSIO*, 1990

"MISSIONARY ACTIVITY PROPER, NAMELY THE MISSION AD GENTES, IS DIRECTED TO 'PEOPLES OR GROUPS WHO DO NOT YET BELIEVE IN CHRIST,' 'WHO ARE FAR FROM CHRIST,' IN WHOM THE CHURCH 'HAS NOT YET TAKEN ROOT' AND WHOSE CULTURE HAS NOT YET BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE GOSPEL. IT IS DISTINCT FROM OTHER ECCLESIAL ACTIVITIES INASMUCH AS IT IS ADDRESSED TO GROUPS AND SETTINGS WHICH ARE NON-CHRISTIAN BECAUSE THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL AND THE PRESENCE OF THE CHURCH ARE EITHER ABSENT OR INSUFFICIENT. IT CAN THUS BE CHARACTERIZED AS THE WORK OF PROCLAIMING CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL, BUILDING UP THE LOCAL CHURCH AND PROMOTING THE VALUES OF THE KINGDOM. THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF THIS MISSION AD GENTES CONSISTS IN ITS BEING ADDRESSED TO 'NON-CHRISTIANS.' IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THIS SPECIFICALLY 'MISSIONARY WORK THAT JESUS ENTRUSTED AND STILL ENTRUSTS EACH DAY TO HIS CHURCH' DOES NOT BECOME AN INDISTINGUISHABLE PART OF THE OVERALL MISSION OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD AND AS A RESULT BECOME NEGLECTED OR FORGOTTEN." (34)



### POPE BENEDICT'S POST-SYNODAL APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION *VERBUM DOMINI*, 2010

"IN CALLING UPON ALL THE FAITHFUL TO PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD, THE SYNOD FATHERS RESTATED THE NEED IN OUR DAY TOO FOR A DECISIVE COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION AD GENTES. IN NO WAY CAN THE CHURCH RESTRICT HER PASTORAL WORK TO THE 'ORDINARY MAINTENANCE' OF THOSE WHO ALREADY KNOW THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. MISSIONARY OUTREACH IS A CLEAR SIGN OF THE MATURITY OF AN ECCLESIAL COMMUNITY. THE FATHERS ALSO INSISTED THAT THE WORD OF GOD IS THE SAVING TRUTH WHICH MEN AND WOMEN IN EVERY AGE NEED TO HEAR. FOR THIS REASON, IT MUST BE EXPLICITLY PROCLAIMED. THE CHURCH MUST GO OUT TO MEET EACH PERSON IN THE STRENGTH OF THE SPIRIT (CF. 1 COR 2:5) AND CONTINUE HER PROPHETIC DEFENCE OF PEOPLE'S RIGHT AND FREEDOM TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD, WHILE CONSTANTLY SEEKING OUT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS OF PROCLAIMING THAT WORD, EVEN AT THE RISK OF PERSECUTION.[319] THE CHURCH FEELS DUTY-BOUND TO PROCLAIM TO EVERY MAN AND WOMAN THE WORD THAT SAVES (CF. ROM 1:14)." (95)

### POPE FRANCIS' APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION *EVANGELII GAUDIUM*, 2013

"We cannot forget that evangelization is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him. Many of them are quietly seeking God, led by a yearning to see his face, even in countries of ancient Christian tradition. All of them have a right to receive the Gospel. Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone." (14)

"Sometimes it seems that our work is fruitless, but mission is not like a business transaction or investment, or even a humanitarian activity. It is not a show where we count how many people come as a result of our publicity; it is something much deeper, which escapes all measurement. It may be that the Lord uses our sacrifices to shower blessings in another part of the world which we will never visit. The Holy Spirit works as he wills, when he wills and where he wills; we entrust ourselves without pretending to see striking results. We know only that our commitment is necessary." (279)



## MISSIONARY TESTIMONIES

*PLEASE CLICK ON EACH NAME TO LEARN MORE.*

### ST. THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS

A Carmelite nun who offered prayers and sacrifices for the salvation of all, leading to her being given the title of patroness of missions and missionaries.

### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER *(Pictured pg. 7)*

The patron of missions, who has also been referred to as the Apostle of India and Japan.

### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The son of a wealthy merchant who renounced his wealth for preaching the kingdom of God.

### BLESSED PAOLO MANNA *(Pictured above)*

The Founder of the Pontifical Missionary Union, a union to set clergy and religious on fire with the mission of the Church so that this fire could be transferred to the whole Church.

### VENERABLE PAULINE MARIE JARICOT *(Pictured Below)*

The Founder of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, a group devoted to praying and sacrificing for the missions around the world.

### CHARLES DE FORBIN-JANSON

The Founder of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood (or Missionary Childhood – as it is known in the U.S.), a society for children to pray and sacrifice for children in the missions.

### JEANNE BIGARD

The Founder of the Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle which supports the formation of priests and religious in missions.

### ANNA DENGEL

A doctor who worked to bring change to canon law that religious sisters could practice medicine, forming the Medical Mission Sisters who trained St. Teresa of Calcutta.

### BLESSED BENEDICT DASWA

A husband, father, teacher, catechist and martyr who was killed for his refusal to collaborate in consulting a sorcerer.

### CATERINA ZECCHINI

The Founder of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a community devoted to the universal mission of the Church.

### BLESSED CYPRIAN MICHAEL IWENE TANSI

The first blessed of Nigeria, first indigenous vocation of the area, priest, who helped prepare the way for monastic life in the region.

### VENERABLE DÉLIA TÉTREULT

The Founder of the first female missionary institute in Canada, fueling missionary fervor both in Canada and around the world.



**SERVANT OF GOD EZECHIELE RAMIN**

Italian Comboni Missionary to Brazil martyred for empathizing with the suffering indigenous farmers.

**SERVANT OF GOD FELICE TANTARDINI**

A lay missionary of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions in Burma.

**JEAN CASSAIGNE**

A missionary of the Foreign Missions of Paris sent to Vietnam where he served among the lepers.

**BLESSED JUSTUS TAKAYAMA UKON**

A Japanese layman, politician, soldier, feudal lord and samurai who renounced his social status for the Gospel.

**BLESSED LUCIEN BOTOVASOA**

A husband, father, teacher, catechist, Secular Franciscan in Madagascar, who was martyred for refusing to be a part of the corrupt political parties.

**MON FILOMENA YAMAMOTO**

A Japanese Xaverian Missionary of Mary who strived to give her life to the mercy of God.

**BLESSED PETER TO ROT**

The first blessed of Papua New Guinea. A husband, father, and catechist who was killed by Japanese soldiers in 1945 for his defense of Christian marriage.

**BLESSED PIERRE CLAVERIE**

Bishop of Oran in Algeria; he fostered relationships with Muslims in the country, creating bonds of trust and friendship, and was martyred for the Church in 1996.

**SIMON MPECKE**

Was among the first of the indigenous of Cameroon to become a priest, he became a missionary priest to northern Cameroon.

**BLESSED TITUS BRANDSMA**

Carmelite priest, journalist, and university professor in the Netherlands who was openly vocal in his opposition to the Nazis, was arrested and killed at Dachau concentration camp.

**BLESSED VICTOIRE RASOAMANARIVO**

A lady of the court in Madagascar who practiced Catholicism despite the stigma surrounding the faith in her social status.

**VIVIAN UCHECHI OGU**

A witness to the faith in Nigeria who shared her love of Jesus especially through her parish choir and as president of her parish's Holy Childhood chapter; she was killed at the age of 14, for refusing to allow her kidnappers to rape her.

**WANDA MARIA BŁEŃSKA**

A doctor and lay missionary from Poland who spent much of her life caring for lepers in Uganda, in addition to teaching others about the missionary life of the Church through various missionary organizations and academic circles.

**DAILY REFLECTIONS AND TESTIMONIES**

Each parish will be provided a copy of the Daily Reflections on the Readings for the month of October, as well as a copy of the Mission Testimonies.

The **Daily Reflections** coincide with the readings of the day and can lead to a greater understanding of the readings in light of Extraordinary Missionary Month.

The **Mission Testimonies** provide a great overview of a variety of saints, martyrs, and witnesses to the faith. To the left you can find a brief description of each person, and then access the mission testimonies to read more.

These materials are also available on our website at [www.archstl.org/October2019](http://www.archstl.org/October2019).

Additional information is available at [www.october2019.va](http://www.october2019.va)

## DAILY REFLECTIONS

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PLEASE CLICK ON THE DATE TO OPEN THE REFLECTION FOR THE DAY.

- October 1st
- October 2nd
- October 3rd
- October 4th
- October 5th
- October 6th
- October 7th
- October 8th
- October 9th
- October 10th
- October 11th
- October 12th
- October 13th
- October 14th
- October 15th
- October 16th
- October 17th
- October 18th
- October 19th
- October 20th
- October 21st
- October 22nd
- October 23rd
- October 24th
- October 25th
- October 26th
- October 27th
- October 28th
- October 29th
- October 30th
- October 31st



# Baptized and sent

**Celebrating**  
**Extraordinary**  
**Missionary Month**  
**and**  
**World Mission**  
**Sunday**

[www.archstl.org/missions](http://www.archstl.org/missions)

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