

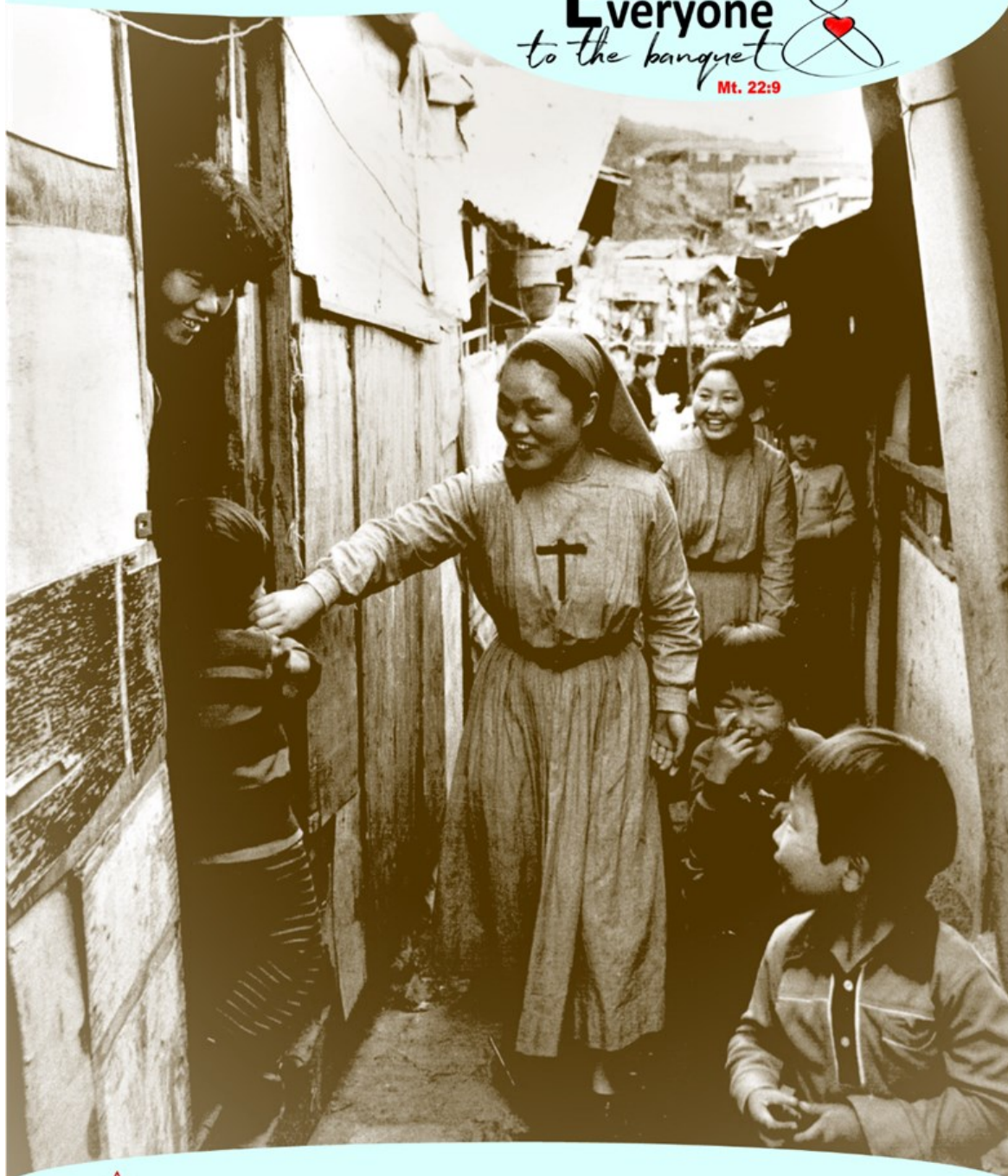
# WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: Oct 20, 2024

Spiritual Animation for YOUNG PEOPLE

**MISSIONARY MONTH - OCTOBER 2024**

World Mission Sunday: October 20, 2024

GO AND INVITE  
**Everyone**  
*to the banquet*   
Mt. 22:9



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## **MISSION SUNDAY THEME**

### ***Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet (Matthew 22:9)***



The month of October is designated as Missionary Month by the Vatican, and World Mission Sunday 2024 is on October 20. This annual event is once again an opportunity for you as teachers, catechists and parents along with the children in your charge who belong to the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) to review our responsibilities and promises as missionaries. It is a chance for you to spread the mission of the HCA to other students and teachers/parishioners within your environment. It is a time to recommit yourselves to the mission we all have as Catholics as given by Jesus. It is a reminder that we may be able to offer concrete assistance to children in missionary countries through our donations.

During 2024, schools have generally been able to operate in a more “normal” way than in the last few years. Despite this, schools and educators have had to deal with several lingering issues stemming from the pandemic. Many long-term effects will not really be known for several years, but schools have bravely soldiered on dealing with issues still affecting children, staffing and organizational issues.

Because of the effects on our own lives, it is easy to forget about the difficulties still faced by children in mission countries. Mission Sunday is an opportunity for our young people to reinforce the three responsibilities of members of the Holy Childhood Association (HCA): prayer, knowledge and sharing.

What follows are ideas and reflections you can use with your children on the occasion of our 2024 World Mission Sunday.

## **REFLECTION ON THE THEME**

Read the theme out loud with your children: ***Go and invite everyone to the banquet!***  
(based on Matt 22:9).

### **Points to consider and discuss are:**

***Go*** – Jesus does more than ask his disciples to invite everyone. He gives what might be considered an order, suggestion or at least a very strong suggestion!

***Invite*** – The definition of the word *invite* refers to a **request** to someone to go somewhere or to do something. The fact that it is a request means that there are no demands, there is no coercion and it allows the right of refusal by the person asked. There is an element of free will attached to it. There is usually a degree of politeness and formality attached to the request. The person who is invited would normally feel privileged and be honoured at the request. An invitation also involves the hope and expectation by the one doing the inviting that it will be accepted, and that disappointment would accompany refusal.

***Everyone*** – Who is everyone? No one usually invites *everyone* to anything! Therefore, Jesus' invitation is unusual. He wants everyone, knowing that this will probably mean some "undesirables" and refusals. He wants everyone to have the opportunity to accept.

***Banquet*** – We know that the banquet in this story is a marriage feast, and therefore a significant and important event. Jesus is encouraging us to invite everyone to share in our missionary activity and that all of the poor children in the world are deserving of our help. This indicates that our work with missionary activity is significant and extremely important.

This theme suggests to us that we need to be committed to actively becoming involved in helping children in need wherever they are. In our own way, we need to be responsive to Jesus' request in order to spread Jesus' Word.

### **CAN YOU GO OUT AND DO IT???**

#### **Poster**

Examine the World Mission Sunday poster. Discuss it with reference to the meaning of the theme. How does the photo show "going out" to people? How does it involve everyone? What is happening that suggests an invitation to some sort of event? How do the people who are extending the invitation feel about their task and how do you know? How do you think the people being invited are responding and how do you know? Is there anything that suggests what the response to the invitation will be? Do the sisters pictured appear to be working hard with determination and enthusiasm in response to Jesus' command? What indicates this?

The poster shows sisters in a religious order working in a missionary country. You are in Canada living at home and attending school. How can you invite everyone to the banquet? Does one have to travel in order to experience this?

## **Mission Sunday, October 20** – Reading from St Paul

Read with your students/children the passage from **Hebrews 4:14-16**, the Second Reading for the day. What does it have to do with Mission Sunday?

This reading presents a clear missionary reference: ***we must never let go of the faith that we have professed***. We show this by our determination to invite everybody to the banquet. The reason is that Jesus experienced everything about humanity in his life, and that he knows full well what we experience in life. Therefore, his wish that we invite everybody to share his mercy is entirely reasonable, and in fact, necessary.

How do we invite everybody? Being active in how we live our Christian lives would be a great way. Be an active missionary. Will you be able to say that you have invited everyone to the banquet?

## **Mission Sunday, October 20** – Gospel Reflection

Read with your students/children the passage from Matthew 10:35-45, the Gospel reading for the day.

What does this passage have to do with Mission Sunday? What does it have to do with our theme? The poster? How does it relate to inviting everyone to the banquet?

The key lies in the word “everyone”. Jesus stresses that in order to follow him, the disciples have to share in his example of service. The reference to Baptism is very relevant, as we understand it as an initiation. Jesus was initiated into humanity to the point where he submitted to becoming the lowly servant to everyone and sharing in all of the human trials that we encounter. The message from Jesus is very familiar to us, as it was most graphically revealed again at the Last Supper with the washing of feet.

Again, how does this relate to missionary activity? As missionaries, we need to realise how important it is to treat even the poorest of children as our equals and deserving of our hospitality. We also need to be willing to actively invite them **all** to share God’s mercy with them.

**Keep in mind that Membership in the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) is an ideal and practical way to invite the poor to share in the banquet.**

# INVITATIONS

**Think of invitations that you personally have received.** You may have gotten them for:

- Birthdays
- Special Parties
- Valentine (or other) special event
- Presentations at school
- Sports awards

How did you feel when you received the invitation? How did you receive the invitation: in the mail? by hand? by phone? Email or other social media? With whom did you share the news? What was your immediate reaction? Did you automatically think that you would go? How did you feel in the days leading up to the event?



(iStock)

**Think of invitations your family has received** that involved all or various family members:

- Birthdays
- Christmas parties or dinners
- Birth of a baby
- Baptisms
- Other sacraments (First Eucharist, Confirmation)
- Weddings
- Other family events

Who actually received the invitation? How did various family members feel about the invitation? How was the news shared to everyone? Was the answer going to be “YES” for everyone? What special arrangements did your family have to make in order to attend? What was the general feeling in the days leading up to the event?

## ACTIVITY

Design an invitation to a specific person or to a group. The recipient or group can be named or not. Because you are a young missionary in the Holy Childhood Missionary Organisation, make the invitation to an event that promotes the objectives of the HCA or that promotes Jesus’ message to us. Try to relate it to Advent, as this is the liturgical time of year for us. Some examples could be:

Invitation to attend a meeting to discuss HCA activities during Advent

Invitation attend Sunday Mass with you

Invitation to go to Confession with you

Donate to the HCA during special times, like Advent

Invitation to bake cookies for a bake sale to support the HCA, your school or parish

Invitation to make special Advent articles, ie Advent Wreath, Jesse Tree, Advent calendar

Invitation to a special event for a class member which occurs during Advent or the Christmas season

Make your invitation attractive, exciting, eye-catching, colourful and anything else that would make it visible and motivating for those who see it. Share your invitation with class members and ask for their opinions on how effective it is. Display the invitations in your classroom or at home.

## INVITATION TO PRAY

*Come to me  
Come soon.  
Come anytime.  
The door's open.  
I am waiting for you.  
Let's make time to be together.  
Let's open our hearts to one another.*



Wikipedia

### **SO YOU STILL WANT TO BE A MISSIONARY? GUESS WHAT??? - YOU STILL ARE!!**

Are you a member of the Holy Childhood Association (HCA)? Does your school or Parish belong? Does your teacher know about it? Do your friends know about it? Does your family know about it? Do your friends know about it?

Living the life of a missionary in a far away land can sound exciting. However, have you ever asked yourself these questions or made these statements?

- Aren't I too young?
- What about going to school?
- I have no money!
- I don't even know how to start!
- What about my family and my life with them?
- What about my other future plans?



Bible.com

Maybe you don't have to go far away in order to be a missionary. Being a missionary means proclaiming the Gospel to those who have not heard it or who do not really understand it. **You can do that every day!** How, you ask? Just look ...

Go to Mass, sometimes during the week

Go to Confession (Reconciliation) at least once a month

Say grace before eating - even when out in public

Read the Bible and Catechism

Make regular visits to the Church before the Blessed Sacrament

Fast, even when it's not Lent. Abstain from meat on Fridays

Ask your friends why they don't go to Mass

Join your Parish Youth Group

Be a Church Minister (like being an altar server)

Dress as a Saint for Halloween

Wear religious jewelry, or if you "need" a tattoo, have a religious one

Don't judge

Don't take yourself too seriously

Read some Christian books

Dress modestly but look awesome

If you can't say something nice, say nothing

Ask someone to pray for you

When you receive Communion, act like you really believe it

Ask people's forgiveness

Believe that other people have at least 5 things about him/her that are better than you

Be completely present to everyone who is talking to you

Don't be a hypocrite

Donate to the HCA

Pray more than you talk

Pray the Rosary. Keep it with you as part of your personal gear

Remember that you don't have all the answers

Pray, love, then be yourself

**See?? You are already a missionary!**