

MISSIONARY MONTH - OCTOBER 2024

World Mission Sunday: October 20, 2024

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



THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
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GO AND INVITE
EVERYONE
to the banquet & ❤️

The text from Matthew's Gospel; "**Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet—Mt. 22:9**" is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the Missionary Month of October 2024. The purpose of this Gospel text that inspired the Holy Father, is to remind us that we are a "Church that goes forth" that cannot stay put for everyone to come to her.

Read the Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2024 on our website:
www.missionsocieties.ca

"Go" and "invite" are two verbs that set us in motion and on a missionary going forth.

They encourage us to be open and welcoming to those who do not know the Good News or, for one reason or the other, feel indifferent about this invitation. This can transform our life if we respond to it and freely decide to be part of the invited guests.

In this year of preparation for the Jubilee year of 2025, which is specially dedicated to prayer, and in this final stage of the synodal journey, we offer you resources and tools to animate communities, parish groups and all missionaries who are passionate about the mission.

During the Missionary Month of October, we are invited to pray fervently for the Church's mission of evangelization and the celebration of the Eucharist. Pope Francis explains: "In obedience to the Saviour's command, the Church does not cease to pray at every Eucharistic and liturgical celebration, the 'Our Father,' with its petition, 'Thy kingdom come'" (***Pope Francis' Message for WMD 2024***). This prayer that Christ gave us and specially the Eucharist, "makes us pilgrims and missionaries of hope, journeying towards everlasting life in God, towards the wedding banquet that God has prepared for all his children."

World Missionary Month is October and October 20, 2024 is **World Mission Day!** May you celebrate your missionary vocation with joy, and tirelessly go and invite everyone to the banquet.

Father Alex Osei, C.S.Sp.
National Director of Pontifical Mission Societies
English Sector

2023 World Mission Day collections in Canada

ENGLISH SECTOR	
DIOCESE OF ANTIGONISH	7,929.00
DIOCESE OF CALGARY	112,050.58
DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTETOWN	6,759.00
DIOCESE OF CHURCHILL-HUDSON BAY	1,500.00
DIOCESE OF CORNER BROOK AND LABRADOR	5,184.25
ARCHDIOCESE OF EDMONTON	67,225.98
DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS	3,885.22
DIOCESE OF HALIFAX - YARMOUTH	5,000.00
DIOCESE OF HAMILTON	45,425.00
DIOCESE OF KAMLOOPS	-
DIOCESE OF GROUARD-MCLENNAN	16,868.65
ARCHDIOCESE OF KEEWATIN-LE PAS	733.50
ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON	29,952.42
DIOCESE OF LONDON	20,416.60
DIOCESE OF MACKENZIE-FORT SMITH	1,706.25
R.C. MILITARY ORDINARY OF CANADA	-
DIOCESE OF NELSON	26,151.30
DIOCESE OF OTTAWA-CORNWALL	40,345.72
DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE	9,841.55
DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH	20,837.20
DIOCESE OF PRINCE ALBERT	4,602.03
DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE	10,398.65
ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA	40,816.17
DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES	27,138.90
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S, NL	8,384.00
DIOCESE OF SAINT JOHN, NB	19,360.33
DIOCESE OF SASKATOON	21,958.25
DIOCESE OF SAULT STE-MARIE	15,849.50
DIOCESE OF THUNDER BAY	5,000.00
ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO	436,135.25
DIOCESE OF VANCOUVER	163,282.11
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA	12,297.00
DIOCESE OF WHITEHORSE	1,230.75
ARCHDIOCESE OF WINNIPEG	13,862.57
TOTAL	1,202,127.73

FRENCH SECTOR	
Amos	4,940
Baie-Comeau	1,179
Bathurst	5,237
Chicoutimi	2,207
Edmundston	5,121
Gaspé	3,643
Gatineau	700
Hearst — Moosonee	2,638
Joliette	7,912
Moncton	17,809
Montréal	81,905
Nicolet	5,876
Ottawa — Cornwall	16,623
Québec	26,680
Rimouski	4,606
Rouyn-Noranda	3,437
Sault-Sainte-Marie	7,175
Sherbrooke	11,606
Saint-Boniface	13,617
Saint-Hyacinthe	1,645
Saint-Jean — Longueuil	1,835
Saint-Jérôme — Mont-Laurier	22,059
Saint-Paul	9,296
Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière	3,653
Timmins	4,933
Trois-Rivières	7,040
Valleyfield	5,211
Other dioceses	730
Total	\$279,313

**Thank you to all our benefactors who contributed to our fundraising campaigns
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

World Mission Day – Sunday, October 20, 2024

Reflection on the Gospel of Mark 10:35–45

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for World Mission Day is: “Go and invite everyone to the Banquet!” (Mt 22:9). This banquet takes place during the Son’s wedding, the One who comes to marry all humanity and thus, wants everyone to be present at the nuptial rendezvous. He said: “The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized.” What is this baptism for Jesus, if not of being immersed in our humanity from birth to his passion and death, where he will give his life for many? The Bridegroom has been tried in every way and offers us a Love of compassion, kindness and liberation (Psalm of the day). More than that, he offers us his Life in return, what could be more beautiful than this grace, this gift? We are invited to take part in a sublime, marvelous and merciful wedding (2nd reading)!

The Bridegroom wishes to serve us, but this is not customary in a wedding. He is the Servant that was crushed with pain and shall justify all his brothers and sisters in humanity (1st reading). Therefore, he offers to serve us salvation on the banquet menu, nothing less! Through his sacrifice offered in the Holy Eucharist, a restorative grace is given to our wounded humanity. Indeed, we await our new Life from Him, sings the Psalm, may his Love be upon us, our hope is on him. Let us invite everyone to the Banquet of the Eucharist, the wedding day of the Lamb, that is our Universal Mission, *ad gentes*, in every nation. Today, Pope Francis tells us in his message that: “While the world sets before us the various ‘banquets’ of consumerism, selfish comfort, the accumulation of wealth and individualism, the Gospel calls everyone to the divine banquet, marked by joy, sharing, justice and fraternity, in communion with God and with others. This fullness of life, which is Christ’s gift, is anticipated even now in the banquet of the Eucharist, which the Church celebrates at the Lord’s command in memory of him. The invitation to the eschatological banquet that we bring to everyone in our mission of evangelization is intrinsically linked to the invitation to the Eucharistic table, where the Lord feeds us with his word and with his Body and Blood” (Message for World Mission Day 2024).

Let us take a closer look in the life of a baptized person to see what this grace of serving our loved ones means, even to the point of drinking the cup of suffering and sacrifice. Pope Francis gives us the example of Josephine Bakhita of Sudan: Born in Darfur in 1869, she was abducted from her family at the age of seven, and made a slave. She had eight different masters—each one sold her on to the next. The physical and moral suffering she experienced as a child left her with no identity. She suffered cruelty and violence. But she herself testified: “As a slave I never despaired, because I felt a mysterious force supporting me.” What was Saint Bakhita’s secret? We know that a wounded person often wounds in turn: the oppressed easily becomes the oppressor. Instead, the vocation of the oppressed is that of freeing themselves and their oppressors, becoming restorers of humanity. Only in the weakness of the oppressed can the strength of God’s love, which frees both, be revealed. Saint Bakhita expresses this truth very well.

One day her tutor gave her a small crucifix and she treasured it jealously, given that she had never owned anything. She experienced inner liberation while looking at it, because she felt she was understood and loved and therefore capable of understanding and loving: this was the beginning. She felt she was understood, she felt loved, and as a consequence, capable of understanding and loving others. Indeed, she would go on to say: “God’s love has always accompanied me in a mysterious way... The Lord has loved me very much: you have to love everyone... you have to have pity!” This is Bakhita’s soul. Truly, to feel pity means both to suffer with the victims of the great inhumanity in the world, and also to pity those who commit errors and injustices, not justifying, but humanizing. This is the caress she teaches us: to humanize. When we enter the logic of fighting, of division among us, of bad feelings, one against the other, we lose our humanity. And very often we think we are in need of humanity, of being more humane. Saint Bakhita teaches us: to humanize, to humanize ourselves and to humanize others.

Collection for World Mission Day

The universal collection for World Mission Day is unique: its fruits are distributed worldwide, according to the needs of the poorest dioceses. Everyone contributes to the cause, and this allows the survival of the poorest dioceses. The universal collection provides each bishop the means and freedom of action for the formation of catechists, solidarity, priestly vocations and consecrated life, education, health care, etc. Therefore, it represents a tool of justice and fraternity between all the dioceses. Furthermore, it aids in supporting the permanent effort of the Universal Church to go and proclaim the Gospel to all nations. This mandate, received from Christ, is assumed by the baptized people and those who are jointly responsible for the Universal Mission along with the Church of Africa, Asia, South America, Central America, Europe, and Oceania.

Statutes of the Pontifical Mission Societies

Bishops are invited to ask the people in charge of the Catholic organizations and the Christians, to renounce, during all the celebrations of that special Sunday, to any other collection of nature. They should also ensure that all donations for World Mission Sunday are exclusively remitted to the Universal Solidarity Fund, and they should encourage their priests and laity in that spirit. (Ch. 2, art. 8).

What is Propagation of the Faith?

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is present in 120 countries. It is the Vatican's most important society, supporting missionary action of the poorest Churches in the world. It develops great solidarity with the universal mission of evangelization, through prayer and sharing. It is responsible for the collection of World Mission Sunday, an occasion to celebrate mission throughout the World.

Subsidies sent in 2023

FRENCH CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION (\$ CAD)	
Fondazione <i>Domus Missionalis</i> -Italy	140,699
Burundi	268,982
Madagascar	281,292
<i>Pontificium Opus A Propagatione Fidei</i>	48,539
Mass stipends	2,615
Total for French Sector	\$742,127

ENGLISH CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION (\$ CAD)	
Ghana	1,196,309.00
Gambia	117,023.00
Domus Missionalis Foundation—Italy	364,210.00
<i>Pontificium Opus A Propagatione Fidei</i>	125,568.00
Total for English Sector	\$1,803,110

Total for both sectors: \$2,545,237.00

Other donations in 2023

FRENCH AND ENGLISH SECTORS	
OEuvre pontificale de Saint-Pierre Apôtre	1,498,737.00
Society of St. Peter the Apostle	440,752.00
OEuvre pontificale de l'enfance missionnaire (Mond'Ami)	17 2,543.00
Holy Childhood Association	199,599.00
Total for both Sectors	\$2,311,631

LET US PRAY WITH MARY AND POPE FRANCIS FOR THE MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Meditations of the Mysteries of the Rosary in light of Pope Francis' homilies and catechesis on the missionary zeal Year 2024

Let us begin:

There is no mission without the Rosary!

How beautiful it is to rediscover the providential similarity between the month dedicated to “missions” and the one of the “Rosary”: the month of October. And for the missionary disciples of Canada, it is a grace, because Our Lady of the Rosary is the Patron Saint of this country.

Considering the growth of the “Missionary Rosary” spiritual experience, we have prayed with Mary as Queen and Mother of Missions under the auspices of the messages and pontifical teachings for the past two years. This year, while emphasizing on

Pope Francis' catechesis, we will discover through the Rosary, Mary's prayer and the whole Church's prayer for missions—we will also realize that there is no mission without the Rosary, because mission is also and foremost a prayerful action: the one of the Propagation of the faith and the knowledge of Jesus Christ. What better way than the Rosary to meditate on the greatest moments in Christ's life and, in the company of his Mother?

Let us allow the teachings of Pope Francis to enter our hearts throughout this Rosary and let us make the Church intentions for missions our own, while fully contemplating the Joyous, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of Christ's life, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

First Mystery: The Annunciation

“Yet it is not so much that we go to the Lord, but that he comes to us, to fill us with his grace, to fill us with his joy.” (Pope Francis, Homily for the celebration of the sacrament of penance with the act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, March 25, 2022).

Let us pray so that the missionary disciples of Canada and the whole world may be open to the graces and joy of the Annunciation in order to bring them to those to whom the Lord sends them.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!

Visit our website: www.missionsocieties.ca
for all the meditations of the Rosary

