



October 2, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On October 22, World Mission Sunday is observed throughout the Church. World Mission Sunday reminds us each year to focus on the essential work of evangelization that is still ongoing throughout the world. Taking up this year's theme, "Hearts on fire, feet on the move" Pope Francis invites us to kindle the fire of Christ's love in our hearts and to actively share our faith.

The World Mission Sunday collection assists the Holy Father to build up the Church in over 1,100 dioceses and territories that are too young and/or too poor to sustain themselves. Offerings support the formation of seminarians and religious men and women, assist in the construction of schools and orphanages and enable missionaries to build churches in remote and resource-limited areas.

For many years dioceses in the United States benefitted from this collection while we were still mission territory. In fact, the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, received its final support as a mission diocese just last year. The annual Mission collection helps missionary dioceses until they can stand on their own feet and become independent.

As our nation has benefitted from this support in the past, may we now support those areas of the world where the Catholic faith is blossoming. I invite you to please pray for the work of the missions, and support this work as generously as you can.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

*For additional resources about World Mission Sunday, please visit
<https://onefamilyinmission.org/resources/>.*