



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States  
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

## *What are you doing with God's Invitation?*

***To monthly mission donors:  
"Thank you for your support!"***

On behalf of His Excellency Frederick F. Campbell, the Bishop of Columbus, and Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

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The other day I received a beautiful card from my dear friend John. It was an invitation to attend the wedding of their daughter. Embossed on the card was "Mr. and Mrs. John Smith request your presence at the wedding of their daughter Jennifer."

Invitations are special. To receive an invitation is to be honored – to be held in high esteem. For this reason, invitations need to be responded to with kindness and thoughtfulness.

But the most incredible invitations do not come through the mail. They come from the Bible. It is difficult to read about God without hearing about God issuing an invitation. God invited Eve to marry Adam; the animals to enter the ark; David to be king; Israel to leave bondage; Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem.

God is an inviting God. God invited Mary to be the mother of

His Son; Jesus invited the disciples to be fishers of men, the adulteress woman to start over, Thomas to touch His wounds.

God is the King Who prepares the palace, sets the table and invites His subjects to come in.

It seems that "Come" is God's favorite word. "Come let us talk about these things. Though your sins are like scarlet, they can be white as snow" (Isa. 1:18). "All you, who are thirsty, come and drink" (Isa. 55:1). "Come to me all of you who are tired and have heavy loads and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). "Come to the wedding feast" (Matt. 22:1-14). "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19).

God is an inviting God, a God who calls. God is the God who directs us to the full table.

But God's invitation is not just for a meal – it is an invitation for life. God's invitation is to come into the kingdom and take residence in it – a kingdom that is tearless, painless and graveless.

Who can come? Whoever wishes. To underline the urgency of God's invitation, Jesus told us two stories. The first is about two sons whose father invited them to work in the vineyard (Matt. 21:28-32). The invitation to each is identical, but their responses are different. One said "no" but later changed his mind and went. The other said

"yes" but later changed his mind and did not go.

The other story is about a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son (Matt. 22:1-14). He invited the people to come, but they didn't. Some ignored the invitation, some gave excuses of being busy. Others actually killed the servants bearing the invitation.

How do you feel when your invitation is rejected? Most people do not reject God's invitation – they just don't give God's invitation serious thought. It is one thing to be rejected. It is another not to be taken seriously.

God invites us to open our hearts for Him to enter. To know God is to receive His invitation. It is possible to hear God's invitation without taking it seriously.

Yet God's invitation is clear and non-negotiable. God's invitation is simple and absolute. He is clear in what He asks. He is clear in what He offers. He gives all and we give Him all. It's up to us to respond.

Is it incredible that God gives us the choice? There are many things in this life that we cannot choose – like the size of our nose or the color of our eyes or how tall we are. But we can choose where to spend eternity. God leaves the big choice to us. The critical decision is ours.

## ***World Mission Sunday - a letter from the Bishop***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, October 22, we join with Catholic communities from around the world to celebrate World Mission Sunday, a Eucharistic celebration for all the missions of the world.

Organized by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, it offers each of us the opportunity to demonstrate our solidarity in support of missions and the missionaries who serve them.

The proceeds of the special collection taken will be distributed – in the Pope’s name – among the missions and missionaries worldwide. Our donations help fund missionary activities such as catechetical programs; seminaries; the work of religious communities; communication and transformation needs; and the construction of much needed chapels, churches, orphanages and schools.

The needs of our missions grow every day. With the creation of new dioceses in third-world countries, vocations to the priesthood and religious life are increasing, thereby increasing the need for new seminaries and houses of formation. In some areas where the Church was once persecuted or suppressed, it is now welcomed, increasing the need for chapels and churches. The involvement and commitment of us all is needed to foster and support this important work.

Let us unite with Catholics across the globe to pray and offer sacrifices and gifts for the missionary work of the Church. Most grateful to you for your continuing generosity and support, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend  
Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D  
Bishop of Columbus

## ***Prayer for Missionary Vocations***

O God, who would have all His children to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth, send forth, we beseech you, laborers into your harvest and grant them with all confidence to preach the Word; that everywhere your Gospel may be heard and glorified, and that all nations may know you, the one True God, and Him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Queen of the Apostles, and all you angels and saints of God, pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the harvest and to spare His people, that we may all rejoice with Him and the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

### ***Pope Francis' October Prayer Intention:***

That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.

### ***Quote:***

“There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true.” – Søren Kierkegaard

### ***A Joke a Priest can tell...***

A woman was at work when she received a phone call that her daughter was very sick with a fever. She left her work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication. She got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys in the car.

She didn't know what to do, so she called home and told the babysitter what had happened. The babysitter told her that her the fever was getting worse. She said, "You might find a coat hanger and use that to open the door."

The woman looked around and found an old rusty coat hanger that had been thrown down on the ground, possibly by someone else who at some time or other had locked their keys in their car. Then she looked at the hanger and said, "I don't know how to use this."

So she bowed her head and asked God to send her some help. Within five minutes an old rusty car pulled up, with a dirty, greasy, bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag on his head. The woman thought, "This is what you sent to help me?" But, she was desperate, so she was also very thankful.

The man got out of his car and asked her if he could help. She said, "Yes, my daughter is very sick. I stopped to get her some medication and I locked my keys in my car. I must get home to her. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

He said, "Sure". He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute the car was opened. She hugged the man and through her tears she said, "Thank You So Much! You are a very nice man."

The man replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have only been out for about an hour."

The woman hugged the man again and with sobbing tears cried out loud, "Oh, Thank you God! You even sent me a Professional!"

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