



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

## God's faithfulness does not depend on ours

### ***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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God loves us, not because we try to please Him and we have succeeded to do so, or not because we have repented and have asked forgiveness for failing to please Him. God loves us because He wants to be our Father.

Long ago, even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure (Eph. 1:4-5).

There is something in you that God loves. God does not appreciate you, or God does not approve you. God loves you. It is only in knowing that God loves us, that we can we find true fulfillment in life. God created our hearts with yearning for God. Absolutely, nothing in this world can fulfill that yearning. Saint Augustine said that our heart could not rest until it rests in God.

Not only did He create our hearts with a longing or yearning for Him. But He also adopted us. We are not God's biological children. If you are an adopted person, your adopted parents chose you. Surprise pregnancies happen. But surprise adoption can never happen. Your adopted parents could have picked different gender, color, or ancestry. But they picked you. They wanted you in their family.

You may object saying, "If they could have seen the rest of my life they might have changed their minds". That is exactly God's point. God saw our whole life - from birth to death and all in between. In spite of what He saw, He was still convinced "to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him a great pleasure (Eph. 1:5).

Because God has adopted us, we can now live as God's own children. We can now call God, "Father". We can now share in His treasures. Whatever God gives to His Son, is ours too (Rom. 8:15-17).

Our identity is not in what we possess; it is not in our talents or abilities; it is not in our accomplishments. Our failures do not define us, either; our weaknesses and deficiencies do not define us. Rather, our identity is deeply rooted in the fact that we are the children of God. We can now call God, "Papa"; we can

now approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3:12); we now receive the blessings of His special love (1 John 4:9-11); and we will inherit the riches of Christ and reign with Him forever (Rom. 8:17). God has included us in His family forever. The dividing walls of hostility are broken down. God created one family, with Him as the Father and all of us are brothers and sisters.

We do not need to prove, or to justify our own identity and value. What we need to do is to trust in God's decision. If God loves you, you must be worth loving. If God wants you in His kingdom, then you must be worth having. God invites you to change your attitude about your identity.

God invites you to live as His own child. But He cannot require or force you to do so. It is your choice. He loves you so much, that He always respects your choices.

To live as God's children, is to know that God loves us; that God loves us not because we have succeeded to please Him by obeying His commandments. Rather, He loves us because He wants to be our Father. Nothing more. Our efforts to win God's affection are unnecessary. All our fears of losing His affection are needless. We cannot make Him love us more than He already does. Nor, can we convince God not to love us. The adoption is irreversible. We have a place at God's table.

## ***Join the Society for the Propagation of the Faith***

Saint Therese of Lisieux said that some give by going to the missions, some by giving to the missions. Without both, there is no mission. The work of missionaries cannot be accomplished by themselves. They need our support.

The weekend of January 19 and 20 is the renewal weekend for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. To join, or to renew your membership, you simply put your donation to the missions in the envelope for "***Membership Sunday***", which is included in your parish's January collection envelope packet.

Members of the Society (living, or deceased) receive graces of 15,000 Masses offered each day by missionaries. Also, Mass is offered daily, at Saint Peter's Basilica, in Rome, for its members.

The proceeds will help support the Church's mission effort to reach out to the two thirds of the world's population who have yet to hear about Jesus, mostly in Africa, Asia, in the Pacific Islands and in the remote areas of South America. Our help – prayers, sacrifices and donations – will bring closer the day when, in the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord.

In this life, we may not meet the folks we help know Christ, through our prayers, sacrifices and donations. But for certain, we will meet them in the next. And they will thank us for what we have done, like we thank those who were instrumental in bringing us to Christ.

Our donation goes a long way in the missions. The money we spend for a cup of cappuccino or latte, or for a can of beer, could

pay for the dinner of a hungry child in Africa. The money we spend for a few new outfits could pay a couple of day's supply of food for a family of three in places where the average income is \$2.00 a day.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which is under the direction of Vatican's Congregation of the Evangelization of Peoples, is the main source of support for the 1,111 mission dioceses around the world.

The Society does not have any investments or savings. Every year the funds collected are distributed in total, to mission dioceses and mission congregations /societies, whose mission is to spread the Gospel to places yet untouched by it. In 2017, the Diocese of Columbus contributed \$72,819.20 to the Membership Drive. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank you in advance for your generosity.

### ***2019 Membership Drive A letter from the Bishop***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, we partake in the Church's mission to bring the message of God's Kingdom of love, mercy and forgiveness "even to the ends of the earth".

The weekend of January 19 and 20 is the Membership Drive for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. With our membership, we make a special commitment to the Church's mission "to all peoples and nations" by pledging daily prayer and financial help to the Propagation of the Faith.

In more than 1,111 mission dioceses worldwide, priests, religious brothers and sisters, and lay catechists rely on the prayers and financial assistance of the

members of the Propagation of the Faith.

The missionaries count on this support as they help young people search for the meaning of life, comfort refugees in their spiritual and material needs, minister to the sick, teach children, prepare adults for baptism, or bring help to the suffering in times of war and natural disasters.

During the Membership Drive, let us pray for missionaries everywhere, especially the seven men and women from the Diocese of Columbus who are sharing Christ's Gospel message around the globe.

I am most grateful for your continuing generosity and support for the most important task of the Church – evangelization.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D

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### ***A joke a priest can tell...***

Going Down!!!



As the storm raged, the captain realized his ship was sinking fast. He called out, "Anyone here know how to pray?" One man stepped forward. "Aye, Captain, I know how to pray." "Good," said the captain, "you pray while the rest of us put on our life jackets - we're one short."

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***Leandro (Lany) Tapay, Director  
Gina Sergio, Program Coordinator***

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