



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

Bishop Brennan will be the main celebrant at the World Mission Sunday Mass at Saint James the Less

To monthly mission donors: Thank you for your support!

On behalf of His Excellency Robert Brennan, the Bishop of Columbus, and Very Rev. 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.

On World Mission Sunday, October 20, 2019, the members of the ethnic communities in the diocese, the Catholic international students of the Ohio State University, Ohio Dominican University, Pontifical College Josephinum and the exchange students at the Catholic High Schools in the diocese will be invited to join the 12:30pm Mass at St. James the Less Church in Columbus. Bishop Brennan will be the main celebrant. Hosted by Saint James the Less Parish, the event is sponsored by the Missions, Ethnic Ministries and Divine Worship offices.

The Mass is in thanksgiving to God for sending missionaries to sow the seed of the Catholic faith in their country of origin. At the Mass, they will be wearing their national attire and will process with Bishop Brennan to the sanctuary. The liturgy, prayers and music, will have an international flair. After the Mass, there will be an international festival of

fine foods, tasty treats and fellowship.

The international food festival is also a fundraising event of Saint James the Less, which is ministered by the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood. You can help raise funds by buying food at the festival or by donating food to sell at the festival, or both. For more information regarding the fundraiser, please contact Vielka Cassidy, phone (614) 262-1179, or email sjamesless@yahoo.com.

God gave us three great Commandments - to love God with all our heart, to love our neighbor as we love ourselves and to take the Gospel even to the ends of the earth. Spreading the Gospel is a command. It is not an option, or an extra-curricular activity. It is Christ's mandate.

World Mission Sunday is about taking the Gospel even to the ends of the earth. Not all of us are called to go to the mission fields. But we are all called to participate in the mission through our prayers, sacrifices and financial donations.

Christus vivit!

The door was locked. Inside were scared itinerants who straddle at the fence of faith and fear.

If you look at them, you would not think that these men were about to put the kettle of history into a high boil. Uneducated. Confused. Heavy accents. Few social graces. Limited knowledge of the world and no money.

But something happens to a man when he encounters someone who is risen from the dead.

The Church started with stammering, stuttering men. Though the door was locked, Jesus appeared in their midst and said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you".

And sent them, He did. Ports. Courtyards. Boats. Synagogues. Prisons. Palaces. They went everywhere.

Their message about the risen Christ dominoed across the civilized world. They were an infectious fever. They were a moving organism. They refused to be stopped. Uneducated drifters shook history like a housewife shakes a rug.

Would it be great to see this happen again? Many say it is impossible. The world is too secular. So we deadbolt the door for fear of the world. As a result many parts of the world are untouched by the Gospel.

What would it take to light the fire again? Somehow, these folks in the Upper Room did it without dragging their feet or making excuses. For them, it was rather obvious. "All I know is that Jesus was dead. And now He is alive!"

Maybe we need to go to the Upper Room and hear our own commission from Jesus, "Tell the world that I have risen from the dead and that I am going to come back again".

September 15, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

Catholics have recognized seven events in the life of Mary that caused her great sorrow. Mary's seven sorrows are:

- 1) The prophesy of Simeon (Luke 2: 25 - 35)
- 2) The flight into Egypt (Matt. 2: 13 - 15).
- 3) Loss of the Child Jesus for 3 days (Luke 2: 41 - 50).
- 4) Mary meets Jesus on His way to Calvary (Luke 23: 27 - 31); (John 19:17).
- 5) Crucifixion and death of Jesus (John 19: 25 - 30).
- 6) The body of Jesus being taken from the cross (Psalm 130; Luke 23: 50 - 54; John 19: 31 - 37).
- 7) The burial of Jesus (Isa. 53:8; Luke 23: 50 - 56; John 19: 38 - 42; Mark 15: 40 - 47).

That's a lot for a woman to endure in a life time. Yet, Mary wasn't just another woman; she was a woman chosen by God to bear His Son. With that great joy and responsibility also came great sorrow. Along with her great joy and sorrow came great love for each one of us, her children.

That was what the Lord asked of her as He hung dying on the cross - to become the mother of all humankind. Love is what gave her the strength to accept Simeon's prophesy. Love is what gave her the strength to bear her sorrow. Love is what gave her the courage to accept her Son's request. Love is what compels her to continue caring for us tenderly, limitlessly and faithfully.

You are a temple of God

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God (1 John 4:15).

No other religion or philosophy makes such a claim. No other movement implies the living presence of its founder in his followers.

Mohamed does not indwell Muslims. Buddha does not live in Buddhists.

Yet Christians embrace this inscrutable promise. "The mystery in a nutshell is just this, "Christ is in you" (Col. 1:27).

We are being transformed into Christ. God decided from the outset to shape our life along the same lines as the life of His Son (Rom. 8:29).

Nothing can separate you from God's love

Deep in your heart is a longing for meaning and purpose.

If you ask the secularists what is the meaning of life, they will say they do not know. At best they will tell you that you are a developed animal. At worst they will tell you that you're rearranged dust.

What they say is a contrast to God's vision of your life.

In God's view, "you are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to devote yourself to the good deeds for which God has designed you" (Eph. 2:19).

You are something special. God saw you before you were born. God loves what He saw. You are God's child. God loves you dearly.

Should you turn and walk away from God, He has already provided a way back to Him.

Nothing can separate you from God's love. If you anchor this truth firmly in your heart, you will be ready for whatever you may encounter in the road on the road of life.

Quip:

A good deal of trouble has been caused by too much intelligence and too little wisdom.

Quest:

The curve of a smile can set a lot of things straight.

Quote: "What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity" - Addison

Pope Francis' September Prayer Intention:

That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

A joke a priest can tell... LOL!

It's game 7 of the NBA finals and a man makes his way to his seat at center court. He sits down and notices that the seat next to him is empty. He leans over and asks his neighbor if someone is sitting there. He responds, "No, the seat's empty." The first man exclaims, "What?!? Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the NBA finals and not use it?" The neighbor responds, "Well the seat is mine, but my wife passed away and this is the first NBA finals we haven't been together." The first man responds, "I'm sorry to hear that. Wasn't there anyone else, a friend or relative, that could've taken that seat?" The neighbor responds, "No, they're all at the funeral."

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