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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith Membership Drive Weekend

***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.

The weekend of January 18 – 19, is a renewal weekend for our membership to the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith*. Our promise of support for the Church's mission through our prayers, sacrifices and financial donation is the only requirement for our membership - there is no other formal due structure. The event is an opportunity for us to recommit ourselves to participate in the mission of the Church to spread the Gospel even to the ends of the earth, as Jesus had commanded His disciples – and us – to do (Mark 16:15). Members receive the graces of 15,000 Masses celebrated at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome for the members of the society. Thank you for your generosity.

The *Propagation of the Faith*, which is under the direction of the Vatican's *Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples*, is the main source of support for the 1,150 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands

and in some regions of Latin America. The society does not have any investments or savings. Every year, the funds collected are distributed in total to mission dioceses and mission congregations or mission societies spreading the Gospel in places where people have yet to hear the Good News of our salvation.

The Membership Drive in January and the World Mission Sunday celebration in October are the two major collections for the society. In 2018, the Diocese of Columbus contributed \$57,099 for the Membership Drive and \$85,914 for World Mission Sunday. The society also received \$119,101 in miscellaneous gifts from our Diocese.

You can touch the world by leaving a gift to the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith* in your will. Your legacy will live for generations. Your charity will help the Catholic Church to spread the Gospel to ends of the earth. A specific amount may be designated or you can allocate a certain percentage of your estate. A qualified attorney can help you in preparing your will or trust. Please notify the Diocesan Missions Office of your bequest so we can include you in our Bequest Society and keep you updated with our monthly newsletter.

The Cross of Christ is a daily reality in the poverty of the Congo, Haiti, Bangladesh, Brazil, the Philippines, and India, to name a few. Catholics suffer for

their faith in Vietnam, Rwanda, Sudan and many other countries. To the Church in these nations and in many others, your gift through your will or trust to the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith* means life itself. It is a living tribute to you and a lasting hymn of praise to God. It is a lifeline and a sign of hope for our brothers and sisters who cry to God for help.

People establish bequests for many reasons:

In thanksgiving for the blessings of life and love

To honor deceased loved ones

To praise God for the gift of faith

In gratitude for the opportunities of America or of one's career

As an act of spiritual and social justice

In reparation for sins of the past

As an example of Catholic charity for the next generation

If concern for the poor and the spread of the Gospel are important to you during your lifetime, a bequest to the society will carry on those principles in a long-term tribute to the power of faith.

As the Mission Director for the diocese, I attest that legacies, gifts and bequests left to the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith* will be used entirely for the missionary work of the Catholic Church. Donors and their intentions remain in the prayers of missionaries the world over. I sincerely thank you on behalf of the Church's missionaries and the people they serve.

Build your Life on the Promises of God

An officer in the Roman military asked Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus offered to go to the officer's house. But the officer refused and said,

"I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say a word and my servant will be healed".

Jesus answered him, "Let it be done as you believe it would".

And Jesus told the crowd, "Truly, I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such a great faith" (Matt. 8: 8-10,13).

Why did Jesus applaud the faith of the centurion? Because he believed in the power of Jesus to keep His word.

The Roman soldier understood this simple truth - God will not and cannot break His promises.

God's covenant are contractually inviolable. It is not written in sand. It is carved in granite.

Whatever God says, will happen! His promises are irrevocable because of Who God is.

- God is unchanging. He makes no mid course corrections.
- God is faithful (Heb. 10:23).
- God is Almighty (Rom. 4:21).
- God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

Mission - the greatest and holiest work of the Church

Mission work is a function not only of missionaries. The whole Church is missionary. Mission work is not a program of the Church, The Church exists for missions.

This is how Vatican II puts it,

"All sons (and daughters) of the Church should have a lively

awareness of their responsibility to the world. They should foster in themselves a truly Catholic Spirit. They should spend their energies in the work of Evangelization." (Ad Gentes, #36).

Society for the Propagation of the Faith - Facts

- Founded by a 17 year old girl in Lyons France in 1822.
- The first collection amount was \$4,000.00. This was divided into three parts, one for the missions in Asia, the mission in Louisiana and the mission in Kentucky.
- In 1922, the headquarters were transferred to Rome. Pope Pius XI declared it a Pontifical Society and the main agency that collects funds for the missions.
- In 1926, the United States Bishops declared a membership drive should be undertaken in every U.S. diocese.
- Each diocese sends the money to the National Office in New York, which in turn sends it to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in Rome which distributes it to the missions around the world.

A joke a priest can tell...

A Catholic advantage



Three soldiers came to a remote town, a very conservative Catholic community. They were starved and decided to go down and ask for food from the people.

One soldier, a Catholic, came back with a bagful of goodies. "I told them I have a friend who is a priest and another friend who is a nun".

"I think I can get more", said another soldier, who was also a

Catholic. He came back with one sack of food. "I told them that my brother is a priest and my sister is a nun".

"I am sure I can get more", said the third soldier, who was a Protestant. He came back with black eyes and was badly bruised.

"What happened?" The two Catholic soldiers asked.

The Protestant soldier answered, "I do not know. I just told them that my father was a priest and my mother was a nun."

Quip:

Freedom is not a question of doing as we like, but doing what we ought.

Quote:

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow. ~ Helen Keller

Quest:

The pleasure of sin is for a season, but the consequences of sin are eternal.

Pope Francis January prayer intention:

We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

Lord, we thank you for all your blessings.

***Leandro (Lany) Tapay, Director
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