



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

October 11, 2020
Month of the Holy Rosary

Dear friends in the Lord:

Pope Francis, in his message for *World Mission Sunday*, implores us, “In this year marked by the suffering and challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the missionary journey of the whole Church continues in light of the words found in the account of the calling of the prophet Isaiah and the theme of this year’s World Mission Sunday: **“Here I am, send me”** (6:8). This is the ever-new response to the Lord’s question: ‘Whom shall I send?’ This invitation from God’s merciful heart challenges both the Church and humanity, in the current world crisis.”

During the Mission Month of October, Pope Francis reminds us that, as Christians, we are called *personally* to mission – especially at this time – to bring Christ’s love to those most forgotten around the world. Jesus is God the Father’s Missionary; He asks us to respond to this call to mission, this invitation to “step out of ourselves for love of God and neighbor.” What will your answer be? **“Here I Am, Send Me”** is the response we will all endeavor to live out this World Mission Sunday, through *prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and generosity to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.*

Through the Pope’s own missionary society, you too can be sent out to all the ends of the earth – sent through your support of missionaries and those they serve. Your gifts sustain priests, religious sisters, and brothers as well as lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor. With them, you answer, **“Here I Am, Send Me.”**

This year, in response to the challenges to the Mission Church from the pandemic, I invite you to consider a sacrificial gift to the annual *World Mission Sunday* collection. It will be collected on the weekend of October 17 -18. Your generous support will enable the Society for the Propagation of the Faith to continue to spread the gospel to the growing faith communities of our day.

With gratitude and prayerful best wishes, I am,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

†Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York