

Mission Intention

October 2016 - 2017

World Mission Day
That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.

This month invites all Christian communities to renew their commitment to the Gospel of Jesus. All that we say and do can give witness to Christ. Joy is the first fruit of the Spirit given to those who respond to God's call to announce good news with their lives.

Country Focus:

Alaska, USA



Alaska is the largest state (in area) in the United States and became the 49th state in 1959 after being purchased from Russia. It is located in the extreme northwest of the North American continent.

Northern Alaska has distinct regions and diverse cultures including the Inupiat in the north, the Athabaskan in the interior, the Yup'ik, Cup'ik in the Yukon Delta Region, and the road system regions around Fairbanks and Anchorage. Much of the state remains undeveloped and remote.

Missionaries first reached the Alaskan territory in the late 19th century and slowly began to make their way into the interior. Over the next 100 years, the Church grew and spread out among this great region. In 1962, the Diocese of Fairbanks in Northern Alaska was founded and retained its status as a missionary church.

Mission today includes developing local lay leaders and deacons to serve people, especially in the remote areas. Together, they work to bring God's love and mercy to this land known as "The Last Frontier."

God's Word for Mission

Promoting Knowledge of Faith

"If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it" (1 Corinthians 9:16).

"On World Mission Sunday, all of us are invited to go out as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in order to bring the message of God's tenderness and compassion to the entire human family" (Pope Francis, World Mission Day)

A Saint for Mission: St. Teresa of Calcutta

Education for Community Life



The remarkable woman known as Mother Teresa began her life as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu and was born on August 26, 1910 in Albania. Her father died when she was only eight years old leaving her family with great financial struggles.

Agnes was very active in her home parish and it was there that she was inspired to pursue missionary work. At 18, she left home for Ireland to join the Sisters of Loretto and was given the name of Sr. Mary Teresa after St. Theresa of Lisieux, the patroness of missionaries. She was eventually sent to Calcutta, India to be a teacher at a school for girls.

On a train ride to her annual retreat in 1946, Mother Teresa had a vision: her "call within a call." She believed Jesus was calling her to found a community of missionaries focused on charity to serve the poorest of the poor. Two years later she began to visit slums to look for Jesus among the poor and offer assistance.

Eventually, some of her former students joined her and in 1950, the Missionaries of Charity was established. By the 1960's she began to send sisters to other parts of the world. Eventually her work received the attention of the world. She continued until her death on September 5, 1997. **She was canonized a saint on September 4, 2016 during the Year of Mercy.**

Rights and Responsibilities

Catholic Social Teaching



Byron Nicholai performing

Pope Francis talks about how we are all called to respect each person and their rights. This includes their reputations, property, ideas and cultural backgrounds. Each of us has a responsibility to protect the dignity of our family members and the people of our community through our words and actions.

Byron Nicholai is a young Yup'ik man who lives in Tuksuk, a bush village on the west coast of Northern Alaska. Byron has become a very good singer and musician. Through Facebook, Byron has become known and has many fans. He recognizes his responsibilities to his family, especially given that his father has left, and the need to honor his native Yup'ik heritage. Byron's music keeps the culture of his people alive and appeals to his generation of followers.

You can watch this amazing man on YouTube: ["Byron Nickolai—"Of I Sing, You Dance"](#)

Daily Offering

Missionary Initiative

Loving God, I offer you this day. I offer you all my joys and sorrows; my ups and downs. You created me in your image and likeness. Help me to live the life you have called me to. Bless my efforts this day to love and serve you and my neighbor as myself. I ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord of mercy.
Amen.

Teaching by Witness

Moral Formation

After watching the video, think about the questions below and discuss.

1. What advice does Byron have for young people his age if they want to be successful?
2. How does Byron meet the challenge of respecting his culture and keeping his appeal to his fans?
3. In what ways does Byron demonstrate that he is responsible to his family and his community?
4. What evidence is there that Byron and his family are Christ-centered?
5. What are some actions you are, or could be, taking to show that you are responsible when it comes to your family, community and faith?



Performing Native Yup'ik Dance

Petitions for Mission

Liturgical Education

- ✚ Let us pray that World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel.
- ✚ Let us pray for all missionaries who leave their home to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth.
- ✚ Let us pray that we each use our gifts and talents to reflect God's love and service in the world.
- ✚ Let us pray that the dignity of all life will be respected and protected; especially the poor and most vulnerable.
- ✚ Let us pray for God's mercy to reach the poor, the sick and the hopeless.



CENTER for MISSION

Society for the Propagation of the Faith / St. Paul and Minneapolis