

September 22, 2017

Dear Father,

The annual parish celebration of **World Mission Sunday** takes place on the weekend of **October 21-22**. This singular event gathers our entire universal Catholic Church to renew our missionary call and offer our support to the missionary Church.

This year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on the *mission to the heart of the Christian faith*. He writes, “*In fact, the Church is missionary by nature. If it were not, it would no longer be the Church of Christ. ...Through the Church, he [Jesus Christ] continues his mission of Good Samaritan, treating the bleeding wounds of humanity, and of Good Shepherd, seeking unceasingly those who lost themselves...*” (World Mission Sunday 2017 message).

This year’s theme, ***Mission of the Little Flock***, reflects our call to follow the Good Shepherd without fear. We also call to mind the places where the Church is small, marginalized and persecuted in faith – the little flocks of Jesus – and offer our support to their witness around the world. In particular, we lift up the witness of faith in India, specifically the Diocese of Vijayapuram, where the Church is a minority...a little flock...on many levels.

I am enclosing several materials to help your parish celebrate World Mission Sunday this year including: Liturgy Suggestions, Parish Bulletin Announcements, and Posters. These and Pope Francis’ World Mission Sunday message are available on our website: www.centerformission.org. Additionally, if you ordered envelopes for the Mission Sunday Collection you will receive them in a separate, bulk mailing the week of October 9th.

I entrust these materials to you to assist in leading your parish in prayer and solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. The collection of funds taken up on World Mission Sunday will be given to the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith which distributes mission support to more than 1,150 mission dioceses worldwide – including the mission Church in India.

Please contact me if you require any supplies or other assistance to make this the fullest celebration possible. Thank you for all you will do this year to share the missionary message of this day. You can also contact Bonnie Curry-Gabel, 651.291.4451.

Sincerely in Christ’s mission,

Deacon Mickey Friesen
Director