

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - October 21, 2018

Liturgy Suggestions

General Considerations

- World Mission Sunday, organized by the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to join in recommitting to the Church's missionary activity through sharing prayer, learning and offering financial support.
- Funds collected on World Mission Sunday go towards supporting the pastoral, catechetical, charitable and evangelizing work of the Church in over 1,100 mission dioceses in 120 countries.
- The theme for 2018 World Mission Sunday is **Witnessing Faith through the Hearts of Youth**, highlighting the youth of our mission Diocese of Jesucristo Resucitado, Venezuela.
- Funds collected on World Mission Sunday are to be sent to the Center for Mission, 777 Forest Street, St. Paul, MN 55106 - 3857. All funds collected in the archdiocese are then forwarded to the national office of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith.
- The environment can add a lot to our liturgies. Please consider how you might enhance the worship space on World Mission Sunday to fully reflect the universal nature of Catholic mission. Some ideas include: displaying cultural cloths, devotional figures or sacred art pieces from different parts of the world.

Scriptural Theme Reflections – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant.” (Mk 10:44)

(Gospel of the day)

The readings for this weekend speak about the paradox of servant leadership in the Kingdom of God. Those who seek greatness in God's reign will learn how to be humble and serve others. In the first reading (Is. 53:10-11), God's steadfast love is revealed in his servant who accomplishes God's will through offering himself as a sacrifice for sin. God is close to the one who suffers, and in his mercy, gives meaning to other's affliction. In the second reading (Heb. 4:14-16), Jesus is described as a great, high priest because of the way he offered himself for us and entered fully into solidarity with the vulnerabilities of our human condition, yet did not sin. He is both priest and sacrifice revealing love as the total gift of oneself for the world. We are invited to share in the grace of this kind of service. In the Gospel (Mk. 10:35-45), James and John are youthful disciples filled with zeal and seek greatness through their efforts. Jesus corrects his disciples who think that they are entitled to a position of glory filled with power, prestige and possessions. Jesus tells them that the glory of those who follow him will be found in pouring out their lives in love and service to others. They are being called to share in God's mission as servant leaders. Over time, James, John and the other disciples follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who demonstrates the ideal, by washing their feet and giving his life as a ransom for many.

On this World Mission Sunday, we lift up the youthful spirit of the Gospel. God's word is ever fresh and new offering abundant life to those who follow. Young people today, like James and John, embody this spirit of wanting to give their lives fully for God. We will all be inspired by young people making radical commitments of faith and letting go of the comforts of home and security to serve others. Their passion for giving their lives fully to God inspires all of us to accompany them. We can all discover the new life awaiting those who give themselves over to God's will for love and service. This call unites us with Catholics around the world. Pope Francis has said that mission is a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people. And this passion is lived in love and service in the way that Jesus' loved and served us.



CENTER for MISSION

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

Suggested General Intercessions

Presider: The Lord is merciful and accompanies us as we go forth to proclaim the Good News of salvation. On this World Mission Sunday, let us turn to our God for help to strengthen our witness to the world.

Lector: Let us pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, the bishops and all who oversee the cooperation of churches for the sake of mission to all nations. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lector: Let us pray for missionaries at home and abroad who are willing to offer their lives as living bridges of faith that cross many borders. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lector: Let us pray for a deeper missionary spirit. May we be generous in our response to the Gospel of mercy planted in our hearts. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lector: Let us pray that sharing the Gospel of joy will renew our hearts and transform the world into the image and likeness of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lector: Let us pray for the sick, the lonely and the oppressed. May they be touched by the hand of healing and lifted up in friendship and justice. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lector: Let us pray for those who have died; especially those who have given their lives in witness to the faith. May their union with the Crucified Christ in this world bring forth the fullness of life in the resurrection. Let us pray to the Lord.

Presider: Merciful Lord, hear our prayers today as we renew our commitment to share in the worldwide mission of Jesus. We ask this in His name who is the Redeemer of the world.

World Mission Sunday Collection

Today, in every parish around the world, a collection is taken up for Catholic missions in over 1,100 dioceses in 120 countries. Your contributions today will go towards helping teachers and catechists to teach the faith in urban centers and remote villages. You will help to build churches and chapels in mission stations for people to worship, hear God's word and receive the sacraments. You will help efforts to raise up and train new leaders who will minister to people in their own language. You will provide material support to the poor and suffering lifting up individual dignity through the love of Christ.

Your financial gift will go to **the Society for the Propagation of the Faith**, which is the official worldwide Catholic network of mission cooperation enabling the Gospel of Jesus Christ to reach to the ends of the earth. Thank you for joining in this central work of the Church!

Liturgy of the Eucharist

To highlight the missionary intention of World Mission Sunday, it is most appropriate to celebrate the ***Mass for the Evangelization of Peoples (Sacramental Masses and Prayers for the Church, #18)***. "This Mass may be celebrated whenever there are special celebrations for the missions, even on Sundays of Ordinary Time" (Roman Sacramentary).

It is also suggested to use **Eucharistic Prayer III** because of its explicit references to the universality of salvation, Church and mission.