

Mission Intention

OCTOBER

2020 - 2021

Education for
Community Life

Country Focus: Vatican City

Pope Francis' October Prayer Intention

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

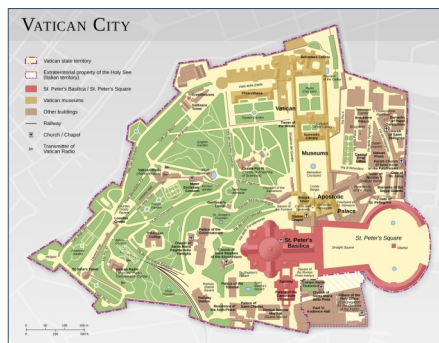
Not only is Vatican City the official home of the Pope, it is also the smallest country in the world.

At just over 100 acres, Vatican City is 1/140th the size of Lake Minnetonka. It is surrounded by Rome, and is home to St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums and Galleries. It has its own telephone system, flag and anthem, issues its own passports and license plates, and operates its own media outlets, including the publication of a newspaper and production of its own television programming and radio broadcasts. It also has its own military, the Swiss Guards, who are responsible for protecting the Pope. Vatican City was even named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984.

Vatican City has been an independent country since 1929, negotiated between the Roman Catholic Church

and the Italian government as part of the Lateran Treaty. In addition to being home to the Pope, it is also home to priests and nuns from all over the world who make up the majority of Vatican City's population of less than 1,000 people.

From Vatican City, the Holy Father guides the Roman Catholic Church. Let us join him in prayer this month and pray that we all might do our part to build the Kingdom of God.



Saint Spotlight: Saint Paul the Apostle



We all have gifts to give to the Church. Saint Paul the Apostle teaches us this in his writings.

Everything we know about the life of Saint Paul the Apostle can be found in the Bible. Before his conversion on the road to Damascus, Saint Paul the Apostle, then called Saul, actively persecuted Christians, because he believed one should strictly follow God's Law as it was found in the Old Testament, and that Christians had broken away from these teachings. But when Jesus appeared to Saint Paul the Apostle on the road to Damascus, all of that changed. Saint Paul realized that it was relationship with the Risen Christ, rather than strictly following the Law, that led to eternal salvation.

Saint Paul the Apostle dedicated the rest of his life to spreading the Good News of the Gospel. He understood that God offered salvation to everyone, and so Saint Paul the Apostle traveled many miles preaching about Christ's redeeming work on the cross to anyone who would listen. He wrote many of the New Testament letters, including Romans, Galatians, and first and second Corinthians. These teachings also instruct Christians today on how we can help build the Church. In 1 Cor. 12:7, Saint Paul the Apostle wrote, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Everyone has been given a gift to help build the Kingdom of God. Let us join with Pope Francis in prayer this month and pray for the discernment to discover our gifts and the courage and opportunity to use them.

**Saint Paul's feast day is June 29 and the feast of his conversion is January 25.
He is the patron saint for theologians, missions and gentile Christians.**



CENTER for MISSION

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

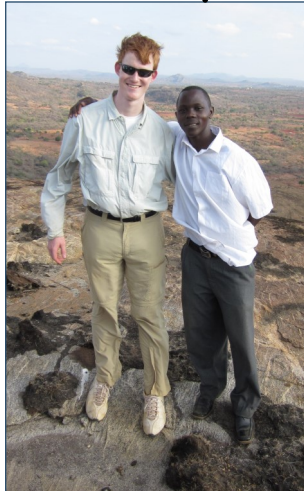
Promoting Knowledge
of Faith

God's Word for Mission

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

"Lay people, too, sharing in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ, play their part in the mission of the whole people of God in the Church and in the World." (The Second Vatican Council, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, #2, 1965)

The Role of the Laity



Sharing with Kamba tribe in Kenya

The laity plays a very important role in the life and mission of the Church. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his *Message on the Occasion of the Sixth Ordinary Assembly of the International Form of Catholic Action* (2012), lay people, along with the clergy, are “co-responsible” for the Church’s being and acting.” By virtue of baptism, all Catholics are called to use their gifts to build the Kingdom of God.

Some people are called to be teachers; others, doctors; still others are called to work for the Church. Regardless of our vocation, each of us is called to use our gifts to bear witness to Christ in all we encounter. Each lay person is called to a specific vocation so that “led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven. In this way they may make Christ known to others, especially by

the testimony of a life resplendent in faith, hope and charity.” (Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium*, no. 31). Through prayer, growing in our own faith, and participation in the life of our local parish, lay people are called to “...be courageous and credible witnesses in all social milieus so that the Gospel may be a light that brings hope...” (Pope Benedict XVI, *Message on the Occasion of the Sixth Ordinary Assembly of the International Form of Catholic Action*, 2012).

This month’s video highlights one of Paul’s letters we heard as part of the Sunday readings earlier this year. As you watch the video, think about what lessons Paul’s writings hold for lay people in how they should live in their daily lives. How God might be calling you to use your gifts to bear witness to Christ, both now and in the future?

Who is the Apostle Paul? [Click Here>>](#)

1. What gifts or talents might God be calling you to use to help spread the Gospel of Christ?
2. How can you be an example of Christ in your daily life?
3. What volunteer roles do you think God might be calling you to in your parish community?
4. How is the laity “co-responsible” for building the Kingdom of God?



Child discovering the Good News from the Apostle Paul

Mission Petitions

- ✚ Let us pray that God may guide those discerning their vocation.
- ✚ Let us pray for the laity, that together with the clergy, they might be witnesses of Christ to the world.
- ✚ Let us pray for the Pope and all clergy, that they may guide the Church in its mission to share the Gospel.
- ✚ Let us pray that all lay people may be a sign of God’s presence and love in the world.

Daily Offering

Dear God,

I want nothing more than to serve you. Please send your Holy Spirit to guide me on life’s path so that I can bear witness to you in all that I say and do. I pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.