

MISSION INTENTIONS

OCTOBER 2022-2023

We pray for the Church; who is always faithful to the Gospel and fearless in preaching the Good News, may the Church be a community of unity, friendship and welcome, always walking together in the Spirit.

Country Focus: Kenya

Kenya is considered one of the leading nations in Africa. It has one of the strongest economies on the continent, and is host to the regional and international offices of many global corporations.

The Catholic Church in Kenya is also one of the fastest growing Catholic communities in the world, and has a long history of supporting Kenyan citizens. It operates many of



Kenya's schools and hospitals, and provides food support during times of famine. Our archdiocese has long had a global solidarity partnership with the Diocese of Kitui, Kenya. Through this partnership, we also help support the Kenyan community through prayer and mutually agreed upon projects. Let us pray that we continue walking with the

Church in Kitui in a spirit of unity and solidarity.

Leading to Knowledge of the Faith

Our understanding of solidarity is rooted in Scripture. In his First Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul reminds us that we are all many parts of the one Body of Christ. Each person is equally important, and everyone has gifts to give to the Church community:

"If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body" (1 Cor. 12:17-20).

Saint Spotlight

As we join the Holy Father this month in praying for the unity of the Church, it is appropriate that we honor Saint Peter the Apostle, the first person Jesus appointed to oversee the Church, and therefore the first person to be responsible for fostering unity amongst its members.

Before he met Jesus, Saint Peter was known as Simon, and was a fisherman living near the Lake of Galilee. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that when Jesus called him to be a disciple, he immediately left his net to follow Jesus (Matthew 4:20). His devotion to Jesus was one of the reasons that Saint Peter became the leader of the Apostles, and, eventually, the first Pope.

During his time on Earth with Christ, Saint Peter was chosen to be with Jesus at key moments in Jesus'



Saint Peter the Apostle

ministry, like the Transfiguration and the agony in the garden at Gethsemane. Jesus also once healed many people at Saint Peter's house, including Saint Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-16). It was Saint Peter who professed that Jesus was the "...Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16), and it was Saint Peter who baptized the first Gentiles, making the Church truly universal (Acts 10).

But, like all humans, Saint Peter also had his weaknesses. While he briefly walked on water, he quickly gave in to doubt and sank (Matthew 14:30-31). Most famously, he denied Jesus three times on the night of Jesus' arrest (Matthew 26:69-75). Though Saint Peter was imperfect, his love for Christ was confirmed when Jesus put him in charge of the Church. We celebrate Saint Peter the Apostle each year on June 29, the Feast of Peter and Paul.

Formation for Life in Christ

The Holy Father's October prayer for the Church community calls to mind the **Catholic social teaching theme of solidarity**. This theme reminds us we are responsible for one another by virtue of our baptism. Our faith calls us to recognize all of humanity as our neighbor and to love them as ourselves, as Christ commanded.

One way the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis lives out the call to solidarity is through its global partner relationship with the Diocese of Kitui, Kenya, mentioned on the first page of this newsletter. This partnership began in 2004 and is based on our shared faith. Together, our two dioceses work to strengthen our Catholic faith, build relationships between our parishioners, and share resources with one another.

To encourage each other in the faith, we celebrate Mass together and have even gone on retreat with one another. We also exchange monthly prayer petitions and encourage our parishes to pray them.

Additionally, we visit one another regularly. Our two dioceses take turns sending groups of 10-15 delegates to spend a few weeks staying in one another's homes to experience each other's way of life. Many friendships have been formed

through these delegation visits between people who otherwise might not have met.



The partnership has also worked together to share resources with one another. One of our mutually agreed upon projects addresses one of the biggest challenges facing Kitui: access to clean water.

Together, we have built dams, purchased large water tanks to store rainfall, and provided emergency food relief to the most vulnerable people in Kitui when there wasn't enough rain to support crops.

In this month's video, you'll see an example of how the Diocese of Kitui celebrates our shared faith, by watching part of an entrance procession to Mass. As you watch the video, think about the similarities and differences you see between the way the Diocese of Kitui begins Mass, and the way your parish begins Mass. How do both celebrate the Catholic faith?

Celebrating the Mystery

We know the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. It draws us closer to Christ, and it also draws us closer as a community. We receive the Eucharist with our local parish, as do millions of Catholics around the world. Regardless of whether you are attending Mass in Minnesota or Kenya, you are celebrating the same Eucharistic prayer. This is one of the graces the Eucharist offers: the unity in the Body of Christ.

The Eucharist also calls us to recognize the human dignity in others. When we receive the gift of the Eucharist, we should respond by helping those around us. To learn more about the Eucharist, [click here](#).

Teaching Prayer: World Mission Rosary

In 1951, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen created the World Mission Rosary to encourage all nations to pray for one another. Each decade of the World Mission Rosary is a different color bead, representing the world's regions: green, Africa; blue, Oceania, white, Europe; red, the Americas; and yellow, Asia. For more information on the World Mission Rosary, [click here](#).

Celebrating Mass in Kitui: Click Here >>



- ✦ What examples of active Church participation did you see in the video?
- ✦ What examples of missionary discipleship did you see in the video?
- ✦ What did you learn from the video about Church participation and missionary discipleship that you can use in your own parish?



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