

## **World Mission Sunday - Second Collection**

Please read and/or publish in conjunction with the World Mission Sunday Second Collection on October 21 & 22, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On October 21st and 22nd, we come together to observe World Mission Sunday, a momentous occasion for our community. It offers us the opportunity to express our unity with mission Churches worldwide.

Established in 1926 by Pope Pius XI, World Mission Sunday has since become a global tradition, marked by a collection held annually on the penultimate Sunday of October. This collective effort of the Church aims to support more than 1,100 dioceses facing challenges of poverty, youthfulness, or persecution.

This year's theme, "Hearts on fire, feet on the move," draws inspiration from the encounter between our Lord and His disciples on the Road to Emmaus, as recounted in the Gospel of Luke (24:13-35). Pope Francis eloquently articulated this theme by saying, "Those two disciples were initially bewildered, but their encounter with Christ through the Word and the breaking of bread ignited within them a fervent desire to journey anew to Jerusalem and proclaim the risen Lord."

As we unite in prayer and action on World Mission Sunday in the Archdiocese of Las Vegas, we join countless other parishes, seminaries, schools, and convents across the globe in celebration of our faith. Together, we become advocates for the mission, offering both prayerful and financial support to extend the Lord's mercy and practical aid to vulnerable communities within the Pope's missions.

We humbly ask you to consider contributing to this second collection in support of world missions. Your prayers and financial generosity on this day will resonate throughout the world, reinforcing our shared faith, our common Lord, and our collective baptism.

May the Lord abundantly bless you and your families as you embrace your vocation as baptized Catholics, generously sharing the love of Jesus within His Church.

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,

+ Archbishop George Leo Thomas, Ph.D. Archbishop of Las Vegas