

MISSION SUNDAY

Today, the global Church celebrates World Mission Sunday. Across every continent, in hundreds of languages, millions of Catholics gather around the table of the Eucharist to remember who we are.

It is easy to think of "**mission**" as something that happens far away—a calling reserved for brave priests, religious sisters, and lay ministers who travel to remote villages, build schools in rural areas, or minister in war-torn regions. We admire them, we pray for them, and we give to second collections for them.

But the truth of World Mission Sunday is much bolder: **The Church does not *have* a mission; the mission *has* a Church.** Mission is not an optional program in the parish schedule. Mission is the very identity of every person who bears the name Christian. By our Baptism, every one of us has been chosen, consecrated, and sent.

Mission Begins with Encounter:

How do we become true missionaries? It never starts with a rulebook or an obligation. It starts with an encounter.

In the Gospels, whenever someone meets Jesus—really meets Him—they cannot keep quiet.

- The Samaritan woman leaves her water jar at the well and runs to tell her entire village.
- The blind man restored to sight simply says, "I was blind, but now I see."
- The Apostles, facing threats from authorities, boldly declare, "*We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard*" (Acts 4:20).

Missionary zeal is simply the natural overflow of a heart that knows it is loved by God. If we find ourselves lacking enthusiasm to share our faith, the solution isn't to force it—it is to go back to the source. We must come back to prayer, to the Sacraments, and to the Eucharist, asking the Lord to melt our hearts anew. You cannot share a fire you do not carry.

Two Ways Every Christian Exercises Mission:

So what does Mission Sunday demand of us practically today? It asks us to live our mission in two essential directions: **global solidarity** and **local witness**.

1. Global Solidarity (Praying & Giving):

We support the universal Church. Somewhere today, a missionary sister is feeding orphans in a refugee camp. Somewhere, a young priest is walking hours through mud to celebrate Mass for isolated believers. Through our prayers and our financial support on Mission Sunday, our hands reach where our feet cannot go. We become real partners in their work.

2. Local Witness (Living the Gospel Here):

Pope Francis frequently reminded us that our mission field is right outside the doors of this church. Your mission field is your dinner table, your workplace, your classroom, and your neighborhood. We live in a world starving for hope, truth, and genuine kindness. When you forgive someone who wronged you, when you stand up for the vulnerable, or when you gently offer to pray for a neighbor in crisis, you are fulfilling the Great Commission.

Conclusion & Call to Action:

At the end of every Mass, the deacon or priest speaks the final dismissal: ***"Go forth, the Mass is ended."*** In Latin, the word for dismissal is ***Ite, missa est***—from which we get the word **Mission**. The Eucharist is not meant to be a cozy refuge where we hide from the world; it is the fuel station where Christ sends us back into the world to transform it.

Today, as you prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus, ask the Lord to take your hands to serve, your tongue to speak Your truth, and your heart to love His people.

I wish and pray that God makes you all a light in the darkness and an instrument of His peace. **Amen.**

STANI S. A.