



Office of the Bishop

Dear Monsignors/Pastors,

This year World Mission Sunday is on the weekend of 17-18 October. It is our annual worldwide Eucharistic celebration for the missions and missionaries of the world. Pope Francis reminds us, especially in this year of crisis, that we are personally called to mission – as baptized Catholics – to bring Christ’s love to those most forgotten, our brothers and sisters in need around the world. He asks us to respond through prayer and generous sacrifice to the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith*, encouraging your parishioners to answer, “*Here I Am, Send Me.*”

It is often said that mission is all about relationships – relationships with God and one another. This understanding is reinforced in our baptismal call. We enter into relationship because we are all so intimately connected as children of God. Not only are we created in God’s image, we are created out of the very essence of God that is love. As a parish, as a diocese, and as the Church at large, we are all capable of reaching out around the world to our brothers and sisters to share the love of God with one another, because this is the very essence of what it means to be a Christian. This is being sent out.

Through the Pope’s own missionary society, your parishioners are also able to be sent out to all the ends of the earth – sent through their support of missionaries and those they serve. Their gifts sustain priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. With them, they answer, “*Here I Am, Send Me.*”

Materials to enhance your celebration of World Mission Sunday have been sent to you from the Diocesan Mission Office. For any extra material or guidance you may contact the Mission Office directly.

With gratitude for the generosity you encourage for the Missions even in these difficult times for you financially.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy  
Bishop of San Diego