

The Holy Father's Mission Intentions 2015

Please include these in your Parish Newsletter and in the Sunday Bidding Prayers at least once a month

Join with the Holy Father in praying:

January	That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.
February	That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.
March	That the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may always be acknowledged and valued.
April	That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.
May	That Mary's intercession may help Christians in secularised cultures be ready to proclaim Jesus.
June	That the personal encounter with Jesus may give rise to the desire in many young people to offer their lives in the priesthood or the consecrated life.
July	That Latin American Christians in the midst of social inequalities may bear witness to love for the poor and contribute to a more fraternal society.
August	That venturing out of ourselves we may learn to be true neighbours to those who find themselves on the margins of human life and society.
September	That catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.
October	That with a missionary spirit the Christian communities of Asia may announce the Gospel to those who are still awaiting it.
November	That pastors of the Church, with profound love, may accompany their flocks and enliven their hope.
December	That families and especially those families who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.



Missio is the Pope's official charity for overseas mission

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Reg Charity No. 1056651

World Mission Sunday 2014

The Holy Father's Message and Mission Intentions

An abridged version of the Holy Father's Message for World Mission Sunday 2014

In this message the Holy Father highlights chapter 10, verses 20-23, of St Luke's Gospel, and asks us to reflect on the joy it reveals.

Mission is urgent

'The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 1).

Today vast numbers of people still do not know Jesus Christ and for this reason mission continues to be most urgent. The Church is missionary by nature and was born 'to go forth'.

Grace and joy

World Mission Sunday is a celebration of grace and joy. Grace, because the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, offers wisdom and strength. Joy, because Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, supports and accompanies our missionary efforts. The joy experienced by Jesus leads me to offer you a bright jewel from Scripture which we find in the Gospel of Luke (Lk 10:20-23).

Names written in heaven

The seventy-two disciples returned from proclaiming the Kingdom of God filled with joy. Joy is a dominant theme of this unforgettable first missionary experience. However, Jesus cautioned them to rejoice not so

much for the power they had received to set people free from demons, but for the love they had received, 'because your names are written in heaven' (Lk 10:20).

The possibility of sharing God's love, a love different from and greater than anything they had previously experienced, makes the heart of Jesus rejoice. This joy springs from Jesus' immense love, as beloved Son, for his Father, who hid these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to the 'little ones', the childlike (cf Lk 10:21). The Father is the source of joy. The Son is its manifestation, and the Holy Spirit its giver.

Blinded by arrogance

What is it that God has revealed and hidden? The mysteries of his Kingdom, the manifestation of divine lordship in Jesus and the victory over Satan. God has hidden this from those who are all too full of themselves. They are blinded by their arrogance and they leave no room for God. The 'little ones' Jesus called 'blessed' are the humble, the simple, the poor, the marginalised.

The danger of consumerism

'The great danger in today's world, invaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a self-satisfied yet covetous heart ... and a blunted conscience' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 2). Humanity greatly needs to grasp the salvation brought by Christ.

Vocations and the absence of zeal

There is a shortage of vocations in many parts of the world. But wherever there is joy and a desire to bring Christ to others, genuine vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life arise. I encourage all communities to live an intense life of caring for one another and sharing with one another, grounded in love for Jesus and concern for the needs of the most disadvantaged.

Gospel joy comes from sharing

The joy of the Gospel is born of the encounter with Christ and from sharing with the poor. World Mission Sunday is an opportunity to rekindle our desire and our moral obligation to participate joyfully in mission across the whole world. A monetary contribution on the part of individuals is the sign of a self-offering, first to the Lord and then to others and so in this way a material offering such as a donation of money by individuals to Missio can become a means built on love for the evangelisation of humanity.

First love

On this World Mission Sunday I urge each of you to recall that 'first love' with which the Lord Jesus Christ touched your heart for the first time, not for the sake of nostalgia but in order to persevere in joy.

The Church, a welcoming home for all

Let us pray through the intercession of Mary, the model of joyful evangelisation, that the Church may become a welcoming home for all peoples and the source of rebirth for our world.

Franciscus

This is an abridged version of the Pope's message. The full text is available from Missio and at www.missio.org.uk