



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 18th, we celebrate **World Mission Sunday**, a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. It is a day when Catholics around the world unite in prayer and solidarity to support the missionary work of the Church.

We are all called to be a part of this mission work. In his last words before ascending to heaven, Jesus told us, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19), and for 2,000 years the Church has been at work in this task. And we are far from finished!

The year’s World Mission Sunday celebration is unlike any other in our lifetime for two reasons. **First, this World Mission Sunday marks the 100th anniversary of its establishment** by Pope Pius XI in 1926. This centenary is an opportunity to mark it with renewed missionary zeal. This year’s theme, **“One in Christ, United in Mission,”** chosen by Pope Leo XIV, invites us to rediscover the profound unity we share in Christ through baptism and how our baptismal identity overflows into the mission to bring others into communion with God and us.

Secondly, the beatification of **Archbishop Fulton Sheen** on September 24 reminds us of the importance of the missions. While many know him best for his TV presence, books, and charismatic eloquence, he repeatedly said, **“My greatest love has always been for the missions of the Church.”** For 16 years, as National Director of The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, he poured his talents into World Mission Sunday and distributed the proceeds diligently to the missions.

Pope Leo XIV recognizes how important World Mission Sunday is for the Church. He spent a large part of his priestly ministry as a missionary in Peru, serving communities in the Andean highlands and rural villages, and has noted how dependent he was on the support of the Church universal through World Mission Sunday.

Please respond to his appeal as generously as you can.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

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