

OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL  
488 MADISON AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10022

October 12, 2025  
Month of the Holy Rosary  
Jubilee Year of Hope

Dear friends in the Lord:

Next Sunday, October 19 we celebrate as a church *World Mission Sunday*, a day when Catholics around the world unite in prayer and solidarity to support the missionary work of the Church. As I write to you today, I express my deep gratitude for last year's most generous contribution of \$392,302.

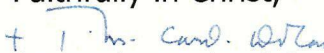
This year's theme, "*Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples*," is exceptionally moving because, even though it was chosen by Pope Francis, it reflects both the heart of our faith and the vision of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, who spent most of his priestly service as a missionary in the remote regions of Peru. It reminds us that *The Pontifical Mission Societies* are "the primary means for awakening missionary responsibility among all the baptized supporting mission areas where the Church is young." His personal witness deepens the meaning of this year's celebration, inviting us to renew our commitment to the Church's mission in the world.

It is fitting, as we reflect on our role in supporting the missions, to remember that the Catholic Church in the United States was once a mission territory itself. Just over a century ago, the faith here was still taking root, supported by the generosity of Catholics from Europe and beyond who provided financial assistance, sent priests and religious, and built the parishes and schools that formed the foundation of the Church in this country. American Catholics benefited from the same collection we are invited to support today, overseen by the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith*.

Now, it is our turn to extend that same generosity to others. We are called to support the missionaries, priests, religious sisters and brothers, and lay leaders who serve in the 1,124 mission territories where the Church is still young.

The second collection next Sunday supports the work of *The Pontifical Mission Societies*, the Pope's official means of assisting Catholic communities in the world's poorest and most remote regions. Your prayers and sacrifices ensure that the light of Christ reaches the ends of the earth.

In this spirit, may this *World Mission Sunday* deepen our commitment and may I offer you my personal gratitude and prayerful best wishes for your kind missionary hearts.

Faithfully in Christ,  
  
† Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York

TMD:mjf