



# The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On October 22, World Mission Sunday, we join Catholics worldwide in this annual Eucharistic celebration for the missions of the Church.

This year's theme, "Hearts on fire, feet on the move" (Luke 24:13-35) reminds us that we live out our baptismal call of mission when we are witnesses to God's love and mercy. Pope Francis invites us to focus on three themes for World Mission Sunday: the Word transforming hardened hearts, the Eucharist as the source and summit of mission, and the joy of spreading the Good News.

Beginning in 1822, the universal fund of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith provided approximately seven million dollars in help to the new and growing Church in the United States. Founded by French laywoman Blessed Pauline Jaricot, she began this work 200 years ago and established a network of prayer and collections for missionaries so that the faithful could actively participate in the mission "to the ends of the earth." Her vision would lead to World Mission Sunday, which helps the Pope support global missionary activity.

Your prayers and generous support today 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 as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor.

Embodying this year's theme, I urge you to keep your hearts aflame and your feet moving this World Mission Sunday. Your prayers remain your greatest gift, and your financial support is life-giving to our brothers and sisters in the world's most vulnerable communities.

Sincerely Yours in the Lord,

+ Evelio Menjivar-Ayala

Auxiliary Bishop of Washington