



DIOCESE *of* GAYLORD

October 23, 2022

My dear friends in Christ,

You may remember that something special happens on the next-to-last Sunday of October each year:
World Mission Sunday!

Pope Pius XI instituted World Mission Sunday for the global Church, with the first worldwide collection taking place in October 1927. Since then, this has remained a day that joins all Catholics of the world into one community of faith. It's an opportunity at Mass that Sunday to recommit ourselves to our common vocation to have a missionary spirit, be one in prayer, and participate in the Eucharist.

Pope Francis' message for this World Mission Sunday reflects on the theme: *"You shall be my witnesses."* (Acts 1:8). Our Holy Father reminds us that the Church is missionary in nature and that we are called at baptism to share in this mission together. As we pray and respond here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world.

Your gifts on World Mission Sunday answer this call to be Christ's witness by bringing concrete help and the Lord's mercy to the most vulnerable communities in the world. Your generosity supports and sustains 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. Our shared mission to proclaim the Gospel and serve the poor in all corners of the world comes alive because of you!

World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as missionaries, as it offers each one of us an occasion to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized. Thank you for your generous support of our collective mission to reach everyone with the love of Christ.

In Christ our Life!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey J. Walsh", with a small cross symbol to the left.

Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh
Bishop of Gaylord