



## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Recently I received information regarding “One Sunday for the Whole World,” for distribution to parishioners during October, Respect Life Month. The flyer had the following information:

*EVERY YEAR, SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENS on the next-to-last Sunday of October. **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** joins all Catholics of the world into one community of faith. At Mass that Sunday, we recommit ourselves to our common vocation, through Baptism, to be missionaries - through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. In 1926, Pope Pius XI instituted World Mission Sunday for the whole Church, with the first worldwide World Mission Sunday collection taking place in October 1927.*

Pope Francis’ message for World Mission Sunday this year reflects on the theme: “You shall be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8). He reminds us that the Church is missionary in nature and that we are called at Baptism to share in this mission together. The Holy Father exclaims, “Would that all of us in the Church were what we already are by virtue of Baptism: prophets, witnesses, missionaries of the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the ends of the earth!”

On World Mission Sunday, we join our Holy Father in supporting his missions. As we pray and respond here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world. Together, through our prayers and financial support, we bring the Lord’s mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope’s missions.

In a world where so much divides us, World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as missionaries by our Baptism, as it offers each one of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,100 mission dioceses.

As part of World Mission Sunday, we welcome Fr. Godwin Kornu to St. Mary’s. I am glad that he is able to worship with our parish this weekend. May our prayers and financial support generously aid the mission and ministry of those who benefit from our support as we join in with Catholics around the globe in the collection for the Propagation of the Faith – World Mission Sunday.

Earlier this month, as a response to the humanitarian need of caring for our neighbor, Cardinal Cupich has asked all parishes to take up a second collection in support of those seeking asylum in America. Next weekend you will have the chance to offer support through the ministry of Catholic Charities, as donations can be made through St. Mary’s this October – Respect Life Month. You can donate, including it in the offertory with a note “Catholic Charities Refugees” in the envelope or in the memo line of the check. You can also find a link through our **GiveCentral** page on St. Mary’s website to make an electronic donation.

Mark your calendars for the return of our Parish Pancake Breakfast and our “Pack the Pantry” next weekend - October 29 and 30. Thanks for your generosity and support of feeding the hungry in October – Respect Life Month.

I am away from the parish this weekend, spending time at my “spiritual home!” I am on retreat in Gloucester, MA, where I have been going annually since the early 1990s. The week of rest, prayer, and retreat is always a highlight of my year. The prayers for the parishioners of St. Mary’s will be part of my prayers offered this week on retreat. I invite your prayers that I may listen to and be led by the Holy Spirit as I retreat with the Lord.

May God guide and bless us with hearts of charity and concern for our neighbor,