



September 18, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 2024, World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on the weekend of October 19-20. Donations collected at these worldwide Masses go entirely to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. World Mission Sunday supports over 1,150 mission territories specifically in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East. In the 1800's, it was the Catholic Church in the United States that benefitted from this collection. Now is our chance to give back.

This year's theme is: "Go and invite everyone to the banquet." (cf. Mt 22:9). This message, rooted in the parable of the wedding banquet, calls us to a renewed sense of our missionary responsibility. Pope Francis emphasizes the call to every Christian to bear witness to Christ, to participate in a mission of universal evangelization, and to seek strength and guidance from the Holy Spirit. As we prepare for World Mission Sunday, may we be inspired by the words of Pope Francis. Let us pray that the Lord may help us to be a more missionary Church, reaching out to every corner of the earth with His message of love and salvation.

With gratitude for your generosity, and with prayers for a fruitful celebration of World Mission Sunday, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie