

MISSION MESSAGE

Go and Make Disciples: Celebrating World Mission Sunday 2025

By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director of Pontifical Mission Societies



Each year, World Mission Sunday marks the renewal of the Church's great commission to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19). This call is not an option but a mandate from Jesus woven into the very heart of our faith.

To be Catholic is to be missionary — to share the Gospel in word and deed, near and far, so that every person may encounter the saving love of Christ. On Sunday, October 19, the Diocese of Scranton will join Catholics across the globe in celebrating World Mission Sunday, a day to deepen our awareness of this sacred duty and to recommit ourselves to the task of evangelization.

This celebration is more than a yearly collection; it is a spiritual moment to remember who we are as the People of God. The missionary spirit is not reserved for distant places alone. It is alive in our own Diocese, where priests and religious sisters — many of whom left their homelands to serve here — give witness to the Gospel through their tireless dedication. Their presence reminds us that the Church is truly universal and that the faith we profess connects us to believers across cultures, languages, and nations.

World Mission Sunday also

offers us the chance to reflect on the global dimension of our faith. The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV — the first Pope native to the United States — embodies this missionary spirit. Before his election to the Papacy, he served as a missionary in Peru, walking with communities and proclaiming Christ's hope amid hardship. His story reminds us that the missionary mandate is not confined to geography. Instead, it is a way of life, rooted in openness, service, and sacrifice.

World Mission Sunday challenges each of us to ask: *What is my connection to the missions? How am I called to share in this great work of evangelization?*

Perhaps your family once had a relative who served abroad. Maybe your parish has welcomed a missionary priest who spoke passionately of the faith communities he serves. Or perhaps you have discovered the joy of supporting the missions and realized that your generosity has touched the lives of people you may never meet. These connections remind us that the mission of the Church is not someone else's work — it is ours.

How, then, can we live out this call? First and foremost, we can pray. Missionaries often labor in difficult, even dangerous,

circumstances, and our prayers sustain them in their witness. We can also give generously. The annual World Mission Sunday collection directly supports mission Dioceses around the world, providing for churches, schools, clinics, and pastoral programs that bring Christ's love to those most in need. We can also learn about the missions by listening to the stories of missionaries and allowing their witness to challenge and inspire us.

As Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies for the Diocese of Scranton, I am deeply moved by the generosity of the faithful in our Diocese year after year. Your prayers, sacrifices, and gifts truly make a difference.

On World Mission Sunday 2025, may we give thanks for the missionaries among us and renew our commitment to live as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED STATES

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Missionary Childhood Association
The Society of St. Peter the Apostle
Missionary Union of Priests and Religious

www.onefamilyinmission.org

VOLKSWAGENS
SALES - SERVICE - PARTS
**KELLY
MOTOR CO.**
AUTHORIZED
VOLKSWAGEN DEALER
S. Main at Elm, Scranton
570-347-5656

LOCAL CEMETERY MONUMENT DEALERS

MJ JUDGE MONUMENT COMPANY, INC

Call for appointment

• 570-829-4881 •

ST. MARY'S MONUMENT COMPANY, LLC

975 S Main St-Hanover Twp., PA

• 570-829-8138 •

CEMETERY MONUMENTS · MARKERS
LETTERING · CLEANING · RESTORATION

— www.stmarysmonumentcompany.com —

— stmary975@aol.com —


Mesko
glass
mesko.com
SCRANTON | WILKES-BARRE
HONESDALE | ALLENTOWN

Your *clear*
glass choice
for over
90 years.

AUTO | COMMERCIAL | RESIDENTIAL



ROBERT RITTERBECK

Church Painting and Decorating

(570) 343-2899

Please visit our website at www.Ritterbeck.com

STATUES • STENCILS • GOLD LEAF • MURAL RESTORATION

Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for September 2025

For Our Relationship with All of Creation —

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.