



MISSIONARIES

OF  HOPE

among the Peoples

World Mission
Sunday 2025
October 19th

SHARE:
GIVE NOW



TEXT
"MISSIONS25"
TO 53555

YOUR GIFT
HELPS
SUPPORT:


82,498
Seminarians


8,749
Shelters and
Orphanages


11,992
Health
Centers


843,785
Catechists


258,540
Religious
sisters

Leper Colony, Kon Tum, Vietnam, April 7, 2025. (TPMS USA/Margaret Murray)

Pray and Give Generously on **OCTOBER 19, 2025**

World Mission Sunday is a special day that unites Catholics worldwide in prayer, solidarity, and support for the Church's mission efforts.

This year's theme, chosen by the late Pope Francis, is inspired by the Jubilee of Hope: **"Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples."** It is an invitation to bring Christ's light and hope to the world, especially to communities where the Church is young, growing, and often struggling.

A Pontifical Mass in honor of World Mission Sunday will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, on **Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025 at 12:15 p.m.** The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as the principal celebrant, and the homily will be delivered by Bishop Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi of the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana. All are invited to attend.

Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will provide a live broadcast of the Mass. The Mass will also be livestream on the **Diocese of Scranton website**, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

Join us in this universal mission to spread the Gospel and share the love of Christ!



Bishop Bambera's Letter for World Mission Sunday

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Each year, **World Mission Sunday** reminds us of something profound: we are not simply individual believers, but members of one family in Christ, called to share the hope that has been given to us. This year's theme, "**Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples,**" speaks directly to the heart of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. These words take on deeper meaning under Pope Leo XIV, whose own life as a missionary in Peru gives witness to the very hope we are called to share.

It is worth remembering that the Catholic Church here in the United States was itself once mission territory. Just over a century ago, our parishes and schools were taking root through the generosity of Catholics from across the ocean who understood that faith shared is faith multiplied. They gave to families they would never meet, recognizing the urgency of living their faith in service to sisters and brothers beyond their own church walls.

Today, that same call comes to us. We are asked to extend our hands and hearts to the 1,124 mission territories where the Church is still taking root amid poverty, persecution, and tremendous challenges. These communities in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania, and the Middle East depend on our prayers and support.

When we contribute to the **World Mission Sunday** collection, we become part of something beautiful. Our gifts help form seminarians, train catechists, build schools where children discover they are beloved by God, and support hospitals where healing becomes witness to Christ's love.

As Pope Francis reminded us, "We cannot be inactive Christians. To sit on the sidelines as a follower of Jesus makes no sense." The light of Christ we celebrate each Sunday is meant to reach the ends of the earth through our prayers, generosity, and willingness to see ourselves as missionaries right here, right now.

I encourage you to respond with hearts open to the Spirit's call. Your sacrifice joins with thousands of others to ensure the Gospel reaches those who might otherwise never hear it, affirming that we are one Church, one family, united in bringing God's love to all people.

May this **World Mission Sunday** inspire you to live as missionaries of hope in your homes, workplaces, and communities, discovering more fully who we are called to be as disciples of the risen Christ.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton



Bishop Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi of Ghana to Preach at

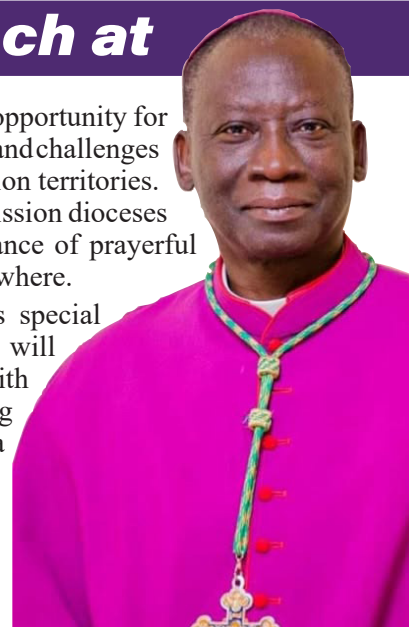
World Mission Sunday Mass AT CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER

This year's celebration of World Mission Sunday at the Cathedral of Saint Peter will carry special meaning for the Diocese of Scranton, which has enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with the Diocese of Sunyani. Currently, eight priests from Sunyani serve in the Diocese of Scranton as pastors or assistant pastors, enriching parish life with their faith, energy, and missionary zeal. Their presence is a reminder of the universal nature of the Catholic Church and the bonds of solidarity that connect communities across continents.

Bishop Gyamfi has led the Diocese of Sunyani since 2003, guiding its faithful with a strong emphasis on evangelization, Catholic education, and care

for the poor. His visit to Scranton offers an opportunity for local Catholics to hear directly about the joys and challenges facing the Church in Ghana and other mission territories. His presence highlights the vital role that mission dioceses play in the global Church and the importance of prayerful and financial support from Catholics everywhere.

All are warmly invited to attend this special liturgy. Following Mass, a light reception will be held in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, with displays from religious communities serving in the Diocese. Together, Bishop Bambera and Bishop Gyamfi will remind the faithful that the call to mission is shared by all, and that through generosity and prayer, the Gospel continues to reach the ends of the earth.



Called from Afar: International Priests Bring Missionary Spirit

We may not think of the Diocese of Scranton as “mission territory” but international priests play a vital and growing role here in our Diocese.

Currently, 23 priests from six different countries are serving as pastors, assistant pastors, or administrators across the Diocese's 11 counties. This number does not include those priests who were born, or have completed their seminary studies, in another country and are now incarnated in the Diocese of Scranton. These men bring with them not only their deep faith and pastoral commitment but also a rich diversity of cultural backgrounds

that enhance the life of the Church in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Remarkably, international priests now make up about 25% of all active priests in the Diocese of Scranton. Their presence is more than just helpful - it is essential.

In a time when vocations to the priesthood have declined locally, the willingness of these men to leave their home countries and serve the people of this region is both a blessing and a testament to the global nature of the Catholic Church.

Sunyani, Ghana

Rev. Andrew Amankwaa: Senior Priest
Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover Twp
St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Wilkes-Barre

Rev. Michael Amo Gyau: Assistant Pastor
Christ the King Parish, Archbald

Rev. Stephen Bosomafi: Pastor
St. Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel

Rev. Richard Gyansah-Tabiri: Assistant Pastor
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines

Rev. Stephen Kwasi Brenyah: Assistant Pastor
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Carbondale

Rev. Paul Kwadwo Yeboah: Assistant Pastor
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Hunlock Creek
St. Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke

Rev. Dominic Sabi: Assistant Pastor
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale

Rev. Philbert Takyi-Nketiah: Administrator
Holy Spirit Parish, Mocanaqua



Nicaragua

Rev. Rafael O'Farril Bermúdez Gonzalez: Assistant Pastor
Our Lady of Peace Parish, Hazleton



Nigeria

Rev. Christian Ekeh: Assistant Pastor
St. John Bosco Parish, Conyngham

Rev. Paschal Mbagwu: Pastor
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco
Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines



India

Rev. Thomas Augustine: Administrator
St. Brigid Parish, Friendsville

Rev. Binesh Kanjirakattu: Senior Priest
Saint Ann Parish, Shohola
Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley
Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Dingman Township

Rev. Jose Joseph Kuriappilly: Pastor
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing
SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda

Rev. Arun Lakra: Pastor
Ascension Parish, Forest City
St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Forest City

Rev. Rawel Toppo: Administrator
St. Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek
St. Rita Parish, Gouldsboro

Rev. Sudhir Toppo: Administrator
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna

Rev. Dias Anthony Valiamarathungal: Assistant Pastor
St. Ann Parish, Williamsport
St. Boniface Parish, Williamsport

Rev. Shinu Vazhakkootathil John: Assistant Pastor
Epiphany Parish, Sayre



Columbia

Rev. Sergio Leon Pamplona Henao: Assistant Pastor
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco
St. Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg

Rev. Jaime Perez-Restrepo: Senior Priest
St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Scranton

Dominican Republic

Rev. Neftalí Félix Sena: Assistant Pastor
St. Pius of Pietrelcina Parish, Hazleton

Reverend Benito Hierro Aquino, CSMA: Assistant Pastor
St. Pius of Pietrelcina Parish, Hazleton



MISSION MESSAGE



By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission
Societies

One Million for the Missions: Diocese of Scranton Surpasses \$1 Million in Mission Collections

Since 2020, the Diocese of Scranton has raised \$1,016,918.19 to support mission territories around the world! This impressive total comes from participation in three programs of the Pontifical Mission Societies: **World Mission Sunday**, the **Missionary Cooperative Plan**, and the **Missionary Childhood Association**. Each of these offers us a unique way to live out our faith by supporting those who serve in some of the poorest and most remote areas of the world.

World Mission Sunday, celebrated each October, unites Catholics worldwide in prayer and solidarity for the Church's mission efforts. Contributions support over 1,100 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. These funds help build churches, train seminarians, support religious sisters, and provide education, healthcare, and pastoral outreach.

The **Missionary Cooperative Plan** invites missionaries from around the world to visit parishes in our Diocese each summer. Through personal stories and firsthand witness, the parishioners gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced in mission territories. Special collections taken during these visits go directly to the

missionaries' home dioceses or religious communities, supporting essential work in evangelization and humanitarian aid.

The **Missionary Childhood Association** helps form a missionary spirit in young Catholics through education, prayer, and sacrifice. With the motto of "children helping children," many of our Catholic schools and parish religious education programs participate in the Missionary Childhood Association. Their support funds schools, orphanages, clinics, and catechetical programs for children in mission lands.

Crossing the million-dollar mark isn't just a cause for celebration - it's a reminder of who we are. We are a missionary Church, rooted in love and sent to serve. Thank you for saying "yes" to that call, and for being the hands and heart of Christ reaching out to the world.

ONE MILLION FOR THE MISSIONS SINCE 2020



The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

As a member, your gift means financial and spiritual support to:

Missionaries, Seminarians, Religious Novices, Catechists, Schools, Hospitals, Orphanages, Maternity Clinics and Feeding Programs in more than 1150 Mission Dioceses!

As a member, you receive:

The grateful prayers of missionaries around the world, special remembrance in more than 15,000 Masses a year and a subscription to MISSION Magazine.

YEARLY
☐ Individual.....\$5.00
☐ Family.....\$10.00

PERPETUAL
☐ Perpetual Membership for a Family.....\$100.00
☐ Perpetual Membership for Individual.....\$50.00

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parish: _____

If Membership is for another: _____ (living/deceased)