

Introduction

In order to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic letter 'MAXIMUM ILLUD' of Pope Benedict XV, the Holy Father Pope Francis asked the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and President of the supreme Council of Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS), Cardinal Fernando Filoni, to prepare for this event, by raising awareness among the particular churches, the Institutes of Consecrated Life, the Societies of Apostolic life, among Associations, Movements, other Ecclesial Bodies, and the whole people of God.

The theme of the EMM of October 2019 is 'BAPTISED AND SENT.'

Pope Francis wants this EMM to reflect on the following 4 points:

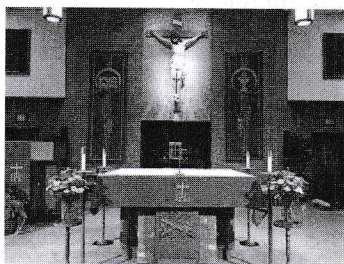
1. A personal Encounter with Jesus Christ living in His Church: In the Eucharist, in the Word of God, and in personal and communal prayer
2. Testimony : Missionary Saints, Martyrs and Confessors of the Faith
3. Missionary Formation: Biblical, Catechetical, Spiritual and Theological.
4. Missionary Charity

It is truly a unique opportunity for all of us to celebrate and reignite our ardor and passion for the Mission of Christ. We through Baptism are immersed in that inexhaustible source of life which in the death and resurrection of Jesus, the greatest act of love in all of history, gave us new life.

Many years ago, Pope Benedict XV laid emphasis on renewing the Mission to preach the Gospel. It is still relevant today and even more so if we consider the current state of the world and the church.

Penitential Rite

1. Lord, you were sent by the Father, to bring



good news to the poor. You created us and called us for a specific purpose to carry forward your mission. But we have lost our focus and gone after the things of this world for our own selfish purposes, for name and for fame.

We come to you now in repentance

-Lord Have Mercy

2. Our Father, as we are celebrating the Extraordinary Missionary Month, we look into ourselves, at our sins of omission and commission, our lukewarmness and our indifference, our tepidity and our hard heartedness, our lack of fervour and our waywardness and we place them at your feet. We come to you now in repentance *-Christ Have Mercy*
3. Gracious Lord, we acknowledge before you and our brothers and sisters that we have sinned. Significantly we make this confession as a community, yet in the Confiteor each of us acknowledge we are unworthy before God and of His gift of mercy, we invoke the Blessed Mother Mary, all the Angels and Saints to sustain us in our faith and conversion, by their intercession. We come to you now in repentance *-Lord Have Mercy*

Readings

1. Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

The theme of the first reading can be summed up in the following words: "The righteous live by their faith." The prophet cries to the Lord for help and the Lord promises the prophet that He would be on the side of the upright.

2. 2 Tim:1:6-8, 13-14

The second reading promises us that the spirit of God fills us with power, love, and self-control. Barclay comments on Paul's letter to

Timothy "Look what Christ has done for us." If someone like me can be saved, there is hope for everyone. This is the main burden of Paul's pleading with Timothy. Hold fast." We have equal need of the same exhortation to hold fast to God's word.

3. Lk 17:5-19

The Apostles request for greater faith. Jesus' saying concerning a mustard seed suggests that the Apostles lack even such minimal faith. In return Jesus suggests that they should not expect any reward or praise for their service. Discipleship requires ordinary and daily practices of fidelity and service. And having done all to the best of our abilities, we need to be saying "We are unworthy servants" we have only done what we ought to have done.



Prayer of the Faithful

Introduction: The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus Christ. Those who accept this offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew (*Evangelii Gaudium*). Let us pray for the various needs that joy may be born anew in our lives.

Response: Hear thy people, have mercy, o Lord!

1. We pray for Pope Francis and the ministers of the Church, the Religious and the Laity that each of us recognize our call and mission and be living witnesses of the Gospel in word and deed: *Hear thy people, have mercy, o Lord!*
2. Faith and the Resurrection are the starting points of mission. When we have strong faith in Jesus we are confident whilst facing any situation in life. Lord, like the Disciples, we pray to you, 'increase our faith.' Make us conscious of the gifts you have given us and commit all our energies to proclaim your kingdom: *Hear thy people, have mercy, o Lord!*
3. There is a decline in vocations to the

Priesthood and Religious Life in most of the countries of the world and the existing vocations are shaken by the winds of uncertainty. Lord, sustain all those who consecrate their lives to the proclamation of your kingdom, and may reach out in loving service to all especially, the poor and the suffering: *Hear thy people, have mercy, o Lord!*

4. We pray for friends and benefactors who by their generosity and sacrifices help and support the work of the missions. We also remember and pray for all the missionaries especially in remote and hostile locations who toil from dawn to dusk without counting the

cost: *Hear thy people, have mercy, o Lord!*

5. In a special manner, we pray today that the Extraordinary Missionary Month will be a grace for each one of us to recognize God's call by His commission "Go into the whole world and make disciples of all nations even to the ends of the earth. Lo! I am with you to the end of the age" [Mt.28:18-20]. That we may be able to proclaim the good news by glorifying the Lord through our lives, we pray to the Lord: *Hear thy people, have mercy, o Lord!*

Let us now together recite the Prayer composed for the EMM: Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he commissioned his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations" and you remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church. Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new and efficacious expressions that bring life and light to the world. Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen. ♦

Introduction

The theme for this Sunday in the Extraordinary Missionary Month is: *Testimony: Missionary Saints, Martyrs and Confessors of the Faith*. We are called to be witnessing missionaries in our life.

In today's Gospel, we hear that ten lepers were healed by Jesus but only one of the 10 comes back to say "Thank You" to the Lord.



Consider
ing all that
the Lord has
done for us,
the little that
we can do is
to thank him
and give our
lives in full
surrender to

him. At the same time we need to be witnesses of the graces received from the Lord so that others may be attracted to the power of Christ.

Let us pray in this Eucharistic celebration that the Church may have more missionaries to testify to the truth.

Penitential Rite

Introduction: As we acknowledge our failures and shortcomings today, we remember the Biblical figures like the prodigal son and the woman caught in adultery, who prayed to the Lord sincerely with a contrite heart. Let us examine ourselves, responding to the following questions, and strike our breast saying, '*LORD we have sinned.*'

1. Have I truly set my heart on God so that I really have him above all things and am faithful to all his commandments?
2. Have I a genuine love for my neighbour or do I use them for my own ends?
3. What use have I made of time, health and strength God has given me, or do I think only

of my own rest and convenience?

4. Have I been patient in accepting the difficulties of life?
5. Do I take care of nature and its resources, or do I feel guilty for spoiling the environment by my negligence?
6. Do I purchase a lot of material goods that I do not need or how much do I help my needy brethren?
7. Do I spend time in prayer or habitually neglect it with the excuses citing the demands of my work?

For the times we have been ungrateful to God for the gift of life, and have taken for granted the lavish gifts, graces, and blessings with no merit our ours, let us from the depth of our hearts say together: *Lord, Have Mercy! Christ, Have Mercy! Lord, Have Mercy!*

Readings

1. 2Kings 5:14-17 *How mighty is God, what great things can he do.*

We shall hear from the first reading the mighty work of God in the life of Naaman who was a leper. Leprosy is a symbol of human sin. For, like leprosy, sin gradually spreads its malignant virus and creates a gulf between man and God.

Naaman had the grace and good sense to fall in line with the Divine. He went down and dipped himself and his flesh became like that of a little child. The fatal flaw is remedied. At once, he recognised God who had healed him. This healing he experienced by yielding to the will of God. Conformity to God's plan will secure a man's salvation. He who accepts God's plan is wholly renewed, recreated and made anew in Christ Jesus.

2. 2 Tim:2: 8-13

The Apostle Paul says "whatever tribulations or death may befall us, let us remember that

Jesus Christ who was slain by the Jews rose again from the dead and His Resurrection is the pledge and proof of ours.” “If we die together with Him we shall live with Him.”

The Resurrection of our Lord is a tangible proof that there is another life; we also shall rise again to a life of glory and blessedness. Only through the sacrifice of himself in his death, our resurrection has been guaranteed. Those who wish to be His disciples must follow him in the path of suffering. We are promised by His resurrection that there is a new life within us.

3. Lk 17: 11-19.

In the Gospel today we are told that we should respond to God's blessings.

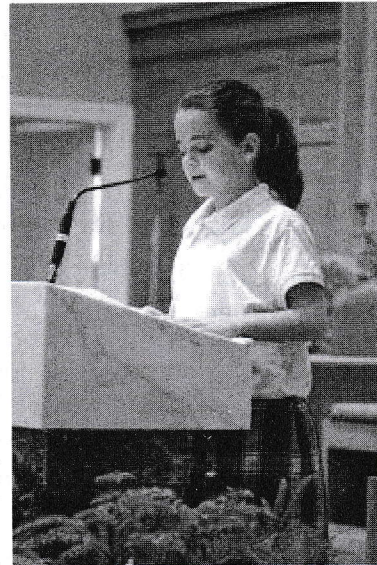
We all should see ourselves as these lepers who were unclean before God and man. Just as the lepers were separated from the community, so sin causes rupture and distance in human relationships. Just as God could heal this dreaded disease, only God can heal and cleanse the human heart. We should do as these lepers did, call out to Jesus the master of mercy. We all should respond as the leper's did by obedient faith. We all should respond as the one leper who glorified God and fall at the feet of Jesus with thankful hearts.

Prayer of the Faithful

Introduction : God, our creator, your gifts to us are countless, and your goodness without limit. As we stand before you, grant our hearts to know the needs of others that we may give as freely as we receive from you.

Response: Lord, Hear our prayer.

1. We pray for Pope Francis and the ministers of the Church, who teach us the way of compassion and love. May we in like manner reach out to others. With grateful hearts we pray to you Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer*



2. That we may have the eyes of faith, for seeing and believing, in the presence of God, especially in times of distress and anxiety, with grateful hearts we pray to you Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer*

3. Healer of the sick, we pray for doctors and Nurses, who labour day and night in the hospitals to relieve the pain and suffering, we ask you to bless their hands with the gift of healing. With grateful hearts we pray to you Lord: *Lord, Hear Our Prayer*

4. Lord, we thank you for anointing us with the Holy Spirit, to be instruments of healing in our apostolic life. Help us to be witnesses of the gospel. With grateful hearts we pray to you Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer*

5. Lord all that we have, all that we are, all that we own, has been given by you. We thank you most of all for your unconditional love. Bless us to utilize all your gifts for sharing your love with others. With grateful hearts we pray to you Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Let us now together recite the Prayer composed for the EMM: Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he commissioned his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations” and you remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church. Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new and efficacious expressions that bring life and light to the world. Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen. ♦

Liturgy for 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

20 OCTOBER 2019

Introduction

Today is the "World Mission Sunday." It has a special significance this year as Pope Francis has invited us to celebrate this month as the 'Extraordinary Missionary Month' with the goal of fostering an increased awareness of our Baptismal call to be Missionaries in the Church.



We are asked for a response by way of our prayers, to help reawaken the call to be a missionary and work with a new impulse to increase missionary zeal.

The Pontifical Mission Societies were born of devoted hearts as means of supporting the preaching of the Gospel to every nation, contributing also to the human and cultural growth of all those who thirst for attaining truth. The Church needs men and women who are willing to live their faith radically and heroically and carry the gospel into every corner of the earth. The theme for this Sunday is "Missionary Formation: Biblical, Catechetical, Spiritual and Theological."

Hence it is essential that everyone is formed holistically to spread the faith we have received. Prayer and faith are very closely connected. It is because of our faith we pray and in turn our prayer sustains our faith.

Penitential Rite

Today's celebration of Mission Sunday concerns all of us, for mission is the task given to all. The whole church is the fruit of the Mission;

we want all peoples to know God and to know Jesus Christ, the one whom God has sent to be our Saviour.

For having failed to bring all people to the knowledge of Truth: *Lord, Have Mercy*

For having failed to be a light that shines on all nations, *Christ: Have Mercy*

For having failed to take your command seriously to preach the Good News: *Lord, Have Mercy*

Readings

1. Ex 17:8-13

In the first reading, we have a beautiful example of perseverance in prayer. Moses keeps his eyes set towards heaven until the battle is successfully over. When he was confronted by a mortal enemy, Moses responds quickly and gives commands and instructions to his trusted servant Joshua. When we are challenged by our mortal enemies: the world, the flesh and the devil, do we respond quickly to our Joshua - our Jesus?

2. 2 Tim 3:14-4:2

St Paul is telling Timothy to have great faith and self-discipline. He speaks of salvation through faith in Christ who is Truth and Life. Timothy must persevere in the faith and teach others to do likewise by passing along the instructions he has received. When people see the works of salvation that Christ has done in us through our faithful works empowered by Him, they will encounter Jesus. And when they encounter Jesus, he begins a new work of salvation in them, by means of His body the church.

3. Lk 18:1-8

Jesus presents a parable to show that it is necessary always to pray and not to lose heart. The widow was the symbol of all who

were poor and defenseless. It was obvious that she was without resources of any kind. She was without any hope but she had one weapon, persistence. In the end her persistence won the day.

This parable is similar to another parable: the midnight friend, who knocks persistently, because of which the friend eventually agrees to help him. The help offered, was not because of friendship but because of persistence (Luke 11:5-8). Only those who put Christ at the center of their lives, pray with perseverance.

Prayer of the Faithful

Introduction: On this Mission Sunday, we raise our minds and hearts to God, for the harvest is great but the labourers are few, we pray to the Lord of the harvest to send many generous souls to gather more souls into his vineyard:

Response: Lord, make us true missionary disciples.

1. Faith in the resurrection is the starting point of the mission. That those who have abandoned Christianity may be brought back by Generous souls to the true fold, we pray to you Lord,
2. The great danger in today's world is consumerism. That it may not invade the Church, and may we support the Holy Father who strives to make it a Church of the poor and for the poor, we pray to the Lord.
3. Our Holy Father calls the Church to repentance. We pray for the Cardinals, Bishops, Priests and those consecrated to God's service that they may realize the grave harm done to the integrity of the Church by their misbehaviour and misdeeds and may

make penance and reparation for their infidelity, we pray to the Lord.

4. We pray for married couples and families, who live in a society in which the bond of marriage is losing its value that they may be helped to live their life in faith and love, we pray to the Lord.



5. May Mary, the queen of the Apostles and of the missions accompany and sustain all those who consecrate their lives to the proclamation of God's kingdom, we pray to you Lord.

Let us now together recite the Prayer composed for the EMM: Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he commissioned his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations" and you remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church. Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new and efficacious expressions that bring life and light to the world. Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen. ♦



hold on to the faith he has accepted and lived. Like St. Paul we are called to make a total sacrifice of ourselves. We must accept all the suffering without complaint. Like Paul, we must remember that even if everyone fails us, God will continue to stay beside us because He is always faithful and his mercy endures forever.

3. Lk 18:9-14

Like the Gospel of the previous Sunday, today's gospel also continues the same theme of

prayer; however, today's gospel emphasizes one's attitude towards prayer. The parable of the Pharisee and the publican explains the attitude one should have in prayer. Jesus emphasizes that we need to focus more on interior disposition rather than external purity. He who humbles himself will be exalted, humility is essential in prayer. When we pray do we speak from the height of our pride or out of the depths of a humble and contrite heart?

Introduction

Today is the last Sunday of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. However the call for mission does not end here, but it is just a beginning. During this month we have sowed the seed of the New Evangelization. We have received lots of inputs, from the media, from the teachings of the Church. We have tried to reflect a lot on the missions. Let us now pray during this Eucharistic celebration that with the help and mandate of our Lord, we might venture forth as Missionaries of Christ.

Readings

1. Sir. 35:15b-17, 20-22a

This Chapter admonishes us to keep God's commandments: to be kind, to be generous in charity, to avoid bribes and to act with justice. The examples of Elijah who was sent to the Phoenician widow and Elisha who healed the Syrian leper Naaman are evidence that God is merciful. The reading also reveals how the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds.

2. 2 Tim:4: 6-8, 16-18

The Apostle Paul says, "I have fought the fight, I have kept my faith." Paul's life was about to come to an end. He is writing these words in a Roman prison as he expects to be executed. So he makes his last ministry recommendation to Timothy charging him to

Prayer of the Faithful

Introduction: The Church is missionary by nature, and was born to 'go forth'. We pray Lord that your mission may be the central concern and aspiration of every Christian as we come to the close of this mission month. We place our intercessions before you as we look forward with greater zeal to continue our work to expand your vineyard.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

1. For our Holy Father Pope Francis, the Cardinals, Bishops and Priests who by their office have the special mandate to govern the Church, may together be one with the flock of Christ entrusted to them, in the field and activities of Evangelization, let us pray to the

Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer*

2. For our Seminarians and Religious, and all those in formation that the call of Christ may deepen their vocation to be holy witnesses, as they venture into the Mission, let us pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*
3. We pray for our country: that the leaders may seek the common good by extending the resources they have for the uplift of the poor, we pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer*
4. We pray for the youth, the future of the Church, that they may make the church vibrant and become salt to the earth and light of the world, Let us pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer*
5. We pray for all the departed Missionaries who have shown us the path of faith and loyalty to the church; may they now enjoy the fruit of their labours in the bliss of heaven. Let us pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Let us now together recite the Prayer composed for the EMM: Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he commissioned his followers to "go and

make disciples of all nations" and you remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church. Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission



entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new and efficacious expressions that bring life and light to the world. Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen. ♦

Medjugorje: Vatican official cautions prudence

KNOCK, Ireland — Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, is a place of prayer, conversion and pilgrimage for millions of people, but the Church must be prudent and not rush to any judgment on the alleged Marian apparitions there, said Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization.

Speaking to Catholic News Service at Knock Shrine in County Mayo Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption, Fisichella spoke of attending the first officially approved church festival at Medjugorje in early August.

"I confess the experience was very beautiful, seeing about 70,000 young people praying and living together and listening to catechesis," he told CNS, describing it as a mini-World Youth Day.

The presence of so many young people there was, he suggested, "one of the fruits" of the pastoral efforts of Medjugorje.

Visionaries claim to have seen more than 40,000 Marian apparitions since June 1981, when six teenagers first claimed they saw an apparition of Our Lady while herding sheep.