



02 October 2026

HOLY HOUR

One in Christ, united in mission

Introduction: (Message of the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV for Mission Sunday 2026)

Dear brothers and sisters, For World Mission Day 2026, which marks the centenary of a celebration established by Pius XI that is very dear to the Church, I have chosen the theme “One in Christ, united in mission.” Following the Jubilee Year, I wish to encourage the whole Church to continue its missionary journey with joy and zeal in the Holy Spirit. This requires hearts united in Christ, reconciled communities and, in everyone, a willingness to cooperate with generosity and trust. As we reflect on being one in Christ and united in mission, let us allow ourselves to be guided and inspired by divine grace, “to renew in ourselves the fire of our missionary vocation” and advance together in the commitment to evangelization, in this “new missionary age” in the history of the Church.

Hymn: Come with your music and sing to the Lord (*Joyful Celebration No. 102*)

My Savior, Here I stand in front of You— calm, serene, and awed by Your presence. I might not find the appropriate words to convey my feelings. but You understand me entirely. You are aware of my happiness and my sadness, my dreams and my anxieties, my gratitude and even the feelings I cannot express. And still, you call me to come and just be with You.

Jesus, I worship You. I relish You for all that You are— my Lord, my God, my Savior, my shelter and my power. You are the One who remains constant, the one who stays committed even in my weakness, doubt, or distance from You. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the gift of my existence, for each gift I have been given, for the people You have brought into my life, for the times of joy and also during the challenging times by which You have silently led me. I often focus solely on what I lack. Today, in Your company, I would like to take a moment and just mention: Thank you, Lord Jesus. Gratitude for each prayer that has been answered. and for the prayers that seemed to go unanswered. Thank You for the doors You opened and for the doors You closed because You knew what was best for me. Thank You for staying with me when I did not feel Your presence. Thank You for loving me not because I am perfect, but simply because I am Your child.

(Pause... for Moments of Silent and Personal Adoration before the Eucharistic Lord)

Hymn: All you nations (*Joyful Celebration No.35*)

Thanksgiving:

Lord, we express our gratitude for the blessing of our faith and for uniting us as one in Christ. Assist us in cherishing the unity we have and help us grow together as one family.

Res: We give thanks to You, Lord.



- Lord, we are grateful to You for entrusting all of us with a mission to accomplish. May we joyfully use our abilities and talents to share Your Gospel and spread Your love to all.
- Lord, we express our gratitude for all missionaries who selflessly dedicate their lives to serving You. Bless them for their courage, dedication, and faithful witness to Your love.
- We express our gratitude, Lord, for the Holy Spirit, who leads, empowers, and brings us together. Renew within us the flame of missionary passion and guide us to journey together in faith and love.
- Lord, we express our gratitude for the numerous gifts and abilities, and talents You have bestowed upon Your people. Help us value our diversity, uplift each other, and collaborate with each other for Christ's mission.
- Lord, we express our gratitude for Your unwavering love shown to us through Jesus Christ. May Your love bring us together and motivate us to be vessels of peace, hope, and compassion wherever we go.

Hymn: Give thanks with a grateful heart (*Joyful Celebration No. 133*)

Come, Holy Spirit, open my heart and my mind as I listen to the Word of God. Help me not only to hear these words, but to understand what You are saying to me today. May Your Word touch my heart, guide my thoughts, strengthen my faith, and help me to live more closely with Jesus. Holy Spirit, speak to my heart. Give me ears to hear, a heart to receive, and the courage to live Your Word.

Hymn: All over the world (*Joyful Celebration No.26*)

Reading: Jn 17: 20-23

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

Reflection:

One in Christ – Missionary disciples united in him and with our brothers and sisters

The mystery of union with Christ lies at the heart of mission. Before his Passion, Jesus prayed to the Father, “that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us” (*Jn 17:21*). These words reveal Jesus’ deepest desire, as well as the identity of the Church as a community of his disciples. That is, a communion that flows from the Trinity, and continues to be sustained by the Trinity. A communion at the service of fraternity among all human beings and harmony with all creation.

Being a Christian is not primarily about practices or ideas; it is a life in union with Christ, in which we share in his filial relationship with the Father in the Holy Spirit. It means abiding in Christ, like branches on the vine (cf. *Jn 15:4*), immersed in the life of the Trinity. This union gives rise to mutual communion among believers and is the source of all missionary fruitfulness.



In this context, the Church's primary missionary responsibility is to renew and sustain spiritual and fraternal unity among its members. In many situations, we encounter conflicts, polarization, misunderstandings and a lack of mutual trust. When this occurs even within our communities, it undermines our witness. The evangelizing mission that Christ entrusted to his disciples requires, above all, hearts that are reconciled and eager for communion.

Last but not least, being "one in Christ" calls us to keep our gaze fixed on the Lord, so that he may truly be at the centre of our lives and communities, the centre of every word, action and interpersonal relationship, leading us to say with amazement: "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (*Gal 2:20*). By constantly listening to his word and through the grace of the Sacraments, it will be possible for us to become living stones in the Church. Today, the Church is called to take up the fundamental themes of the Second Vatican Council and the subsequent Papal Magisterium, in particular that of Pope Francis. In fact, as Saint Paul says, "we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord"

United in mission – That the world may believe in Christ the Lord

The unity of disciples is not an end in itself; it is directed towards mission. Jesus states this clearly: "So that the world may believe that you have sent me" (*Jn 17:21*). It is through the witness of a reconciled, fraternal and united community that the proclamation of the Gospel acquires its full communicative power. No baptized person is exempt from or indifferent to mission: everyone, each according to their own vocation and condition of life, participates in the great work that Christ has entrusted to his Church. As Pope Francis repeatedly reminded us, proclaiming the Gospel is an action that is always harmonious, communal and synodal.

For this reason, unity in mission means safeguarding and nurturing the spirituality of communion and missionary cooperation. By daily fostering this attitude, divine grace gradually teaches us to see our brothers and sisters through the eyes of faith. We also learn to recognize joyfully the good that the Spirit inspires in each person, to embrace diversity as a treasure, to bear one another's burdens and always to seek the unity that comes from above. Indeed, we all share in one mission in "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all" (*Eph 4:5-6*).

Mission to love – Proclaiming, living and sharing God's faithful love

If unity is the condition of mission, love is its essence. The Good News that we are sent to proclaim to the world is not an abstract ideal; it is the Gospel of God's faithful love, which became flesh in the face and life of Jesus Christ.

The mission of the disciples and the Church as a whole is to continue the mission of Christ in the Holy Spirit: a mission born of love, lived in love, and leading to love. In fact, the Lord himself, in his great prayer to the Father before his Passion, after invoking unity among his disciples, concludes: "so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them" (*Jn 17:26*). Impelled by the love of Christ, the Apostles then went out to evangelize for Christ (cf. *2 Cor 5:14*). In the same way, throughout the centuries, multitudes of Christians — martyrs, confessors and missionaries — have given their lives to make this divine love known to the world. Thus, guided by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of love, the Church's evangelizing mission will continue until the end of time.

Filled with admiration for men and women missionaries, I make a special appeal to the whole Church to join them in the mission of evangelization through the witness of our lives in Christ, through prayer and through



our contributions to the missions. As Saint Francis of Assisi said, “Love is not loved,” and we look to him in a special way on the eight hundredth anniversary of his passing to heaven. Let us find inspiration in his desire to live in the love of the Lord and to transmit it to those both near and far, because, as he said, “this love Who hath loved us much is much to be loved” Let us also draw inspiration from the zeal of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, who declared that she would continue her mission even after death: “I shall desire in heaven the same thing as I do now on earth: to love Jesus and to make him loved”

Hymn: Go, go into the world tell them I’m alive (*Joyful Celebration No. 139*)

Examination of conscience

Let us pause in silence and honestly look into our hearts before the Lord.

- Is Christ truly at the centre of my life, my decisions and my relationships?
- Do I make time for prayer and listening to God’s Word?
- Do I build unity, or do I sometimes create division through my words or actions?
- Do I hold on to hurt, resentment or past misunderstandings?
- Am I willing to forgive, reconcile and make the first step towards peace?
- Do I respect and appreciate the different gifts, talents and ways of service found in others?
- Am I willing to cooperate with others in carrying out Christ’s mission?
- Do I see evangelization as the responsibility of every baptized person, including myself?
- By the way I live, do I draw others closer to Christ?
- Do I pray for missionaries and support the Church’s mission?
- Am I willing to step beyond my comfort zone to bring Christ’s love to others?

Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times we have allowed division, pride, indifference or selfishness to come between us. Heal our hearts and renew us in Your love. Make us one in Christ and united in mission, so that through our lives the world may recognize Your love. **Amen.**

Hymn: Hymn: Make me an instrument (*Joyful Celebration No. 265*)

Intercessory Prayers:

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

1. For the Church

For our Holy Father Pope Leo, our bishops, priests, religious and all the faithful: that, united in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we may become a reconciled and joyful community, bearing faithful witness to the Gospel and working together in mission. We pray to the Lord.

2. For Unity among Christians

For all Christians and the different Churches and communities: that the prayer of Jesus, “that they may all be one,” may become a reality among us; that divisions, misunderstandings and mistrust may give way to reconciliation, fraternity and communion. We pray to the Lord.



3. For Missionaries throughout the World

For all missionaries who have left their homes, families and places of comfort to proclaim Christ, especially those serving in places of poverty, conflict and hardship: that the Lord may strengthen them, protect them and fill them with courage, joy and perseverance. We pray to the Lord.

4. For New Missionary Vocations

For young people and adults whom the Lord is calling to missionary service: that they may have generous hearts, the courage to respond to God's call and the grace to proclaim Christ and make His love known to the ends of the earth. We pray to the Lord.

5. For Our Parish and Communities

For our parish communities, families and all who serve the Church: that we may recognize and value the different gifts and charisms among us, overcome every spirit of division, and work together with generosity, trust and love for the one mission of Christ. We pray to the Lord.

6. For the Whole World

For our world, especially for those who are poor, suffering, displaced, lonely or without hope: that through our prayer, compassion and practical service, they may encounter the faithful love of God and come to recognize Christ as the light and hope of all humanity. We pray to the Lord.

Concluding Prayer: Heavenly Father, you have called us to be **one in Christ and united in mission**. Fill us with the fire of your Holy Spirit, deepen our love for one another, and make us courageous witnesses of your Gospel. May everything, we do bring your love and peace to our world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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