

ON MISSION

Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings
of the Roman Catholic Church

EVERYONE IS CALLED

... Every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the Church, the community of Christ's disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ. To evangelize is the very identity of the Church.

“FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE”

... It was no coincidence that the Lord Jesus sent His disciples out on mission in pairs; the witness of Christians to Christ is primarily communication in nature. Hence, in carrying out the mission, the presence of a community, regardless of size, is of fundamental importance.

WITNESS TO JESUS

... The disciples are urged to live their personal lives *in a missionary key*: they are sent by Jesus to the world not only to *carry out*, but also and above all to be witnesses of Christ... The essence of the mission is to bear witness to Christ, that is, to His life, passion, death and resurrection for the love of the Father and of humanity.



“SUPREME HONOR”

Missionaries of Christ are not sent to communicate themselves, to exhibit their persuasive qualities and abilities or their managerial skills. Instead, theirs is the supreme honor of presenting Christ in words and deeds, proclaiming to everyone the Good News of His salvation, as the first apostles did, with joy and boldness.

CHALLENGING WORDS

The words “to the ends of the earth” should challenge the disciples of Jesus in every age and impel them to press beyond familiar places in bearing witness to Him... No human reality is foreign to the concern of the disciples of Jesus in their mission. Christ's Church will continue to “go forth” towards new geographical, social and existential horizons, towards “borderline” places and human situations, in order to bear witness to Christ and His love to men and women of every people, culture and social status.

LED BY THE SPIRIT

... No Christian is able to bear full and genuine witness to Christ the Lord without the Spirit's inspiration and assistance. All Christ's missionary disciples are called to recognize the essential importance of the Spirit's work, to dwell in His presence daily and to receive His unfailing strength and guidance.

“NEW ERA”

... I continue to dream of a completely missionary Church, and a new era of missionary activity among Christian communities... Would that all of us in the Church were what we already are by virtue of baptism: prophets, witnesses, missionaries of the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the ends of the earth! Mary, Queen of the Missions, pray for us!

(Source: Message for World Mission Sunday, 1/6/22)

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Presentation Ministries
3230 McHenry, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211
www.presentationministries.com
(513) 662-5378 orders@presentationministries.com