

**World Mission
Sunday 2024**
October 20th

**GO AND INVITE
EVERYONE**
to the banquet
(MT 22:9)

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Pray and Give Generously on **OCTOBER 20, 2024**



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 Pope Francis, is rooted in the Gospel of Matthew: "Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet," reflecting the inclusive and urgent call to bring God's love to everyone. 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. 20, 2024 at 12:15 p.m. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant. Father Stephen Bosomafi, a native of the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana, and pastor of Saint Thomas More Parish in Lake Ariel, will be the homilist. 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 the universal mission to spread the Gospel and invite all to experience the joy of Christ's message!

Honesdale parishioners' generosity providing new church in Ghana

HONESDALE - When Father William Langan first appealed to his parishioners at Saint John the Evangelist Parish two year ago about providing financial assistance for a church building project in the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana, the response was immediate and overwhelming.

Faithful members of the four churches comprising the Honesdale Catholic parish believed - and still believe - their generous support would be most fitting, given that their assistant pastor, Father Dominic Sabi, is a native of the West African republic and one of nearly ten priests from Sunyani who are currently providing much-needed ministry in the Diocese of Scranton.

Since that time, the Saint John's parishioners have "adopted" the recently created Saint Anthony of Padua Rectorate (Parish) in Ghana as a "sister parish," generously raising \$5,175 for the construction of their new church.

"They are really counting on our donations," Father Langan said, as he proudly announced the first phase of the building project was completed early this year. "The superstructure is up and the roof is in place."

He related that the funding drive is ongoing and continues to be very successful.

"Once we accumulate a considerable amount of funds, we send it over to them," Father Langan noted, adding that he believes his parish hopes to make another sizable donation by next Lent.

The fundraising drive began with a simple request by Father Sabi, Saint John's assistant pastor since 2021, who has close ties to the Ghana parish.

He explained that when Most Rev. Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi, Bishop of the priest's home Diocese of Sunyani, established the new rectorate, he named Father Samuel Takyi, a seminary classmate of Father Sabi, as the founding pastor.

Father Sabi related that the existing Saint Anthony Church was in a "deplorable state" and needed to be razed



Generous donations from parishioners of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Honesdale have provided essential funding for a new church building project in the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana. (Provided photo)

to the foundation.

"I realized there was a great need, and I approached Father Langan about the possibility of our parish lending a helping hand," he said.

According to the African native priest, the second phase of the project is well underway, including extensive electrical work.

"We look forward to the next phase when pews will be installed and interior painting begins," Father Sabi shared.

Not surprisingly, expressions of gratitude from Saint Anthony of Padua Parish and the Sunyani Diocese have been most effusive. Letters of grateful appreciation have

arrived in Honesdale from Bishop Gyamfi and Father Fosu Dibi Eric, the parish's current rector.

"With deepest sense of appreciation, I write of behalf of Christ's faithful of St. Anthony Rectorate at Kwadwokumikrom," Father Fosu has communicated to Father Langan. "Our sincerest gratitude to you and your cherished and benevolent parishioners of St. John's Parish, Honesdale, for your donation towards the renovation of our church building project."

"My people cannot hide their joy for reaching out to support us," he stated. "We continue to count on your... support to assist us (to) complete the project to the greater glory of God."

God calls everyone to the happiness of his kingdom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Mission is tirelessly going out to all men and women to invite them with respect, joy and kindness, to encounter God and enter into communion with him, Pope Francis wrote in his message for World Mission Sunday.

The Catholic Church, he wrote, "in fidelity to the mission she has received from the Lord, will continue to go to the ends of the earth, to set out over and over again, without ever growing weary or losing heart in the face of difficulties and obstacles."

He also praised the Eucharistic renewal that many local churches are promoting, saying this "will also be essential for reviving the missionary spirit in each member of the faithful."

"In this year devoted to prayer in preparation for the Jubilee of 2025, I wish to encourage all to deepen their commitment above all to take part in the celebration of Mass and to pray for the church's mission of evangelization," he wrote.

The theme of this year's message, "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," (Mt 22:9) indicates three important aspects of evangelization, the pope wrote: going out into the world; inviting everyone; and indicating God's divine banquet, which is "marked by joy, sharing, justice and fraternity in communion with God and with others."

"God, great in love and rich in mercy, constantly sets out to encounter all men and women, and to call them to the happiness of his kingdom, even in the face of their indifference or refusal," he wrote.

"Let us not forget that every Christian is called to take part in this universal mission by offering his or her own witness to the Gospel in every context," he wrote.

At the same time, the pope wrote, those bringing the Gospel to everyone must imitate the Lord's same "style" and do so "with joy, magnanimity and benevolence that are the fruits of the Holy Spirit within them. Not by pressuring, coercing or

proselytizing, but with closeness, compassion and tenderness."

Everyone, "whatever their social or even moral status," is invited by God "to partake of his grace, which transforms and saves. One need simply say 'yes' to this gratuitous divine gift, accepting it and allowing oneself (to) be transformed by it," the pope wrote.



Bishop Bambera's Letter for World Mission Sunday

On October 20, 2024, the Universal Church will celebrate World Mission Sunday. As we come together on this special day, I join Pope Francis in inviting each of you to embrace the Gospel's call: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19). This invitation to mission is at the heart of our faith, compelling us to share God's love with all people.

World Mission Sunday is a reminder that our faith is not confined by borders but extends to the farthest reaches of our world. This day invites us to reflect on our shared vocation as baptized members of the Body of Christ – to be ambassadors of His love and to engage in the transformative work of His mission. Together, we can bring the light of Christ to those who have not yet heard His message.

More than a century ago, the Church in the United States was sustained by the generosity of Catholics worldwide, a generosity that will be reflected in our second collection on World Mission Sunday. We now can extend that same support to our brothers and sisters in over 1,150 mission territories across Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East. Your gifts will help to fund seminaries, support the formation of future religious sisters, train catechists, and sustain Catholic schools and healthcare centers.

Moreover, let us commit to praying for missionaries and the people they serve. Our prayers are powerful and critically important for those who dedicate their lives to serving others in the name of Christ. They work in regions marked by extreme weather conditions, violence, disease, and socio-political upheaval. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire all those involved in mission work!

May our participation in World Mission Sunday reflect the depth of our faith and our commitment to making the world a place where the light of Christ shines brightly for all.



Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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



Father Stephen Kow Bosomafi to serve as homilist at WORLD MISSION SUNDAY MASS AT CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER

SCRANTON - Father Stephen Bosomafi, pastor of Saint Thomas More Parish in Lake Ariel, will serve as the homilist of the World Mission Sunday Mass on Oct. 20, 2024, at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant.

All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Father Bosomafi was born in February 1975 in Amisano, near Elmina and Cape Coast, in the Central Region of Ghana. He is the son of Paul Kweku Bosomafi and Beatrice Esi Baaba Bosomafi.

At the age of 15, Father Bosomafi's path to becoming a Catholic priest began when he had the opportunity to write an entrance examination for Saint James Minor Seminary for his high school education from 1990-1993. After high school, Father Bosomafi decided to continue his priestly formation, and in 1995, entered Saint Paul's Major Seminary, Sowutuom-Accra for a spiritual year and philosophical studies. He continued to Saint Peter's Regional Seminary, Pedu-Cape Coast for Theological Studies from 1998-2002. He obtained a bachelor's degree in

sociology and the study of religions from the University of Ghana, Legon-Accra. He also has a post graduate diploma in education (PGDE) from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

Father Bosomafi was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sunyani on Dec. 7, 2002.

In Sept. 2004, his Bishop, Most Rev. Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi, asked him to go for further studies in the United States.

While working as an assistant pastor at a parish in New York, he received a master's degree in Business Administration from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Father Bosomafi returned to Ghana in 2008 and served as Diocesan Financial Administrator and on numerous boards and commissions.

In Feb. 2022, Bishop Matthew requested Father Bosomafi to return to the United States, specifically in the Diocese of Scranton to help raise money for Diocesan missions. After serving as assistant pastor at Christ the King Parish, Archbald, he was appointed pastor of Saint Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel, on July 26, 2022. He is also currently a member of the Diocesan Presbyteral Council.



Father Bosomafi enjoys reading, walking, biking, cooking and traveling.



WHAT IS THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED STATES?




The Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith

The Propagation of the Faith's commitment is to arouse in the people of God an authentically universal spirit in order to make grow in the local Churches a missionary awareness in accordance with the Church's natural outreach.



The Pontifical Missionary Childhood Association

The Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood or of the Holy Childhood leads children to discover the missionary spirit and teaches them to help children of their same age around the world through prayer and small material sacrifices.



The Pontifical Society of St. Peter Apostle

The Society of Saint Peter collaborates in the growth of the young churches through financial support for building new seminaries and formation programs for the new local priests, religious and sisters.



The Pontifical Missionary Union

The Missionary Union is an association of the clergy, men and women religious and laypersons which proposes to arouse the passion for the mission in the Church, contribute to missionary formation, and encourage the Christian communities to cooperate and take active part in evangelization.

As we come together to celebrate World Mission Sunday on October 20, 2024, I invite you to reflect on our shared call to serve those in need and to spread the Gospel to all corners of the world.

This year, Pope Francis invites us with the theme, "Go and invite everyone to the banquet (cf. Mt 22:9)," reminding us of the joyful and urgent call to share the Good News that is at the heart of our faith.

World Mission Sunday is a special day for all of us to reflect on the Church's global mission to bring the Gospel to every corner of the world.

We are part of a beautiful story that goes back generations. Over a century ago, when the United States was considered a mission territory, Catholics around the world supported us with their prayers and gifts. Today, we have the opportunity and responsibility to do the same for our brothers and sisters in over 1,150 mission areas across Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East.

In the Diocese of Scranton, we have a rich history of missionary activity. Many priests, religious, and lay people from our own parishes

MISSION MESSAGE

All are Welcome!

**By Shannon Kowalski
Diocesan Director,
Pontifical Mission Societies**



have dedicated their lives to mission work, reaching out to the poorest and most marginalized in different parts of the world.

Their commitment to bringing both the message of salvation, and practical assistance to those in need, is a testament to the faith and generosity of the people of this diocese. This legacy of service continues today through the efforts of missionaries supported by the Pontifical Mission Societies, who ensure that our outreach extends to the ends of the earth.

World Mission Sunday is an opportunity for each of us to participate in this important work. Your prayers and financial support are crucial in empowering missionaries to continue their work in challenging environments.

The support gathered on World Mission Sunday directly impacts the lives of seminarians,

religious sisters, catechists, and helps develop Catholic schools and healthcare centers.

Let's make World Mission Sunday a spark for a renewed missionary spirit in our parishes.

Together, we can inspire our communities to look beyond our local church and embrace the world that is longing for the message of Jesus.

Let's also pray for the success of the Church's mission and for the missionaries who dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel.

May our prayers and contributions on World Mission Sunday bring abundant blessings as we answer the call to invite everyone to the Lord's banquet.

You may return the form below to: Society for the Propagation of the Faith, c/o Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.

Thank you for your support!

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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