



PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES (PMS) GHANA  
2020 – 2021



# *Celebrations*



*Theme:*

## **“HERE AM I, SEND ME”**

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PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES (PMS)  
2020 – 2021



*Theme:*  
**“HERE AM I, SEND ME”**

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# PREFACE

Pope Francis released his annual Message for World Mission Sunday 2020 on Pentecost Sunday. Its theme is taken from Isaiah: “Here am I, send me” (6:8). World Mission Sunday is celebrated on October 18 in 2020.

The Pope began his message recalling the words he expressed on the occasion of the extraordinary moment of prayer on 27 March. Even in the disorientation and fear provoked by the current international crisis, Pope Francis says the Lord continues to ask “Whom shall I send?” Even as we touch our frailty in the pain and death we are experiencing, we are also reminded “of our deep desire for life and liberation from evil”. This is where the call to mission emerges as an “invitation to step out of ourselves for love of God and neighbor” through “service and intercessory prayer”, he writes.

Just as Jesus completely accomplished His mission by dying on the cross, “we find ourselves precisely when we give ourselves to others”, Pope Francis continues. Our mission, our call, our willingness to be sent originate in His own vocation as “the Father’s Missionary”. “Our personal vocation” is rooted in “the

fact that we are sons and daughters of God in the Church”.

Pope Francis explains that it is specifically the Church that “continues the mission of Jesus in history”. Thus the baptized members of the Church are sent forth in her name. Through our witness and proclamation of the Gospel, God continues “to manifest His love”. This is how He is able to “touch and transform hearts, minds, bodies, societies and cultures in every place and time.”

“Mission is a free and conscious response to God’s call”, the Pope reminds us. A call to mission can only be discerned “when we have a personal relationship of love with Jesus present in his Church”. That leads to the question of our preparedness to welcome the Holy Spirit’s presence and action in our lives. That call comes to married couples, consecrated persons and ordained ministers in life’s everyday events. Another question the Pope says we should ask ourselves is if we are willing “to be sent forth at any time or place to witness to our faith” and relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And the last question is if we are willing to

respond as Mary did always “ready to be completely at the service of God's will?”

The challenge for the Church's mission right now is that of “Understanding what God is saying to us at this time of pandemic”, Pope Francis acknowledges. As people die alone or are abandoned, as others lost their jobs, with the necessity of social distancing or staying at home, the Pope says that we are invited “to rediscover that we need social relationships as well as our communal relationship with God”. This situation can increase our awareness of the need to relate to others, he says. God will touch our hearts through prayer which will always open us to understand others' needs. Those of us who have not been able to participate in the Church's liturgical life now understand “the

experience of the many Christian communities that cannot celebrate Mass every Sunday”, the Pope said.

God's question expressed by the Prophet Isaiah “is addressed once more to us and awaits a generous and convincing response: 'Here am I, send me!' (Is 6:8). Pope Francis says at the conclusion of his message. World Mission Sunday will be a day on which we will be able to reaffirm through prayer, reflection and material help our active participation in Jesus's mission in His Church. Pope Francis specifies that the collection taken up on 18 October will support “the missionary work carried out in my name by the Pontifical Mission Societies, in order to meet the spiritual and material needs of peoples and Churches throughout the world, for the salvation of all.”

**MISSIO GHANA, CHRIST TO THE WHOLE WORLD!!!**  
**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS**  
**FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2020**

***Here am I, send me (Is 6:8)***

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

I wish to express my gratitude to God for the commitment with which the Church throughout the world carried out the Extraordinary Missionary Month last October. I am convinced that it stimulated missionary conversion in many communities on the path indicated by the theme: “Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World”.

In this year marked by the suffering and challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic, the missionary journey of the whole Church continues in light of the words found in the account of the calling of the prophet Isaiah: “Here am I, send me” (6:8). This is the ever new response to the Lord's question: “Whom shall I send?” (ibid.). This invitation from God's merciful heart challenges both the Church and humanity as a whole in the current world crisis. “Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On

this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying 'We are perishing' (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this” (*Meditation in Saint Peter's Square*, 27 March 2020). We are indeed frightened, disoriented and afraid. Pain and death make us experience our human frailty, but at the same time remind us of our deep desire for life and liberation from evil. In this context, the call to mission, the invitation to step out of ourselves for love of God and neighbour presents itself as an opportunity for sharing, service and intercessory prayer. The mission that God entrusts to each one of us leads us from fear and introspection to a renewed realization that we find ourselves precisely when we give ourselves to others.

In the sacrifice of the cross, where the mission of Jesus is fully accomplished (cf. *Jn* 19:28-30), God shows us that his love is for each and every one of us (cf. *Jn* 19:26-27). He asks us to be personally willing to be sent, because he himself is Love, love that is always “on mission”, always reaching out in



order to give life. Out of his love for us, God the Father sent his Son Jesus (cf. *Jn* 3:16). Jesus is the Father's Missionary: his life and ministry reveal his total obedience to the Father's will (cf. *Jn* 4:34; 6:38; 8:12-30; *Heb* 10:5-10). Jesus, crucified and risen for us, draws us in turn into his mission of love, and with his Spirit which enlivens the Church, he makes us his disciples and sends us on a mission to the world and to its peoples.

“The mission, the 'Church on the move', is not a programme, an enterprise to be carried out by sheer force of will. It is Christ who makes the Church go out of herself. In the mission of evangelization, you move because the Holy Spirit pushes you, and carries you” (*Senza di Lui non possiamo fare nulla: Essere missionari oggi nel mondo. Una conversazione con Gianni Valente*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana: San Paolo, 2019, 16-17). God always loves us first and with this love comes to us and calls us. Our personal vocation comes from the fact that we are sons and daughters of God in the Church, his family, brothers and sisters in that love that Jesus has shown us. All, however, have a human dignity founded on the divine invitation to be children of God and to become, in the sacrament of Baptism and in the freedom of faith, what they have always been in the heart of God.

Life itself, as a gift freely received, is implicitly an invitation to this gift of self: it is a seed which, in the baptized, will blossom as a response of love in marriage or in virginity for the kingdom of God. Human life is born of the love of God, grows in love and tends towards love. No one is excluded from the love of God, and in the holy sacrifice of Jesus his Son on the cross, God conquered sin and death (cf. *Rom* 8:31-39). For God, evil even sin becomes a challenge to respond with even greater love (cf. *Mt* 5:38-48; *Lk* 22:33-34). In the Paschal Mystery, divine mercy heals our wounded humanity and is poured out upon the whole universe. The Church, the universal sacrament of God's love for the world, continues the mission of Jesus in history and sends us everywhere so that, through our witness of faith and the proclamation of the Gospel, God may continue to manifest his love and in this way touch and transform hearts, minds, bodies, societies and cultures in every place and time.

Mission is a free and conscious response to God's call. Yet we discern this call only when we have a personal relationship of love with Jesus present in his Church. Let us ask ourselves: are we prepared to welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to listen to the call to mission, whether in our life as married couples or as consecrated persons or those called to the ordained ministry, and in all the



everyday events of life? Are we willing to be sent forth at any time or place to witness to our faith in God the merciful Father, to proclaim the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ, to share the divine life of the Holy Spirit by building up the Church? Are we, like Mary, the Mother of Jesus, ready to be completely at the service of God's will (cf. *Lk 1:38*)? This interior openness is essential if we are to say to God: "Here am I, Lord, send me" (cf. *Is 6:8*). And this, not in the abstract, but in this chapter of the life of the Church and of history.

Understanding what God is saying to us at this time of pandemic also represents a challenge for the Church's mission. Illness, suffering, fear and isolation challenge us. The poverty of those who die alone, the abandoned, those who have lost their jobs and income, the homeless and those who lack food challenge us. Being forced to observe social distancing and to stay at home invites us to rediscover that we need social relationships as well as our communal relationship with God. Far from increasing mistrust and indifference, this situation should make us even more attentive to our way of relating to others. And prayer, in which God touches and moves our hearts, should make us ever more open to the need of our brothers and sisters for dignity and freedom, as well as our responsibility to care for all creation. The impossibility of gathering as a Church to celebrate the

Eucharist has led us to share the experience of the many Christian communities that cannot celebrate Mass every Sunday. In all of this, God's question: "Whom shall I send?" is addressed once more to us and awaits a generous and convincing response: "Here am I, send me!" (*Is 6:8*). God continues to look for those whom he can send forth into the world and to the nations to bear witness to his love, his deliverance from sin and death, his liberation from evil (cf. *Mt 9:35-38; Lk 10:1-12*).

The celebration of World Mission Day is also an occasion for reaffirming how prayer, reflection and the material help of your offerings are so many opportunities to participate actively in the mission of Jesus in his Church. The charity expressed in the collections that take place during the liturgical celebrations of the third Sunday of October is aimed at supporting the missionary work carried out in my name by the Pontifical Mission Societies, in order to meet the spiritual and material needs of peoples and Churches throughout the world, for the salvation of all.

May the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of Evangelization and Comforter of the Afflicted, missionary disciple of her Son Jesus, continue to intercede for us and sustain us.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 31 May 2020, Solemnity of Pentecost*



**PROGRAMME FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE PONTIFICAL  
SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH. 11 18 OCTOBER, 2020.  
THEME: “HERE AM I, SEND ME” (ISAIAH 6:8)**

**SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020:  
LAUNCHING IN THE CHURCH**

- Talk briefly on the theme. Stress on the main activities in the week.
- Encourage all the People of God to respond positively to Pope Francis' call on Here am I send me.
- Invite all to participate in this ongoing formation.

**MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020  
Call to mission is an opportunity  
for sharing**

We are indeed frightened, disoriented and afraid. Pain and death make us experience our human frailty, but at the same time remind us

of our deep desire for life and liberation from evil. In this context, the call to mission, the invitation to step out of ourselves for love of God and neighbour presents itself as an opportunity for sharing, service and intercessory prayer. The mission that God entrusts to each one of us leads us from fear and introspection to a renewed realization that we find ourselves precisely when we give ourselves to others.

**Questions for reflection:**

1. In the face of the COVID-19, how would you respond to your call to mission in everyday life.
2. In what ways can you help a neighbour come out of fear in this time of COVID-19 pandemic?

## **TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020:**

### **Mission is always reaching out in order to give life**

In the sacrifice of the cross, where the mission of Jesus is fully accomplished (cf. *Jn* 19:28-30), God shows us that his love is for each and every one of us (cf. *Jn* 19:26-27). He asks us to be personally willing to be sent, because he himself is Love, love that is always “on mission”, always reaching out in order to give life. Out of his love for us, God the Father sent his Son Jesus (cf. *Jn* 3:16). Jesus is the Father's Missionary: his life and ministry reveal his total obedience to the Father's will (cf. *Jn* 4:34; 6:38; 8:12-30; *Heb* 10:5-10). Jesus, crucified and risen for us, draws us in turn into his mission of love, and with his Spirit which enlivens the Church, he makes us his disciples and sends us on a mission to the world and to its peoples.

#### **Questions for reflection:**

1. How personally and practically willing are you to be sent as a baptized person?
2. As a baptized person, what is your mission to the world?

## **WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020:**

### **Christ makes the Church go out of herself**

“The mission, the 'Church on the move', is not a programme, an enterprise to be carried out by sheer force of will. It is Christ who makes the Church go out of herself. In the mission of evangelization, you move because the Holy Spirit pushes you, and carries you” (*Senza di Lui non possiamo fare nulla: Essere missionari oggi nel mondo. Una conversazione con Gianni Valente*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana: San Paolo, 2019, 16-17). God always loves us first and with this love comes to us and calls us. Our personal vocation comes from the fact that we are sons and daughters of God in the Church, his family, brothers and sisters in that love that Jesus has shown us. All, however, have a human dignity founded on the divine invitation to be children of God and to become, in the sacrament of Baptism and in the freedom of faith, what they have always been in the heart of God.

#### **Questions for reflection:**

1. How do you avail yourself for the Holy Spirit to move you for mission?
2. God always loves us first, how do you respond to this love in your life?

**THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020:**  
**The Church continues the mission of Jesus Christ**

Life itself, as a gift freely received, is implicitly an invitation to this gift of self: it is a seed which, in the baptized, will blossom as a response of love in marriage or in virginity for the kingdom of God. Human life is born of the love of God, grows in love and tends towards love. No one is excluded from the love of God, and in the holy sacrifice of Jesus his Son on the cross, God conquered sin and death (cf. *Rom* 8:31-39). For God, evil even sin becomes a challenge to respond with even greater love (cf. *Mt* 5:38-48; *Lk* 22:33-34). In the Paschal Mystery, divine mercy heals our wounded humanity and is poured out upon the whole universe. The Church, the universal sacrament of God's love for the world, continues the mission of Jesus in history and sends us everywhere so that, through our witness of faith and the proclamation of the Gospel, God may continue to manifest his love and in this way touch and transform hearts, minds, bodies, societies and cultures in every place and time.

**Questions for reflection:**

1. What can you do to continue the mission of Christ?

**FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020:**  
**Mission is a free and conscious response to God's call.**

Mission is a free and conscious response to God's call. Yet we discern this call only when we have a personal relationship of love with Jesus present in his Church. Let us ask ourselves: are we prepared to welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to listen to the call to mission, whether in our life as married couples or as consecrated persons or those called to the ordained ministry, and in all the everyday events of life? Are we willing to be sent forth at any time or place to witness to our faith in God the merciful Father, to proclaim the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ, to share the divine life of the Holy Spirit by building up the Church? Are we, like Mary, the Mother of Jesus, ready to be completely at the service of God's will (cf. *Lk* 1:38)? This interior openness is essential if we are to say to God: "Here am I, Lord, send me" (cf. *Is* 6:8). And this, not in the abstract, but in this chapter of the life of the Church and of history.

**Questions for reflection:**

1. How are you prepared to welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
2. How are you ready and willing to be sent forth to proclaim the Gospel of salvation?

**SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020:**  
**“Whom shall I send?” awaits our generous response: How do we respond?**

Understanding what God is saying to us at this time of pandemic also represents a challenge for the Church's mission. Illness, suffering, fear and isolation challenge us. The poverty of those who die alone, the abandoned, those who have lost their jobs and income, the homeless and those who lack food challenge us. Being forced to observe social distancing and to stay at home invites us to rediscover that we need social relationships as well as our communal relationship with God. Far from increasing mistrust and indifference, this situation should make us even more attentive to our way of relating to others. And prayer, in which God touches and moves our hearts, should make us ever more open to the need of our brothers and sisters for dignity and freedom, as well as our responsibility to care for all creation. The impossibility of gathering as a Church to celebrate the Eucharist has led us to share the experience of the many Christian communities that cannot celebrate Mass every Sunday. In all of this, God's question: “Whom shall I send?” is addressed once more to us and awaits a generous and convincing response: “Here am I, send me!” (*Is* 6:8). God continues to look for those whom he can send forth into the

world and to the nations to bear witness to his love, his deliverance from sin and death, his liberation from evil (cf. *Mt* 9:35-38; *Lk* 10:1-12).

**Questions for reflection:**

1. How have you placed yourself to be sent in this time of COVID-19?

**SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020.**

Exchange of Pulpit Reading of Pope's World Mission Sunday (WMS) Message (Before announcements are made).

Collection / Appeal / Donations for the Universal Solidarity Fund.

Finally, I call on everyone to support this mission of ours and of Christ by donating generously. You can issue your cheque in favor of **The Pontifical Mission Societies, National Investment Bank (NIB) Account Number: 1107000295201, Sunyani**

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**SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020**  
**Week after WORLD MISSION**  
**SUNDAY - Thank you to**  
**Parishioners.**

Thank you very much for your generous spiritual and financial support for WMS last week. This support is a blessing for the

Arch/Dioceses: The Clergy, Religious, Seminarians, Novices and Lay Catechists etc., who partly depend on this help through the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Please, kindly make sure that all proceeds are forwarded to your Arch/Diocesan Secretariats on time.



*The PMS Director, Coordinator and Animators from various Parishes, Goaso Diocese.*

**PAULINE JARICOT**  
**FOUNDRESS OF THE SOCIETY**  
**FOR THE**  
**PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH**  
**1799 - 1862**



## PROGRAMME FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD (HOLY CHILDHOOD) 7 14 FEBRUARY, 2021

### **SOME GUIDELINES IN THE USE OF IMAGES OF MINORS**

A human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems... Reason alone is sufficient to recognize the inviolable value of each single human life, but if we also look at the issue from the standpoint of faith, "every violation of the personal dignity of the human being cries out in vengeance to God and is an offence against the creator of the individual.

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child and Adolescent, approved on November 20, 1989 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, in Article 1 defines a "child as every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, majority is attained earlier".

The Code of Canon Law states that "A person who has completed the eighteenth year of age, has attained majority; below this age, a person is a minor. A minor who has not completed the seventh year of age is

called an infant and is considered incapable of personal responsibility; on completion of the seventh year, however, the minor is presumed to have the use of reason". (Can. 97) Therefore

1. Every interaction and activity involving minors is always inspired by the principles of dignity, respect, personal dignity and responsibility.

2. Our communication must always be positive.

3. It is important to use images that promote and attract because they communicate beauty, protection, development, faith, testimony, joy, preferring photos of children in a group.

4. The child must be the subject and not the object of the image, and must highlight the ability to be protagonists of their own destiny and not passive beneficiaries of the action.



5. Photos and videos must be appropriate or relevant to the activity the child is engaged in, for missionary childhood or in school or in other situations in his/her life.

6. One must not fuel discrimination or addictions from one country to another.

7. Use discretion, prudence and common sense to inform, avoiding hurting the recipient's feelings with raw images of those who at that moment cannot defend their dignity.

8. Take and use photographs and images of decent children who do not present themselves as victims, vulnerable or submissive, dirty and hungry, in tears or naked.

9. Do not refer to sensational stereotypes and materials to promote one's business, photographing extreme situations and pain, exploiting the presence of minors to induce mercy and reach an increase in fundraising.

10. Make sure the images are an honest representation of the situation and facts.

11. Do not involve children and young people in advertising that could harm

the harmonious development of their personality and that of children who look at the image.

12. Pay particular attention and sensitivity in the dissemination of images of sick, injured, disadvantaged children or in difficulty to avoid that, in the name of a compassionate sentiment, which could contribute to sensationalism that ends up becoming exploitation of the person.

Avoid

- acting in a way that shames, compromises or degrades children by causing forms of emotional abuse;
- putting the child in danger or exposing him/her to possible humiliations;
- discriminating children when choosing who to take a picture of;
- labeling children or describing them in a way that could cause sentimentalism or even psychological, physical, verbal or sexual abuse against them;
- publishing a story that could endanger a child, his/her family and others that surround him/her; - feeding the sense of welfare

### *Conclusion*

With these guidelines, the International Secretariat of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood intended to offer an instrument to those who collaborate in the mission of the Church, hoping that it will make choices in accordance with the priorities indicated above. Our aim is not to move those who see or read and thus obtain an offer, but to involve the baptized in the *missio ad gentes* through prayer and cooperation, promoting support for particular churches because is a member of a single Body which is that of the Church.

We are responsible for the information we disseminate, always in mutual respect.

### **SUNDAY 07 FEBRUARY 2021: LAUNCHING IN THE CHURCH**

- Invite all to participate actively in this ongoing formation.
- The general collection will however be taken during the climax (Thanksgiving Day) of the celebrations.
- Distribute the Special Envelopes.

- **The Universal Collection:** All monies collected are sent to the Universal Solidarity Fund for the Missionary Childhood (Holy Childhood) Society. These monies sent to Dioceses (Bishops) in Mission Territories like Ghana as subsidies to support them on putting up school building, children homes etc. these monies are generally for the welfare of the Children.
- A charitable act by the Missionary Children takes place after the thanksgiving.

### **MONDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2021:**

#### **Discussion**

1. Every interaction and activity involving minors is always inspired by the principles of dignity, respect, personal dignity and responsibility.
2. Our communication must always be positive.
3. It is important to use images that promote and attract because they communicate beauty, protection, development, faith, testimony, joy, preferring photos of children in a group.



*Fr. Seth Frimpong with Missionary Children*

## **TUESDAY 09 FEBRUARY 2021:**

### **Discussion**

1. The child must be the subject and not the object of the image, and must highlight the ability to be protagonists of their own destiny and not passive beneficiaries of the action.
2. Photos and videos must be appropriate or relevant to the activity the child is engaged in, for missionary childhood or in school or in other situations in his/her life.
3. One must not fuel discrimination or addictions from one country to another.



## **WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2021:**

### **Discussion**

1. Use discretion, prudence and common sense to inform, avoiding hurting the recipient's feelings with raw images of those who at that moment cannot defend their dignity.
2. Take and use photographs and images of decent children who do not present themselves as victims, vulnerable or submissive, dirty and hungry, in tears or naked.
3. Do not refer to sensational stereotypes and materials to promote one's business, photographing extreme situations and pain, exploiting the presence of minors to induce mercy and reach an increase in fundraising.



*Missionary Childhood donation to needy children*



*Children of Missionary Childhood making donation to deprived school.*

## **THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2021: Discussion**

1. Make sure the images are an honest representation of the situation and facts.
2. Do not involve children and young people in advertising that could harm the harmonious development of their personality and that of children who look at the image.
3. Pay particular attention and sensitivity in the dissemination of images of sick, injured, disadvantaged children or in difficulty to avoid that, in the name of a compassionate sentiment, which could contribute to sensationalism that ends up becoming exploitation of the person.



## **FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2021:**

### **Discussion**

#### **Avoid**

- Acting in a way that shames, compromises or degrades children by causing forms of emotional abuse;
- Putting the child in danger or exposing him/her to possible humiliations;
- Discriminating children when choosing who to take a picture of;
- Labeling children or describing them in a way that could cause sentimentalism or even psychological, physical, verbal or sexual abuse against them;
- Publishing a story that could endanger a child, his/her family and others that surround him/her; - feeding the sense of welfare



### **SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2021:**

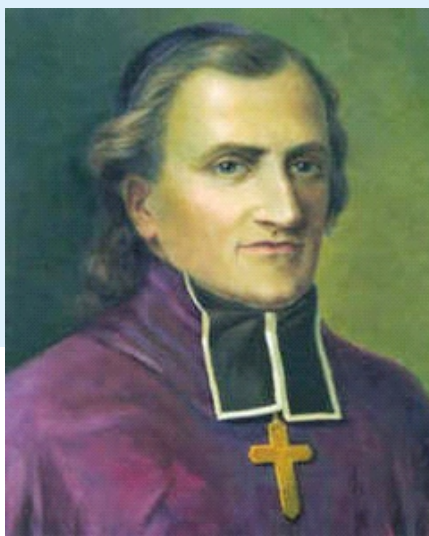
Praying the Missionary Rosary for all children in the world.

### **SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2021:**

#### **Thank you to Parishioners**

Thank you very much for your generous spiritual and financial support to the Missionary/Holy Childhood. This will help animators / educators to awaken and gradually develop in both children and adolescents a worldwide missionary consciousness, in order to guide them towards a spiritual communion and material sharing of their resources with other children, especially those in difficulty.

Please, kindly make sure that all proceeds are remitted to your Arch/Diocesan Secretariat on time.



***MSGR. DE FORBIN JASON***  
***FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY FOR***  
***MISSIONARY/HOLY CHILDHOOD***  
**1785 - 1844**





**PROGRAMME FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE PONTIFICAL SOCIETY OF ST.  
PETER THE APOSTLE 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2021**

**THEME: "HERE AM I SEND ME" (ISAIAH 6:8)**

**EXCERPTS FROM THE MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS TO PONTIFICAL MISSION  
SOCIETIES - ON MAY 21, 2020, THE SOLEMNITY OF ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**Attractiveness**

The mystery of the Redemption entered into and continues to work in the world through an attraction that can draw the hearts of men and women because it is and appears more alluring than the seductions which appeal to the selfishness that is a result of sin. As Jesus says in the Gospel of John, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him" (6:44). The Church has always insisted that this is the reason why we follow Jesus and proclaim his Gospel: through the force of attraction wrought by Christ himself and by his Spirit. The Church, as [Pope Benedict XVI](#) has said, grows in the world through attraction and not through proselytism (cf.

[Homily, Mass for the Inauguration of the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean](#), Aparecida, 13 May 2007: AAS 99 [2007], 437). Saint Augustine says that Christ reveals

himself by attracting us. Moreover, he cites the poet Virgil, who states that all are attracted to what gives them pleasure. Jesus does not just persuade our wills, but awakens our pleasure (Commentary on the Gospel of John, 26, 4). If one follows Jesus, happy to be attracted by him, others will take notice. They may even be astonished. The joy that radiates from those attracted by Christ and by his Spirit is what can make any missionary initiative fruitful.

***Gratitude and Gratuitousness***

The joy of proclaiming the Gospel always shines brightly against the backdrop of a grateful memory. The Apostles never forgot the moment that Jesus touched their hearts: "It was about four in the afternoon" (*Jn* 1:39). The reality of the Church shines forth whenever gratitude is manifested within her by the free initiative of God, for "he loved us" first (*1 Jn* 4:10) and "it is only God who gives the growth" (*1 Cor* 3:7).

The loving predilection of God surprises us, and surprise by its very nature cannot be owned or imposed by us. One cannot be “necessarily surprised”. Only in this way can the miracle of gratuitousness, the gratuitous gift of self, blossom. Nor can missionary fervour ever be obtained as the result of reasoning or calculation. To be “in a state of mission” is a reflection of gratitude. It is the response of one who by gratitude is made docile to the Spirit and is therefore free. Without a recognition of the predilection of the Lord, who inspires gratitude in us, even knowledge of the truth and of God himself would, presented as a goal to be achieved by our own efforts, in fact become a “letter that brings death” (cf. 2 Cor 3:6), as Saint Paul and Saint Augustine were the first to point out. Only in the freedom of gratitude can one truly know the Lord, whereas it is useless and above all improper to insist on presenting missionary activity and the proclamation of the Gospel as if they were a binding duty, a kind of “contractual obligation” on the part of the baptized.

### ***Humility***

Since truth and faith, happiness and salvation are not our own possessions, a goal achieved by our

own merits, then the Gospel of Christ can be proclaimed only with humility. One can never think of serving the Church's mission by employing arrogance as individuals and through bureaucracies, with the pride of one who misunderstands even the gift of the sacraments and the most authentic words of the Christian faith, seeing them as merited rewards. One cannot be humble out of good manners or the desire to appear attractive. We are humble when we follow Christ, who said to his disciples: “Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart” (Mt 11:29). Saint Augustine asks why, after the resurrection, Jesus let himself be seen by his disciples and not by those who had crucified him, concluding that Jesus did not want to give the impression of “challenging his killers in some way. For Jesus, it was actually more important to teach humility to his friends, rather than uphold the truth before his enemies” (Sermon 284, 6).

### ***To facilitate, not to complicate***

Another authentic feature of missionary work is its imitation of the patience of Jesus, who always showed mercy to others as they continued to grow. A small step forward in the midst of great human limitations can be more pleasing before God than the great strides made by those who go through life without great difficulties. A missionary heart recognizes the real condition of real people, with their



own limits, sins and frailties in order to become “weak among the weak” (cf. *1 Cor* 9:22). “Going forth” on mission to reach human peripheries does not mean wandering without direction and meaning, like those frustrated vendors who complain that people are too unsophisticated to be interested in their wares. Sometimes this means slowing our pace in order to lead a person who is still by the wayside. At times this means imitating the father in the parable of the prodigal son, who leaves the doors open and looks out each day awaiting the return of his son (cf. *Lk* 15:20). The Church is not a customs office and anyone who participates in the mission of the Church is called not to impose unnecessary burdens on people already worn out or to require demanding programmes of formation in order to enjoy what the Lord gives easily, or to erect obstacles to the will of Jesus, who prays for each of us and wants to heal and save everyone.

## **SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021: LAUNCHING IN THE CHURCH**

- Talk briefly about the theme and stress on the main activities in the week.

- Encourage all the People of God to respond joyfully to the Holy Father's call on the Church to proclaim the Gospel as missionary disciples.
- Invite all to participate in this ongoing formation activities.
- Distribute the Special Envelopes.

## **MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

### **Attractiveness**

The mystery of the Redemption entered into and continues to work in the world through an attraction that can draw the hearts of men and women because it is and appears more alluring than the seductions which appeal to the selfishness that is a result of sin. As Jesus says in the Gospel of John, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him” (6:44). The Church has always insisted that this is the reason why we follow Jesus and proclaim his Gospel: through the force of attraction wrought by Christ himself and by his Spirit. The Church, as [Pope Benedict XVI](#) has said, grows in the world through attraction and not through proselytism (cf.

[Homily, Mass for the Inauguration of the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean](#), Aparecida, 13 May 2007: AAS 99 [2007], 437). Saint

Augustine says that Christ reveals himself by attracting us. Moreover, he cites the poet Virgil, who states that all are attracted to what gives them pleasure. Jesus does not just persuade our wills, but awakens our pleasure (Commentary on the Gospel of John, 26, 4). If one follows Jesus, happy to be attracted by him, others will take notice. They may even be astonished. The joy that radiates from those attracted by Christ and by his Spirit is what can make any missionary initiative fruitful.



### Questions for reflection:

1. In your life as a Christian, what specifically attracts you into mission?
2. What in you as a Christian attract others to follow Christ?

### TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021:

#### *Gratitude and Gratuitousness*

The joy of proclaiming the Gospel always shines brightly against the backdrop of a grateful memory. The Apostles never forgot the moment that Jesus touched their hearts: “It was about four in the afternoon” (*Jn* 1:39). The reality of the Church shines forth whenever gratitude is manifested within her by the free initiative of God, for “he loved us” first (*1 Jn* 4:10) and “it is only God who gives the growth” (*1 Cor* 3:7). The loving predilection of God surprises us, and surprise by its very nature cannot be owned or imposed by us. One cannot be “necessarily surprised”. Only in this way can the miracle of gratuitousness, the gratuitous gift of self, blossom. Nor can missionary fervour ever be obtained as the result of reasoning or calculation. To be “in a state of mission” is a reflection of gratitude. It is the response of one who by gratitude is made docile to the Spirit and is therefore free. Without a recognition of the predilection of the Lord, who inspires gratitude in us,

Even knowledge of the truth and of God himself would, presented as a goal to be achieved by our own efforts, in fact become a “letter that brings death” (cf. *2 Cor* 3:6), as Saint Paul and Saint Augustine were the first to point out. Only in the freedom of gratitude can one truly know the Lord, whereas it is useless and above all improper to insist on presenting missionary activity and the proclamation of the Gospel as if they were a binding duty, a kind of “contractual obligation” on the part of the baptized.

#### **Questions for reflection:**

1. What do you do in the Church to show gratitude to God?
2. How do you avail yourself every day to be in a state of mission?

#### **WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021:**

##### ***Humility***

Since truth and faith, happiness and salvation are not our own possessions, a goal achieved by our own merits, then the Gospel of Christ can be proclaimed only with humility. One can never think of serving the Church's mission by employing arrogance as individuals and through bureaucracies, with the pride of one who misunderstands even the gift of the sacraments and the most authentic words of the Christian

faith, seeing them as merited rewards. One cannot be humble out of good manners or the desire to appear attractive. We are humble when we follow Christ, who said to his disciples: “Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart” (*Mt* 11:29). Saint Augustine asks why, after the resurrection, Jesus let himself be seen by his disciples and not by those who had crucified him, concluding that Jesus did not want to give the impression of “challenging his killers in some way. For Jesus, it was actually more important to teach humility to his friends, rather than uphold the truth before his enemies” (*Sermon* 284, 6).

#### **Questions for reflection:**

1. Christ can be proclaimed only with humility: How do you understand that?
2. What should you do to bring others to authentic Christian faith?

#### **THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021:**

##### ***To facilitate, not to complicate***

Another authentic feature of missionary work is its imitation of the patience of Jesus, who always showed mercy to others as they continued to grow. A small step forward in the midst of great human limitations can be more pleasing before God than the great strides made by those who go through life

without great difficulties. A missionary heart recognizes the real condition of real people, with their own limits, sins and frailties in order to become “weak among the weak” (cf. *1 Cor* 9:22). “Going forth” on mission to reach human peripheries does not mean wandering without direction and meaning, like those frustrated vendors who complain that people are too unsophisticated to be interested in their wares. Sometimes this means slowing our pace in order to lead a person who is still by the wayside. At times this means imitating the father in the parable of the prodigal son, who leaves the doors open and looks out each day awaiting the return of his son (cf. *Lk* 15:20). The Church is not a customs office and anyone who participates in the mission of the Church is called not to impose unnecessary burdens on people already worn out or to require demanding programmes of formation in order to enjoy what the Lord gives easily, or to erect obstacles to the will of Jesus, who prays for each of us and wants to heal and save everyone.

### **Questions for reflection:**

1. In what ways do you show patience to those who offend you?
2. How do you demonstrate your

faith in the mission of Christ?

### **FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021:**

It could be 'HOLY HOUR' or the praying of the DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET. In the Holy Hour, more time should be given to people to meditate. Silence counts a lot! In silence each person listens to Jesus with the heart and speaks to Jesus with trust. In the Divine Mercy Prayer, we contemplate on the sorrowful passion of Christ. We then ask Jesus to have mercy on us and the whole world. We ask Jesus to transform us and use us as he wills. He died to save us. We also should do our best to be merciful.

### **SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2021:**

Praying the Missionary Rosary for peace and healing of the world.

### **SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2021:**

#### **Thank you to Parishioners**

Thank you very much for your generous spiritual and financial support for last week. This support is a blessing for the Arch/Diocese: The Clergy, Religious, Seminarians, Novices, etc., who partly depend on this help through the Society of St. Peter the Apostle.

Please, kindly make sure that all proceeds are remitted to your Arch/Diocesan Secretariats on time.



*Society of St. Peter the Apostle  
helps St. Teresa's Seminary, Amisano*



**JEANNE BIGARD**  
**FOUNDRESS OF THE SOCIETY OF**  
**ST. PETER THE APOSTLE**  
**1859 - 1934**

ARCHDIOCESES AND DIOCESES / VICARIATE	MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD	ST. PETER THE APOSTLE	PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH	TOTAL GH¢
ACCRA	70,200.70	69,490.50	250,157.90	389,849.10
CAPE COAST	17,179.80	17,709.05	20,766.75	55,655.60
KUMASI	23,665.00	17,100.00	76,382.00	117,147.00
TAMALE	5,257.95	4,362.15	7,240.00	16,860.10
DAMONGO	3,000.00	1,130.00	4,000.00	8,130.00
DONKORKROM	978.45	532.05		1,510.50
GOASO	3,026.03	2,001.01	20,100.46	25,127.50
HO	10,024.25	5,266.40	5,273.50	20,564.15
JASIKAN	4,800.40	1,700.60	3,050.20	9,551.20
KETA-AKATSI	3,620.00	2,100.00	3,310.00	9,030.00
KOFORIDUA	18,520.50	16,907.70	18,247.00	53,675.20
KONONGO-MAMPONG	6,500.00	4,020.00	3,500.00	14,020.00
NAVRONG-BOLGATANGA	7,257.70	8,211.10	11,989.40	27,458.20
OBUASI	5,340.00	3,820.00	12,150.00	21,310.00
SEKONDI-TAKORADI	7,186.00	7,063.00	80,043.58	94,292.58
SUNYANI	12,300.00	9,400.80	8,388.20	30,089.00
TECHIMAN	7,600.00	6,700.00	8,650.00	22,950.00
WA	10,196.10	11,356.65	22,273.75	43,826.50
WIAWSO	12,277.00	1,484.50	8,437.20	22,198.70
YENDI	1,647.80	1,098.30	2,654.05	5,400.15
<b>TOTAL GH ¢</b>	<b>230,577.68</b>	<b>191,453.81</b>	<b>566,613.99</b>	<b>976,656.08</b>

NO.	LOCAL CHURCH	2016	2017	2018	2019
1	ACCRA	97,248.69	127,988.21	187,205.34	389,849.10
2	CAPE COAST	40,470.00	41,500.57	45,202.00	55,655.60
3	KUMASI	57,938.00	66,100.00	83,510.00	117,147.00
4	TAMALE	9,946.00	11,978.00	13,072.33	16,860.10
5	DAMONGO	5,875.00	8,346.75	7,051.00	8,130.00
6	DONKORKROM	1,420.15	1,161.80	2,656.30	1,510.50
7	GOASO	24,448.37	36,861.00	43,739.00	25,127.50
8	HO	11,200.00	18,739.42	26,558.00	20,564.15
9	JASIKAN	16,320.00	8,190.00	7,650.20	9,551.20
10	KETA -AKATSI	5,378.00	6,600.00	7,325.00	9,030.00
11	KOFORIDUA	38,250.00	45,540.64	47,034.83	53,675.20
12	KONONGO-MAMPONG	8,151.85	10,961.96	13,251.00	14,020.00
13	NAVRONGO-BOLGATANGA	14,222.00	21,929.00	24,649.00	27,458.20
14	OBUASI	14,699.20	15,675.00	16,540.50	21,310.00
15	SEKONDI-TAKORADI	41,827.83	42,021.00	45,635.80	94,292.58
16	SUNYANI	23,300.00	25,200.00	28,902.40	30,089.00
17	TECHIMAN	15,000.00	19,397.00	19,950.50	22,950.00
18	WA	21,175.66	23,958.27	33,834.74	43,826.50
19	WIAWSO	20,215.00	23,131.50	23,873.00	22,198.70
20	YENDI	3,459.55	4,904.55	4,841.91	5,400.15
	<b>TOTAL GH ₵</b>	<b>470,545.30</b>	<b>560,184.67</b>	<b>682,300.85</b>	<b>976,656.08</b>

**PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES  
2016– 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GHANA**



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PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES, GHANA**

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	National Director	Very Rev. Fr. Isaac Ebo Day
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