



**WORLD
MISSION
SUNDAY**
24th October
2021



**"We cannot but speak about
what we have seen and heard"
(Acts 4:20)**



**Eucharistic Celebration Presided by
His Eminence Charles Cardinal Bo**

**Archdiocese of Yangon
8:00 am., 24.10.2021**

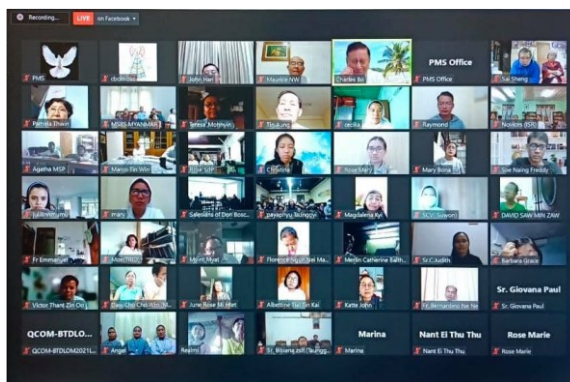
World Mission Sunday Celebration in Myanmar was begun with Mass presided by His Eminence Charles Cardinal Bo, together with 2 Auxiliary Bishops and some priests at 8:00 am in St. Mary's Cathedral, Yangon. Still, due to pandemic restrictions, Mass was strictly online. In his homilies, reflecting on the theme of Mission Sunday this year, Cardinal Charles Bo urged the Catholics in Myanmar to speak out against the evil that is ravaging our Country "not out of hatred but out of love." He stressed, "Internalizing the hatred natured by our enemies would mean defeat." He ended his homily for Mission Sunday with an encouragement, "Let us pray, and continue to pray, that this nation can see the day of peace," he concluded.

Webinar on Missionary Consciousness

Then, from 3:00 P.M to 5:00 P.M, Sunday 24 October, the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) of Myanmar organized World Mission Sunday Webinar that was attended by 100 participants through Zoom. In addition, there were some communities connected by one device, and more than 200 participants via Facebook page. The Webinar event was organized to raise Missionary Consciousness among priests, the Religious, and the faithful.

Mission Priorities

Our first speaker was H. E. Bishop John Saw Yaw Han, Auxiliary Bishop of Yangon Archdiocese. His speech on "Mission Priority: Today and Tomorrow," (*Excerpt from the speech given by Cardinal Orlando Quevedo in 2015 the General Assembly of the PMS, Rome*) consisted of 3 parts.



The first part of his speech did serve to highlight some important points in “Great Social Changes.”

Bishop John said, “We perceive today a megatrend that profoundly impacts the life of people even in the remotest villages, as well as our life as missionary disciples. That is phenomenon of **globalization**. It has twin offspring: cultural and economic. And both are a blessing and a curse.” He continued with some words from Pope Francis: “In this time of great social change, evangelization requires a thoroughly outgoing missionary church, capable of discernment in order to engage with difficult cultures and visions of people. For a changing world we need a Church renewed and transformed by contemplation and personal contact with Christ.”

The second part of the speech dealt with “A Thoroughly Renewed Missionary Church.” Bishop John pointed out, “If we as a Church are to respond effectively to the difficult challenges of Mission that we have discerned, Pope Francis declares that we need to be a “thoroughly outgoing missionary Church,” - “A Church renewed and transformed by contemplation and personal encounter with Christ.”

In the third part of his speech, Bishop John brought some *Mission Priorities* forward: *Integral faith formation; Raising of missionary consciousness; Developing of Preferential love of the poor; Making the Family as the focal point of evangelization; Building the parish as a community of missionary faith-communities; Formation of a Culture of dialogue and peace; Renewal of the missionary disciple: Formation of Mission Spirituality.*



Synodality and Mission

Our second speaker was Fr. Maurice Nyunt Wai, parish priest of Myaungmya, Patheingyi diocese. His topic was “Synodality and Mission.” He indicated that “Church and Synod are synonymous.” He went on explaining, “Synodality is a fundamental quality of the Church as a whole. ‘Church’ means both gathering [*systema*] and synod [*synodos*]. Broadly, it refers to the active participation of all the faithful in the life and mission of the Church,” (*St John Chrysostom*).

He underlined that there were three aspects which could revive the Synodality: (i) listening, (ii) co-responsibility, and (iii) involvement of the laity. “Laity are full members of the Church, they too are called to express themselves, to give suggestions,” he said.

“A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realizes that listening ‘is more than simply hearing’. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the ‘Spirit of truth’ (Jn 14:17), in order to know what He ‘says to the Churches’ (Rev 2:7), (*Pope Francis’ address on 17 October 2015*),” he elaborated.

“Being a synodal Church is not limited to the existing institutions. Indeed, synodality is not so much an event or a slogan as a style and a way of being by which the Church lives out her mission in the world,” (*Vademecum 1.3*).

To be aware of the virus of self-sufficiency, he advised, “We are all in the same boat. Together we form the Body of Christ. Setting aside the mirage of self-sufficiency, we are able to learn from each other, journey together, and be at the service of one another.

It is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission (*Vademecum 1.3*).

Finally, Fr. Maurice guided all to move “*From Clerical to Synodal Church*,”- A relational church, An inclusive church, A dialogal church, A discerning church, A generative church, A synergetic church.

The World Mission Sunday Webinar event concluded at 5:00 pm with words of appreciation and encouragement by His Eminence Charles Cardinal Bo and his blessings.

By Fr. **Bernardino Ne Ne**, *National Director PMS in Myanmar*

