



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thanks be to God, we now can resume the celebration of the Sacraments indoors, instead of being under the tents in the parking lot. All are now gathered inside the Church where we should be. After last weekend's Masses, some of you shared with me the joy of worshiping inside because people now can celebrate the Holy Mass with less distractions. Another person said he felt united and closer to the community.

This is not only your joy but mine as well. Equally as wonderful and joyful it is to see people gradually coming back to Mass. Please spread the news and help encourage those that can, to come back to the house and the heart of worship. A reminder, there will be no need to make reservations for the time being so let us come together, all that are able and in one voice to proclaim and listen to the Word of God.

Sisters and Brothers, every year something special happens on the next-to-last Sunday of October. Catholics around the world unite at Mass on World Mission Sunday to recommit ourselves to our Baptismal call - which is to be *a missionary disciple*. This Sunday, October 18, 2020, is World Mission Sunday. The Church, according to Vatican Council II, is "missionary" in her very nature because her founder, Jesus Christ, was the first missionary. God the Father sent God the Son into the world with a message. This message is called the Gospel or the "good news" which explicitly states: *"For God loved the world so much that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die, but have eternal life"* (Jn 3:16). Jesus Christ showed this all-embracing and unconditional love of God through his life, suffering, death, and resurrection.

Jesus, our first missionary, invites his followers through the ages to share God's love and salvation: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you"* (Mt. 28:19)

How can you fulfill this invitation? First, the most powerful means of fulfilling this invitation is by **living a truly Christian life** – a life full of compassion, love, and forgiveness. Next, is **prayer**. We need God's grace to do this because as Jesus said, *"Without me you can do nothing."* It is only by God's grace that the human heart can change, ours and others. Finally, missionary efforts also require **financial support** because God's love can often be explained to the poor only by providing them with food and means of livelihood.

Every Christian is a missionary and has a message to share and something to give. That means you and I.

Therefore, let us pray and support the mission of the Church and be a missionary disciple for Jesus in our own calling and circumstances. Are you prepared to begin or recommit to your mission this weekend?

In the Hearts of Jesus and Blessed Mother Mary,  
Rev. Philip M. Lam, CRM