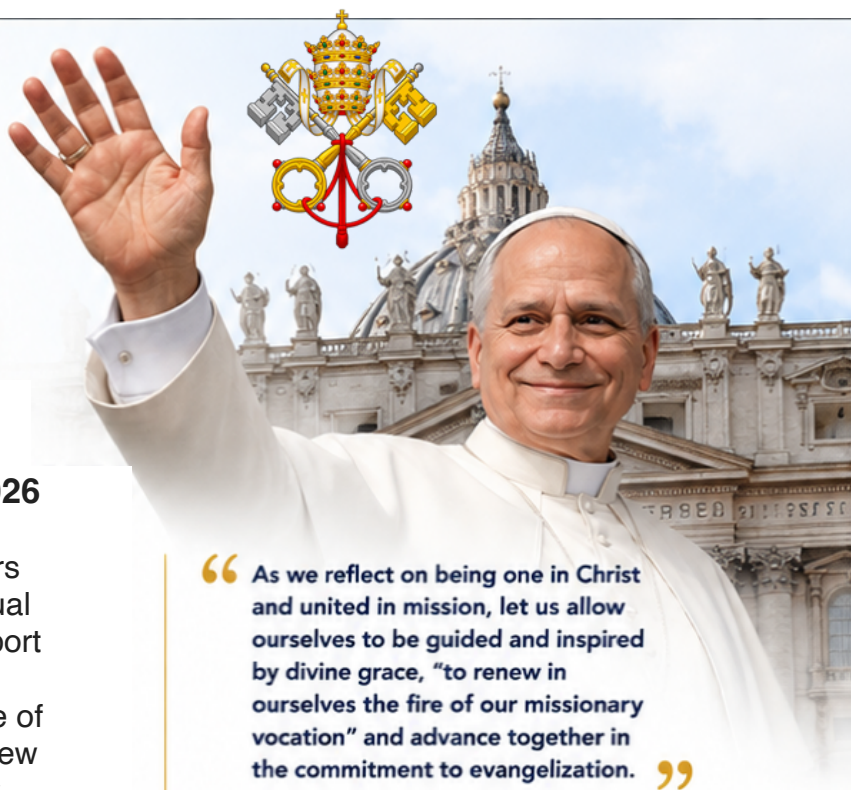




Pope Leo XIV's MESSAGE FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2026

World Mission Day 2026 marks 100 years since Pope Pius XI established this annual celebration of prayer, solidarity and support for the church's mission. Pope Leo XIV invites the whole church to renew the fire of our missionary vocation and to enter a new missionary age with joy, zeal, generosity and trust.

“As we reflect on being one in Christ and united in mission, let us allow ourselves to be guided and inspired by divine grace, “to renew in ourselves the fire of our missionary vocation” and advance together in the commitment to evangelization.”

(Homily, Jubilee of the Missionary World and of Migrants, 5 October 2025)

One in Christ

*Missionary disciples united in him
and with our brothers and sisters*

The mystery of union with Christ lies at the heart of mission. Before his Passion, Jesus prayed to the Father, “that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us” (Jn 17:21). These words reveal Jesus’ deepest desire, as well as the identity of the Church as a community of his disciples.

Being a Christian is not primarily about practices or ideas; it is a life in union with Christ, in which we share in his filial relationship with the Father in the Holy Spirit.

Being “one in Christ” calls us to keep our gaze fixed on the Lord.

The more united we are in Christ, the better able we will be to carry out together the mission that he entrusts to us.

United in Mission

*That the world may believe in
Christ the Lord*

The unity of disciples is not an end in itself; it is directed towards mission. Jesus states this clearly: “So that the world may believe that you have sent me” (Jn 17:21). It is through the witness of a reconciled, fraternal and united community that the proclamation of the Gospel acquires its full communicative power.

Unity in mission means safeguarding and nurturing the spirituality of communion and missionary cooperation.

Missionary unity should not be understood as uniformity, but rather as the convergence of different charisms for the same purpose, namely to make Christ's love visible and to invite everyone to encounter him.

Mission to Love

*Proclaiming, living and sharing
God's faithful love*

If unity is the condition of mission, love is its essence. The Good News that we are sent to proclaim to the world is not an abstract ideal; it is the Gospel of God's faithful love, which became flesh in the face and life of Jesus Christ.

The mission of the disciples and the Church as a whole is to continue the mission of Christ in the Holy Spirit: a mission born of love, lived in love, and leading to love. In fact, the Lord himself, in his great prayer to the Father before his Passion, after invoking unity among his disciples, concludes: “so that the love with which you have loved me may be in

them, and I in them” (Jn 17:26). Impelled by the love of Christ, the Apostles then went out to evangelize for Christ (cf. 2 Cor 5:14).

HOW WE CAN TAKE PART IN THE MISSION TODAY



PRAY
for missionaries
and the people
they serve.



LIVE
the Gospel
where God
has placed you.



SHARE
your faith
with courage
and joy.



GIVE
generously to
support the
Church's mission.



LOVE
so that others
may encounter
Christ through you.

**South Africa
Botswana
eSwatini**

Holy Father, make us one in Christ, rooted in his love that unites and renews. May all members of the Church be united in mission, docile to the Holy Spirit, courageous in bearing witness to the Gospel, proclaiming and daily embodying your faithful love for all creatures.

