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21 October 2018
World Mission Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Annually, the next-to-last Sunday of October marks the Church's Eucharistic celebration for the Missions, **World Mission Sunday**.

In his message for this year's celebration on October 21st, Pope Francis explains that "life is a mission." "Each one of us is called to reflect on this fact: 'I *am a mission* on this Earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273)," he writes. Focusing on young people, he notes: "In speaking to you, I also address all Christians who live out in the Church the adventure of their life as children of God."

I invite all of us in the Diocese of Allentown to see World Mission Sunday as a special moment to live out the mission we share as God's children, the mission to bring the Gospel to the whole world. I encourage you to be a "voice for mission" through your prayers and through the help that you are able to give in support of the priests, religious, and lay pastoral leaders who work tirelessly day in and day out, proclaiming the Gospel, building the Church, and serving the poor in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia and Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe.

The prayers and material aid generously given to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday, the Pope explains, continue to generously support the "fervent preaching of the Gospel to every nation," thus contributing to the human and cultural growth of all those who thirst for knowledge of the truth."

"Mission revitalizes faith," Pope Francis reminds us, quoting Pope Saint John Paul II in *Redemptoris Missio* (#2). May your commitment to the Lord's continuing mission renew your faith and be a blessing in your life. And may you know of my personal gratitude for your generous response on this unique day for the entire Church, and throughout the year as you are able.

Invoking God's blessing upon you and your families, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown