



Through Faith and Action

Celebrating Mission Month



A Moment of Unity – Dr. Antoinette Mensah, alongside Cardinal Christophe Pierre (left) and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle (right), during The Pontifical Mission Societies reception at the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN.

World Mission Sunday is a cornerstone of the Catholic Church's calendar, a day dedicated to supporting missionary efforts worldwide and reinforcing the Church's enduring commitment to evangelization and service. This year's celebration was made particularly meaningful with the presence of Cardinal Christophe Pierre and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, two influential leaders whose work embodies the Church's dedication to its global missionary calling.

The Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS) reception during the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis provided a unique opportunity for leaders and laypeople to connect, fostering a sense of unity in their shared mission. It was at this gathering that Dr. Antoinette Mensah had the distinct honor of meeting and being photographed with Cardinals Pierre and Tagle. This special moment underscored the importance of collaboration between Church officials and lay leaders in advancing the Church's mission worldwide.

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The Unyielding Spirit of St. Bernadette's Parish in Chitula, Malawi. Photo credits to The Pontifical Mission Societies

Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the Papal Nuncio to the United States, and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, have been key figures in promoting evangelization and addressing global challenges. Their presence at the reception highlighted the Vatican's ongoing efforts to inspire and support the global Catholic Church.

For Dr. Mensah, the opportunity to meet these esteemed Cardinals was a profound experience. "Standing beside Cardinal Pierre and Cardinal Tagle during the TPMS reception was a significant moment," she said. "It symbolizes our shared commitment to evangelization and the diverse ways we contribute to the Church's global mission."

As the first African American female lay director in her role within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the USCMA (United States Catholic Mission Association), Dr. Mensah's leadership represents a meaningful advancement in inclusivity and representation within the Church. Her pioneering work has paved the way for broader participation in missionary efforts and continues to inspire many in the Catholic community.

This photograph serves as a lasting symbol of faith in action. It reminds clergy and laity alike to embrace their role in the Church's evangelizing mission. World Mission Sunday calls upon all members of the Church to unite in this shared responsibility, strengthening the global community through faith and service.

World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday is an annual reminder of the global Church's missionary calling. This year, Pope Francis has chosen the theme, "**Go and invite everyone to the banquet**," inspired by Matthew 22:9. The Holy Father encourages us, as people of faith, to embrace two vital missions: going out and inviting everyone.

Mission work isn't confined to distant lands; it calls each of us to step into the world around us, to encounter our brothers and sisters, and to extend the invitation to experience God's love. This invitation is meant for every person, reflecting the universality of God's love.

As you move through your daily life, grounded in faith, ask yourself: Who will you invite to the banquet?



The Unyielding Spirit of St. Bernadette's Parish in Chitula, Malawi. Photo credits to The Pontifical Mission Societies



The Unyielding Spirit of St. Bernadette's Parish in Chitula, Malawi. Photo credits to The Pontifical Mission Societies

'Go and invite everyone to the banquet.'

Matthew 22:9



Lasting Impressions of La Sagrada Familia

WRITTEN BY ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARIAN, ADAM WIDDER

One of the first things that struck me at the parish was the overwhelming hospitality of the people at La Sagrada Familia. They so beautifully live the Gospel, for we really were strangers in a foreign land, and they welcomed us with open arms (Mt 25:38). In the first few days, we were invited to the home of a parishioner who prepared a delicious lunch for us. Fr. Javier explained to us that this dish was reserved for special occasions, the equivalent to what a Thanksgiving meal would be for us in the United States. Not only did they welcome us into their home, but they also offered us their very best, an act that reflected a deep generosity. Over and over, I was struck with the reality that while they didn't have much in terms of material goods, they are so very rich in generosity, community, joy, and love.

During this lunch, we learned that this parishioner feeds many of the children on the street who are hungry. This was just one example of the countless testaments of generosity and hospitality that we encountered. We had come to the Dominican Republic to learn Spanish, but what we gained went far beyond language; we learned profound lessons about what it means to live as Christians.

Throughout the trip, I was repeatedly struck with the fact that we were on an island in the middle of the Caribbean, yet the Catholic faith was alive and vibrant. Such is the beauty of the universal Church, where people of very different life experiences, languages, and cultures can be united in love of Christ. God intended the entire world to be united through love of him, and his Church is the closest resemblance of heaven we have. Love truly does transcend all language barriers and all cultural differences, and this trip was a beautiful reminder of that truth.

My impression of the parish didn't necessarily change over the course of the summer, but it certainly deepened as the relationships deepened. You come to appreciate someone's generosity when you realize how much it costs them. That they aren't giving out of their excess. I joked with Fr. Javier that his favorite phrase was, "hay mas," meaning "there's more." That phrase sums up our experience down there. With the Dominican people, due to their immense generosity, there is always more.

Global Partners: Running Waters

Sister Jan Gregorcich, SSND began her journey with the School Sisters of Notre Dame at the age of 14 when she entered as an aspirant at Caroline Academy in Mequon, Wisconsin, which is now Concordia University. Following her first profession, she was assigned to teaching assignments in Grand Rapids, MI and Superior, WI. Aligned with the core mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sister Jan perceives education as a means for individuals to develop into their fullest potential. She then moved into pastoral ministry in Raymond and Clara City MN, as well as Huntington, Indiana before beginning her missionary work in Guatemala.

Sister Jan had the blessing to serve in Guatemala from 1985-1997, dedicating twelve years to the region. Sister Jan Gregorcich, SSND and Sister Kathy Byrnes SC, a sister of charity from New York worked together to serve the Chinique, Quiche area along with Bishop Julio Cabrera and many pastoral ministers. The two assisted the local Church by running catechetical instruction, helping with baptisms and marriages, as well as participating in celebrations of the word with local communities. She also worked with solar oven, sewing, chicken and mushroom projects. She participated in taking testimonies of the 36 year Civil War, REMHI, Recuperación de la Memoria Histórica. During this period, Sr. Jan developed a deep affection for the Quiche area.

Upon her return to the United States, Sister Jan was encouraged by her Provincial, Sister Marilyn Kesler, to continue the Guatemalan Mission in Wisconsin. So, in September 2001, Sister Jan, her brother, Martin, Dianne and Brian Henke initiated the conversation that led to the development of Global Partners: Running Waters. In 2003 the organization received a 501©(3) status.

The mission of Global Partners: Running Waters is to build relationships through collaboration on water, food, health, and education projects in Latin America. Sister Jan explained that the projects come about through engaging, listening, and communicating with the needs of the Guatemalan communities. When initiating a water project, the design is intended to benefit the entire community. The water projects generally range in cost from \$25,000-\$50,000, with funding sourced from schools, churches, and individuals.

Once the funds have been raised, the community can anticipate clean water access within three months. Throughout the project development, on the ground technicians from ASUVI, Asociacion Unidos Por La Vida work with the community to make the project a reality.

When reflecting on the blessings that have grown from Sister Jan's involvement with the people of Guatemala, she recalls the lasting friendships and mutuality of the encounters.

To learn more about the initiatives of Global Partners: Running Waters, please visit <https://globalpartnersrunningwaters.org/>.



The gift of water

Upcoming Opportunities



ALL ARE WELCOME

October 20, 2024

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church
3114 North 2nd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Celebrating God's Global Mission through scripture, music, song and dance.

Register using tinyurl.com/allarewelcome24



LENTEN RETREAT to LA

SAGRADA FAMILIA

April 8-15, 2025

In preparation of Holy Week, you will have the opportunity to experience Palm Sunday with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's sister parish, La Sagrada Familia in the Dominican Republic. Encounter our brothers and sisters in faith, learn about the initiatives of the parish, and more!

Apply by visiting tinyurl.com/lsfdr2025



SANKOFA 2025 to Ghana, West Africa August 7-22, 2025

Appreciate the rich history and culture of Ghana, West Africa, as you learn and experience the resilience of the human spirit from enslavement to modern times

Apply by visiting tinyurl.com/sankofa2025



JUBILEE OF MISSION

October 13-22, 2025

Explore the religious and historical sites that are the foundations for our call to Mission. The pilgrimage will include a visit to the Vatican and to the birthplaces of St. Francis of Assisi and Carlo Acutis (who will be the first millennial saint in line for canonization) during the Jubilee Year of Mission.

World Day of Migrants & Refugees



On September 29th, Letzbia Laing-Martinez, International Mission Engagement Coordinator, delivered an insightful Lunch & Learn Presentation to staff members of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in honor of World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

During her talk, she traced the history of immigration in the United States, shedding light on the journey that has brought us to where we are today. Those present gained clarity on the important distinction between refugees and migrants, emphasizing that while these terms are often used interchangeably, they represent distinct experiences and narratives. Her presentation offered attendees a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by migrants and refugees, and encouraged thoughtful personal reflection on these pressing realities.

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Office for World Mission



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Society for the Propagation of the Faith



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La Sagrada Familia



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