

Message for Pallottine Mission Sunday - 2021

3rd October 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Warm greetings from Rome. On the occasion of the Pallottine Mission Sunday which, this year, will be celebrated on October 03, 2021, we, in charge of the Missions in the Founding Communities and in the Union of Catholic Apostolate, are pleased to send you these brief hints for your meditation and sharing. This Sunday offers us the opportunity to thank the Lord for the gift of our vocation and, in a special way, to pray for the Pallottine Missions that our brothers and sisters are carrying out, reviving faith and rekindling charity throughout the world, following the inspiration of our Founder, St. Vincent Pallotti.

Pandemic: "a missionary grace"

Also this year, the Pallottine Mission Sunday will be celebrated respecting the precautionary measures against the COVID-19 that, since about two years, has affected the whole world and of which the consequences continue to be felt in the different sectors of our Pallottine life. Thanks to the vaccination campaign in many countries of the planet, there are many positive signs in facing this pandemic that has exposed our human fragility and the weakness of our security structures. But, despite the serious consequences of this situation, we are invited to have a gaze of faith in order to grasp also the positive aspects offered to us by this pandemic.



In fact, as the Holy Father also exhorts us in one of his catechesis dedicated to the coronavirus pandemic, this crisis is an opportune occasion to learn something good: "The pandemic is a crisis and from a crisis one does not come out the same: either we come out better or we come out worse. We will have to come out better, to deal with social injustices and environmental degradation" (Pope Francis, Catechesis of August 19, 2020). In this logic, the pandemic could be a *kairos* for putting our charism into practice. It should

not stop our missionary zeal; therefore, we must invent new ways to carry out our missions, reading the signs of our times and being inspired by the example of St. Vincent Pallotti who committed himself to helping his neighbour during the cholera pandemic that broke out in Rome in 1837.

Joy in being a missionary

On this Sunday of special prayer for the Pallottine missions, we would like to recall the importance of joy in carrying them out; joy is a condition for missionary credibility. Indeed, as the Holy Father Pope Francis clearly reiterates, this joy comes from the personal encounter with Jesus Christ: "*The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew*" (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 1).

For St. Vincent Pallotti, missionary joy is one "of the precious fruits of the Holy Spirit, very important for the work of evangelization: 'Holy hilarity and spiritual cheerfulness are precious fruits of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, therefore one of the distinctive characters of the true servants of the Lord... Let us remember again that if they lack such a character few souls will lead to God, since from their traits few will fall in love with the following of Jesus Christ, on the contrary if they show themselves to be cheerful, and in holy joy they will show that serving God, following the our Lord Jesus Chrsit forms the life of true joy" (OCCC II, 163-164). In other words, a missionary without joy would be less credible.



Message of the Holy Father for the World Mission Day 2021

As usual, the celebration of Pallottine Mission Sunday is also an occasion to reflect, meditate and allow ourselves to be enlightened by the message that the Holy Father sends every year for the World Mission Day throughout the Catholic Church. For this year, the Holy Father's message has a particularly significant theme for each of us: "We cannot remain silent about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). It would be helpful to take time to read and meditate on it. Therefore, we urge you to download this message from the following website: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/messages/missions/documents/papa-francesco_20210106_giornata-missionaria2021.html

In this message, the Holy Father invites us to be inspired by the witness of the Apostles so that we too can become missionary disciples who are witnesses of Jesus Christ: " We have a vivid testimony to all this in the Acts of the Apostles, a book which missionary disciples always have within easy reach. There we read how the fragrance of the Gospel spread as it was preached, awakening the joy that the Spirit alone can bestow. The Book of Acts teaches us to endure hardship by clinging firmly to Christ" (Pope Francis, Message for World Missionary Day 2021).

United with Mary in the Cenacle

As we carry out our missions, we are always in the company of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, who invites us to go often to the various cenacles of the world to pray with her, to prepare ourselves to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we need to become true missionary disciples of her Son Jesus Christ. Together with Mary, our true model of apostolic zeal (cf. Preamble, k), we want to pray that her promise for every missionary may be fulfilled: *"I, O son, want to see you rich, and very rich in the divine treasures, I would like to see you completely transformed in God to make yourself a minister of the Gospel more useful to souls, and to procure more effectively the interests of the glory of the heavenly Father: love therefore prayer, let it be, to put it thus, your food, your drink, your rest; ask also for the perfect gift of prayer and I with maternal affection will be all ready to obtain it for you"* (OCCC XIII, 441).

*We wish all of you
A very Happy Pallottine Mission Sunday*



Rome, September 15, 2021
Sr. Venicia Meurer, CSAC
Sr. Bozena Olszewska, SAC
Sr. Honorata Lyimo Mamiro, SAC
Fr. Romuald Uzabumwana, SAC

