



DIOCESE *of* GAYLORD

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, October 19, we celebrate World Mission Sunday: a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. It is a day when Catholics around the world unite in prayer and solidarity to support the missionary work of the Church.

This year's theme, "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples," is particularly moving as it was chosen by Pope Francis before his death earlier this year. His continuing appeal reflects both the heart of our faith and the vision of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

Pope Leo XIV, who spent most of his priestly ministry as a missionary in the remote regions of Peru, reminds us that The Pontifical Mission Societies are "the primary means for awakening missionary responsibility among all the baptized [and for] supporting ecclesial communities in areas where the Church is young." His personal witness deepens the meaning of this year's celebration, inviting us all to renew our commitment to the Church's mission in the world.

Your gift on World Mission Sunday supports the work of The Pontifical Mission Societies, the Pope's official means of assisting Catholic communities in the world's poorest and most remote regions. We are called to support the missionaries, priests, religious sisters and brothers, and lay leaders who serve in the 1,124 mission territories where the Church is still young, vibrant, and often facing persecution or poverty. I encourage you to respond with a generous heart, knowing that your support makes a real difference in the lives of those who might otherwise never hear the Gospel.

May this World Mission Sunday deepen our commitment to the missionary dimension of our faith. Let us go forth as Missionaries of Hope, bringing God's love and mercy to all people.

In Christ our Life!

Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh
Bishop of Gaylord