



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio



OCTOBER 2021

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St. Francis of Assisi Pray for Us!



October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. Vocation to the religious life is a unique call from God. St. Francis was born in Assisi, Italy, to a wealthy family in 1811. As he was getting older he became bright, popular and athletic.

Later, St. Francis heard the voice of Christ and followed Christ very intimately by living a true Gospel life. He imitated Christ's life and embraced a life of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

He spent much of his time in prayer and meditation. Gradually, he began to attract other young men by his spiritual enthusiasm and renunciation. St. Francis became the founder of the Franciscan Order.

St. Francis was a man of prayer, He loved poor people and he saw Christ in them. Once he gave his own cloak to a beggar who was standing in the cold. Even though people avoided approaching lepers, St. Francis kissed

a leper because he saw Christ in that leper.

St. Francis was torn between a life devoted entirely to prayer and a life of active preaching of the Good News. During the last years of his relatively short life, Francis was half blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

On his deathbed, St. Francis said over and over again the last addition to his Canticle of the Sun, "Be praised, O Lord, for our Sister Death." He sang Psalm 141, and at the end asked his superior's permission to have his clothes removed when the last hour came in order that he could expire lying naked on the earth, in imitation of his Lord. He died at the age of 44.

"Most high, all powerful, all good Lord! All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing. To You, alone, Most High, do they

belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your name."

-- *St. Francis of Assisi*

QUOTES - FROM ST. FRANCIS ASSISI

- We must not be wise and prudent according to the flesh. Rather, we must be simple, humble and pure.
- It is not fitting, when one is in God's service, to have a gloomy face or a chilling look.
- It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.
- Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these, they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve.

To monthly mission donors: Thank you for your support!

On behalf of His Excellency Robert J. Brennan, Diocese of Columbus Apostolic Administrator, and Monsignor Kieran Harrington, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions

Mission for the Poor!



St. Mother Teresa who lived for the poorest of the poor, as she walked

and walked, until she couldn't walk anymore she prayed to God in

search of a shelter where the abandoned poor ones could get some food, medicine and a place to stay. She described her mission and her house which she desired for the comfort of poor:

- *“My house is that of the poor - of the poorest among the poor;*
- *of those one tries to avoid for fear of contagion and dirtiness, because they are covered with microbes and and worms;*
- *of those who do not go to pray, because one cannot go out of one's house naked;*
- *of those who do not eat anymore, because they have no strength for eating;*
- *of those who fall down on the streets, knowing that they are going to die, and at whose side pedestrians pass and don't look back;*
- *Of those who do not weep anymore, because they have run out of tears; of the untouchable.”*

Our Diocesan Missionaries

Currently, the diocese has seven missionaries working in the mission fields on our behalf. Let's pray for them.

FOREIGN MISSIONS:

- Sister Beverly Hoffman, SCN working in the missions in Belize
- Brother Raymond Ronan, OFM Cap, working in the missions in Papua New Guinea
- Sister Rebecca Spires, SNDdeN, working in the missions in Brazil

HOME MISSIONS:

- Father Robert Goodyear, ST, working in Mississippi
- Brother David Henley, Glenmary, working as Vocations Director
- Sister Maria Giovanni Paolo SOLT, working in Seattle, WA

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS:

OCTOBER

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

NOVEMBER

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

World Mission
Sunday Mass

October 3, 2021, 5:15 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral
Celebrant:
Bishop Robert Brennan



Sr. Zephрина Mary Gracykuty, *Missions Office Director*



K. Colston-Woodruff, *Program Coordinator*