

***Twenty-ninth Sunday Per Annum (B) World Mission Sunday  
October 18, 2015.***

*May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you (Ps. 33).*

Today is World Mission Sunday and Catholics throughout the world are invited to pray and sacrifice for the mission of the Church. Since 1926, each year on the third Sunday of October we are called to a renewed commitment for the spread of the Gospel message. Today, even the poorest parishes give from their poverty to support the propagation of the Gospel. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith exhorts us to *be united in love and to go out and serve*. This describes in very few words what we do in our worship every Sunday: we are united in and by the Eucharistic love of our Lord and we are sent out to serve. *Go forth, the Mass is ended*. We are given a mission at the end of every Mass. This commission is a reminder that *the Church is by her very nature missionary, [and for this reason] evangelization constitutes a duty and a right for every one her members* (*Lumen Gentium*, 17).

This commission also affirms the distinctive cycle of Christian worship: the *exitus* and *reditus*; the exit and return: here we are inspired by God and are dismissed to go out to love our fellow man and to bring God's love into the world. Then transformed by our love for God through our works of mercy, we come back to God as better people; and the positive cycle is repeated. This cycle helps us to understand what is meant by the description of the sacred liturgy as the source and summit of life: the beginning and the end of who we are and who we can become. When we approach the celebration of the Mass with this in mind we see that what we do here is never static or boring. What we are given here through the graces of the Mass is both a help to life as we live it here and now and a preparation for the eternal life where in an altogether fulfilling manner we will share the life of God Himself, in the communion of the most blessed Trinity.

*Go forth and announce the Gospel of the Lord*. We are sent out to witness to the truth of the Gospel. We do so as individuals and by our collective witness as Catholics, members of the Catholic Church. In our Archdiocese, Cardinal Collins has introduced the *Family of Faith Campaign* as part of a long range pastoral plan for our Archdiocese – our collective efforts both to deepen our faith and to proclaim it to our society and culture. A few weeks ago I mentioned this campaign and in our parish bulletin this Sunday there is a brief explanation of its goals. Our parish is participating in the fourth and last phase of the campaign. At some point all parishioners will receive an invitation to meetings here in our parish to learn about the campaign and ways of supporting it. This also is being done in phases and I ask everyone to prayerfully consider support of this endeavour to reach out to every member of our family of faith.

Those of us who are older remember the missionary travels of Pope St. John Paul II. He literally circled the globe to bring the message of the Gospel to all people. His last visit to Canada was for World Youth Day in 2002. He said, *the Lord calls us to go beyond ourselves and to share with others the blessings we have received, beginning with the gift of faith, which cannot be considered a private privilege but must be seen as a gift to be shared with those who have not yet received it. Such activity will benefit faith itself since faith is strengthened when it is shared*. The same is true of love or charity. It too is strengthened when it is

shared. The source of all of our activity is the charity of Christ our Lord which urges us on (Cf. 2 Cor. 5:14). Our Cardinal is fond of saying that the Church's mission is both to the gathered; those of us here, and to the scattered, those who have yet to hear the saving message of the Gospel or those who have turned away from the practice of the faith. This embrace is in essence, the whole purpose of the *Family of Faith Campaign*.

In the cycle of our worship, in the exit and return that defines our liturgical life of prayer we learn to live for the Sabbath, the Lord's Day; that is, we learn that God created us to share His own life. Here, united by the charity of Christ our Lord we come to understand the beautiful words of the Prophet Nehemiah: *this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength* (8:10). So we journey through life, from Sabbath to Sabbath until we enter into the eternal Sabbath of the Heavenly Jerusalem, secure in the knowledge that the love of Christ that urges us on is no less a source of hope both for ourselves and for the whole world. With the Psalmist we pray: *May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you* (Ps. 33).