



2014 World Mission Sunday Appeal

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
a Pontifical Mission Society



‘The Joy of the Gospel’

Highlights from the Pope’s message for World Mission Sunday 2014



Today **vast numbers of people still do not know Jesus Christ.** For this reason, the mission *ad gentes* continues to be most urgent. All the members of the Church are called to participate in this mission, for the Church is missionary by her very nature: she was born “to go forth.”

The Evangelist tells us that the Lord sent the seventy-two disciples two by two into cities and villages to proclaim that the Kingdom of God was near, and to prepare people to meet Jesus. After carrying out this mission of preaching, the disciples returned full of joy: joy is a dominant theme of this first and unforgettable missionary experience.

Yet the divine Master told them: “Do not rejoice because the demons are subject to you; but **rejoice because your names are written in heaven.**”

World Mission Sunday is a **privileged moment** when the faithful of various continents engage in prayer and concrete gestures of solidarity in support of the young Churches in mission lands.

World Mission Sunday is a **celebration of grace and joy.** All the Lord’s disciples are called to nurture the joy of evangelization.

World Mission Sunday is also an **occasion to rekindle the desire and the moral obligation to take joyful part in the mission *ad gentes*.** A monetary contribution on the part of individuals is the sign of a self-offering, first to the Lord and then to others; in this way a material offering can become a means for the evangelization of humanity built on love.

World Mission Sunday is an **invitation to immerse yourself in the joy of the Gospel and nurture a love that can light up your vocation and your mission.**

Dear brothers and sisters, on this World Mission Sunday my thoughts turn to all the local Churches. Let us not be robbed of the **joy of evangelization!**

