

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This is the season of abundance, bringing in the harvest, fruits of the earth overflowing. As the People of God, blessed with all good gifts, we have a duty to share those gifts with others. On Oct. 19, the Church asks us to mark **World Mission Sunday**, and this year's theme – *Give them to eat* —speaks eloquently of one way of living out this Christian responsibility. Just as Jesus became the Bread of Life, we are called to be life-giving bread for others.

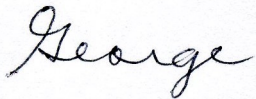
Through its mission societies, the Church is present in 144 countries with 1,100 missions, reaching the poor, the sick and the marginalized. Missioners initiate and sustain church buildings, rural clinics and religious houses; train local catechists; assist pastoral workers; translate missals and Bibles; and proclaim the Gospel message.

World Mission Sunday calls us to pray and support missionaries everywhere. In particular, let us pray for our Marianist Sisters and Brothers in mission lands – Africa, India, Mexico and the Philippines.

We may not be called to mission lands, yet each of us is asked to 'Give them to eat' to fulfill the mandate given to us by Christ himself. As authentic missionaries, we are called to reach out to the world, to build up the community of the faithful, to assist in transforming social, political and economic structures so that they reflect humane and Christian values. We do not live by bread alone but by sharing our abundance, compassion and faith. Our love is to be shared with all people. On World Mission Sunday, and throughout this month, let us pause to reflect on how we can best live out our mission to promote goodness and hope in our world!

Attached please find reflections on some October feast days.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

George J. Cerniglia, S.M.
Assistant for Religious Life