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World Mission SUNDAY O/T – Oct 18, 2020 YrA

The common theme of today's readings is the nature of our obligations to God and to our country. The readings show us how, with God's help, we can be ideal citizens of

Life messages:

- **We need to "give to Caesar what is Caesar's": How?** It is the duty of Christians, as citizens of the country, to pay for the services and the privileges that government provides, like paved roads, police and fire departments, banks, schools, and other necessities. If we refuse to pay taxes, how will these needs be met? Another way of "giving to Caesar what is Caesar's" is to participate actively in the running of the government, electing the most suitable candidates and influencing them through frequent contacts. Third, we must submit to the civil authorities and respect the just laws of our country in order to live in peace. As loyal citizens, we must also see to it that our elected representatives are faithful in maintaining law and order in the country and in promoting the welfare of all its citizens without violating God's laws.
- **We need to "give to God what is God's." How?** Since everything is God's, we must give ourselves to Him 100%, not just 10% on Sundays. We should be generous in fulfilling our Sunday obligations, and we should find time every day for prayer and worship in the family, for the reading of the Bible and the proper training of our children in Faith and morals. We are invited each year to make a stewardship pledge of our financial offering to the local Church for the coming year. Our contribution to the parish Church should be an expression of our gratitude to God, giving back to God all that He has given us. Active participation in the various ministries of the parish is an offering to God of our time and talents, yet another way of giving to God His due, our whole self.
- **Honesty and Trigonometry:** A Mathematics professor at a University for many years, before giving a test, the professor would admonish his class, "Today I am giving two examinations—one in trigonometry and the other in honesty. I hope you will pass them both, fulfilling your obligations to your teacher and to your God. If you fail, fail for trigonometry. There are many good people in the world who can't pass trigonometry, but there are not many people in the world who cannot pass the examination of honesty, the debt we owe to God." This piece of advice sounds like what Jesus said in today's Gospel: "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar — and to God what belongs to God."

Humour: "Will the Reverend also have a martini?" A pious pastor who had never had alcohol in his entire life, was invited to dinner by a new parishioner. "Would you gentlemen care for a drink?" the waiter asked. "I'll have a Martini," said the parishioner. "Will the Reverend also have a martini?" the waiter asked. "I'd sooner break all Ten Commandments," said the pastor. "I didn't know we had a choice," said the parishioner. In today's Gospel Lesson, the Pharisees ask Jesus a question involving choice.

The Missionary Church

Recently Deceased: *Giacchino & Michela Caruso, Antonio Bucceti Romeo Regalado, Jr.*
Anniversaries: *Antonio Esmaquel, Maria Bonadio, Leo Montealegre*
The sick in our parish: *Teresa & Con Lamonaca, Leanne Branchflower, Judiel Teodoro, Nola, Carmela Bovezza, Frank Cichello, Rosa Latanzio & Peter Corcoran*
We especially pray for all the deceased whose names are on the Church pews & the Resurrection Chapel. We pray for all those whose Anniversaries occur at this time.

Over one billion Catholics all over the world observe today as *World Mission Sunday*. This annual observance was instituted 94 years ago in 1926 by Pope Pius XI's Papal decree. Every year since then, the universal Church has dedicated the month of October to reflection on and prayer for the missions. On World Mission Sunday, Catholics gather to celebrate the Eucharist, and to contribute to a collection for the work of evangelization around the world. This annual celebration gives us a chance to reflect on the importance of mission work for the life of the Church. It reminds us that we are one with the Church around the world and that we are all committed to carrying on the mission of Christ, however different our situations may be.

The Holy Fathers' Mission Sunday messages:

In his World Mission Sunday messages, Pope Benedict XVI stressed the importance of Christian charity in action as the keynote of evangelization. He encouraged Churches with a shortage of priests to get them from countries with many priests. In the *Pauline Year*, he encouraged everyone "to take renewed awareness of the urgent need to proclaim the Gospel." He reminded us that the "the goal of the Church's mission is to illumine all peoples with the light of the Gospel," and he exhorted all Christians "to redouble their commitment to participate in the missionary activity that is an essential component of the life of the Church." Pope Francis, in his first World Mission Sunday message, 2013, challenged us to proclaim courageously and in every situation the Gospel of Christ, a message of hope, reconciliation and communion. In his 2014 Mission Sunday message, the Pope challenged the Church to become a welcoming home, a mother for all peoples, and the source of rebirth for our world through the intercession of Mary, the model of humble and joyful evangelization. "The Church is on a mission in the world," Pope Francis writes in his 2019 World Mission Day message, *Baptized and Sent*. "This missionary mandate touches us personally: I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptized man and woman is a mission." Hence the Holy Father calls on all Catholics and the Church to revive missionary awareness and commitment. In his 2020 message http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/missions/documents/papa-francesco_20200531_giornata-missionaria2020.html) our Holy Father want us to discharge our mission duty by volunteering with prophet Isaiah "Here am I, send me" (6:8) to alleviate the suffering of our Covid-19-stricken brothers and sisters.