



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



My Dear Brother Priests and Deacons,

I write to you with joy and a renewed sense of urgency as we prepare to celebrate World Mission Sunday next weekend, October 18-19, 2025 — a universal day of prayer and solidarity for the missions.

This year, we have received an extraordinary gift: a personal video message from Pope Leo XIV, the first U.S.-born Pope and a missionary himself, which he recorded to invite the faithful to join him in supporting the Church's missionary work.

In this message, the Holy Father reminds us of what he witnessed during his years serving in Peru: that the faith, prayer, and generosity shown on World Mission Sunday can transform entire communities. He calls upon every parish to participate fully — through prayer, preaching, and generosity — and humbly asks us to help him “help the missions.”

As your bishop and fellow laborer in the Lord's vineyard, I too humbly ask you to share this powerful video with your parishioners — through your parish website, social media platforms, Flocknote and other emails, and any other tools at your disposal. The video is available in English and Spanish. Suggested captions and resources are available from our Diocesan Pontifical Mission Society Office to make it easier for you and your staff to get the Holy Father's appeal out effectively.

Close to 40 percent of the help missionary territories receive on World Mission Sunday comes from the United States. As we read in Saint Luke's Gospel (Luke 12:48), Jesus teaches, “To whom more is given, more is to be expected.” I am very proud and grateful that the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth, following your pastoral leadership, are consistently among the most generous in supporting this collection.

When we were ordained deacons, we received the Book of the Gospels and became its heralds. With that sacred commissioning in our hearts let us lead our parishioners in becoming, as this year's theme attests, true Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples. With gratitude for our shared missionary zeal and faithful service,

I remain,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

The Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, TX 76108 • (817) 560-3300 • Fax (817) 244-8839 • fwdioc.org
officeofthebishop@fwdioc.org