



The Holy Father's Message (extract)

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

On the occasion of the Jubilee of the year 2000 Venerable John Paul II, at the beginning of a new millennium of the Christian era, forcefully confirmed the necessity of renewing the commitment to bring the Gospel proclamation to all with “the enthusiasm of the very first Christians”. Therefore that same invitation re-echoes every year in the celebration of World Mission Day.

“Missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Faith is strengthened when it is given to others! It is in commitment to the Church's universal mission that the new evangelization of Christian peoples will find inspiration and support”.

Together in Faith

The universal mission involves everyone, everything and always. The Gospel is not an exclusive possession of those who have received it, but it is a gift to be shared, good news to be passed on to others.

Mission Day is not an isolated moment in the year, but a precious occasion for pausing to reflect on whether and how we respond to the missionary vocation: an essential response for the life of the Church.

Evangelisation is a complex process and includes various elements. Among these, in missionary animation particular attention has always been given to solidarity. This is also one of the objectives of World Mission Day, which, through the Pontifical Mission Societies, appeals for help to carry out evangelising activities in mission territories.

Continued overleaf

Mission Sunday 23rd October 2011

It involves supporting institutions necessary for establishing and consolidating the Church through catechists, seminaries, priests; and also giving one's own contribution to improve the living conditions of people in nations where poverty, malnutrition, above all infantile malnutrition, diseases, lack of health care services and education are most serious.

Building Communion

Therefore through co-responsible participation in the Church's mission, the Christian becomes a builder of communion, of peace and of the solidarity that Christ has given us, and he or she collaborates in fulfilling God's plan of salvation for all humanity.

May World Mission Day reawaken in each person the joy and desire to "go" out to meet humanity taking Christ to all.

BENEDICTUS PP. XVI