



Missionaries of Mercy

Be bearers of the fruits of the Holy Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, **FAITHFULNESS**, gentleness, self-control." Galatians 5: 22

This month, the universal Church celebrates World Mission Sunday on October 18.

The Apostles were the first missionaries. Jesus told them to go into the world to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" and teaching His message of joy and salvation. Jesus also promised that He would always be with them in spirit as they carried out this holy work for the Lord.

All baptized people are called to be missionaries as they witness to the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

Some men and women, however, continue the tradition of the Apostles by leaving their home and family to serve God in foreign lands. Over the centuries, these faithful and brave missionaries have proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ courageously and baptized countless numbers of people into a new life with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Last month, Pope Francis canonized one such missionary. St. Junipero Serra was a Spanish Franciscan Friar who in 1750 came to "New Spain" which today is called Mexico. He would spend the rest of his life bringing Jesus to the people of New Spain as well as Lower and Upper California. He

was a tireless worker who baptized thousands of native people as Catholics and taught them many skills, particularly about farming. The faithfulness of St. Junipero Serra helped to found the Catholic Church in the New World as he established twenty-one missions such as San Diego, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Today his statue stands in the National Statuary Hall in Washington D.C. as he represents the state of California.

The ministry of Catholic missionaries continues today. Missions can be found in areas where the Church is young, poor, or persecuted and provides this living example of God's love and mercy. On World Mission Sunday, the faithful in every Catholic Church around the world, even the poorest, will unite prayerfully with their missionary sisters and brothers overseas. Together, they will recommit themselves to bringing the Joy of the Gospel to everyone they meet in their daily lives.

✝ Faithfulness in Action:

As a faithful witness of Jesus Christ, name some practical ways that you can help the missions.

Need ideas? Visit the Missionary Childhood Association at www.phillymissions.org

October 4, 2015 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mark 10:2-16	Jesus embraced the children: When have I felt the merciful embrace of Jesus?
October 11, 2015 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mark 10:17-30	Being a disciple of Jesus is hard: Do I accept God's grace to help me live my faith?
October 18, 2015 <i>World Mission Sunday</i> 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mark 10:35-45	How can I witness to my faith through my actions serving others this week?
October 25, 2015 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mark 10:46-52	What does Bartimeus teach us about faith?

Pray
and give generously



"FAITHFULNESS" — OCTOBER 2015

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESOURCE

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are based on the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians. Though Paul identifies nine fruits, over time the Church added three more fruits of the Holy Spirit to the list (goodness, modesty, chastity.)

What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?

We often hear the expression, "Actions speak louder than words." The fruits of the Holy Spirit are behaviors or attitudes which help us to respond to every day situations and witness to God's grace working within us. They are signs to others that we are believers and depend on the Holy Spirit to live a faithful Christian life.

The October resource focuses on the fruit of FAITHFULNESS by highlighting:

- ⇒ World Mission Sunday which is celebrated on October 18
- ⇒ The Canonization of Junipero Serra, Missionary to the Californias

Additional Resources:

- ⇒ For more information about World Mission Sunday, go to: <http://www.onefamilyinmission.org/society-propfaith/world-mission-sunday.html>
- ⇒ For more information about St. Junipero Serra, go to: <http://stjunipero.org/>
- ⇒ Bulletin Board Ideas on " FAITHFULNESS" can be found (Courtesy of the IHM Community) as a separate attachment or linked at the OCF website: <http://phillyocf.org/resources/>