

29TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 2020 WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

This weekend we are celebrating World Mission Sunday, a day set apart by the Catholic Church throughout the world to publicly renew its commitment to the work of evangelization. Pope Francis reminds us that as baptized Catholics, we are personally called to mission, to bring Christ's love to those most forgotten; our brothers and sisters in need around the world. World Mission Sunday gathers us around the person of Jesus, the first and greatest evangelizer who continually sends us forth to proclaim the Gospel of the love of the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. We are also called upon to support missionary work with our prayers and resources through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. May we always tell the Lord: "**Here I am send me.**" May we draw inspiration from Mary mother of evangelization.

The word of God today shows us how, with God's help, we can be ideal citizens of both the world and heaven. This will be possible as we express our loyalty to country and to God as evidenced in Jesus' answer to the Pharisees who wanted to trap him. Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what belongs to God.

We are citizens of two worlds, with responsibilities to both worlds. We have an allegiance and an obligation to each. These two obligations are like two sides of the same coin. A failure in our duty as citizens, constitutes a failure in our duty as Christians. We hope the obligations will never clash. But if they ever do, we must resolve them without compromise to our God or to our conscience. Christians have had to do this throughout history to the point of martyrdom. Total and absolute loyalty is a debt that we owe to God and to God alone.

There are somethings we owe primarily to God such as a well-formed conscience, care for our souls, duty of worship and our living the gospel values. The central act of Christian worship is the *Eucharist*, which is a "thanksgiving." It is one of the ways of paying back the debt of gratitude we owe to God. We cannot surrender our consciences or our souls to Caesar. We cannot worship Caesar. Our consciences, souls and values are the signs of God within us in whose image we were created. His image and inscription are a part of us. His law is in our hearts.

If God has given us all that we are and all that we have, then we are bound in justice to give back to Him our gratitude, loyalty, and service. We do this by loving Him wholeheartedly and giving of ourselves through our participation in the various ministries of our parish like being ushers, lectors and commentators, Eucharistic ministers, CCD catechists, choir members, being a Catholic daughter or being a Knight of Columbus to mention but a few. Through these, we offer our time, talents and treasure to the service of God.

On the other hand, we must also submit to the civil authorities and respect the laws of our country in order to live in peace. As loyal citizens we must also see to it that our elected leaders are faithful in maintaining law and order in the country and promoting the welfare of all its citizens without violating God's laws. We are also obliged to pay our taxes and to vote for good leaders like in the upcoming elections.

May we pray in this sacrifice of Mass that we may always use well our earthly citizenship so as to prepare for our heavenly one. Amen.