

Collection for *World Mission Sunday*

A Universal Collection

The collection on *World Mission Sunday* is a “mandatory” universal collection. This means that all the Catholic communities of the world must remit the collection to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in its entirety. All the donations collected within the churches of the world on that day form the Universal Solidarity Fund for the poorest dioceses of the Church.

Statutes of the PMS (Pontifical Mission Societies) Vatican-Chapter 2, articles 7, 8 and 10

- This day is celebrated in all the particular churches as the feast of catholicity and universal solidarity. On this day, Christians throughout the world become aware of their common responsibility to the evangelization of the world. (Article 7)
- Bishops are invited to ask the people in charge of the Catholic organizations and also the Christians, to renounce, during all the celebrations of that special Sunday, to any other collection of particular nature. They should also ensure that all donations for *World Mission Sunday* are exclusively remitted to the Universal Solidarity Fund and they should encourage their priests and laity in that spirit. (Article 8)

A Liturgical Sign

The collection that takes place during the Eucharistic celebration is an act and a sign of solidarity and sharing. It represents our communion and our participation in the mission of Christ through our solidarity with the poorest churches of the world. This

collection shouldn't be substituted by a collection at the doors of the church, neither by a remittance of a surplus in comparison to the ordinary collection. Also, we cannot put into a common fund all the “mandatory” collections of the year and distribute them fairly between various projects of the parish. This would mislead the intention of the person who makes a donation to the Society for Propagation of the Faith. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is the only recipient of the collection for *World Mission Sunday* (Statutes PMS, art. 10).

A Sign of Fraternity & Solidarity

The universal collection for *World Mission Sunday* is unique: its fruits are distributed worldwide, according to the needs of the poorest dioceses. Everyone contributes to the cause and this allows the survival of the poorest dioceses, especially those who do not benefit from twinning or privileged contacts with the West. The universal collection provides each bishop the means and freedom of action for the formation of catechists, solidarity, priestly vocations and consecrated life, education, health care, etc. Therefore, it is a tool of justice and fraternity between all the dioceses. Furthermore, it allows supporting the permanent effort of the Universal Church to go and proclaim the Gospel to all nations. This mandate, received from Christ, is borne by the baptized people and those who are jointly responsible for the Universal Mission along with the Church of Africa, Asia, South America, Central America, Europe and Oceania.

Exhortation of Pope Francis, *World Mission Sunday 2016:*

It is appropriate then to recall the wise instructions of my Predecessors who ordered that to this Society be **destined all the offerings collected** in every diocese, parish, religious community, association and ecclesial movement throughout the world for the care of Christian communities in need and for supporting the proclamation of the Gospel even to the ends of the earth. Today in addition, we believe in this sign of missionary ecclesial communion. Let us not close our hearts within our own particular concerns, but let us open them to all of humanity. — **MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2016**

