

Planetary Hour of Prayer

CONCLUSION

Animator:

In union with one another, with the Churches of Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania and the Americas, we join hands and pray the Lord's prayer: **Our Father ...**

Lector:

God said, "I created the Universe. I made everything with a colour, a form and a particular brightness. I made the moon, the sun, the stars with their silent conversation by nights and by days. I created the solid, living earth, the majestic mountains, the oceans full of mystery and life, the wind that dances in the wheat fields, the birds and their melodious song.

And I created you, man and woman, to serve, offer, build, construct and open new pathways, new avenues to the Gospel and to become an image, a resemblance of who I am.

I did not create music, I left for you to invent it for my glory and your joy, so that you could harmonize with the world that I give you."

Prayer (animator):

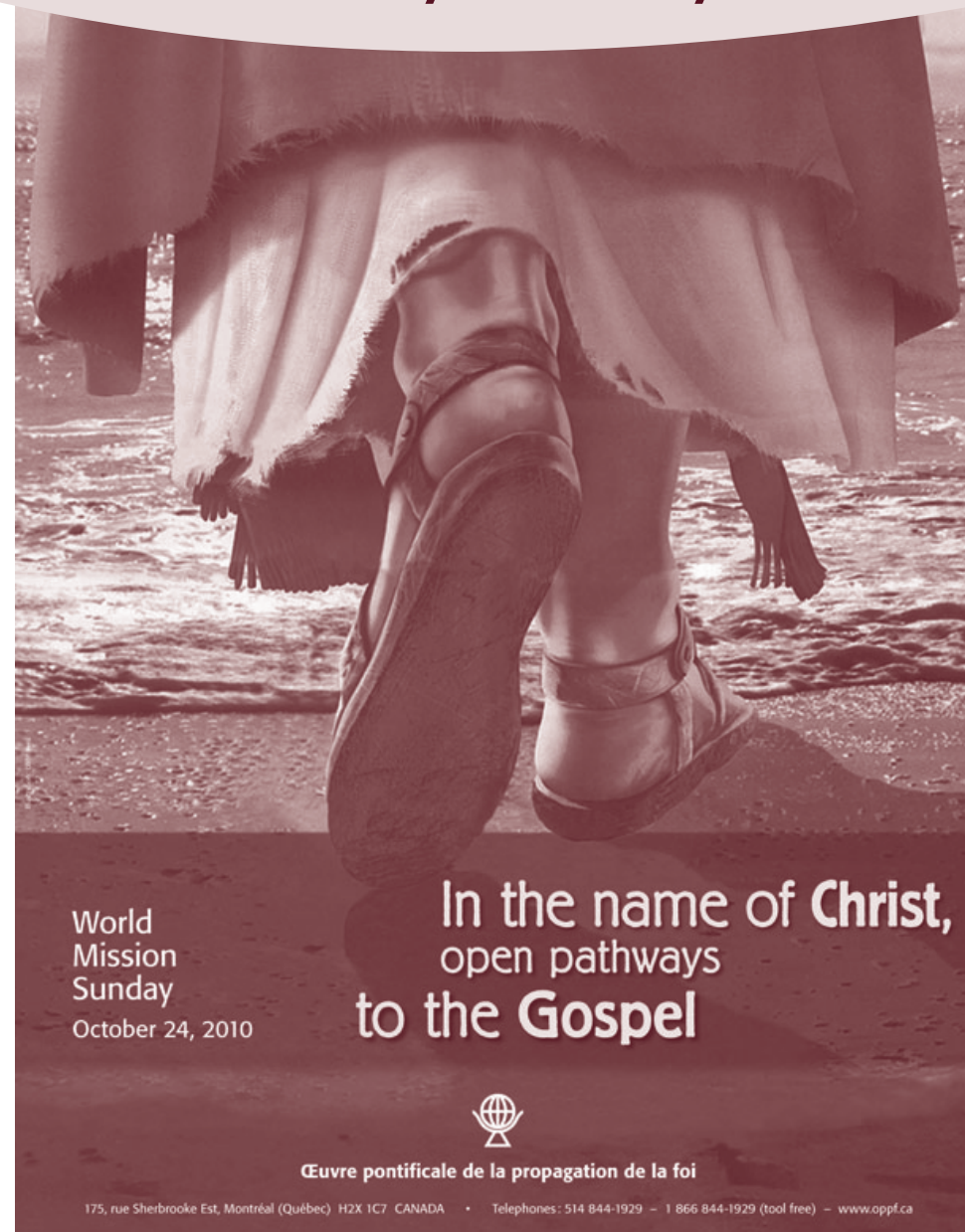
Lord Jesus, we are here, the people of Africa, of Asia, Oceania, Europe and the Americas. Teach us to live the commandment of love and send us to announce your Gospel. Make us become "flesh of your flesh and blood of your blood" so that as disciples and missionaries, we give our lives for your glory and the beauty of the earth.

Let us together, pray the Mission Sunday Prayer given at the beginning of the celebration.

Song: Lord Jesus, of you I will sing. CBW no. 554, verse 4.


Have a great Mission !

*This celebration was prepared
by Father André Gagnon, s.j.*



World
Mission
Sunday
October 24, 2010

In the name of **Christ**,
open pathways
to the **Gospel**



Œuvre pontificale de la propagation de la foi

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Procession : We place a candle and the matching footprints on the table. The footprints have the word **“CONSTRUCT”**.

Animator:

Let us pray for the Church of OCEANIA... From the beginning, the people of Oceania were sensitive to the divine presence manifested in the richness of nature and cultures. When the first foreign missionaries came on the last half of the second millennium, the native populations heard about Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, for the first time. For all, the Gospel of Christ, received in faith and communion, goes beyond the deepest human desires.

Lord, give hope to the Church of Oceania. May it experience God's infinite goodness to construct bridges with other churches and religions of the continent.

For us here, let us share the hope of the people of Oceania. May the future bring to the soil of the Great Ocean, gifts of new and marvellous grace.

In solidarity with the Church of Oceania, give us strength for the journey, support in hardships and courage in the prophecies. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear.

ALL : Give us a heart to open Gospel pathways.

Song: Lord Jesus, of you I will sing . CBW no. 554, verse 2

(Moment of silence)

Lector: Redemptoris Missio, nos. 61 and 62

There is no witnessing without witnesses and there is no mission without missionaries. To take part in His mission and continue His salvation, Jesus chose and sent people who would be His witnesses and His apostles. “You will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

In the beginning of the missionary expansion, we find besides the apostles, other helpers that we must not forget: persons, groups and communities. The community of Antioch is a typical example of the local church that was evangelized, then became evangelizer and sent its missionaries among the pagans. (Acts 13:2-3) The primitive Church saw the mission as a community effort, recognizing the “special people “ or “missionaries” like Paul and Barnabas,

Reader:

“The mission of Christ, the Redeemer, given to the Church is not yet completed. At the end of the second millennium with an overall look at humanity in general, we see that this mission is still at its beginning and that we must commit ourselves to its service. It is the Spirit who moves us to announce God's mighty deeds. To announce the Gospel is not for me a glory, but a duty. Yes, “I should be punished if I did not preach it”. (1 Co. 9,16) The Missionary zeal belongs to the intimate nature of Christian living and it inspires ecumenism. “May they be one, so that the world may believe it was. You who sent me”. (John 17:21)

Procession : On a table, place a candle and footprints of the same colour, marked **“SERVE”**.

Animator:

Let us pray for the church of AFRICA... The African continent is devastated by aids, malaria and tribal wars. Exploitation provokes poverty and misery in small villages, leaving the youth without work or hope for the future.

Lord, give us the capacity to hear their distress. In solidarity with missionaries of the African continent, give us the strength to serve, give us eyes to see and ears to hear.

All: Give us a heart to open Gospel pathways.

Song: Lord Jesus, of you I will sing. CBW II, no. 554, verse 3

(Moment of silence)

Lector: Redemptoris Missio, nos. 2 and 3

“Christ Redeemer, wrote John Paul II, reveals man to himself. Man who wishes to understand himself fully must have a close relationship with Christ. The Redemption realized by the Cross has definitely restored man in his dignity and in his sense of existence in the world. We must erase our doubts and ambiguities about the mission ad gentes, by confirming not only our brothers and sisters who are consecrated to missionary activity but also their helpers. We must promote missionary vocations; encourage theologians to deepen and to systematically explain the different aspects of the mission, to specifically favour the mission by calling on particular Churches, especially the young Churches, to send and receive missionaries.

“All you people, open the gates to Christ”. His Gospel takes nothing away from our liberty, the respect of cultures or what is good in all religions. In accepting Christ, you become open to the definite Word of God, to Him who God revealed Himself totally and to Him who shows the way to His Father”.

Procession : We place the second candle with the matching colour of footprints on the table. They represent the word **"OFFER"**.

Animator:

Let us pray for the Church of ASIA... The Asian Church has always shown its commitment to defend the human person's dignity in its numerous special institutions, by offering an unconditional love to Christians as well as people of other faith denominations.

Lord, so that your kingdom may come, we offer ourselves to work at its coming. Give us hands to help the sick and imprisoned. Give us an open heart to receive you. May we share and see you in the homeless stranger at our table. In solidarity with the missionaries and with our brothers and sisters in Asia, give us the strength to offer our lives. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear.

All : Give us a heart to open Gospel pathways.

Song: Lord Jesus, of you I will sing. CB

W II no.554, verse 2

(Moment of silence)

Lector: Redemptoris Missio , nos. 14 and 15

Two gestures characterize Jesus' mission of healing and forgiveness. His many miracles of healing show His great compassion for human misery; but they also signify that there will be no more illness or suffering in the Kingdom. From the beginning, His mission freed people from their suffering. In Jesus' perspective, the miracles were signs of spiritual healing, the liberation of sin. By accomplishing these healing gestures, Jesus invites his people to have faith, to convert and to desire forgiveness(Luke 5:24).

"The Kingdom must transform people's relationships and progressively teach them to love, to forgive, and to be of service to one another. Jesus took all the Jewish law, and centered it on the commandment of love(Mt. 22:34-40; Lc. 10: 25-28). Before leaving his apostles, Jesus gave them a "new commandment. Love one another just as I have loved you" (John 13:34 or 15:12). The love by which Jesus loved the world finds its greatest expression in the gift of His life for humanity (John 15:13). That is why the Kingdom is communion of all humans with one another and with God.

Procession : Place the third candle on the table with the matching colour of footprints, representing the word **"BUILD"**.

Animator:

Let us pray for the Church of EUROPE... who has the challenge of receiving many young migrants and refugees. These persons have fled from their country at war. Their country was usually too poor to secure them a possible future.

These persons need particular care, respect and fraternity. Their presence from different religions and cultures is an occasion to open up to the world and to receive and share the gifts of these migrants with the Europeans.

We pray, Lord, that the Christians of Europe change their vision of migrants, that they take time to listen and give them hope. For us, here, make us more welcoming to those who come from elsewhere by offering to build new communities with them. In solidarity with the missionaries of the Church of Europe, give us the intelligence to build new relationships, a heart to break barriers, boldness to denounce injustice. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear.

ALL : Give us a heart to open pathways to the Gospel.

Song: Lord Jesus, of You I will sing. CBW no.554 , verse 1

(Moment of silence)

Lector: Redemptoris Missio, no. 37

The deep and rapid transformations that characterize the world today, especially in the South, have a strong influence on mission work. Where there were stable human situations and societies at one time, today all is in movement. For example, the urbanization and the massive growth of cities. In many countries half of the population has moved to the cities where human problems become greater.

Today, the ad gentes mission picture is beginning to change: these privileged places should be big cities where new moral values, new role models, new forms of culture and communication will influence the whole population. The future of young nations is being born in the cities.

Speaking of the future, we must not forget the youth, who in many countries, make up already half of the population. How can we bring the message of Christ to the non christian youth who are the future of the whole continent? Evidence shows that the ordinary pastoral methods do not suffice: we need associations, institutions, groups, youth centres, cultural and social initiatives for the youth. This is where the modern church movements have a large field of action.

Planetary Hour of Prayer

At the invitation of the Pontifical Missionary Society, the baptized from 40 countries will pray for the Missionary Church at the same hour, 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on October 24th, 2010. All Canadian Catholics are invited to unite their prayers to those of the missionaries around the world. If this hour is not favourable, please find another time more appropriate for your family, community or parish.

by Fr. André Gagnon s.j.

Preparation :

- the World Mission Sunday poster;
- 5 candles of different colours and fragrance;
- cardboard footprints of 5 different colours on which are written the words: serve, offer, build, construct, open (one per colour). One footprint is given to each participant at the beginning of the celebration.
- Distribute World Mission Sunday Prayer card to each participant.

For more information please contact:

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INTRODUCTION

Song: Lord Jesus, of you I will sing. CBW II no.554, verse 1

Animator:

The Church invites us today, to celebrate World Mission Sunday by participating in a Planetary Hour of Prayer. United with our brothers and sisters of the local churches throughout the world, and especially for the most needy who count on our support, we give thanks for the life of the world. Together, we wish to discover new fields of evangelization and we wish to offer our help to serve our brothers and sisters. Finally, we will allow ourselves to be moved by the love of the Living Christ, who sends us into the world to make his presence known to everyone.

Christ invites us **to serve, to offer, to build, to construct and to open new pathways for the Gospel**. He also invites us to live as brothers and sisters through prayer and dialogue.

Let us entrust to the Lord this time of prayer as well as our desire to embrace Christ's project in opening new pathways to the Gospel. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may we hear the call to be witnesses of the Risen Christ.

(Moment of silence)

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consecrated to the evangelization of the Gentiles. What was done at the beginning of Christianity for the Universal Mission still is needed and urgent today. The Church is missionary by its nature. The result is that the whole world is still sent today.

In a world that has become smaller because of reduced distances by faster communication, the Church communities must unite, exchange energy and methods to take on together a common mission to announce and live the Gospel. The young Churches need the strength of the older Churches but at the same time these older churches need the witness and impulsion of the younger ones, so that each receives the richness of the other.

Procession : Place a candle and matching footprints representing the word **"OPEN"**.

Animator:

Let us pray for the Church of the AMERICAS... The evangelization of the Americas is not only a gift from God, but also a source of new responsibilities. Because of those who evangelized all the regions of the continents, the Church by the Holy Spirit, gave birth to Christianity.

As in the past, the Apostles, words continue to touch hearts now. "Not that I do boast of preaching the Gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it". (1Cor. 9:16)

This mission is founded on the order given by the Risen Christ to the Apostles before His Ascension into heaven. "Proclaim the Gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

In solidarity with the missionaries of the Americas, give us Lord the courage to reduce distances, to assemble solidarities, to awaken dreams, to open new pathways for the Gospel and plant flowers and smiles filled with hope. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear.

ALL : Give us a heart to open Gospel pathways.

Song: Lord Jesus, of you I will sing. CBW no.554, verse 3

(Moment of silence)

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