

Lord, it was your will that the preaching of St. Francis Xavier brought to you many peoples of the Orient. Give to all the baptized persons, the same zeal for the spreading of the faith. May your children rejoice when you have new followers wishing to walk in faith. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen!

**Word of God: 1 Cor. 9:16-17; 19;22**

*Brothers and Sisters. 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! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility that has been put into my hands. So though I am not a slave of any person, I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. I made myself available to all!*

**Moment of silence**

**Meditation: Excerpt of St. Francis Xavier's letters.**

*“First of all, be attentive to yourself, to your conscience and to your relationship with God. On these depends your possibility to be useful to others. In all your relations, conversations and friendships with others, be pleasant and in good humour, avoiding inflexibility and sullenness, because a gloomy appearance will stop people to approach you and to accept your advice. May your attention and your compassionate words be welcoming to all. If you need to reprimand someone, do it with love and kindness. May God our Lord be with you and may He remain with us at all times. Good-bye!* (Letter written in Goa, in March 1549)

**Our Father ...**

**Final Prayer**

Lord, you bring newness and beauty to all your creation, when the breath of the Spirit passes. Come realize your marvels with us and in us. Grant us the grace to listen freely, filled with your hope, without prejudice, without premature interpretations and without fear. Amen!

**Prayer for World Mission Sunday** *(using the prayer card received from the Propagation of the Faith).*

**Theme Song: City of God**

**TUESDAY, October 18, 2011**

**Witness of God's love with Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus.**

Theresa of the Child Jesus (1873-1897) – also called Thérèse de Lisieux – became a cloistered Carmelite nun. She has been recognized “ Doctor of the Church” in 1997. She is patron saint of Missions and we celebrate her feast day on October 1.

**Introduction: City of God – Theme song**

Love is at the heart and centre of the life of Christ. Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus also had placed love at the heart of her life and of her mission. Let us ask God to help us be touched by the “little way” she proposes. May her teaching enlighten our life of witnesses and builders.

**Let us pray**

Lord God, you open your Kingdom to the little ones and to the humble of heart. Help us to walk with confidence in the footsteps of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus. May we obtain through her intercession, the revelation of your glory. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen!

**The Word of God: Mt. 18:1-4**

*At this time the disciples came to Jesus and said, “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven”? So He called a little child to Him and set him in front of them. Then he said: “I tell you solemnly, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven. And so the one that makes himself as little as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven”.*

**Silence**

**Meditation: The Eucharistic spirituality of Theresa of Lisieux consists of pure love and Marian mediation. Let us receive her witnessing:**

*“I cannot say that I often received consolations during my moments of thanksgiving. It is probably the time when I received less. I find this very natural since I offered myself to Jesus not as desiring his visit but for his own consolation, for His pleasure in giving himself to me”. I see my soul as a free space and I pray the Virgin Mary to remove the obstacles that could be an impediment to freedom. Then I ask her to draw herself a vast tent worthy of Heaven, to decorate it with her own ornaments and then I invite all the angels and saints to come and perform a magnificent concert. It seems to me that when Jesus comes in my heart he feels so welcomed and I, too, am happy”* (Ms A, V111, 79 v and 80 r).

**Our Father ...**

**Let us pray**

Almighty God, through your infinite love and goodness, ignite in us the fire of charity that urged Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus to abandon herself to your grace and to desire so passionately the salvation of all. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen!

**Prayer for World Mission Sunday**

**Theme Song: City of God**

**WEDNESDAY, October 19, 2011**

**To live my faith with Pauline Jaricot.**

Pauline Marie Jarico (1799-1862) was 20 years old when she wanted to help the Missions by prayer and donations. She had a marvellous idea: one prayer a day, one cent a week. She founded the Society of the Propagation of the Faith on May 3, 1822.

**Introduction: City of God – Theme song**

The objective and goal of the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith, founded by Pauline Jaricot, is to maintain in the Church, the Spirit of Pentecost and to lead people to live in communion with Christ, in His Church. It is an invitation to participate in the universal redemptive mission by the proclamation of the Gospel in words and deeds. It is also an invitation to contribute through our human and spiritual potential that can take the form of financial help. Inspired by Pauline Jaricot, let us ask the Lord to help us be witnesses and builders of the Church through the proclamation of the Word of God.

**Let us pray**

Lord, so that the mission of Christ continue until the end of times, you made of your Church the sign of salvation that you offer to all men and women. Open our intelligence and help us understand that we are chosen for the purpose of evangelization in the world. May all human beings be born and raised as your children. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen!

**Word of God:** Mark 16:15-20.

*The risen Christ told his disciples: “Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed. Should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover”. And so, the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere. The Lord was working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.*

**Silence**

**Meditation: For Pauline Jaricot, the orientation of all her being must be for the Mission.**

*Let us desire that the universe adore and serve Jesus Christ; and if we ask this by the desire of His adorable*

*heart, we will obtain graces for all Humanity. . . Prayer is a powerful motor that makes its strength felt from one part of the world to the other. I will always talk to you about prayer, each time that the Lord will give me the consolation to write to you. We are Catholics, consequently we must not limit ourselves to sustain only a particular mission, but all the missions of the world”.*

**Our Father ...**

**Let us pray**

Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Pauline Jaricot, may your Church always grow in holiness so that each person receives through her, the salvation that your Son offered on the Cross. We ask this through you Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer for World Mission Sunday Theme Song: City of God**

**THURSDAY, October 20, 2011**

**Let us pray for vocations to the priesthood with Jeanne Bigard.**

In 1889, in Caen (France) Jeanne Bigard (1859-1934) founded, with her mother Stéphanie, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle.

**Introduction: City of God – Theme song**

The main thrust of the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, founded by Jeanne and Stephanie Bigard, is the formation and education of seminarians in developing countries. With Jeanne Bigard, let us pray that young men continue to answer God's call to the priesthood.

**Let us pray**

Lord, in your great love, you want your people to be guided by pastors. May your Spirit inspire priests in your Church today, to sustain in prayer, offer the sacraments and announce the Gospel of Christ. We ask this to you who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen!

**Word of God: Romans 10:9-16**

*“If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved.*

*When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek; all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, but they will not ask his help unless they believe in him, and they will not believe in him unless they have heard of him, and they will not hear of him unless they get a preacher, and they will never get a preacher unless one is sent. As scripture says: “The footsteps of those who bring Good News are a welcome sound”.*

**Silence**

**Meditation: "Priests for the world"**

*“I will always find that keeping our savings for the future, is incompatible to the Spirit that should animate us to provide generously to priestly and religious vocations that get lost because of lack of financial resources”.*

*(Jeanne Bigard)*

Jeanne always desired to walk ahead with the Church , in communion with the Pope and the Bishops. Her hope is universal. The Society of St. Peter the Apostle is not only a matter of money; all the associates are invited to pray for the conversion of priests and religious as well as for their good relationship with the Pope.

**Our Father ...**

**Let us pray**

Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Jeanne Bigard, may your Church always grow in sanctity so that all persons receive through her the salvation that you offered on the Cross. We ask this of you who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen!

**Prayer for World Mission Sunday**

**Theme Song: City of God**

**FRIDAY, October 21, 2011**

**Let us pray with Paolo Manna, for all involved in a ministry in the Church.**

Blessed Father Paolo Manna (1872-1952) founded the Pontifical Missionary Union (P.M.U.). It was founded in 1916, in Italy, and was first known as the Missionary Union of the Clergy. Later on, in 1956, it became the P.M.U. Blessed Paolo Manna is celebrated on January 16.

**Introduction: City of God – Theme song**

The immediate goal of the Pontifical Missionary Union, declared Pope John Paul II, is to promote and oversee the missionary formation of priests, religious, deacons, catechists and other community animators that in turn must assure this formation in their Christian communities. It is the heart and soul of the Pontifical Mission Societies. (*Redemptoris Missio*) The Pontifical Missionary Union celebrates its 95 years of foundation this year. United with all the persons in a mission service, let us pray for faith, hope and charity.

**Let us pray**

For the good of all and for your glory, Lord, you willed that we all serve you according to your grace and the call of the Spirit. Grant that each Christian find a place in the Church, the Body of Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen!

**Word of God: John 20:19b-23**

*In the evening of the same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, “Peace be with you”, and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and He said to them again, “Peace be with you”. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you”. After saying this he breathed on them and said: “Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained”.*

**Silence**

**Meditation: We are all missionaries!**

All baptized persons, but especially each priest, by definition, is a missionary. As a missionary, his responsibility is not only to make known the progression of faith in the world and the help brought to missionaries by prayers and offerings. It is mostly to develop, with more missionaries and all brothers and sisters, a Church capable of fully accomplishing the duty of evangelization. The missionary vocation is not distinct from the priestly or Christian vocation. Its slogan is: We are all missionaries!

**Our Father ...**

**Let us pray**

Through your mercy and the richness of your grace, we pray to you Lord, to shed your blessings on all those involved in your Church. May the life of the Blessed Paolo Manna, who has walked during his life in the pathways of St. Francis Xavier, by going as a missionary to Burma (Myanmar) inspire us. Upon his return to his country, for health reasons he continued to faithfully follow “the little way” of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus. May his example, incite us to follow in the footsteps of Christ, witnessing to his Gospel and building the Church for today's world. We ask this through Jesus, the Christ, our Lord. Amen!

**Prayer for World Mission Sunday.**

**Theme Song:** City of God.

**SATURDAY, October 22, 2011**

**“Children helping children” with Mgr de Forbin-Janson**

Charles Auguste Marie Joseph de Forbin-Janson (1785-1844) founds the Holy Childhood Association (H.C.A.) in 1843. Today, the H.C.A. is present in 150 countries. Through its program, the children are invited to share their discovery of Jesus, to pray for all the children of the world, to sustain the poorest children in other countries through projects that they realize with their family and friends. Through activities they discover and share their awareness of what other children in the world are all about.

**Introduction: City of God – Theme song**

Family, school and parish are engaged in the religious formation of children, who themselves are the essential subjects of their formation. Let us pray with Bishop de Forbin-Janson, for all children, that the Holy Spirit lead them and open them to the dimension of the world. May they also direct their heart to sharing with the children in need. **Children help children!**

**Let us pray**

Lord, you never cease to create the wonders of your creation. It was your will, that through the Holy Childhood Association, children would be associated to the works of your creation. Look at the work we have to do. May the children, through their presence and their commitment, help those who are the most in need. Amen!

**Word of God: Luke 18:15-17**

*People even brought little children to him, for him to touch them; but when the disciples saw this they turned them away. But Jesus called the children to him and said: “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such of these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, any one who does not welcome the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it”.*

**Silence**

**Meditation: The cross of temperance (moderation)**

Mgr de Forbin-Janson arrived in Québec, where he pronounced his first sermon at the cathedral on Sunday, September 6, 1840. Bishop Bourget will say of him: *“The divine Providence directed to us the Bishop of Nancy to create here what he did with so much advantage elsewhere”.* The great accomplishment of Bishop de Forbin-Janson in Canada was the setting-up of a giant Cross on Mount Saint-Hilaire. He wanted it to be an imposing monument, both religious and national. It was inaugurated and blessed very solemnly on October 6, 1841. The 60 centres stretching from Québec to the Maritimes is the culmination of Bishop de Forbin Janson's ardent work.

**Our Father ...**

**Let us pray**

Lord, we call on the richness of your grace in favour of the children who help children in their desire to get to a better knowledge of Jesus. Through the intercession of Bishop de Forbin-Janson and of the other founders of the Pontifical Mission Society, as well as by the prayer of the Patron Saints of the universal mission of the Church, may we be strengthened in our faith so that we may be witnesses of the Gospel. Help us to build a better world by assuring the presence of your Church in our transforming world. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen!

**Prayer for World Mission Sunday.**

**Theme Song: City of God**

**Leaflet 9**

**Missionary Prayer Week**

October 17 - 22, 2011

*By Fr. André Gagnon, s.j.*



**From October 17 until October 22, 2011**

This Monday, we are starting a special week of prayer for missions. It will end on this coming Sunday: World Mission Day. This week of prayer will allow us to widen our vision of the universal Church: our Church here in transformation and that of other Churches that we do not know well enough. It is of great interest for us to understand better the diversity of these Churches who together, form the unique Church of Christ. To look at Churches elsewhere, stimulates us to leave aside our routine. At times, they are small minority Churches that show courage, at times they are threatened, martyred and most often very poor. The faith of these Christian communities generally expresses itself in festive liturgies, songs and dances. At times, Christian people will travel several kilometres to partake in these celebrations.

We encourage you to live this week of prayer with Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus: our missionary patrons. We also pray with Pauline Jaricot, Bishop Forbin-Janson, Jeanne Bigard, Paolo Manna, founders and foundresses of the Pontifical Mission Societies. May their intercession bring us the blessings we need to be real witnesses of Christ in order to build a Church responding to the needs of today.

During this week of missionary prayer, let us ask God to open our eyes on the work to accomplish, on the needs we have to consider, the task to assume, the attentions to have, the commitments to accept. Let us open our ears so that we may hear God's call and that of our brothers and sisters. Let us open our hearts to answer positively. Let us open our hands to give generously, and have the humility to accept what others have to offer us.

**Have a good prayer week!**

**MONDAY, October 17, 2011**

**Witnesses of Christ in our world, with St. Francis Xavier.**

Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was born in Navarre, Spain. As he was studying in Paris, he met Saint Ignatius of Loyola and he became part of the beginnings of the Jesuit community. He left for Goa in 1541, and during 10 years he travelled south of India, Ceylon and Japan. He is patron Saint of Missions and we celebrate his feast day on December 3.

**Introduction: Theme Song: City of God, no. 345 – CBW 111**

This year, World Mission Sunday invites us to become witnesses and builders of a Church answering today's needs. Today, let us pray with St. Francis Xavier. May his example and his teaching encourage us to be living witnesses to the Word of God in our world.

**Let us pray**