



Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Diocese of Peoria
Office of the Bishop

October 2026

Dear friends in Christ,

This year marks the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday. Established by Pope Pius XI, the annual observance was instituted to remind the entire Church of the missionary call of the Gospel to proclaim our faith in Jesus Christ.

At the same time, we celebrate the Church's newest "Blessed," our own Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. A significant part of Archbishop Sheen's life and ministry was spent in support of the missions, serving as the Director of the Pontifical Mission Society here in the United States. Blessed Sheen, through his experience of working with and for the missions, saw the world as his parish. He saw firsthand how the support gained by the faithful of the United States had a transformative impact for the work of missionaries who literally spanned the globe to share our faith in Jesus.

It is even more fitting that as we observe World Mission Sunday this year that we renew our support for the missions. This year's theme is "One in Christ, United in Mission." Indeed, we are united in the Lord's great commission to go into the world to proclaim our faith in Him. I encourage each of us to pray for and contribute to the collection for the Pontifical Mission Society as they continue the great task of bring Christ to the world.

May Blessed Fulton Sheen, who loved the missions, inspire us for our efforts to be missionary disciples here at home and through the efforts of the mission society around the globe!

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Louis Tylka*

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Bishop of Peoria

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