

# LIVING FAITH

SEPTEMBER 29, 2019  
26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

### Luke 16:19-31

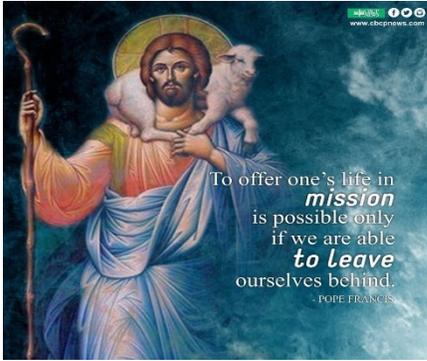
'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." '

## TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

This story, told by Jesus, has a pretty stark or sobering message—do all the good you can now, and don't hesitate; if you keep putting it off, someday it will be too late. The truth is that God has given each one of us a great gift—the present moment. We can choose to use the present moment to do good, or we can let the moment draft by. There's a popular saying, "Carpe diem (seize the day)." Seize each moment, and choose to make that moment matter, making life better for others. That's love. That's how we live in love.

## PONDER AND DISCUSS

- What choices can you make today that will positively affect the life of another person?
- Is there anything you can do to "make things right" if one of yesterday's choices doesn't seem loving or life-giving today?



## THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OCTOBER 2019

The Extraordinary Missionary Month is a special month of prayer, reflection and action called by Pope Francis to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Pope Benedict's Apostolic Letter on overseas mission, entitled "Maximum Illud".

Its first words when translated mean the "momentous charge" or "great command" and highlight Matthew 28:19 "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" or Mark 16:15 "Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Gospel to all creation".

Today we are being called to renew, revitalize and reawaken our ongoing commitment to our baptismal call and to become missionary disciples to all in our families, work places, communities and even to the ends of the earth.

### OCTOBER IS EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

#### Tuesday, October 1

**Reflection:** "Contemplation is a gift we have already been given... What you have to do is allow it to awaken in you" (Thomas Keating)

**Action:** Take a few moments to be quiet with your God.

#### Wednesday, October 2

**Reflection:** The theme for the month of October 2019 is "Baptized and Sent"

**Action:** Learn more about your Baptismal identity and how, through it, you are 'sent' in your home, place of work, parish, community or even to foreign countries.

#### Thursday, October 3

**Reflection:** Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter "Maximum Illud" is 100 years old this year.

**Action:** Google "Maximum Illud" and read what it says about the mission of Jesus Christ.

#### Friday, October 4

**Reflection:** "Mission is for all Catholics who can participate through the Apostolate Prayer, by supporting vocations and by helping financially"(Max. Illud 30-36)

**Action:** Support the mission of the Church by ways most appropriate for you.

#### Saturday, October 5

**Reflection:** "Prayer, reflection and action will help us live this dimension of the Extraordinary Missionary Month".

**Action:** Commit yourself to dedicating time to prayer, reflection and action to others this month, exploring your own mission within the mission of the Church.

The Extraordinary Missionary Month: The month of October, 2019, is a special month of prayer, reflection and action called by Pope Francis to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's apostolic Letter on overseas mission, "Maximum Illud". During the Extraordinary Missionary Month we are encouraged to be open to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in his Church; be aware of the witness of Missionary saints and martyrs; participate in biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological formation for mission; support the Church's missionary activity and communities too poor to support themselves.



## THE CHURCH TEACHES

Excerpts from the Message from Pope Francis

October's Extraordinary Missionary Month:

*Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

- For the month of October 2019, I have asked that the whole Church revive her missionary awareness and commitment as we commemorate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919). Its farsighted and prophetic vision of the apostolate has made me realize once again the importance of renewing the Church's missionary commitment and giving fresh evangelical impulse to her work of preaching and bringing to the world the salvation of Jesus Christ...
- The title of the present Message is the same as that of October's Missionary Month: *Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World*. Celebrating this month will help us first to rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ, a faith graciously bestowed on us in baptism. Our filial relationship with God is not something simply private, but always in relation to the Church. Through our communion with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we, together with so many of our other brothers and sisters, are born to new life. This divine life is not a product for sale - we do not practise proselytism - but a treasure to be given, communicated and proclaimed: that is the meaning of mission. We received this gift freely and we share it freely (cf. Mt 10:8), without excluding anyone. God wills that all people be saved by coming to know the truth and experiencing his mercy through the ministry of the Church, the universal sacrament of salvation (cf. 1 Tim 2:4; *Lumen Gentium*, 48).
- The Church is on mission in the world. Faith in Jesus Christ enables us to see all things in their proper perspective, as we view the world with God's own eyes and heart.
- This missionary mandate touches us personally: I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptized man and woman is a mission. People in love never stand still: they are drawn out of themselves; they are attracted and attract others in turn; they give themselves to others and build relationships that are life-giving. As far as God's love is concerned, no one is useless or insignificant.

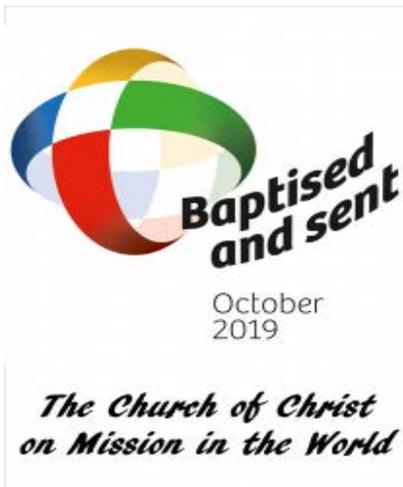
**PRAYER**  
**FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH**  
**OCTOBER 2019**

Heavenly Father,  
when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead,  
he commissioned his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations"  
and you remind us that through our Baptism  
we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit  
to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel,  
so that the mission entrusted to the Church,  
which is still very far from completion,  
may find new and efficacious expressions  
that bring life and light to the world.

Help us make it possible for all peoples  
to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, forever and ever.

Amen.



Subscribe to our weekly catechetical resource. E-mail: [Familycatechesis@rcsj.org](mailto:Familycatechesis@rcsj.org)

Watch a video about Extraordinary Mission Month [here](#).