



Scripture Reflection for World Mission Sunday 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Word of God today reminds us that, in Christ, God walks alongside us. Christ accompanies us in our joys and struggles, was tested as we are tested, and suffers with and for us.

Missionary discipleship is a call to encounter, accompany, and respond as Jesus would to those beyond our social and geographic boundaries. Aware of the love that God offers freely to us, we are called to share this love with the entire world. We do this, Jesus reminds us in today's Gospel, by following His example of service and sacrifice for the good of others. We discover Christ anew in those whom we accompany in service, for they walk alongside us in our own journey of faith.

Mission Focus: Nigeria

In the Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples to be different, to serve rather than be served. Fr. Ben, priest and school principal from Nigeria, describes concern for people at the social and economic peripheries as the "Catholic difference" in a society that often abandons the rural poor. Because most adults in his diocese are not well-educated, education is not always valued. Fr. Ben wants young people in situations of poverty to know that "The world doesn't end here." His diocese creates opportunities for young people in rural areas by providing high-quality education that instills discipline, a strong work ethic, and a sense of dignity. This witness transforms not only individual students, but society itself: inspired by the example of the Church, secular schools, government officials, and community members raise their own expectations of service to the most vulnerable.

Still, the diocese faces many challenges. "The problem," says Fr. Ben, "is you know what to do, you know how to do it, but unfortunately you don't always have the resources to do it." His students and so many others around the world rely on our generous support through the World Mission Sunday collection to live the life which God desires for them.

Get Involved

Here are five ways you can participate in the global mission of the Church today:

1. **Pray** in thanksgiving for someone who walks alongside you as Jesus does, and for the missionary priests, religious, and lay leaders that walk alongside those most in need throughout our world.
2. **Proclaim** the message of today's Gospel by encouraging those in your family, community, and workplace to discern to whom and how they are called to serve.
3. **Reflect** on those people who are forgotten, abandoned, and ignored in our global society. Ask God to help you compassionately seek them out, recognize Christ in them, and respond to their hopes and dreams.
4. **Give** to the World Mission Sunday collection in your parish on October 21, which provides critical support to communities of faith in some of the most economically disadvantaged regions of our world.
5. **Serve** as Jesus did by seeking out a global mission cause to support. [Contact](#) the Mission Office for ideas!