



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

20 October 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Mission \ 'mi-shən\

From Latin *missio*, “to send,” the act of continuing Christ’s work in bringing the Good News to all the Earth. The purpose for which Christ commissioned his church: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations” (see Matt 28:19).

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-mission>

CONTEXT

Mission is not primarily an activity of the church, but an attribute of God. God is a missionary God.
—Christian theologian David

The Christian **mission** is now! Each one of us is called to become a witness of the Lord, here and now.
—Pope Francis

WHY IT MATTERS

“The church does not have **missions**, it *is mission*,” so says Catholic scholar Father Robert Schreiter, C.P.P.S., offering the best word on the subject. **Mission** is the reason the church exists, if we’ve heard Jesus’ command to go, preach, and baptize correctly. Understanding that **mission** is for all of us, and not just for professional missionaries, is vital to fulfilling our baptismal call.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: *The origin and purpose of mission*. The Lord’s missionary mandate is ultimately grounded in the eternal love of the Most Holy Trinity. The ultimate purpose of **mission** is none other than to make men share in the communion between the Father and the Son in their Spirit of love (850).

RELATED WORDS

Missiology | Great Commission | Apostle

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is mission?

Why take the gospel to the ends of the Earth? Because good news is meant for sharing. What God has done for humanity in Jesus is meant for a wider audience than the already convinced.

Mark and Matthew see the primary tools of Jesus’ **mission** as preaching, healing, and dispelling demons. Yet John declares the **mission** of Jesus is to “bear witness to the truth.” In Luke and Acts, the goal of **mission** is to preach and do justice. Paul emphasizes a gospel of reconciliation to “establish peace” where there was once division.

The church continues to reinterpret its understanding of **mission**. In 1919 Pope Benedict XV uncoupled evangelization from the dubious goals of colonization. Pius XI championed the ordination of indigenous bishops in **mission** territories. Pius XII and John XXIII saw the need for more sensitivity to local culture in the **mission** field, which was given the name “inculturation” by John Paul II. Today, works of justice, inculturation, and an evangelization emphasizing dialogue are hallmarks of Catholic Christian **mission**.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-mission>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY (OCTOBER 20)

Boundless love

God’s domain knows no boundaries, no puny distinctions between race and nations. All belong to God; all are beloved of God. On this World Mission Sunday, we who are baptized into Christ are reminded to see a border-free world: Everything and everyone belongs to God. It is our **mission** to love and cherish all persons, no matter what side of the border or the tracks they reside.

READINGS: Isaiah 53:10-11; Hebrews 4:14-16; Mark 10:35-45 (146 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102024.cfm>). “*The cup that I drink, you will drink.*”

FAITH IN ACTION

Share the Good News of Christ Jesus to even those you deem unworthy. And pray they do the same.