**“Heart on Fire, Feet on the Move”**

*Fr Louis Fowóyò̩*

Today, the Church invites us to celebrate World Mission Sunday. This Mission Sunday is an annual event taking place in the month of October, between the third and the fourth weekend.

* What is World Mission Sunday? It is that special day in the year, in which the Church dedicates to support missionary work all over the world through prayer, sacrifices and charity.
* Missionary activities include: Pray, Give and Go. In the case that most people cannot go, they can at least pray and give. We give, because they cannot go without us.
* The Gospel message challenges us to see what God has given us not from the point of view of ownership but that of stewardship. When we give to God through the missions, we are surrendering our fears, values and hearts to Him who takes care of all our concerns. This is because we have helped Him to take care of His concerns in the mission.
* This Sunday, we have the opportunity to be in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the mission territories. Our collection helps in evangelization.

We celebrate also the feast of our parish, St Gaspar del Bufalo today. He had a strong devotion to St Francis Xavier because of the miracle of healing of the incurable malady of the eyes, which threatened to leave him blind when he was a child.

* He devoted his life to do missions in the Church by visiting the sick, providing for the poor and founded a group of young people whose members prayed and did charitable works. He also formed a society for laborers and farm workers. He taught orphans, children of the poor, and set up shelter for the homeless.
* Later in life, he founded the Congregation of the Precious Blood Priests. He calls the devotion to the Precious Blood as the foundation, support and essence of all the piety of the Church.
* All his efforts were not without obstacles within and without. All these problems he was able to surmount and the devotion to the Precious Blood subsist till today.
* In line with the celebration of the World Mission Sunday this year, we can see that St Gaspar del Bufalo practiced and left a legacy of Pray, Give and Go.

The readings of today, just like the mission Sunday, are a manifestation of the person of God to humanity. God works with us in every life situation so that after knowing Him in our life, we may share with others by evangelizing them.

* Isaiah 45:1,4-6; God has chosen us for this great work through His prophecy in the mouth of the Prophet Isaiah: “Thus says the Lord to His anointed… It is I who arm you, though you know me not, so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun people may know that there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, there is no other.”
* 1Thessalonika 1:1-5b; St Paul give thanks to God for the faith of the people who are working hard to evangelize others: “We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ… For our Gospel did not come to you in word alone, bur also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction.”
* Matthew 22:15-21; Jesus demonstrated to us how the Gospel message is not the work of human being but that of the Holy Spirit. “Why are you testing me, you hypocrites?
* The world will always be hypocritical in their ways. We are to show them the ways of the Lord. After which, they will be allowed to make a judgment, which one is better. “Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”
* As followers of Jesus, we know that nothing belongs to Caesar. For Jesus Christ came into our world in order to give salvation to Caesar. When everything belongs to God our lives, then, we will have no choice than to sing to the Lord a new song. “Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands. Tell His glory among the nations; among all peoples, His wonderous deeds.”