



Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne

Zaragoza, October 1, 2026

“ONE IN CHRIST, UNITED IN MISSION”

“May they all be one: as you, Father, are in me and I in you, may they also be one in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me.”
Jn 17:21

Dear Sisters and Laity:

In this month of October, the missionary month par excellence, we are preparing to celebrate with special joy the 100th World Mission Day, which will take place on October 18. A significant date that invites us to look with gratitude on the road we have travelled and, at the same time, to renew our own missionary vocation.

The theme that accompanies us this year, **“One in Christ, United in Mission,”** reminds us of something essential: mission is not the task of a few, but part of our identity as Christians. Pope Leo XIV invites us to recognize that all of us, from our vocation as baptized persons and from our concrete circumstances, take part in the mission that Christ entrusts to his Church.

We are all mission!

Sometimes we think of missionaries as those people who leave their country, their family, their culture and their securities to go to other places to proclaim the Gospel, accompany communities, care for the most vulnerable and put themselves at the service of those most in need.

And certainly, how beautiful and necessary this witness is!

There are religious, priests and lay people who have taken a courageous steps and have put their lives at the service of mission among other people and cultures. Their lives remind us that the Gospel always invites us to go out, to cross borders and to encounter the other.

But mission does not begin when we pack our suitcase, nor does it end when we return.

Mission is at the heart of our Christian life.

We are all called.

We are all sent.

We are all mission.

We are mission wherever we live, wherever we work, wherever we study, wherever we relate to others, wherever we meet people who need a word of hope, a close presence, an outstretched hand, or simply someone who knows how to stop and listen.

Our mission does not consist only of bringing something to others. It also consists of going out to meet them in order to discover what God is already doing in them.

One in Christ, united in mission. This year's theme joins two inseparable realities: being in Christ and being in mission.

Our mission is born of our relationship with him. The more deeply we live united to Christ, the more able we are to recognize his presence in others and to become witnesses of his love.

And we never carry out this mission alone. We are sent as a community, as Church, as a Charismatic Family. Unity does not mean that we all do the same thing, but that, from our different gifts, vocations, abilities and places, we walk toward one and the same mission.

As Pope Leo XIV reminds us, the unity of the disciples is oriented toward mission: "so that the world may believe." A reconciled, fraternal and supportive community thus becomes a living proclamation of the Gospel.

For this reason, this centenary can be a good opportunity to ask ourselves:

How am I living my missionary dimension today?

To which people and realities is the Lord sending me?

Which frontiers am I called to cross?

Where can I discover the seeds of the Word that are already present?

There are those who are called to go, and there are those who are called to accompany, sustain, pray, raise awareness, share our goods, open paths and make it possible for others to carry out their mission.

For this reason, celebrating the World Mission Day is not only remembering the missionaries. It is feeling that we are part of their mission. Our prayer, our interest, our collaboration and our solidarity are also concrete ways of taking part in the mission of the Church.

In this spirit, we invite you to learn about and support the initiatives promoted by the dioceses and the Pontifical Mission Societies on the occasion of this Day, especially those aimed at sustaining the evangelizing work and the life of so many communities that need our help.

Every gesture counts. Every prayer counts. Every contribution counts.

Because when we help a missionary, we too are stepping out of our comfort zone and taking part in the mission.

We celebrate 100 years... and we renew our sending. This centenary is an occasion to give thanks for the road travelled by so many men and women who have given their lives to the Gospel and to peoples. But it is also an opportunity to look ahead. The world still needs witnesses of hope. It still needs people capable of going out to meet others, of crossing borders, of accompanying, listening, serving and proclaiming with their own lives that Christ is present in our midst.

For this reason, on this World Mission Day 2026 we want to renew our awareness that mission is not something we do from time to time: mission is who we are.

May those who have been sent far from their homes inspire us.

May those who live mission in our own communities help us to recognize that here too there are borders to cross.

May we know how to leave our small spaces of security to meet the people and realities that the Lord places on our path.

And may we, united in Christ, be able to bring his presence into the very heart of the world, discovering with humility and hope the seeds of the Word that are already growing in every people, in every culture and in every heart.

We are one in Christ.

We are community.

We are mission.

We are called to carry the Gospel together to the ends of the world.

May Mary, Queen of Missions, accompany our paths and help us to be, wherever we are, witnesses of Christ's love.

And may Father Juan Bonal, who travelled so many of Spain's veredas (his village-to-village rounds) asking help for the sick and proclaiming Christ in every village, remain for us a model of missionary: a man of charity and of trust in Providence. We too have our own veredas; may we travel them with the same availability, closeness to the poorest and passion for the Gospel.

A warm embrace

Sr. M^a Pilar Omella Griñón and Council

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