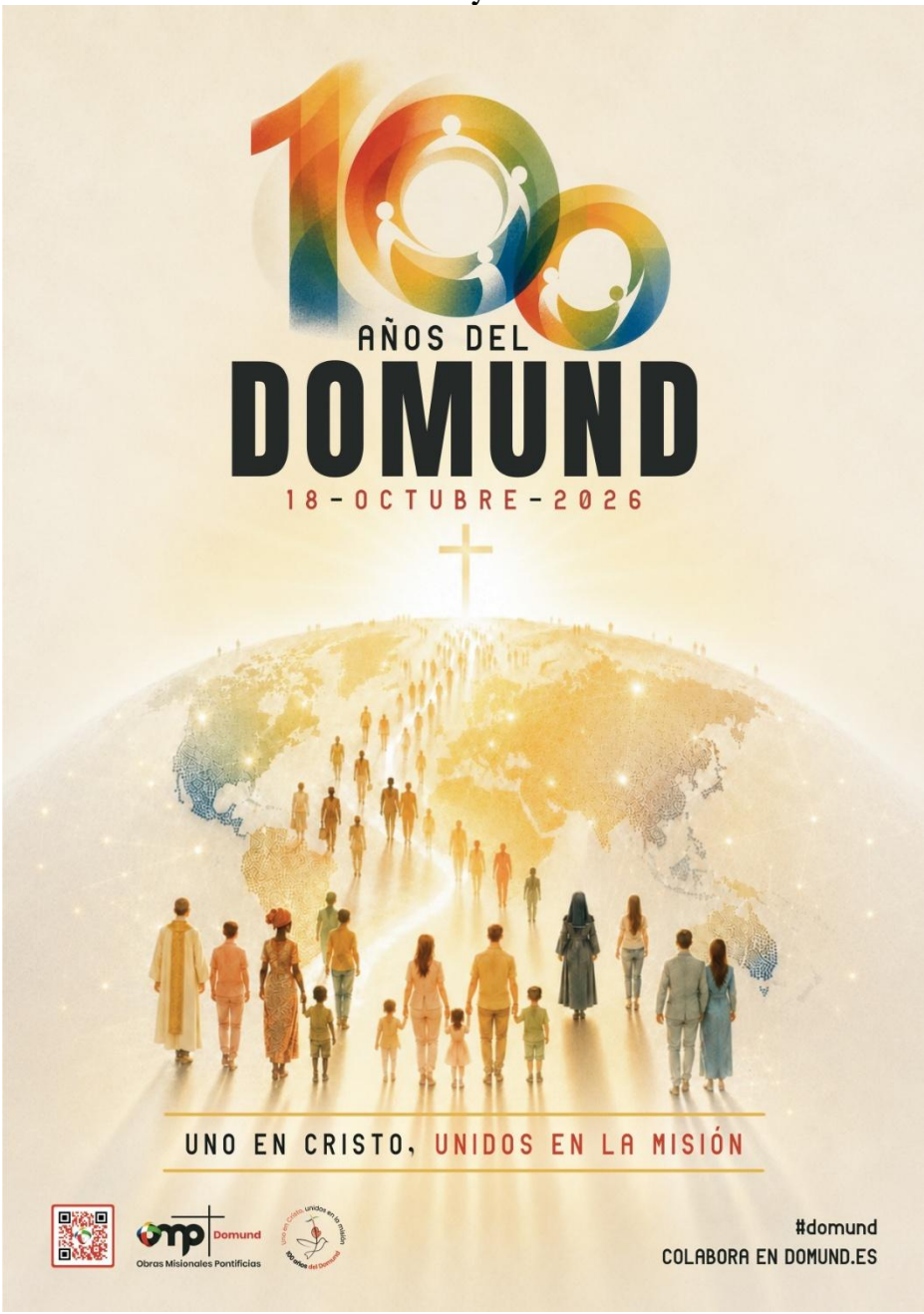
XXIX SUNDAY
18th OCTOBER de 2026 – Cycle A



100

Brothers and sisters: today, October 18, the Church celebrates the 100th World Mission Sunday; DOMUND marks its centenary. "One in Christ, united in mission," Pope Leo XIV tells us: mission is not the task of a select few; it is who we are. We are all called, we are all sent, we are all mission—at home, at work, in the classroom, and on the street. Today's Word meets us where we are: God uses Cyrus—who did not even know Him—to open paths for His people; and Paul gives thanks for a faith that is active, a charity that labours, and a steadfast hope. Jesus asks us whose image we bear imprinted upon us, and it is God's: let us give ourselves to Him and to the world. Let us remember those who left their homelands for the sake of the Gospel and those who embody the mission here, in our own communities. Let us celebrate united in Christ, so that the world may believe.

SONG.GIVE THEM ALL TO JESUS
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJkHOuzXlN4

GOSPEL – MATHEW 22, 15-21

Then the Pharisees went away and plotted how they might trap him in his own words. They sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, to say: "Teacher, we know that you are truthful, that you teach the way of God honestly, and that you are not swayed by anyone, for you do not show partiality to anyone. Tell us, then, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their malice, said: "Hypocrites, why are you testing me? Show me the coin used for the tax." They brought him a denarius. He asked them: "Whose image and inscription is this?" They replied: "Caesar's." Then he said to them: "Well, then, give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

To delve deeper into the Word

Is 45,1.4-6. Isaiah's message is directed to the exiles to instill hope in them: God remains faithful to His Covenant and does not abandon His chosen people.

Psalm 95,1-10. This psalm was sung in the Temple of Jerusalem at a time when there was little to celebrate! But faith stirs the people—or rather, it is hope that gives strength and joy to faith.

1 Tes 1,1-5 Saint Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonians, offers us the earliest Christian writing! Whatever their shortcomings may be, Saint Paul sees in them the action of God: "We know, dear brothers in God, that you have been chosen by Him."

Mathew 22, 15-21. Today, Matthew offers us a clear course of action in the search for God: "Is it lawful to pay the tax to the emperor?" Jesus does not respond to the trap with another trap. Instead, He treats the question as a genuine question and answers it with the truth. His response contains three points: "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar"... "Do not give to Caesar more than what belongs to Caesar"... "Give to God what belongs to God." First: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's." God can use any human reign for the good of His people—and our Pharisees know the text of Isaiah concerning Cyrus better than we do; they are well aware that all power, even that of a pagan ruler, rests in the hands of God. Second: "Do not give to Caesar what is not Caesar's"—when Caesar demands to be called "Lord," when he demands to be worshipped, he exposes us to idolatry, and we must not compromise. Third: "Give to God what is God's." This is the true question: Are you certain that you are giving to God what belongs to God? Ultimately, it is a matter of recognizing in Jesus the One who comes from God—the One who "belongs to God." Caesar is nothing more than Caesar; the kings of the earth are merely petty kings. Their kingship is fleeting, while the reign of God belongs to an entirely different order. **It is within the very heart of the kingdoms of the earth that every act of love and fraternity causes the one true Kingdom of God to grow.**

I pray with the Word

In today's Gospel passage, we are invited to distinguish between what belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God. How do we live out this reality in our lives and in our communities? Am I capable of making this distinction in order to foster unity?



ROMANTIC ORIGINAL SONG-JERRY PALMER "Jamie"
https://youtu.be/gF1FRlJYFCI?si=LtzogStyuzA5QTFz

MISSION IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS · DOMUND 100

A hundred years of being sent forth, Lord,
and today You call us by name once more.
Grant us a grateful memory
and ears made new for this day.

You ask us, Jesus:
«Whose is this face,
and the name that marks it? »
Yours, Father. We are Yours.

Even if they do not know You,
You take them by the hand.
You are already present in every land:
teach us to discover You there.

Reconcile us, Lord:
in our homes, in our digital spaces,
at our tables, in our places of worship,
so that the world may believe.

You send us to the frontiers—
to those fleeing from war,
to those who are alone before their screens,
to the earth that groans.

May faith be transformed into action,
love into a blessed, life-giving weariness,
and hope into a steady step
along the paths of our daily lives.

Bless those who have set out,
leaving behind their homelands and all that is secure.
Bless those who sustain them
through prayer and the sharing of bread.

And to God, that which belongs to God:
our entire lives, given without reserve.
Mary, accompany us—
we are all, each one of us, a mission!

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