**'BAPTISED and SENT - Extraordinary Missionary Month - October 2019**

**BAPTISED AND SENT: THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MISSION IN THE WORLD**

**The Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019**

**In 2019, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter***Maximum Illud***, Pope Francis announced the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019.**

For the Extraordinary Missionary Month, the Holy Father has chosen the theme:  **‘Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World’.**Awakening the awareness of the *missio ad gentes*, and reinvigorating the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm, are themes that combine the pastoral concern of Pope Benedict XV in *Maximum Illud* with the missionary vitality expressed by Pope Francis in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudiu*m: "Missionary action is the paradigm of every work of the Church" (EG 15).

**How to Live the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019**

There are four dimensions, specified by the Pope, to live more intensely the journey of preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019:

* **Personal Encounter with Jesus Christ** living in His Church through the Eucharist, the Word of God, personal and communal prayer;
* **Testimony**: missionary saints, martyrs and confessors of the faith, as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world;
* **Missionary charity:**as a commitment to support te Church's missionary activity aand communities too poor to support themselves, through Missio
* **Missonary Formation: b**iblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological.

[**http://www.october2019.va/en/mmsott2019.html**](http://www.october2019.va/en/mmsott2019.html)

**The Congregation of Propaganda Fide**

Founded in 1622 by Pope Gregory XV, the Congregation of Propaganda Fide is responsible for the promotion, coordination and direction of the work of evangelization of peoples and of the missionary efforts in the Church. In 1967, the Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, reaffirming the validity of its apostolic service, renamed the Dicastery the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (CEP). The concrete effectiveness of Christian faith expressed through active charity makes all of the baptized responsible for supporting and helping the Pope in his mission as Universal Shepherd.

**Missio***(Pontifical Missionary Societies)*

Prayer, self sacrifice, missionary vocations, and material help continue the age-old commitment of **Missio**(internationally know as the the *Pontifical Mission Societies*), which were born in the 19th and 20th centuries out of a deep concern for the missions of both laity and clergy alike. Together, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (CEP) and **Missio** are revitalizing their*«efforts to collect and distribute material aid in the light of our mission and the formation that it requires, so that missionary integrity, awareness, and responsibility can once again be part of the ordinary life of the entire holy and faithful People of God»*. (Address of his Holiness Pope Francis to the National Directors of the Missio, 1 June 2018).

***Missio:****the Catholic Church’s official charity*

*for overseas mission*

[**https://missio.org.uk/emm/**[](https://missio.org.uk/emm/)](https://missio.org.uk/emm/)