



Preaching as a Participation in the Mission of Christ

Msgr. Roger Landry • TPMS Missionary Preaching Academy • June 29, 2026



Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul



- We begin this Missionary Preaching Academy with the Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul and finish with the Feast of the Apostle St. Thomas.
- Each was called by the Lord to be a disciple and apostle. Each became great missionaries.
- We seek to continue their work proclaiming Christ as the Messiah and Son of the Living God, the one with the Words of Eternal Life, the power and the wisdom of God, our life, and our Lord and our God.



Saint Peter the Apostle



- His summons at the seashore of Galilee to be a fisher of men and to put out into the deep and lower his nets for a catch.
- Accompanied the Lord on his first missionary journeys.
- Sent out with the original 12.
- Given the Great Commission.
- Pentecost. Received the Holy Spirit. Preached.
- Joppa and Cornelius' house
- Antioch
- Rome. Preaching by blood.



Saint Paul the Apostle



- Saul, the great persecutor of Christians.
- Converted to become Paul.
- Immediately preached in Damascus.
- Arabia
- Preached in Jerusalem
- Role of Barnabas. Antioch. Cyprus. Turkey. Greece. Jerusalem. Caesarea Maritima. Rome.
- “Woe to me if I don’t preach the Gospel”
- Knowing and preaching Christ crucified.
- Imprisonment. Letters. Finishing the race.



Lessons from St. Peter's Basilica



- Teaching and preaching, shown by the chair. Bas relief of Peter's feeding Christ's sheep.
- Holy Spirit inspiring him and the Church.
- Doctors of the Church and Bishops in communion.
- Sayings over the tomb.
 - Hinc una fides mundo refulget
 - Hinc sacerdotii unitas exoritur
- Literally built on the rock
- Façade (Risen Christ, Peter standing under, keys) out to the Square. Counterpoint on exit.

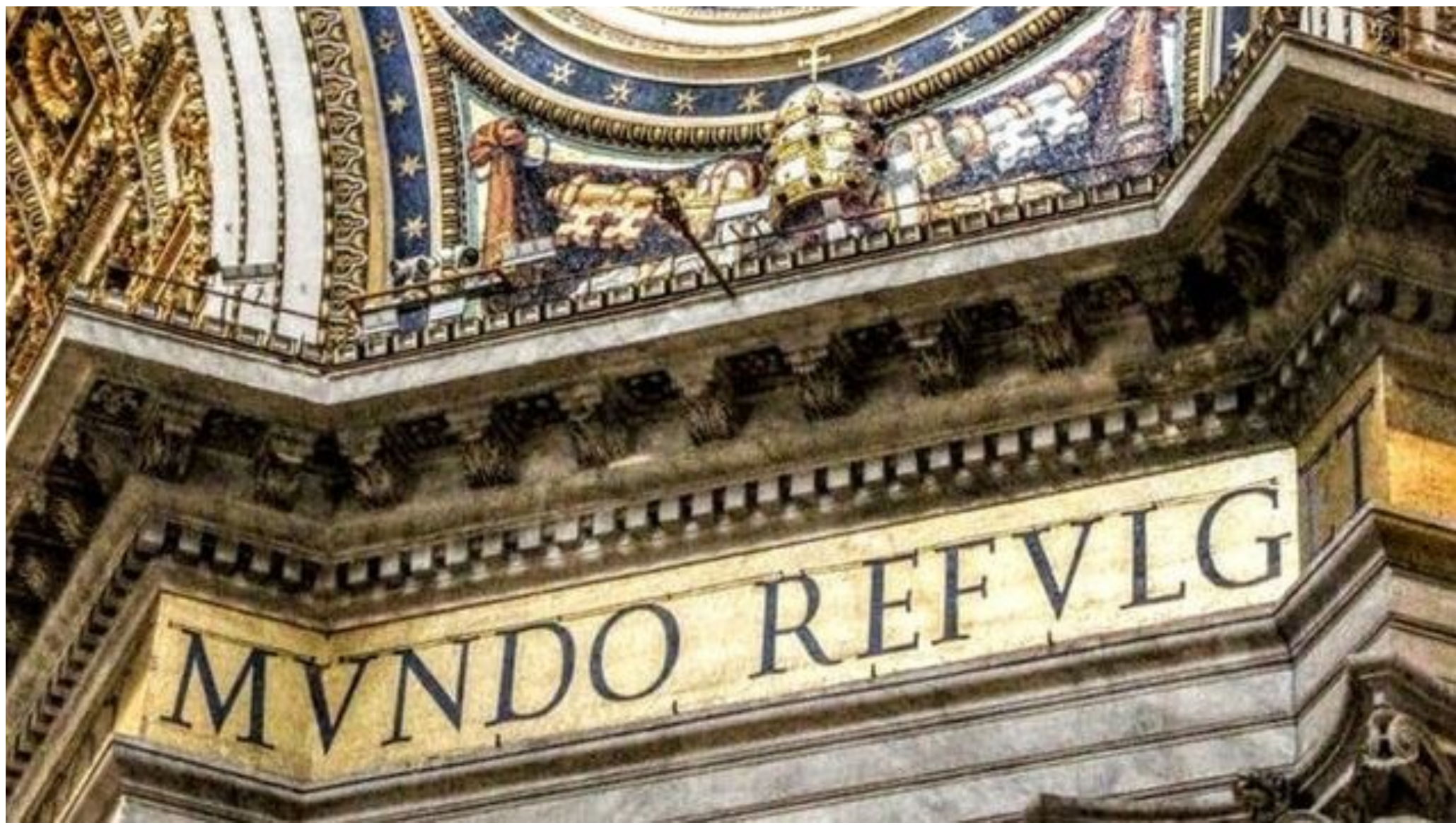




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Lessons from St. Paul's Basilica



- Atrium facing the world
- Bejeweled Cross — Spes Unica
- Christ blessing, saying, “Oves meae vocem meam audiunt et ego vitam aeternam do eis.”
- Lamb looking as if slain on mountain of Calvary. Sheep becoming shepherds. Apostolic disciples.
- Four great prophets with scrolls
 - Isaiah — *Venite ad domum Dei et docebit nos vias suas* (2:3).
 - Jeremiah — *Bellabunt versus te et non prevalebunt* (1:19)
 - Ezekiel — *Maiestas Domini ingressa est templum* (43:4)
 - Daniel — *Ostende faciem super sanctuarium tuum* (9:17)





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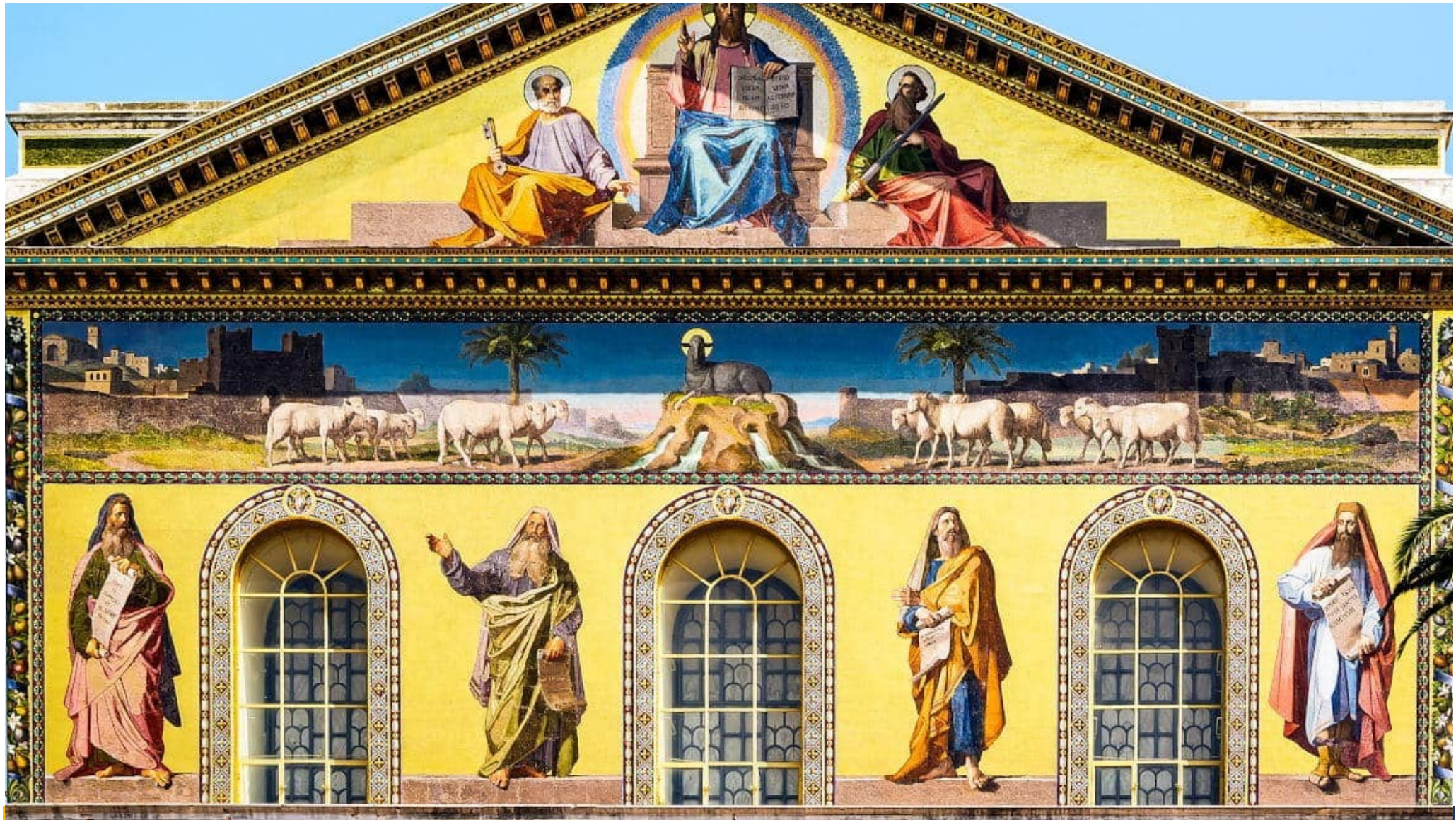




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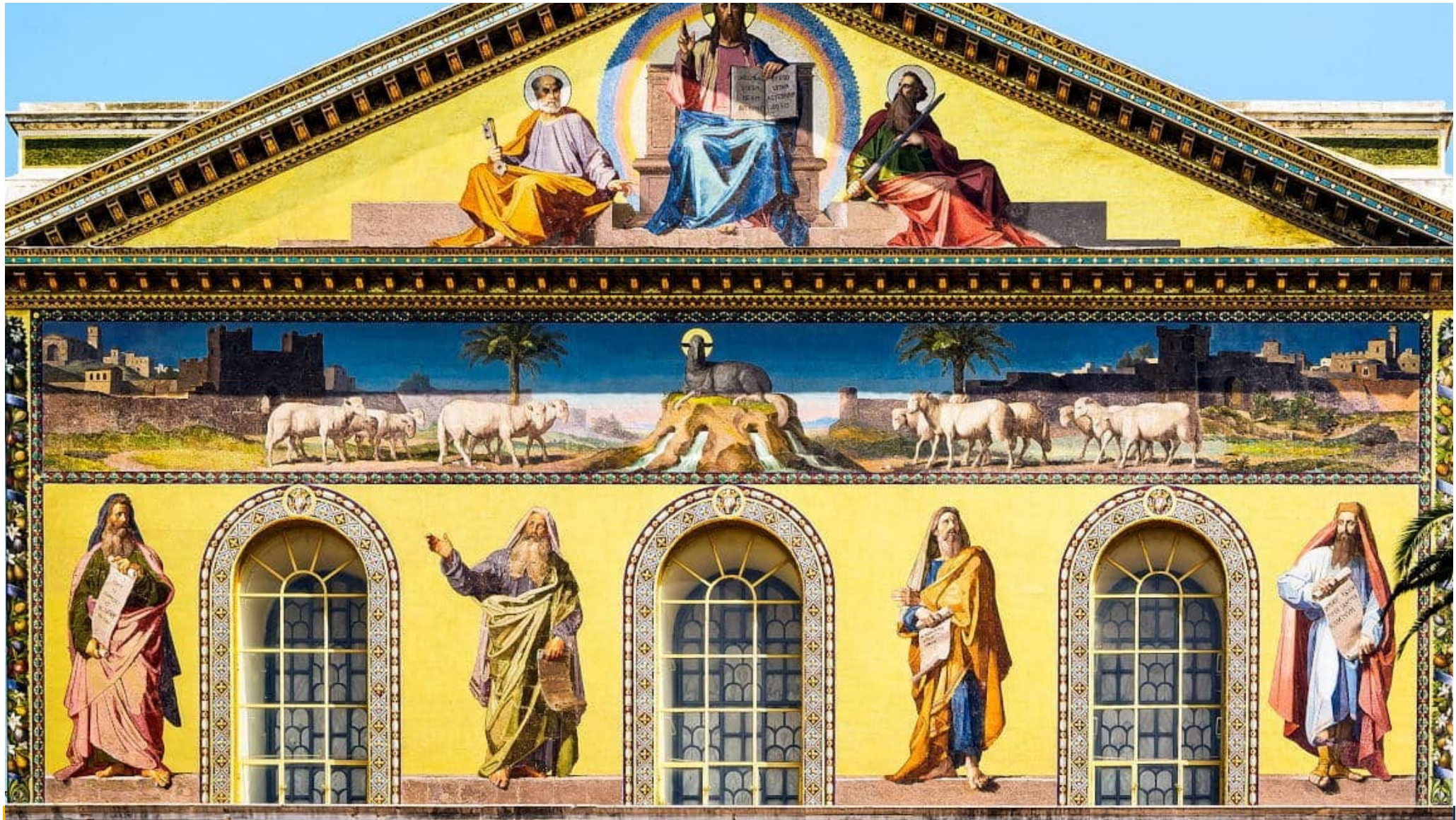




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Centenary of World Mission Sunday in 2026



- On April 14, 1926, Pope Pius XI responded to a request from the Society of the Propagation of the Faith (SPOF) for a **“a day of prayer and propaganda for the missions** to be celebrated on the same day in **every Catholic diocese, parish** and institute **in the world.”** This was to “foster **understanding of the greatness of the missionary task,** encourage **zeal among the clergy and the people;** offer an opportunity to make **SPOF ever more widely known** and encourage **offerings for the missions.”**



Centenary of World Mission Sunday in 2026



- Six elements that ought similarly to inspire Missionary Cooperative Appeals
 - A day of prayer
 - A day of mission promotion
 - A day to foster understanding of the greatness of the missionary task, not just among those on the front lines of the mission ad gentes, but every missionary disciple.
 - A day to encourage zeal among the clergy and the people
 - A day to make the work of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith — one of the now four Pontifical Mission Societies — ever more widely known
 - A day to encourage offerings for the mission



History of the Missionary Cooperative Appeals



- Beyond World Mission Sunday.
- Generosity of U.S. Catholics to the Missions.
- Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey in 1930s.
- So many missionary religious communities were asking pastors to preach to solicit help for their work that Newark needed to organize. One per parish per year. Communities might be assigned a few parishes on consecutive weekends.
- Eventually this became a solution for other dioceses, with the blessing of the US Bishops.
- Generally organized by the Diocese's missions office.



Importance of a Missionary Preaching Academy



- To achieve the goals underlying missionary appeals, preaching must be effective.
- What is supposed to be a parish highlight of the year often isn't, because of the communication of the message is ineffective. Among the reasons:
 - People can't understand the preacher
 - People wonder what the point is.
 - People hungering for the word of God are left famished.
 - The money point is mishandled: for some, it just seems to be about money; for others, there's no ask for money.
 - The homily is way too long, occasionally in unairconditioned churches; or it's too short to communicate a message on the missions.



Importance of a Missionary Preaching Academy



- The upshot is that many, when they hear the missionary is coming, are tempted to escape to nearby parishes. They've just had too many experiences of things out of the ordinary that they don't want to risk it.
- To achieve the goals of missionary appeals, we need to address the situation of preaching, so that rather than being tempted to go to other parishes when the missionaries are coming, our Catholic people fight for pews to hear them!



Importance of a Missionary Preaching Academy



- Catholic priests should be the most powerful speakers in the world.
 - **They have the best message** — The truth that sets us free, the good news Christ is and entrusted to us, the inspired word of God.
 - **They have the seven-fold gift of the Holy Spirit** in the Sacrament of Holy Orders — They have received true tongues of fire capable of lighting hearts ablaze. The same Holy Spirit works upon listeners.
 - They have **years of seminary formation** and **decades of discipleship**.



Importance of a Missionary Preaching Academy



- Often, however, **they have not received training** adequate to the many challenges of preaching.
- Even among those who have received great training, **sometimes, by choice or circumstances, they do not invest and develop the talents** to bear great fruit.
- Even when we have received great formation and put in the effort, we need formation in **preaching to particular audiences**, according to their expectations, because everything is “received according to the mode of the receiver.”



Importance of a Missionary Preaching Academy



- Excellent preachers used to preaching for an hour to communities hungry for the Word of God may be run out of town by preaching that way to a community used to five-minute homilies; those used to preaching five-minute homilies on Sunday may disappoint those used to hour-long homilies.
- Priests used to preaching with fire and direct calls to conversion may turn off those who are used to subtlety; similarly priests used to preaching with nuance may be considered evasive to those used to in-your-face preaching.
- My story from preaching in New Zealand.



Importance of a Missionary Preaching Academy



- We're trying to convey something that will work in the most U.S. situations, although it's clear that preaching to a Ugandan apostolate will be different from speaking to Latino youth or Irish Catholic seniors.
- This Missionary Preaching Academy hopes to provide:
 - A review of the universal expectations of the Church for preachers;
 - An application of those principles to the situation on preaching on the missions in the United States of American today;
 - A focus on the art and tools of effective preaching in the United States today.
 - Sessions to put this training into practice and receive feedback on content and delivery.
 - Set Missionary Appeal preachers up to succeed as they go out to preach the Gospel to American Catholics this summer.



The Training Jesus Gave to the First Missionaries



- Jesus sent out the 12 and then the 72 with instructions that have no expiration date. They're key for every mission preacher to recall and employ, to some degree, in every circumstance.
- Jesus' compassion for the crowds
- His passing on to them his vision that the fields are ripe and there's a need for harvesters
- He has them pray for laborers
- He summons them, while they're praying, as laborers
- He gives them a message — “The kingdom of God is at hand” and “Peace be with this household.”
- He sends them out two-by-two



The Training Jesus Gave to the First Missionaries



- He gives them his authority to cure the sick, exorcise, raise the dead
- He sends them out as lambs amidst wolves
- He sends them out focused — greet no one along the way
- He sends them out dependent on God's providence, no money, sack, second tunic, walking stick or food.
- He sent them out to be received. To stay. To eat.
- He prepared them to be rejected and to wipe the dust off their feet.



The Training Jesus Gave to the First Missionaries



- He formed them to proclaim the Kingdom through the parables. They are a mine of things for every missionary preacher to remember:
 - Parable of the Sower and the Seed
 - Parable of the Weeds and the Wheat
 - Parable of the Mustard Seed
 - Parable of the Yeast
 - Parables of the Buried Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price
 - Parable of the Dragnet
 - Parable of the Head of the Household



The Training Jesus Gave to the First Missionaries



- Jesus told them a lot of other important things about the kingdom they — and we — are called to proclaim:
 - “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.”
 - Must be born from above, of water and spirit.
 - Tax collectors and prostitutes entering before the Scribes and Pharisees
 - Everyone who enters must do so with violence
 - Seek it first and everything else will be given to us besides.
 - Belongs to those like little children. To enter it, we must convert and become like little children.
 - Belongs to the poor in spirit. It’s harder for the rich to enter the kingdom than for a camel to pass through a needle’s eye.



The Training Jesus Gave to the First Missionaries



- Jesus told them a lot of other important things about the kingdom they — and we — are called to proclaim:
 - Unfit if we set our hands to the plow and look back
 - Must care for those in need, hungry, thirsty, stranger, etc.
 - A wedding banquet for which we must show up well dressed!
 - Landowner who went out to hire laborers, hard workers
 - Some renounce marriage for the sake of the kingdom
 - Must receive the kingdom like virgins with lighted lamps
 - We will be persecuted for preaching the kingdom but Jesus promises his gratitude.



The Training Jesus Gave to the First Missionaries



- At his Ascension, Jesus gave the Great Commission in which he helped to conclude his training.
- He first gave them his authority and his trust. Then he said:
 - Proclaim the Gospel to every creature.
 - Introduce them through baptism to Christ. The importance of the Sacramental Life.
 - Help them not just to know but to observe all that he commanded. The importance of the moral life.
 - Remind them that he will be with them always until the end of time. Importance of a prayer life in the middle of the world. God-with-us is still with us.
- These are basic principles for the purpose of every homily, including and especially missionary homilies.
- We'll explore these principles more during these days!

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Welcome!

I warmly welcome you to this website, put together at the insistence and with the assistance of friends.

During my diaconal ordination, Cardinal Edmund Szoka gave me the following instruction from the Ordination Rite as together we gripped the Book of the Gospels:

*"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.
Believe what you read.
Teach what you believe.
Practice what you teach."*

Those words have never lost their resonance.



Since that day -- October 8, 1998 -- I have tried to live up to that commission to be a "herald of the Gospel," by striving to teach what the Church believes, to practice what I preach to others, and to spread with joy and enthusiasm the truth Christ has entrusted to His church -- in and out of season, in and out of the pulpit.

This website is a chronicle of those attempts. You may also follow postings of articles, homilies and teachings on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

You can also subscribe to the podcast of daily homilies, lectures and talks through Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and iHeart Podcasts.

It constitutes the "five loaves and two fish" (or even less!) that I have placed into the hands of the Lord as an attempt to feed a hungry crowd, confident that, if He wishes, He can multiply and supplement that meager offering to nourish many more (Jn 6:1-14).

In Christ,
Msgr. Roger J. Landry

Most Recent Homilies

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Questions and Comments

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