



Baptismal Missionary Identity and Integration within the Church's Mission

Msgr. Roger Landry • TPMS Missionary Preaching Academy • June 30, 2026



Baptism and Mission



- When we are baptized, we are baptized into Christ, and share in his three-fold munera as prophet, priest and king.
- Lumen Gentium 31: “The laity by baptism made one body with Christ and are constituted among the People of God; they are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; **and they carry out for their own part the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world.**”
- Moses’ words in the desert, “Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets!” (Num 11:29) has come true.
- We enter mysteriously into the life of the Blessed Trinity, and into the missions of God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Mission is a participation in Trinitarian life!



Baptism and Mission



- Through baptism we become missionary disciples in communion. Confirmation seals and strengthens this identity.
- Many don't reflect adequately on the missionary dimension of Christian life.
 - We receive love, we remain in it, and are transformed by it to overflowing.
 - We receive a seed, which bears fruit containing other seeds.
- We see this transformation in the life of the first apostles.
- We see it in the life of Saul of Tarsus.
- We see it in the figure of Apollos (Acts 18-19).
- We see it in, among others, St. Carlo Acutis.



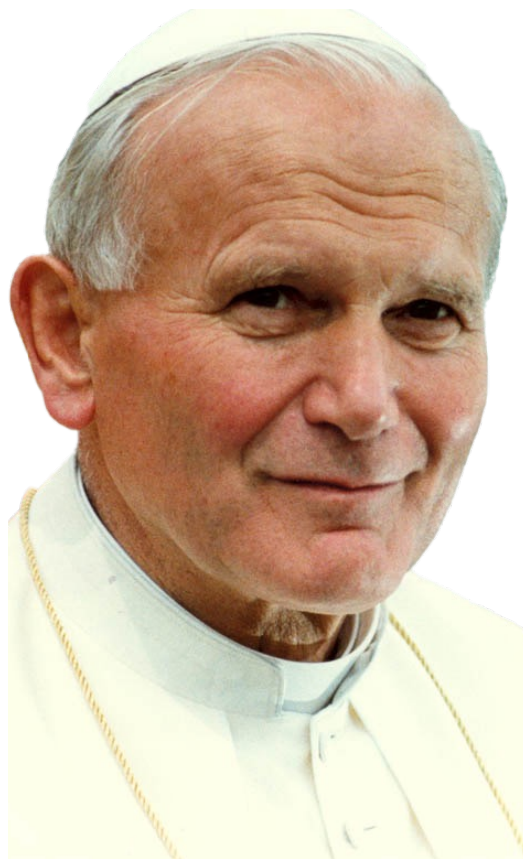
Baptism and Mission



- As priests, and particularly as mission preachers, we need to form people in their baptismal identity, which flows from the Great Commission. We form them to a co-responsibility for the missions. Once baptized, we share in the task of helping people to observe all the Lord has taught and to give joint witness with him who remains with us.
- This is a summons not just to the apostolate and to generically sharing the faith, but of the mission ad gentes, of going to the ends of the earth.



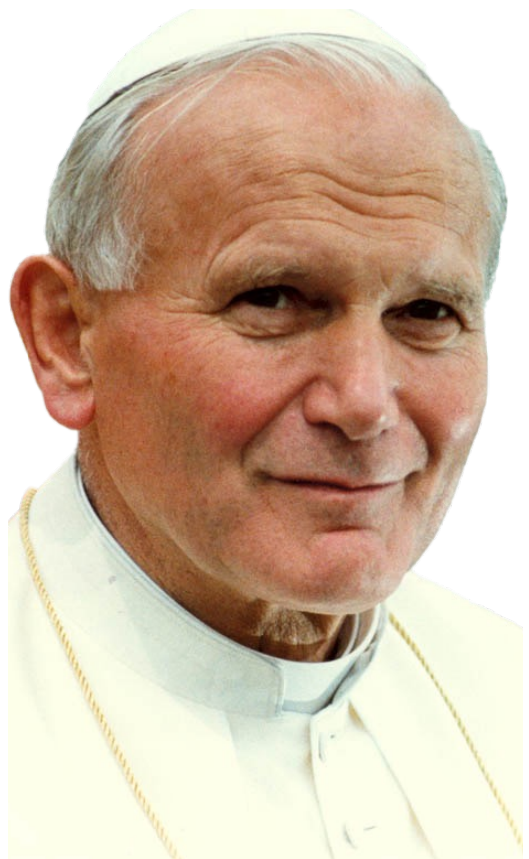
Baptism and Mission



- St. John Paul II in *Redemptoris Missio*, in a section entitled, “All the Laity Are Missionaries by baptism” wrote (71-73):
- “The mission ad gentes is incumbent upon the entire People of God. Whereas the foundation of a new church requires the Eucharist and hence the priestly ministry, missionary activity, which is carried out in a wide variety of ways, is the task of all the Christian faithful.”
- “The Second Vatican Council confirmed this tradition in its description of the missionary character of the entire People of God and of the apostolate of the laity in particular, emphasizing the specific contribution to missionary activity which they are called to make.”



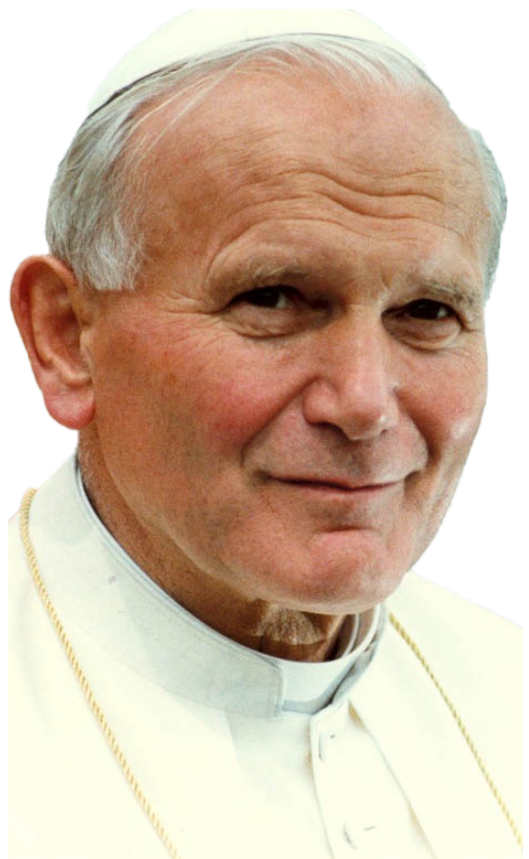
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- “The need for all the faithful to share in this responsibility is not merely a matter of making the apostolate more effective, it is a right and duty based on their baptismal dignity, whereby the faithful participate, for their part, in the threefold mission of Christ as Priest, Prophet and King.”
- “Therefore, they are bound by the general obligation and they have the right, whether as individuals or in associations, to strive so that the divine message of salvation may be known and accepted by all people throughout the world. This obligation is all the more insistent in circumstances in which only through them are people able to hear the Gospel and to know Christ.”



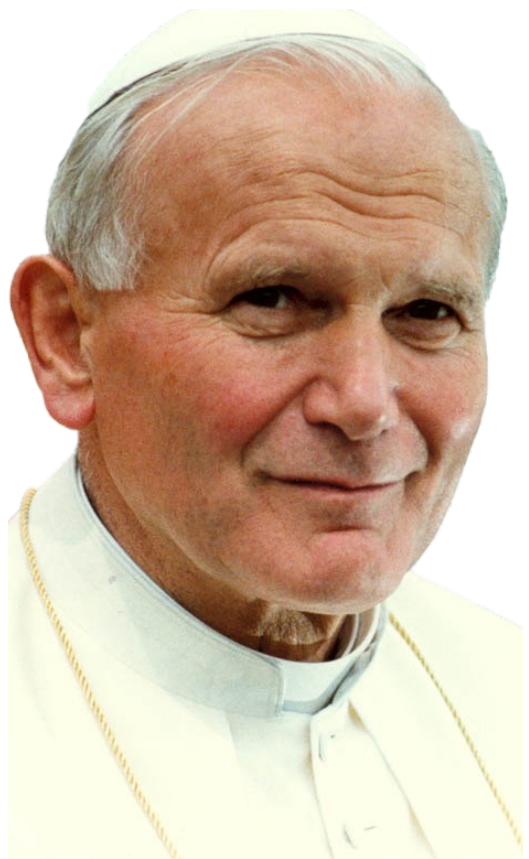
Baptism and Mission



- “Furthermore, because of their secular character, they especially are called "to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and ordering these in accordance with the will of God."
- “The sphere in which lay people are present and active as missionaries is very extensive. Their own field ... is the vast and complicated world of politics, society and economics on the local, national and international levels. Within the Church, there are various types of services, functions, ministries and ways of promoting the Christian life. I call to mind, as a new development occurring in many churches in recent times, the rapid growth of ecclesial movements filled with missionary dynamism.”



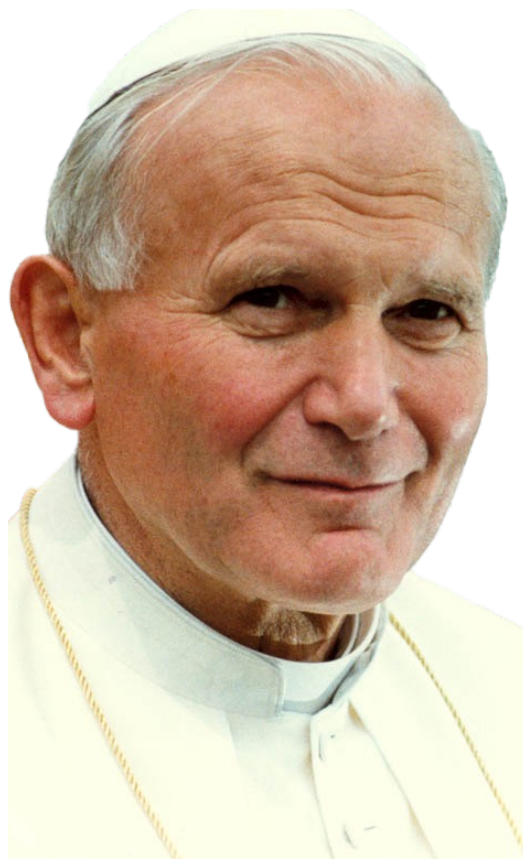
Baptism and Mission



- “When these movements humbly seek to become part of the life of local churches and are welcomed by bishops and priests within diocesan and parish structures, they represent a true gift of God both for new evangelization and for missionary activity properly so-called. I therefore recommend that they be spread, and that they be used to give fresh energy, especially among young people, to the Christian life and to evangelization, within a pluralistic view of the ways in which Christians can associate and express themselves.”



Baptism and Mission



- “Within missionary activity, the different forms of the lay apostolate should be held in esteem, with respect for their nature and aims. Lay missionary associations, international Christian volunteer organizations, ecclesial movements, groups and solidarities of different kinds - all these should be involved in the mission ad gentes as cooperators with the local churches. In this way the growth of a mature and responsible laity will be fostered, a laity whom the younger churches are recognizing as "an essential and undeniable element in the *plantatio Ecclesiae*.”



Aparecida Document



- The greatest document the Church has produced for forming missionary disciples came from CELAM (Episcopal Conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2007).
- It listed five stages of Christian formation:
 - Encounter with Jesus Christ
 - Conversion
 - Discipleship
 - Communion
 - Mission
- The Church is supposed to help people along this same journey of spiritual maturation.



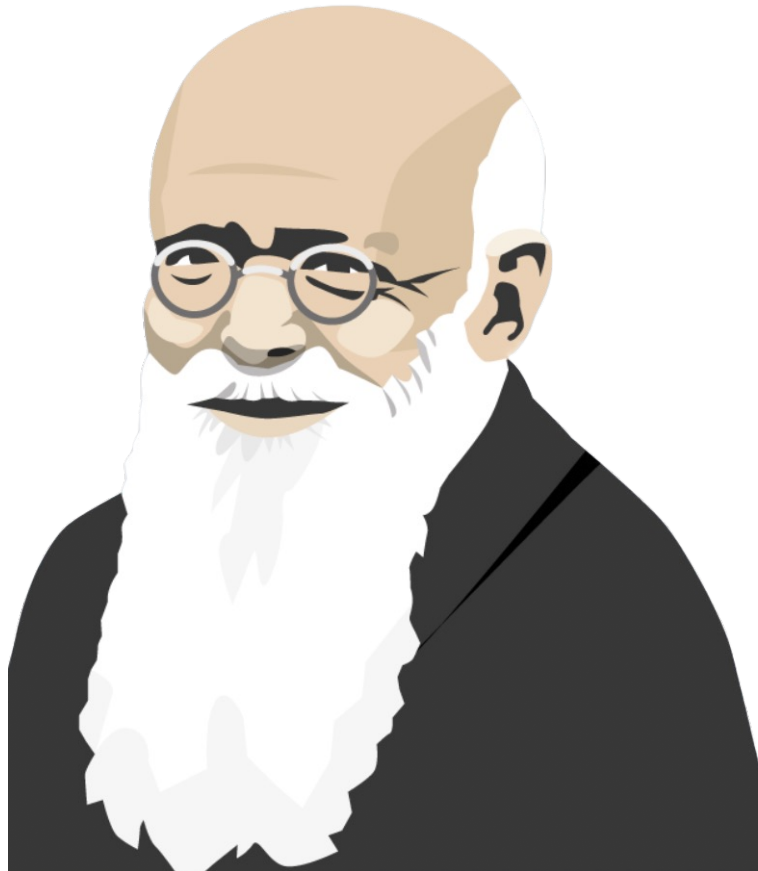
Practical Ideas on Praying for the Missions



- Mass for the Evangelization of Peoples (Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions #18, A and B)
- Prayers of the Faithful at Mass for the Church's missionary work, for missionaries, for the suffering Church in missionary areas
- World Mission Rosary created by Archbishop Sheen.
- Holy Hours for the Church's Missions, either in World Mission Month, on Thursdays, or on other opportune occasions
- Parish missions or Days of Recollection led by missionaries on missionary themes



Practical Ideas on Forming for the Missions



- World Mission Month
- World Mission Sunday
- Study of the Annual Message for World Mission Day
- Mission Trips
- *Mission Magazine* subscriptions and reading groups.
- MCA Modules in Religious Education Programs
- Study of the great missionary documents of the Church: *Ad Gentes* (1965), *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (1975), *Redemptoris Missio* (1990), *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013).
- Book studies on great missionaries or on accessible missiology.
- Use and catechesis on the blessing and dismissal: “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.” What “*Ite, missa est*” means.



Practical Ideas on Preaching the Missions



- World Mission Month
- World Mission Sunday
- When the Gospel Passages are about the Church's mission — when Jesus sends out the 12 or the 72 or the Great Commission.
- A regular focus on missionary discipleship.
- On the major feasts of mission, like Easter, the Ascension, Pentecost, Epiphany, the Visitation, Birth and Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist, Good Shepherd Sunday, Christ the King.



Practical Ideas on Preaching the Missions



- On the feast of missionary saints, including applications on Sundays. For example: St. Paul, St. Barnabas, SS. Timothy and Titus, St. Peter, any of the apostles, any of the evangelists, St. John the Baptist, St. Francis Xavier, St. Therese, St. Francis de Sales, St. Dominic, the North American Martyrs, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. John Neumann, St. Junipero Serra, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, St. Mother Theodore Guerin, St. Peter Claver, St. Peter Chanel, St. Peter Canisius, SS. Cyril and Methodius, St. Philip Neri and others.



Practical Ideas on Supporting the Missions



- World Mission Sunday
 - Only collection in the Code of Canon Law (791)
 - Supports Pope's 1,130 Missionary territories and lands
 - Administered by The Pontifical Mission Societies
- Missionary Cooperative Appeal
 - Funds raised go to the missionary congregation or mission diocese.
 - Administered by diocesan TPMS offices
- Diocesan and Parish Mission Partnerships



Practical Ideas on Supporting the Missions



- Mass Stipends for the Missions
 - Many priests survive only on a daily Mass stipend, from which they also support their parish and poor families.
 - TPMS USA gives hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to bishops for the survival of their priests.
- St. Peter the Apostle
 - Many take up a collection on Good Shepherd Sunday.
 - Adopt a priest (\$3,650 a year, or more)
 - Adopt a seminarian (\$1,000 a year)
- Missionary Childhood Association
 - Many countries take up a collection on the Epiphany
 - Others give on October 1
- Wills, Trusts, Annuities, Qualified Charitable Distributions, DAFs, Life Insurance, Real Estate

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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



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Questions and Comments



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