

MISSION

To fulfill God's divine plan for the redemption of humanity, the Son and the Holy Spirit are sent into the world. The very word *mission* comes from the Latin *missus*, meaning "sent." This language of sending reveals the heart of God's saving work.

Jesus, sent by the Father, in turn sends the Apostles: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." This apostolic sending is not simply a task but a participation in Christ's own saving mission. The Apostles are commissioned to continue what Jesus himself began—proclaiming the Kingdom and making his presence known in the world.

From this apostolic foundation, we understand the Church herself as missionary by her very nature. The Church does not merely do mission; she is mission. She continues the work of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, unfolding the Father's plan of salvation in every age and place.

This apostolic mission is shared in different ways through the life of the Church—lived out by the clergy, the laity, and those in consecrated religious life, each according to their vocation. In a more specific sense, missionary activity refers to the initial proclamation of the Gospel and the planting of the Church in places where Christ is not yet known.