

Fourth Day  
October 16<sup>th</sup>

## Untiring Missionary

### Preparatory Reading:

“We cannot be content when we consider the millions of our brothers and sisters, who like us have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, but who live in ignorance of the love of God. For each believer, as for the entire Church, the missionary task must remain foremost, for it concerns the eternal destiny of humanity and corresponds to God’s mysterious and merciful plan.”<sup>1</sup>

“As heir and successor of the Apostles, the Church is sent to bear witness to Christ and to preach the Gospel *to the ends of the earth* (Acts 1:8). It has the mark of *catholicity*, from which derives its *missionary dimension*. This characteristic has its origin *from on high*, and that origin is part of its mystery.

In the decree *Ad Gentes*, the Second Vatican Council notes, ‘The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature, since it is from the mission of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she draws her origin, in accordance with the decree of God the Father’ (n. 2). This *mystery* is constituted by the divine Trinitarian plan that is carried out in the Church and shown from the day of Pentecost. This is its permanent possession. The Church in her constitutive reality, in her soul and, therefore, it could be said, in her very *psychology*, has a dynamism that is concretely manifested in preaching the Gospel, in the spread of the faith and in the invitation to conversion proclaimed *to the ends of the earth*. This interior impulse, intimately linked to her mission, comes from the Holy Spirit and, therefore, is part of its mystery. Thus, the dynamism that flows is a distinctive note of the whole Church. In a concrete and effective way, it is reflected primarily by the Apostles who left their homeland to go to remote lands for the sake of the Gospel.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Redemptoris Missio*, 86; cited in *Directory of Missions Ad Gentes*, 176.

<sup>2</sup> SAINT JOHN PAUL II, *General Audience* (4/19/1995). [http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/es/audiences/1995/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_aud\\_19950419.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/es/audiences/1995/documents/hf_jp-ii_aud_19950419.html)

## Prayer:

Eternal God, who in your divine providence have given us Saint John Paul II as example and guide, grant that we may be grateful for this gift by being faithful to his magisterium, by living his teachings and by entrusting our prayers to his intercession.

May he, who in union with the bishops of the whole world consecrated the Church and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, obtain for us the grace to be faithful to this kind Mother. And may we repeat each day as he taught us:

“Virgin Mother of my God, make me all yours!  
Yours in life, yours in death;  
yours in suffering, yours in fears and in misery;  
yours on the cross and in painful discouragement;  
yours in time and in eternity.  
Virgin Mother of my God, make me all yours!”  
*Totus tuus Maria.*  
Amen.

*Request the particular grace desired through this novena.*

*Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. Then pray the litany.*

## LITANY IN HONOR OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy

*Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy*

Christ, hear us  
Christ, graciously hear us

*Christ, hear us  
Christ, graciously hear us*

God the Father of Heaven  
God the Son, Redeemer of the World  
God the Holy Spirit  
Holy Trinity, One God  
Approved by the ovation of the multitude  
Bread that was Broken and Blood that was Shed  
Confessor of the Faith

*Have mercy on us  
Have mercy on us  
Have mercy on us  
Have mercy on us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us*

Disciple of Jesus Christ  
Temple of God  
Enamored of the Winds  
Resounding Bell

*Pray for us*  
*Pray for us*  
*Pray for us*  
*Pray for us*

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world

*Spare us, O Lord*

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world

*Graciously hear us, O Lord*

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world

*Have mercy on us*

