WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



One in Christ, United in Mission

A Reflection on the Encyclical Message of Pope Leo XIV for the Faithful

The Heart of the Papal Message:



Mission is not an isolated task—
it is the direct overflow of our living union with Jesus Christ.

- **Universal Vocation:**
  The Mission belongs to every baptized Catholic,
  not just specialists.

FIRST PRINCIPLE

1. Rooted in Union with Christ

Vine and Branches

Abiding in Jesus through prayer and Sacraments fuels all spiritual fruitfulness.

Daily Scripture

Listening constantly to the Word transforms our daily relationships and priorities.

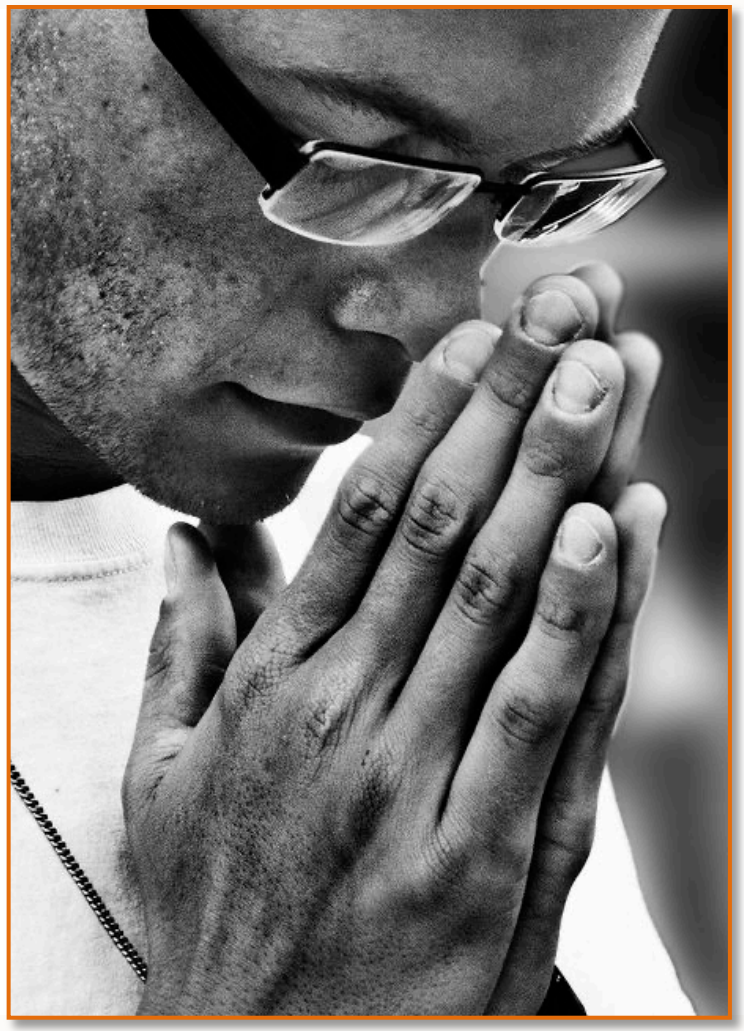
Living Stones

Grace turns individual believers into a single, vibrant temple of God's presence.



SECOND PRINCIPLE

2. Reconciled Hearts for Gospel Witness



"Polarization and lack of mutual trust undermine our witness.

The mission requires, above all, hearts that are reconciled."

THIRD PRINCIPLE

3. Proclaiming Christ, Not Ourselves

Jesus at the Center

Evangelization centers exclusively on the name, teaching, and person of Jesus.

Authentic Witness

We proclaim Christ Lord through concrete acts of charity, joy, and humility.



FOURTH PRINCIPLE

4. Mission as an Act of Love



Essence of Mission

Love is the soul and true measurement of all missionary work.

Ad Gentes Courage

Honoring missionaries serving in poor, remote, and conflict regions.

Universal Solidarity

Supporting young and struggling churches across the globe.

PARISH APPLICATION

How We Respond Today After Mass

01 Pray for Missionaries

Offer daily prayers and Rosaries for those serving in difficult territories.

02 Build Unity in Our Parish

Foster reconciliation, forgiveness, and warm welcoming in our local community.

03 Give Generously Today

Support the World Mission Sunday collection to build schools and chapels globally.





One in Christ, United in Mission

Thank you

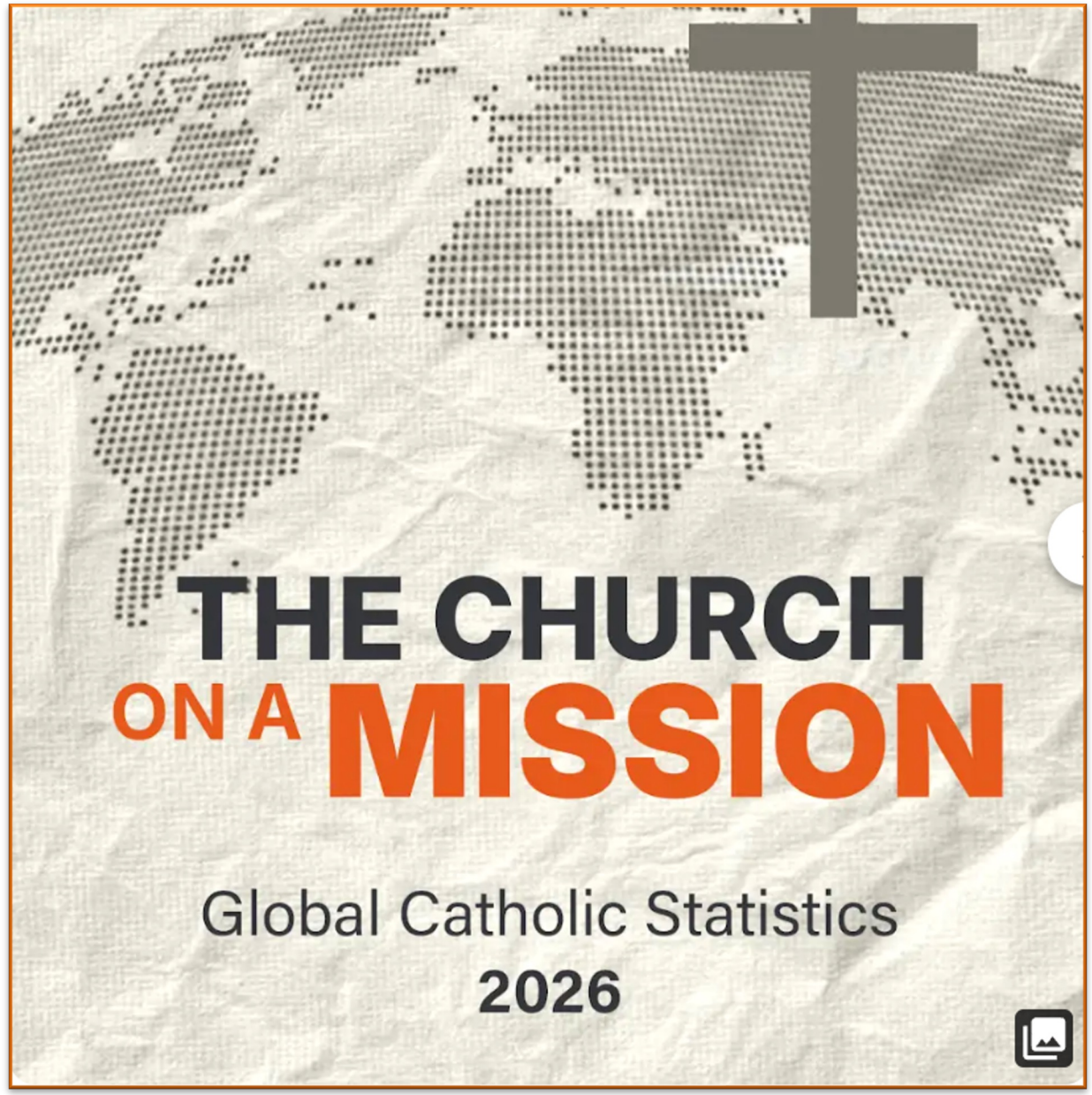
1.42 BILLION
CATHOLICS WORLDWIDE



@heartofchrist

COUNTRIES WITH THE LARGEST CATHOLIC POPULATIONS

1. BRAZIL: ~115–182 MILLION
2. MEXICO: ~91–101 MILLION
3. PHILIPPINES: ~85–93 MILLION
4. UNITED STATES: ~67–85 MILLION
5. DCR: ~50–60 MILLION


THE CHURCH
ON A MISSION
Global Catholic Statistics
2026

A CHURCH OF
GROWTH AND CHALLENGES

Major increases

Catholics worldwide:

+16.69 M

Lay

+18,473

Catechists:

+22,370

Priests:

+425

the first global increase in five years



Catholic numbers increased worldwide by


AFRICA
LEADS CATHOLIC GROWTH
Catholics:
+7.58
million
Total Catholics:
288.31
million
Priests:
+1,676
Women Religious:
+2,190
Major Seminarians:
+786
Africa was the only continent to record increases in both women religious and major seminarians.


HOW IS THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
HELPING THE WORLD?
EVERYDAY (24 hours, 7 days, 365 days/year)
the Catholic Church feeds, clothes, shelters, and educates
more people than any organization in the world.
Catholics@Work
5,420+
Hospitals
14,205+
Dispensaries/
Clinics
15,476+
Homes for the Aged
and In Special Needs
8,874+
Orphanages
525+
Homes for People
with Leprosy
10,589+
Nurseries for
Babies and Children
10,500+
Marriage
Counseling Centers
3,141+
Social Rehabilitation
Centers
33,677+
Other Kinds of
Institutions
410,000+
Lay Missionaries
5,353+
Bishops
407,730+
Priests
*from 2024 Catholic Church's book of statistics



Catholic Church Statistics 2026

2024 data, according to the Statistical Yearbook of the Church

"One in Christ, united in mission"

100th World Mission Day
18 October 2026



CATHOLICS WORLDWIDE

1,422,144,000 Catholics
(+16,690,000 compared with 2023)

17.8% of the world population

7,995,573,000 world population
(as of 30 June 2024)

CATHOLICS BY CONTINENT



Americas	678,869,000	(64%)
Africa	288,312,000	(19,9%)
Europe	287,240,000	(39,7%)
Asia	156,166,000	(3,3%)
Oceania	11,557,000	(25,9%)

PRIESTS

407,421
(+425 compared with 2023)

Of these, 279,238 diocesan and 128,183 religious.

BISHOPS

5,525
(+95)

4,365 diocesan and 1,160 religious.

PERMANENT DEACONS

52,102
(+669)

WOMEN RELIGIOUS

580,131
(-9,292)

MAJOR SEMINARIANS

103,604
(-2,891)

LAY MISSIONARIES

463,079
(+18,473)

CATECHISTS

2,889,336
(+22,370)

EDUCATION

75,448	nursery schools (7,480,373 pupils)
103,666	primary schools (36,314,935 pupils)
51,810	secondary schools (20,340,808 pupils)
2,685,027	students in higher institutes
4,091,087	students in university institutes

HEALTHCARE AND WELFARE

101,110 healthcare, charitable and welfare institutions

5,397	hospitals
13,646	dispensaries
468	leprosy centres
16,263	homes for the elderly, chronically ill and disabled
8,138	orphanages
10,352	nurseries
10,624	marriage counselling centres
3,194	social education or rehabilitation centres
33,028	other institutions

JURISDICTIONS AND MISSIONS

3,047 ecclesiastical jurisdictions
(+6 compared with 2023)

1,130 jurisdictions entrusted to the Dicastery for Evangelization



100º
DIA MUNDIAL
DAS MISSÕES