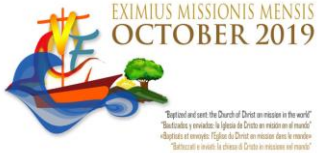
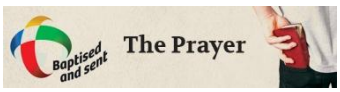
The Extraordinary Missionary Month 2019 – Resources

"The church is missionary by nature", **all papal pronouncements on mission illustrate this paradigm: starting with *Maximum Illud* (Pope Benedict XV); the Council document *Ad Gentes*; by *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (Paul VI) *and Redemptoris Missio* (John Paul II) confirm it. Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*, even says:**
"I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation." EG 27

- The **Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Mission Societies** have launched various initiatives since the proclamation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month (EMM) on 22 October 2017.
  Especially the website http://www.october2019.va/en.html serves as the best source of information, yet is available only in English and Italian.
  The page is divided into several sections: EMMOCT2019 (the month) - Witnesses - World - Formation - Multimedia.
  Latest information from all over the world is recorded; the topics are illustrated with information, pictures and multimedia.
  The Logo, with the colors of the 5 continents, the transparent earth and the words 'Baptized - Sent' are further explained. The prayer is available, in English, French, Italian und Portuguese.
- **Missio Switzerland** - has set up its own coordination office and posts on the special Website up-to-date information and important documents in German.
- **Missio Aachen** presents an exhibition based on Evangelii Gaudium "You are a mission" - „Du bist Mission"
- Individual mission **associations and dioceses** have also set up their own websites,
  e.g. United States Catholic Mission Association, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, Diocese of Westminster; most of the activities and information have been published in English.
- **In Africa**, the Bishops' Conferences of Zambia and Malawi have set up a coordination team to develop programmes and coordinate activities. The South African Bishops Conference (SACBC) has informed in detail and published an extra calendar.
- Some **Congregations** have set up special pages on their websites, such as the Claretians.

Heavenly Father,
when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ
rose from the dead,
he commissioned his followers
to "go and make disciples of all nations"
and you remind us
that through our Baptism
we are made sharers
in the mission of the Church.
Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to be courageous and zealous
in bearing witness to the Gospel,
so that the mission
entrusted to the Church,
which is still very far from completion,
may find new and efficacious expressions
that bring life and light to the world.
Help us make it possible for all peoples
to experience the saving love
and mercy of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Questions for reflection

- How do we deal with all this information?
- How important are the activities of the Catholic Church worldwide to us, and how can we / I express our solidarity with them?