

FOREWORD

The good Lord works wonders in the ordinary moments of every person. He invites us to work with him in the ordinary events of our lives. Because of him, everything ordinary has a touch of real depth and true beauty—much more so in extraordinary instances of our journey as individuals and as a community.

October 2019 is not just any Missionary Month. It is the Extraordinary Missionary Month (EMM) decreed by Pope Francis on the occasion of the centenary of the promulgation of Pope Benedict XV's apostolic letter on mission, *Maximum Illud*. We praise the Lord of the Harvest for this extraordinary month of grace. We thank our current Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XV (1914-1922) for being such missionary popes.

Our Homily Reflections booklet this October 2019 is really something special. We have reflections not only for the Sundays of the month but for each day of the month. We have mission stories as well from some of our fellow missionary disciples—lay, religious and priests.

I am grateful to Father James Kroeger, MM, for sharing his reflections and for editing this publication. I am thankful as well to all the other contributors and to the staff of the national office of Pontifical Mission Societies - Philippines.

For more reflections, mission animation and mission formation materials kindly visit www.october2019.va. It is the official website for the celebration and living out of the EMM. May the EMM theme, "Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World" inspire, challenge and empower us to once again come forward and say: "Here I am. Send me."


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