

**First Mission Mystery  
The Incarnation**

**“The Word became flesh, and lived among us....” - Jn 1:14**

**Reflection:** The Triune God is the source of mission and the mystery of the Incarnation. The mystery of the Incarnation forms the very foundation of missionary life. God is the Mission and the Missionary. The central message of this mission is that God has become one with us in our humanity and in our world to share our joys, our struggles, our sorrows, and our hopes. It is, therefore, fundamental for every missionary to identify closely, not only with the recipients of the Word, “the Mission”, but also with the Word made flesh, “the Missionary of all missionaries.”

“For God so loved the world that He send His only Son in to the world, so that whoever believes in Him will have life eternal” (Jn3:16-17).

**Second Mission Mystery  
The Epiphany**

**“The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage.”**

**- Mt 2:10**

**Reflection:** God reveals the mystery of the Mission to those whom God chooses to this special task. As the story of the Epiphany suggests the worthy recipients of God’s mission are those who are simple of heart like Mary and Joseph, the poor shepherds and the wise men– they who were so humble, and therefore, wise enough to admit that they knew only too little. The wise men from the east were humble of heart, thus, God manifested the mysteries of mission when, after a long and difficult journey, they finally reach their destination. A missionary is one who is able to bend down in humility, allow oneself to be led by the Spirit, and be filled with a joyful and grateful heart. A missionary is also the one who has to pass through many struggles never losing sight of God’s light. God’s gift and epiphany of the Mission is offered to all. The wise men from the east represent all people of good will and peace, and all migrants from different races and cultures, where mission has many faces.

**Third Mission Mystery  
The Calling of the Twelve**

**“...he appointed twelve; they were to be his companions and to be sent out to proclaim the message....” - Mk 3: 14**

**Reflection:** Before calling the twelve disciples and before all other major events in his life, Jesus always went up the mountain to pray. A missionary is a person of prayer, always seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit in every decision that he or she makes. Jesus called each missionary by name, to be with him, to be sent out. The call to discipleship is a call to participate in Jesus’ prophetic mission ‘to bring the good news to the afflicted....,to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed to go free, to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord’ (Lk 4:18-19). Every missionary is called to reach out to everyone, and open up in compassion and respectful dialogue with faith-seekers, with people who are poor and marginalized, and with people of other cultures and religious traditions. The call to participate in Jesus’ mission is for all, and requires a more generous response for the ‘harvest is rich, but the laborers are few’ (Lk 10:2)

### Fourth Mission Mystery The Washing of the Feet

**“If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also must wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example so that as I have done, you also may do” - Jn 13:15**

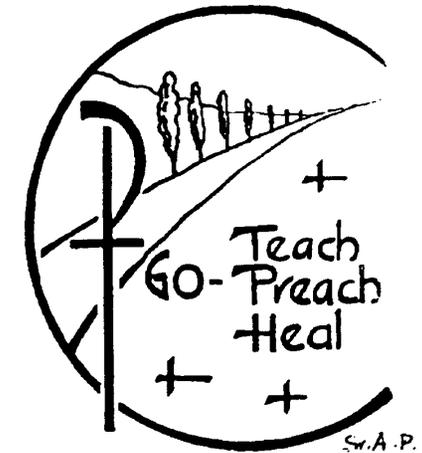
**Reflection:** A missionary is one who teaches by example, by the witness of his or her Christian life. A missionary is also one who closely follows the life of the Master who ‘came not to be served but to serve’ (Mk 10:45). This life of missionary service is exemplified in Jesus’ washing of the feet of his disciples. As the feet symbolize mobility, a missionary is one who constantly follows the steps of Jesus, always ready and willing to go and serve anywhere and anytime she or he is sent. The following of Jesus’ footsteps, however, is not easy. Washing the feet of others demands a lot of humility and sacrifice. A missionary is, therefore, one who must renounce self, take up his or her cross, and follow in Jesus’ footsteps (Mt 16:24). The act of washing not only symbolizes servant leadership, humility and sacrifice, but also God’s unconditional love, washing away all that hinders us from becoming genuine missionaries, and messengers of the Good News.

### Fifth Mission Mystery The Mission Sending of the Disciples to the World

**“Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations: baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit....”  
- Mt 28:20**

**Reflection:** A missionary is one who can totally surrender and put his or her trust in the abiding presence of the Triune God. Sent by the Father in communion with the Holy Spirit, the Risen Christ now sends his disciples to continue the Divine mission. Although it was initially offered to particular people at a particular time and place, the mission is offered to everyone, and transcends the barriers of culture, time and space. It is God who calls, who washes, and who sends. The missionary always remains a beacon of the Good News and a living reminder to everyone that God loves us, and will always be with us. “How then are they to call on him if they have not come to believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard of him? And how will they hear of him unless there is a preacher for them? And how will there be preachers if they are not sent? As scripture says: How beautiful are the feet of the messenger of good news” (Rom 10:14-15).

## *The Mysteries of Mission*



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