

October 2024

PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Intention Lesson Plan developed for
Middle School and High School Students



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

UNITED STATES | CANADA

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

Produced for the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#)

in collaboration with [St. Joseph Ministries](#)

IN HONOREM PRINCIPIS APOSTOLICI V. B.

October 2024

For A Shared Mission

Opening Prayer

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross
- Prayer: The Daily Offering



Father, here I am. I know you are always with me. I place my heart in the Heart of your Son, Jesus, who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist each day. May your Holy Spirit make me His friend and apostle, available for His mission of compassion. Take, Lord and receive all of my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings this day -all I am and possess- in communion with my brothers and sisters in the Pope's prayer network. With Mother Mary, I pray for the mission of the Church, for our bishops, and for the Pope's intention this month. Amen.

Introduce Intention

The Intention

- For October, the Holy Father invites us to pray with him for a shared mission.
- We pray that the Church continues to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion, and the mission shared among priests, religious, and lay people.

The Pope Video

- If time allows, watch the Pope Video produced for this month.
- The video is available at <https://thepopevideo.org/>

Sacred Scripture

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 or Philipians 2:1-4

Note: Invite one of your students to read the scripture entry.

Reflection

by Fr. Joe Laramie SJ, National Director of the Pope's Prayer Network

"We're like spokes in a wheel. And Jesus is the center."

I lifted my eyes to the white altar in the front of the large conference room. I sat with 100 priests, packed in the front rows. I angled my shoulders uncomfortably between the priests on either side of me.

I attended the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July. At the morning youth Mass, Bishop Bob Lombardo CFR presided. He used the parable of a bicycle in his homily. "Jesus is the center!" He said. I peeked over my shoulder and saw several thousand teenagers, families, and youth ministers behind me. All of us were smiling, listening, praying, rejoicing. After his homily, the praise band led us in song, with a twangy guitar and rumbling bass; together we sang to the Lord, "With a cry of praise my heart will proclaim: You are good, You are good!"

At the end of Mass, the bishop pointed to the crowd. "Young people, look! Look at the priests gathered here, the seminarians and religious sisters. Now, I invite you— if you have ever considered a call to be a priest or religious, come to the altar!" Teenagers came, they walked, they ran. They were smiling, nervous, excited. 100, 200 young people made their way, seeking to follow Jesus. We're like spokes in a wheel. And Jesus is the center.

These wheels move! Bicycles carry us on a journey. Jesus moves us. He draws us to Himself in the Mass, feeding us with His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. After Mass, He sends us out. "Go forth, the Mass is ended," proclaimed the Bishop.

This month, Pope Francis invites us to pray for the Church. We are followers of Jesus. We are on mission with Him. Bicycle wheels must be strong, flexible, balanced, and firmly attached to the center axis. This month in Rome, the Church concludes a 3-year synodal process. Priests, bishops, teachers, parents, and Church leaders gather to listen, speak, and pray together. With them, we pray that we may participate actively in the mission of Jesus. Like spokes in a wheel, we radiate outward from Jesus. He sends us to "Go Forth" and proclaim His Gospel.

Saint Connection

Saints Peter and Paul are models of collaboration and shared mission in the early Church. Despite their differences in background and approach, they worked together to spread the Gospel and build the Christian community.

- Advocated for unity and missionary work, contributing to the growth of the Church in its earliest days.
- Known for their complementary roles: Peter, the rock upon which the Church was built, and Paul, the tireless apostle to the Gentiles.
- Though they had moments of disagreement, their shared commitment to Christ and the spread of the Gospel united them, making them pillars of the Church and powerful examples of working together for the greater good.

Discussion

Encourage students to reflect on a shared mission within the Church. Allow them to share their thoughts aloud.

- What are practical ways that we can keep Jesus at the center of our hearts?
- When you think of someone Radiating God, what qualities from that person stand out?

Extension Activities:

- Consider inviting a guest speaker from the parish to talk about their role in the Church's shared mission.

Closing Prayer

- Prayer:

Lord, we thank you for the examples of St. Peter and St. Paul and ask for their intercession as we strive to live out a shared mission in our Church. Help us to work together with love and respect, promoting participation and communion among all members of the Church. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- End with the Sign of the Cross