Immediate Past President's Report
November 7th, 2026
Submitted by Annette Pressley

Ah, October. The weather changes, the leaves turn. What a beautiful month filled with many reasons to celebrate and pray. Among my family and friends, it is a month of many birthdays and anniversaries, remembering those with us and those who have passed before. There are, also, many reasons to focus on deepening our spiritual and prayer lives.

There are a couple of month-long celebrations. For us as affiliates and members of the National Council of Catholic Women, we celebrate with our Sisters in Christ at least one Sunday as Council Sunday. October is dedicated as the Month of the Most Holy Rosary with the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary which this year was celebrated October 7tth. Respect Life Month is also recognized during October.

What I was stuck by during the month were the stories of missionaries who have gone before us, chronicled in the October Magnificat and those still with us. We also celebrated World Mission Sunday, October 18th, a global Catholic observance dedicated to supporting the church's missionary work through prayer, sacrifices and financial contributions. Pope Leo XIV's theme for this year was "One in Christ, United in Mission. Two things brought this to the forefront for me.

One was an article announcing the appointment of Irish nun, Sister Teresa Barron to a dual role as head of the Vatican's missionary network and as adjunct secretary at the Dicastery for Evangelizations. While she doubted her academic qualification, she fully embraced her task after being assured that what was really being asked of her was to animate a missionary spirit," she said, "I've been a missionary for 34 years — my whole essence is being a missionary. If it's about putting a missionary spirit into something, I certainly can offer that. She shared this story.

"Very early on in my missionary life, I accompanied a young Tanzanian mother who was dying from AIDS,". . "She held a traditional view, believing that sickness was a punishment from God. Accompanying her and helping her see that wasn't the case — that God loved her and that she was united with Christ suffering on the cross — was a defining moment for me." "I remember my leader at the time said to me, 'Maybe that's what God wants you in this world for: just to be there for that woman.' It really brought home to me that mission is about the relationship with the person beside you. It's not about big gestures," she added. You can read more about her using the link below.

Missionary Sister

From Bishop Daniel E Flores, bishop of Brownsville, Texas, these words: "Simply to defend the poor and outcast as Jesus did, both in word and deed, is an evangelizing sign. We have been graced with the ability to: visit the sick, befriend the friendless, embrace the leper, make the sign of the cross before the plane takes off, avoid a useless argument, help someone with transportation to Mass, take food to an elderly neighbor or to a family in crisis. All these things make Christ's love visible, therefore making us all missionaries in our own way.