



CONGREGATIO
PRO GENTIUM EVANGELIZATIONE

September 5, 2009

Prot.

Dear Archbishop Nichols,

I was glad to learn that the Pontifical Mission Societies of England and Wales will be relaunched as MISSIO on the 9th of September, 2009.

This is indeed a wonderful occasion to reaffirm the Pontifical and Episcopal character of the Pontifical Mission Societies and their commitment to serve the Church's evangelising mission. I congratulate you on this significant event.

As you know, the Pontifical Mission Societies are at the heart of the Church's mandate to follow the command of our Lord Jesus to proclaim the Good News to the whole world. The members of the Body of Christ should reach out with His love and compassion in the words of your predecessor, Cardinal Herbert Vaughan, "to the people most abandoned and poorest in the means of grace".

May your celebration of MISSIO be an opportunity to renew the enthusiasm of the Catholics of England and Wales for a generous sharing in the mission outreach of the Church. May the prayers of our Blessed Mother Mary, and of St. Francis Xavier and St. Theresa of Lisieux, Patrons of the Missions, accompany MISSIO in all its endeavours.

As Prefect of this Dicastery for the Evangelisation of Peoples, I assure you of my special prayers and blessings, and I wish MISSIO a fruitful journey in the years ahead.

With cordial regards *in Corde Mariae*,

Prefect

His Grace
Archbishop **Vincent Gerard NICHOLS**
Archbishop's House
Ambrosden Avenue
Westminster
London SW1P 1QJ
ENGLAND