



# Through Faith and Action



Sankofa 2023 pilgrims smile for a group photo during their immersion experience in Ghana, West Africa.

## SANKOFA

The Sankofa 2023 Pilgrimage was a two-week immersion experience that would provide all participants the chance to ‘Sankofa,’ to go back, fetch the past, retrieve it, and learn from it.

Shanendra Johnson, Director of the Office for Urban Ministry at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, was one of the thirty six pilgrims who traveled overseas to be immersed in Ghanaian culture. “I began the journey to Ghana with my heart and mind open to new experiences the Spirit would provide,” says Shanendra, who has traveled to Africa before, but had not been to Ghana prior to this experience.

“Going into the trip, I expected to learn something, what that would be, I was unsure, but I knew it would make me reflect on life, faith, and the past.”

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Reflecting on the powerful experiences and encounters in Ghana, one that stood out to Shanedra was the visit to the Ancestral Sites. She explained the Ghanaian guide asked for the permission of the ancestors prior to entering the sacred grounds as a symbol of respect for those who have gone before us. The guide invited the pilgrims to be fully present in the moment and experience. “We were asked to not take videos when the guide was talking and to not take photos of other pilgrims while being in the sacred grounds.” This is out of respect for those who have passed, and to also preserve the experience of the place. “Taking videos and photos has the potential to taint the experience for others. By being fully present in the moment, each pilgrim had the chance to take in the raw emotions and sacredness of the space,” says Shanedra. As she took time to reflect on the past, and on those who have gone before her, she realized that you do not have to live in the past, but “it is beneficial to learn from it and understand where you come from.”

Upon returning to the U.S., Shanedra hopes to carry the lesson of simplicity in her daily life. “This experience allowed me to see the simplicity in being human- we do not need so many materialistic items.” With her newly found lens of simplicity, Shanedra recognizes that “God is everywhere.” So, as you go forth into your daily life, how do you recognize that God is everywhere?

## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



Photo and logo above provided by The Pontifical Mission Societies.

World Mission Sunday, an annual reminder of the missionary movement of the global Church, was celebrated on Sunday, October 22, 2023. Pope Francis chose the theme ‘Hearts on fire, feet on the move,’ which stems from Luke 24:13-35, the road to Emmaus. The Holy Father’s reflection is centered on the importance of the encounters the disciples had with Jesus on the journey. The disciples on the road to Emmaus were feeling burdened, confused, and hopeless. After their encounter and journey with Christ there was a renewing in their hearts. Just like the disciples, we too can feel burdened, confused, and hopeless, however, we also have a chance to encounter Christ in our daily lives. Stemming from these encounters, we are given a renewed heart which inspires us to be missionaries and serve all of our brothers and sisters. Thank you to all who contributed to the World Mission Sunday efforts.

# GIVING TUESDAY

Since 2012, Giving Tuesday has taken place the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This day is a special invitation to be generous and give back. There are so many ways to do so, whether that is by praying for someone, visiting a loved one who is lonely, holding the door for others, financially supporting a cause, and numerous other opportunities!

This Giving Tuesday (November 28th), we invite you to consider supporting the Catholic Church's global missions.

**THE MILWAUKEE ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE FOR WORLD MISSION** promotes global solidarity by supporting overseas missionaries, providing programs that link individuals in Milwaukee to our brothers and sisters around the world, and supporting the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's 40 + year-old relationship with La Sagrada Familia Parish in the Dominican Republic. To continue serving our brothers and sisters abroad, we need your prayers and [support!](#)



**THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH**, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies at the service of the Pope, supports overseas missions in 1,100 dioceses located in remote regions of Latin America, the Pacific Islands, Asia, and Africa. The goal is to support these missions so that they are able to continue to provide support for their communities, including but not limited to: education, health care, catechesis, building of churches, and much more! Please help [support](#) the Pope's missions!



# UPCOMING EVENT

Lenten Retreat to La Sagrada Familia in the Dominican Republic (March 11-16, 2024)

Sign up [here!](#)

# CONTACT US!

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