

✠ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR ✠

"I trust that, by God's help, I may spread the Holy Name and Gospel of Jesus Christ as widely as may be."

Christopher Columbus

"That the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere": Saint Paul expressed it. Benedict XVI expressed it. And our Lord Himself said as much when He gave the *Great Commission* to the Apostles saying: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Saint Matthew XXVIII:19-20a). And while that mission has been taken up by many men and women we call Saints, others who bear not the title of "Saint" have sailed into History with that same purpose. Amongst them, is Christopher Columbus, who entrusted his mission to the Santa Maria/Holy Mary and accomplished the mission that to this day, continues to bear fruit in the New World wherever disciples of Christ are sent.



"For we have the record of not a few brave and experienced men" writes Pope Leo XIII, "both before and after **Christopher Columbus**, who with stubbornness and zeal explored unknown lands and seas yet more unknown. And the memory of these, man, mindful of benefits, rightly holds, and will hold in honour; because they advanced the ends of knowledge and humanity, and increased the common prosperity of the race, not by light labour, but by supreme exertion, often accompanied by great dangers. But there is, nevertheless, between these and him of whom we speak, a generous difference. He was distinguished by this unique note, that in his work of traversing and retraversing immense tracts of ocean, he looked for a something greater and higher than did these others. We say not that he was unmoved by perfectly honourable aspirations after knowledge, and deserving well of human society; nor did he despise glory, which is a most engrossing ideal to great souls; nor did he altogether scorn a hope of advantages to himself; but to him far before all these human considerations was the consideration of his ancient faith, which questionless dowered him with strength of mind and will, and often strengthened and consoled him in the midst of the greatest difficulties. This view and aim is known to have possessed his mind above all; namely, to open a way for the Gospel over new lands and seas." (For further reading please visit www.vatican.va/holy_father/leo_xiii/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_16071892_quarto-abeunte-saeculo_en.html)