



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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August 30, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The celebration of World Mission Sunday on October 22, 2017 leads us to the heart of our Christian faith. It leads us to mission.

World Mission Sunday provides an opportunity to nurture and enrich over one thousand local churches in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Island, and parts of Latin America and Europe, an area that covers more than half the territory of the globe. It is truly a global effort for the entire Church. Through the work of these churches, and their witness to Christ, the poor receive practical help and experience God's love and mercy, His hope and peace.

I invite all of us to see World Mission Sunday as a special moment of encounter with the Pope's missions throughout the world. Generously offer your talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in order to bring the message of God's tenderness and compassion to all. We recommit ourselves to our common vocation, through Baptism, to be missionary disciples.

Pope Francis encourages us to, *"Enable the missionary heart of Christian communities to join in prayer, testimony of life and communion of goods, in responding to the vast and pressing needs of evangelization."*

Please support the work of the mission Church and offer a generous gift on World Mission Sunday. Let us share the joy of the Gospel and help the poor by our fervent prayer and generous hearts. Thank you and God bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay