



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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March 23, 2016

My Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for your leadership in promoting the annual collection for “**Home Missions-Our Own Needs**” which will take place on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016. Please support this important work. Your parish’s generosity is a direct act of witness in itself as you facilitate the communication of the Gospel message. The four major beneficiaries represented in this collection and their purposes are:

Catholic Communications Campaign - The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) develops media programming to promote Gospel values. Half of all proceeds raised through this collection **stay in our diocese**. Monies can be used to support televised Masses and diocesan newspapers, and anything that helps the diocese to communicate the Gospel message. Nationally, 2015 CCC funds supported live streaming and social media campaigns of Pope Francis U.S. visit.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal – There are over 80 Home Mission dioceses in the United States. They struggle to serve the unique needs of their communities. The Home Missions Appeal helps to ease the struggle of these dioceses and helps them form vibrant faith communities.

Black and Native American Missions – exist to help diocesan communities to build the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American and Alaska Native people of God in the U.S. These funds support pastoral ministry, Catholic schools and religious education programs where these communities exist. Every penny collected was given out in diocesan grants. In the Green Bay Diocese, we annually receive a grant from this collection to assist parishes in Neopit and Keshena in their outreach and service to People of the First Nation (Menominee Indian Tribe).

The Catholic University of America – is the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States, located in Washington, D.C. Founded by U.S. Bishops and chartered by the Vatican. It provides an education guided by Catholic tradition to nearly 7,000 students every year. *More than 4,000 students directly receive scholarship aid from this Collection, including many from our diocese.* Every donated dollar directly supports financial aid for students. More than 100 of our Bishops and Cardinals have been educated there.

On this Pentecost Sunday, I ask you to encourage your parishioners to help strengthen the Church at home. Just as the Jubilee Year of Mercy has opened the door to the faithful to experience God's unfathomable mercy, by giving generously to these Home Missions through donation and prayer opens the door of Faith to these Americans. Please find attached bulletin announcements for your use.

May God continue to bless you. Know that I am grateful for your prayers. Please know that you are in mine.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Ricken". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a small cross symbol at the beginning of the first name.

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