



DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 12, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you in advance for your stewardship in promoting the annual collection for *Home Missions-Our Own Needs*. This collection takes place on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017. I encourage you to please help to strengthen the Church at home. Your promotion and support of this appeal makes a wonderful difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States. Below, I have listed the four major beneficiaries represented in this collection along with their purpose and mission.

- ❖ **The Catholic Communication Campaign** develops media programming to promote Gospel values. As people continue to access more information on mobile devices, there is an increased need to provide Faith resources on these platforms as well. Half of the funds collected remain here in our diocese to fund our local efforts.
- ❖ **The Catholic Home Missions Appeal** assists over 80 Home Mission dioceses in the United States. They cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic services include Mass, the Sacraments, and religious education. This appeal helps to ease the struggle of these dioceses and assist them in forming vibrant faith communities.
- ❖ **The Black and Native American Missions** exist to build Christian communities among the Native American, African American, and Alaska Native people in the U.S. Every penny collected is given out in diocesan grants to support pastoral ministry, Catholic schools and religious education programs where these communities exist. Annually, in the Diocese of Green Bay, we receive a grant from this collection to assist parishes in Neopit and Keshena for their outreach and service to the people of the Menominee Indian Tribe.
- ❖ **The Catholic University of America**, established by the Vatican and U.S. Bishops, located in Washington D.C., is the National University of the Catholic Church. It provides an education guided by Catholic tradition to nearly 7,000 students each year. One third of our U.S. Bishops are alumni along with 12,400 priests. Every donated dollar supports financial aid for students. Your gift will enable Catholic University to expand its impact in preparing the next generation of leadership for our Church and Nation.

Your promotion, prayers and support of this *Home Mission-Our Own Needs* collection reflects the depth of your faith and willingness to help our brothers and sisters at home. It provides the opportunity to evangelize and further our mission of discipleship by bringing others to discover, follow, worship and share Jesus Christ with our communities.

May God bless you and your families as we anticipate the Easter Season; may it be joy-filled!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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