



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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August 26, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year we remember in a special way our Baptismal call to mission as we celebrate World Mission Sunday. This year on October 18 we will gather at the Eucharist to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church (Ad Gentes). This proclaims, "The pilgrim Church on earth is missionary by its very nature," reminding us we are all called to be on mission.

In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis writes, "Mission is part of the 'grammar' of faith, something essential for those who listen to the voice of the Spirit who whispers 'Come' and 'Go forth.' Mission is a passion for Jesus, and at the same time a passion for his people."

In our Diocese, this collection includes the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, for Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is the Holy Father's chief missionary arm. Responding to the voice of the Spirit, we help six million children in Africa receive an education in church-run schools. In Asia, we provide loving care at 5,000 Catholic hospitals and clinics. In the Americas, catechists travel to bring the Good News of God's great love to families.

Grants from the Collection for Latin America are used to train catechists to share the faith, by providing access to Bible study groups, workshops and seminars. The Collection to Aid the Church in Eastern Europe helps to restore the Church and build the future in the regions that struggle from the effects of Soviet rule.

Please support the work of the mission Church and make a gift at your parish on World Mission Sunday. Your gift supports efforts in 1,150 young mission dioceses in our world, reaching the poorest communities with a message of hope and healing, mercy and peace. 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,

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