

April 11, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you in advance for your stewardship in promotion of the annual collection for *Home Missions-Our Own Needs*. This collection takes place on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018. I encourage you to please help to strengthen the Church at home with your support of this appeal. It makes a wonderful difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States. The four major beneficiaries represented in this collection along with their purpose and mission are;

- ❖ **The Catholic Communications Campaign** connects people with Christ through 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. Fifty percent of the funds collected remain in our diocese to fund our local communication efforts.
- ❖ **The Catholic Home Missions Appeal** assists over 80 Home Mission dioceses in the United States. They are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support helps ease the struggle of these dioceses and ensures the Gospel is spread across the United States.
- ❖ **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. 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 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 every year. Every donated dollar directly supports financial aid for students. One third of our U.S. Bishops are alumni, along with 12,400 priests.

Your promotion, prayers and support of this 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 with His very best and know of my prayers and gratitude for you and your ministry, as I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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