



DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 8, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this year, marked by the suffering and challenges that have come with the Covid-19 pandemic, the missionary journey of the Church continues, in light of the words by the prophet Isaiah: *“Here am I, send me” (6:8).*

As Pope Francis reminds us, *“This invitation from God’s merciful heart challenges both the Church and humanity as a whole in the current world crisis. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other.”*

World Mission Sunday, recognized this year on October 18, brings with it the opportunity to renew our commitment to God’s call of missionary discipleship. The mission that God entrusts to each one of us leads us to a renewed realization when we give ourselves to others.

In the sacrifice of the cross, where the mission of Jesus is fully accomplished, God shows us that His love is for each and every one of us. He asks us to be willing to be sent, because he himself is Love, love that is always “on mission”, always reaching out in order to give life. God the Father, out of his love for us, sent his only Son, Jesus Christ.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I invite all of you to live with conviction hope and joy, as you bring the Gospel to all people. This can be accomplished through nurturing your relationship with Jesus Christ, united with daily prayerful reflection and personal witness.

May your heart be generous on World Mission Sunday, and may the Holy Spirit bless and guide you with peace, strength and goodness. In hope of our Risen Lord and Savior, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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