



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

P.O. Box 23825 • Green Bay, WI 54305-3825 • 920-272-8194 • FAX 920-435-1330

September 6, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every October, World Mission Sunday joins all Catholics of the world into one community of faith. At Mass this October 22nd, we recommit ourselves to be missionaries, through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the World Missions.

For this year's theme, *"Hearts on fire, feet on the move"* (Luke 24:13-35), Pope Francis focuses on the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were dismayed after Jesus' death on the cross, but Jesus appeared to them, spoke with and broke bread with them. After this encounter, their hearts burned within them, and they set out to share that He had risen. Pope Francis asks us to *"set out again with burning hearts, with our eyes open and our feet in motion"* and *"to invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation that God, in Christ, has bestowed upon all humanity."*

World Mission Sunday brings an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to missionary discipleship. Through prayer and generous sacrifice to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America, we support the life-giving presence of the Church. Let us all support the proclamation of the Gospel among the poor and marginalized around the world, so that more hearts will burn with the Word of God and more eyes are opened to Jesus in the Eucharist.

My brothers and sisters, may your heart be generous on World Mission Sunday, and may the Holy Spirit bless and guide you with peace, strength, and goodness.

With hope-filled blessings and gratitude for you and your family, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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