



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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September 15, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

World Mission Sunday, celebrated on October 18, 2026, reminds us of Christ's call to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. On this day, Catholics throughout the world unite in prayer, solidarity, and generosity to support the Church's missionary work.

The year's World Mission Sunday celebration is unlike any other in our lifetime as it marks the 100th anniversary of its establishment by Pope Pius XI in 1926 to benefit the Propagation of the Faith. This centennial provides a unique opportunity to renew our commitment to Christ's missionary mandate and to celebrate a century of faith, sacrifice, and evangelization around the world. As we celebrate this historic milestone, we are also mindful of how this mission continues today. Through our diocesan support of the Church in Latin America and the Church in Eastern Europe, we help form missionary priests and strengthen lay ministries that share the Gospel and serve communities in need.

Pope Leo XIV understands firsthand the importance of World Mission Sunday. Having served for many years as a missionary in Peru, ministering in the Andean highlands and rural villages, he witnessed how the prayers and generosity of Catholics around the world sustained the Church's mission. His experience reminds us that every contribution to World Mission Sunday helps bring hope, faith, and charity to communities that might otherwise be beyond our reach.

I pray that World Mission Sunday will be a blessing for our diocese and ignite within each of us a deeper missionary spirit. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to renew in us the zeal of the early Church so that we may be truly "One in Christ, United in Mission," growing in missionary awareness and solidarity.

I invite you to respond generously to this year's appeal, knowing that your support makes a real difference in the lives of people who long to know Christ and experience His love. Thank you for your prayers, generosity, and commitment to the Church's mission. Together, we can continue Christ's work of bringing the light of the Gospel to every corner of the world and to all who long for His hope and love. May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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