



Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of
THE BISHOP

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October 10, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

On the weekend of October 17 and 18 we will celebrate World Mission Sunday, a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. Organized by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, annually, "Mission Sunday" is celebrated on the next-to-last Sunday in October and is an important day in the life of the Church. The offerings that will be collected on this weekend are destined for a common fund of solidarity distributed, in the Pope's name, by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith among the missions and missionaries of the entire world.

In his message for World Mission Sunday, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI says "the Church works not to extend power or affirm dominion, but to carry, to all, Christ, the salvation of the world." The very way in which we, the Universal Church, respond in generosity by our prayer, service and sacrifice, is our response in love to the call of Christ at our Baptism. That same generosity becomes the manifest way in which we, the Church, "carry" Christ to the nations by supporting the work and witness of those who selflessly give up all for the sake of our Lord and His Gospel.

Offerings from Catholics in the United States, on World Mission Sunday and throughout the year, are combined with offerings to the Propagation of the Faith from Catholics worldwide. Mission dioceses - about 1,000 at this time - receive regular annual assistance from the funds collected. In addition, these mission dioceses submit requests to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples for assistance, among other needs, for catechetical programs, seminaries, the work of Religious Communities, for communication and transportation needs, and for the building of chapels and churches. These needs are matched with the funds gathered in each year. Last year our Diocesan collection generated \$111,324 on Mission Sunday.

Together let us renew our commitment as instruments of evangelization as "one family in mission" on World Mission Sunday!

With gratitude for your generosity, and the assurance of my prayers for you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito
Bishop of Palm Beach

Note to Pastors: please publish in bulletins the weekend of Oct 10/11