



Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of
THE BISHOP

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June 5, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual Collection to support Black and Indian Missions and Home Missions will take place on the weekend of June 12 and 13 in our Diocese.

The important collection for Home Missions generates financial support for missionary activities that strengthen the Catholic Church right here in the United States, and in its territories and former territories. Through its annual fundraising campaign, the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, the CHM educates American Catholics about mission needs and extends the invitation to join in assisting fellow Catholics in the practice of the faith. Home mission dioceses in the United States are characterized by a lack of resources to provide basic pastoral services for the faithful. Home mission parishes often struggle with priest shortages, parishioner poverty, unemployment, difficult or isolated terrain, religious hostility and other practices that impact the practice of the faith. Many also are struggling to meet the challenges of culturally diverse communities. The current economic climate in the United States is making it even more difficult for the Home Missions dioceses to stay afloat through budget and staff cuts. Your assistance is critical.

The second portion of this collection is shared with the National Black and Indian Missions. This collection was founded in 1884 and is the oldest collection in the Catholic Church in the U.S. which supports critical assistance for many schools and parishes who rely on annual evangelization grants to continue local programs and outreach. Through the years, the funds from the annual appeal have been responsible for supporting the evangelization needs of the Black and Native American communities in the United States.

Your constant generosity in support of the annual collection for CHM and Black and Indian Missions is the visible sign of God's love to our brothers and sisters in need!

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 THIS LETTER IN THE PARISH BULLETIN OR HAVE IT READ AT ALL MASSES ON THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 5/6