October 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, October 20th marks a very special World Mission Sunday. It takes place during an Extraordinary Missionary Month, called for by Pope Francis in honor of the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV’s Apostolic Letter Maximum Illud, which emphasized the missionary call to proclaim the Gospel.

During this month of October, Pope Francis invites us – all baptized Christians – to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through prayer, meditation on the Word of God, and pilgrimage. He reminds us that we are each “Baptized and Sent”; we are all the “Church of Christ on Mission in the World.”

I invite all of us in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to take this opportunity to revitalize our ardor, passion and zeal for the faith with loving missionary hearts. We can respond to our missionary call by giving generously to the World Mission Sunday collection for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. Your gifts of support sustain priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1, 100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church and serve the poor.

As I thank you for your continuous commitment to the missions, I want to express my personal gratitude for your generous financial sacrifices as you are able. Let us join our hearts in the prayer of our Holy Father for this special moment for the Missions: “May the love for the Church’s Mission, which is a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people, grow ever stronger!”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Charles C. Thompson
Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
Archbishop of Indianapolis