



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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August 7, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As members of the Church, we are invited by Pope Francis to celebrate the Extraordinary Mission Month of October, 2019. He encourages us to revive and enrich our missionary awareness and commitment, as we commemorate the centenary of Pope Benedict the XV's Apostolic Letter, *Maximun illud*. In his Apostolic Letter, Pope Benedict lays the foundation through the recollection of, "*that momentous and holy charge*" found in Mark 16:15: "**Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to all creation.**"

So too, we are called to follow the message for this Extraordinary Mission Month, "*Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World*". This celebration calls us to rediscover a missionary spirit through our faith in Jesus Christ, a faith graciously bestowed on us at Baptism. Through our communion with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are born to new life. This gift of faith and divine graces is to be shared and proclaimed throughout the world; on mission for Jesus Christ, our Teacher, Lord and Savior.

World Mission Sunday, recognized on October 20, 2019, brings opportunity to renew our commitment to God's call of missionary discipleship. Through the ministry of the Church, God wills that all people be saved by coming to know the Truth and his unending mercy. The Church, on mission, means seeing with God's own eyes and heart, extending his Truth, Hope and Love to the ends of the earth.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I invite all of you to live with conviction and joy, bringing the Gospel to all people. This can be accomplished through nurturing your relationship with Jesus Christ, united with daily, prayerful reflection and personal witness.

May your heart be generous on World Mission Sunday, and may the Holy Spirit bless and guide you with peace, fortitude, strength and goodness. In hope of our Risen Lord and Savior, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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