



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

October 1, 2009

My dear friends in Christ,

At Baptism, each of us becomes a missionary, called by our Lord to share our faith with those around us – and to be part of the Church’s mission to the world.

Jesus Himself, before He returned to the Father, promised His followers the Holy Spirit and charged them with being His “witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

That mission is now addressed to each one of us. We are to support, in prayer and sacrifice, the work of missionaries who bring the “Good News” of Jesus to faraway places – to Africa and Asia, to the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America.

On World Mission Sunday, celebrated this year on October 18, the Catholics of the world unite at Mass to recommit ourselves to this Baptismal vocation to be missionaries. As we pray and respond here at home, we are replicating what is also taking place in every parish and chapel all over the world. Your generosity through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith will reach those who await the “Good News” of Jesus, who long to experience His hope and love.

More than 1,150 young churches in the Developing World count on your generous response this World Mission Sunday. Please also continue to pray that all of us in the Diocese of Grand Rapids may be eager and effective witnesses of Jesus, as He asked us to be.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids

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For more about this important celebration of the universal Church, please visit the special World Mission Sunday website: www.iamamissionary.org