



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

October 2, 2007

My dear Friends in Christ,

Next weekend Catholics in all of our parishes are asked to pray for the missionary work of the Church and to support this work with our contributions.

At Baptism, each of us is given the responsibility to be missionary – to share our faith and to be active participants in the Church’s mission to all peoples.

Celebrated this year on October 21, *World Mission Sunday* gives us the opportunity to reach out in faith to more than two-thirds of the world’s people who have yet to hear the “Good News” of Jesus Christ, their Savior, or to experience, through the word and witness of missionaries, His abiding love. On *World Mission Sunday*, within the context of the Eucharist, we can offer our prayers and support, through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, for the mission of making Jesus known “to the ends of the earth”.

World Mission Sunday is a universal celebration, a worldwide recommitment to the Church’s evangelizing mission, taking place in parishes and missions as well. On October 21, united with Catholics throughout the world, let us pray for the Church’s missionary work and offer our personal sacrifices, our own sufferings, cares and concerns in union with the sufferings of Christ on the Cross for the salvation of the world. We also should offer financial help through the Propagation of the Faith for the Church’s work in more than 1,150 dioceses throughout Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America.

The missionary work of the Church depends on each one of us. Please be as generous as your means will allow and continue to pray that all of us in the Diocese of Grand Rapids may be eager and effective witnesses of Jesus in our world that is so in need of His love and peace.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids

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