



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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October 2021

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

World Mission Sunday on October 24th is a great moment for the entire Church in the Diocese of Rochester to focus upon our missionary involvement. It is the annual day for prayer and sacrifice when all Catholics in the United States are joined with Catholics throughout the world in a common effort to sustain the missionary vitality and growth of the Church. This year also marks the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith by Pauline Marie Jaricot, which continues to be instrumental to the Church's missionary activity.

Pope Francis' message this year for World Mission Sunday reflects on the theme: **"We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard"** (Acts 4:20). He reminds us that, "as Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves," as we "recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel."

Realizing that we are the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Rochester, I urge you to serve your brothers and sisters in the Developing World with the same generous support that you always have shown in the past. Your prayers and financial gift will advance the day when the whole world will share the faith in the one Lord Jesus Christ.

Renewing my deep gratitude and assuring you of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Salvatore R. Matano*

The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano
Bishop of Rochester