

DIOCESAN MISSION NEWS

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The Missions are Extensions of Our Life and Light in Christ



Sister Mary Anne Mayer bids farewell to Dona Maria, one of her catechists in the little community of Marta Elena where Sister works.

I am the Vine . . . You are My Branches

Our diocesan sharing in the mission of the Church takes on real meaning in our annual observance of Diocesan Missions' Sunday, to be held this year on the weekend of May 15 and 16. This will be the 8th annual celebration of our mission solidarity since its beginning in 1969. This appeal remains the main support of the diocesan mission projects.

We hear the cries of the world for help and hope, for truth and love and justice. Our diocesan missionaries and their projects are bringing the life and the light of Christ to those who would otherwise be life-less and without light.

A Message from Our Bishop

April 19, 1976

My dear Friends,

In my Pastoral Letter of November, 1975, I clearly indicated the mission direction of our Diocese when I said: "I want the Church of Rochester to be a missionary Church, for I believe this is central to abundant life in Christ."

Next Sunday, May 16, will be the 8th annual observance of our Diocesan Missions Sunday. This day will give each of us a real opportunity to share in the mission dimension of the Church of Rochester.

The Bicentennial Anniversary of our nation gives us time to reflect on the history of the Church in the U.S. Do not forget that we were a mission country and depended on the generosity of others for the life and development of the Church right here at home. It was only in 1908 that Pope St. Pius X removed the Church in the United States from the jurisdiction of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, thus officially declaring our missionary status to be at an end!

Mindful of the needs of our brothers and sisters in other areas and other lands, we have shared a missionary program of which we can be justly proud: our missions in Brazil, Chile and Bolivia, in Selma, Alabama and in the many city and rural districts within the Diocese of Rochester have evidenced a missionary spirit that truly has brought God's blessings upon our Diocese and upon our lives.

However, in all honesty we must say that our work is not finished. Men and women, young and old, still hunger for God's love and truth and justice. To satisfy these needs, our Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of St. Joseph continue to face the challenge of mission in Chile, Brazil and Selma. We face the challenge of new mission projects within the Diocese. We look for new mission possibilities for our priests.

This is why I call upon you to be more generous than ever before in your support of our Diocesan Missions Appeal.

In the name of all who will receive life and hope through our prayers and material assistance, I express my gratitude and extend my blessing.

+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

