



DIOCESAN MISSION NEWS

The Diocese of Rochester, New York

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Volume 7, Number 1

Rochester, New York

May 11, 1977

TO OUR MISSIONARIES... WE ARE WITH YOU

A Message from Our Bishop

My dear People:

With this letter I officially proclaim next weekend, May 14 and 15, the ninth annual observance of our Diocesan Missions Sunday. I further proclaim this year as "the year of our diocesan missionaries."

During the past few months the whole world has become shockingly aware of what it means to be a missionary. We understand more than ever before what it means to leave home and loved ones; to become absorbed in a foreign language and culture; to be, on so many occasions, the Lord's witness to what is right and just and good, and to be the only unifying force in a world of greed, jealousy, hatred and misunderstanding. These dedicated men and women are so often the only mediators between heaven and earth, between God and man. We have watched in renewed admiration as many of them have been called upon to make the supreme sacrifice of love for the sake of justice and peace.

My Spring visit to our diocesan missionaries in Selma, Alabama and in Bolivia, Brazil and Chile is very important at this time since it gives me the opportunity to be with them and to encourage them in their lives and in their work. I make this journey in your name.

To our priests and Sisters, especially our Sisters of Mercy and our Sisters of St. Joseph, we pledge our prayers, our love and our support.

I call your attention to our local mission works, especially the Rural Human Development programs, the work of the Spanish Apostolate and our devoted Mexican Sisters and the projects of the Office of Black Ministries. These, too, are deserving of our concern and our support.

Please be generous in your response to our diocesan missionaries over next weekend.

With my gratitude and my blessing, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

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