

NEAR AND FAR...

OUR CHURCH IS A COMMUNION OF LIFE

A Message from our Bishop

My dear Friends:

With this letter I am happy to proclaim the weekend of May 15 and 16 as our fourteenth Diocesan Missions Sunday. This annual observance continues to be our way of supporting and encouraging our missionaries and mission projects away from home.

I am convinced that every diocese and every parish needs a sense of mission. We need it to be authentic followers of Jesus who told us to go and teach all nations. And we need it to be true to the missionary tradition of the whole Church: true to Peter and Paul, true to Patrick and Boniface, Francis Xavier, the Martyrs of North America and now the Martyrs of Latin America — the list is long and honorable. It is a privilege for us to honor the missionaries of our own diocese: the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Sisters of Mercy, our diocesan priests and all of our Rochester missionary efforts.



Missionary activity is absolutely necessary. Through it we not only give, but receive; we not only share, but are enriched. Missionary activity is a living sign of our faith.

My own visits to our mission areas have convinced me that these people, our sisters and brothers, need the Church and the fullness of the Lord's message and love which our dedicated missionaries share so willingly and courageously. I know that we need to be there, to share the Lord and to learn from those to whom we minister the vitality of a vibrant Christian faith.

I ask your prayers and support of "Unity in Mission, 1982."

With every best wish, I am

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

+ Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

**For the MISSION WORKS of the DIOCESE OF
ROCHESTER in BOLIVIA, CHILE, BRAZIL and
SELMA, ALABAMA and our SISTER-DIOCESE
OF TABASCO, MEXICO**