



WORLD MISSION

October 1

“Sharing the Gift of Faith”



Bishop's Office

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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October 7, 1992

My dear Friends in Christ,

In 1822, the first collection of the Propagation of the Faith was divided three ways, among the Missions at that time: China, Kentucky, and Louisiana. From 1822 to 1922, more than \$7 million was provided to the young U.S. churches from sacrifices offered to the Propagation of the Faith. The list of the places helped cover the entire country, from California to Connecticut, from New Orleans to New York, from Richmond to Rochester. I am certain too that the prayers of those who contributed to the Propagation of the Faith accompanied the Church here in its beginnings.

Today, we who “received” are challenged to “give,” to “share the gift of faith we have received.” It is a challenge we Bishops of the United States noted in our World Mission Pastoral, “To the Ends of the Earth.” It is a task that takes on particular significance this year as we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the evangelization of the Americas.

On World Mission Sunday, October 18th, I ask you to offer your prayers and sacrifices through the Propagation of the Faith for the Church's mission today, for the people and the missionaries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific Islands. Your contributions will help to fill many mission needs, including the training of catechists and the education of the growing number of young men wishing to study for the priesthood in the Missions, and the support of hospitals and schools where faith is shared in a subtle, yet powerful way.

I invite each of you to renew your always generous support of the Church's missionary work this World Mission Sunday, support that is so very needed. Pope John Paul II has told us, “The Lord is always calling us to come out of ourselves and to share with others the goods we possess, starting with the most precious gift of all—our faith.”

With gratitude for all you will do this World Mission Sunday in “sharing the gift of faith we have received,” I am

Devotedly in Christ,

+Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

God's Love Endures Forever



Christ Has

*No body now on earth
but yours;
No hands but yours;
No feet but yours;
Yours are the eyes
Through which His
compassion will look
upon the world;
Yours are the feet
With which He will go
about doing good;
Yours are the hands
with which He will bless
others now.*

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Father ROBERT C. BRADLER, DIOCESAN DIRECTOR

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