



June 27, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By virtue of our baptism, we are all called to be missionaries. Like the Apostles, we are encouraged to reach out to our brothers and sisters in faith, love and sacrifice, both around the world and here at home.

The **Collection for National Needs**, to be taken this year the weekend of July 16 and 17, affords the opportunity for Catholic communities who have the means to stand in solidarity with poorer ones in our own country. This collection is a combination of two other collections:

- **The Catholic Home Mission Appeal** impacts the lives of nearly 9 million Catholics. Through annual grants, the Catholic Home Missions funds catechesis for children and adults, seminarian education, lay ministry training, Hispanic ministry and other pastoral programs in needy dioceses.
- **The Black and Indian Mission Collection**, helps to evangelize and support our African American, Native American and Alaska Native communities with mission schools, religious education programs, the purchase of catechetical materials and ministry training.

The struggle to receive basic pastoral care and catechesis is faced by thousands of faithful living in home mission dioceses. I ask your generous response to the Collection for National Needs on July 16 and 17. Your support will truly make a difference in strengthening the Church at home and will be greatly appreciated. Be assured that you and your family remain in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie