



June 19, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are all called to be missionaries in some way. At his Wednesday audience on June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Father said: “Missionaries, in fact... are not only those who travel long distances, learn new languages, do good works, and are good at proclamation; no, a missionary is also anyone who lives as an instrument of God’s love where they are. Missionaries are those who do everything so that, through their witness, their prayer, their intercession, Jesus might pass by.” Today I am asking you to enter into this spirit of missionary outreach by considering a generous gift to the National Needs Collection.

This year the National Needs Collection will take place the weekend of July 15-16. This is a good opportunity for Catholics to show their solidarity with the poor in our own nation. This collection is a combination of two collections:

- The Catholic Home Missions Appeal – supports, among other things, education for seminarians, which is a significant expense for poorer dioceses in the United States. This collection also supports training for lay ministry, Hispanic ministry, catechesis and other pastoral programs in needy dioceses throughout the United States.
- The Black and Indian Mission Collection – supports the work of the Church among the African American, Alaskan Native and American Native peoples in the United States.

I ask your generous response to the Collection for National Needs on July 15-16. Your donation will help support vocations, religious education, basic pastoral care and catechesis for children and adults in the Church here in the United States. Your help does make a difference.

Be assured of my gratitude and prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
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