



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

October 11/12, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,


We celebrate **World Mission Sunday next weekend on October 18/19**. This observance is a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to proclaim the Gospel to all nations by supporting the missionary work of the Church through The Pontifical Mission Societies. The Pontifical Mission Societies are the Pope's official means of assisting Catholic communities in the world's poorest and most remote regions. Pope Leo XIV's priestly ministry as a missionary in the remote regions of Peru deepens the meaning of this year's celebration, inviting us all to renew our commitment to the Church's mission in the world.

We must remember that the Catholic Church in the United States was itself once a mission territory. Just over a century ago, the faith here was still taking root, supported by the generosity of Catholics from Europe and beyond, who provided financial assistance, sent priests and religious, and built the parishes and schools that formed the foundation of the Church in this country. Without that missionary support, many of the dioceses we know today would have struggled to grow.

Now, it is our turn to extend that same generosity to others. We are called to support the 1,124 mission territories where the Church is still growing and often facing persecution or poverty. Our contributions provide essential resources for the Church's mission: the formation of seminarians and religious sisters; the training of lay catechists, who bring the faith to communities that may not have regular access to a priest; education for children in Catholic schools; medical care in Church-run hospitals and clinics; and the construction and maintenance of churches, creating spaces where the faithful can gather, worship, and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Your support of this collection affirms that we are one Church, one family in Christ, united in bringing hope and love to all people. I encourage you to respond with a generous heart, knowing that your support makes a real difference in the lives of those who might otherwise never hear the Gospel. Let us go forth as Missionaries of Hope, bringing God's love and mercy to all people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids