

Dear Pastor/Administrator,

This year, the weekend of October 21-22, marks our annual **World Mission Sunday** when we celebrate and support the missionary life of the Church with Catholics around the world. It also gives us the opportunity to renew our own missionary identity and discipleship in serving, encouraging, supporting and praying for the Church's mission.

The worldwide theme for this mission month is, "**Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move.**" Pope Francis asks us to consider the missionary journey of the whole Church. Like the disciples in the Gospel whose hearts were set on fire when they encountered the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus, we too are invited to encounter the Lord. In this context, the call to mission, the invitation to step out of ourselves in faith for love of God and neighbor continues. When we share ourselves, we find ourselves.

This World Mission Sunday gives us a chance to learn about the mission church today and consider how we can participate in the Church's evangelizing mission. We can each offer and encourage missionary charity to support the immense work of our Church that continues in our day.

I offer you the enclosed materials to enhance your World Mission Sunday celebration and support of the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor in over 1,100 mission dioceses overseas and over 80 mission dioceses in the U.S. These materials and more are located on our Website for your use at www.centerformission.org/downloads. **Thank you for all you do to prepare your parish for the fullest celebration of this time for the Church's Mission here at home and to all nations.**

May you be blessed in your ministry to serve God's mission of Love to the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Deacon Mickey Friesen
Director