



October 2025

Dear Friends,

On October 19th, we celebrate World Mission Sunday, when we join Catholics around the world in supporting the missionary work of the Church—a day of prayer, reflection, and financial support for the Church's missionary work in 1,124 territories. These are regions of the world where the Church is still young, growing, and often facing poverty, conflict, or persecution. Just as we are recommitting ourselves today to MAKE disciples in the Diocese of Joliet, World Mission Sunday, reflects Jesus' great commission, to 'go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19).

This year's theme, "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples," invites us to reflect deeply on the meaning of hope in the Christian life. Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, echoes this theme in his first apostolic exhortation, "Dilexi Te" ("I Have Loved You"), when he says, "God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favor of the weakest." So, let's join Our Holy Father and help him care for our brothers and sisters in missionary lands all across the globe. This second collection supports:

- The formation of seminarians and future religious sisters and brothers
- The education of children in Catholic schools
- Healthcare and pastoral care in remote and underserved regions
- The training of catechists and lay leaders
- The construction of churches, chapels, schools, and mission centers

The invitation to be "Missionaries of Hope among the peoples" is not for just some of us — it belongs to all of us by baptism. When we give, we are not simply making a donation—we are participating in a spiritual and missionary act of love, sustaining the Church where it cannot yet sustain itself. And when we pray for the missions, especially during World Mission Month, we are united with those bringing Christ's hope to the peripheries of the world.

Christian hope is not a vague optimism; it is the fruit of divine love—alive in us and active through us. That is why our missionary efforts are powerful acts of hope, especially for those suffering from poverty, violence, or religious persecution.

With every good wish, may God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet