



Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

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Office of the Bishop

February 8, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pope Francis has challenged us to *“Be Shepherds..., in the midst of your people like Jesus the Good Shepherd.”*

The Black and Indian Mission Collection has for the last 136 years, changed the landscape of evangelization and education efforts for Native Americans, Alaskan Americans and African Americans throughout the United States. Our financial support of the Collection is the mechanism that affects the Church’s evangelization efforts.

Historically, evangelization efforts by Churches and schools among African Americans, Native Americans, Eskimo and Aleut communities, are funded by the Collection’s grant awards, which are instrumental in the building of their Christian communities and sharing the joy of knowing Christ. Your support has helped educate African American and Native American seminarians for priestly service to our Catholic communities.

In our diocese, this fund provides monetary support to seven parishes, five schools, and four diocesan ministries each year from the national mission collection.

Education is fundamental in changing the mores and morals of a society. Your monetary assistance provides opportunities for a solid Catholic education in our Indian and Black Catholic mission schools, allows the purchase of catechetical materials and bibles, and provides for the formation of lay leadership, to name just a few ways the collection supports evangelization.

On February 20-21 all will be asked to participate in the Black and Indian Mission Collection. Together we build up the Church and announce the Good News of Jesus Christ. I ask everyone in our diocese to make a sacrificial gift to the 2021 Black and Indian Mission Collection. Your generosity to this collection reflects the depths of your faith and your willingness to help our brothers and sisters in need; it is an opportunity to evangelize and further the missionary cause of bringing the Gospel to our African American and Native American family.

I am extremely grateful for your generous charity and your continued support of this mission of faith and hope.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Steven J. Raica
Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama

Dear Fathers and Colleagues – Please share this information with your parishioners the weekend of February 13-14. The collection will take place the following weekend, February 20-21.