



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

October 1st, 2022

Prot N. 17444/22

Your Excellency,

Today marks the start of World Mission Month, which reaches its culmination in the celebration of **World Mission Sunday** on **October 23**. I write to you today with a personal request, that you do all you can to promote and support the Mission Sunday celebration, which ensures that *all* the missions are remembered and receive much-needed help.

Pope Francis reminds us that the Mission Sunday collection “is aimed at supporting the missionary work carried out in my name by the Pontifical Mission Societies, in order to meet the spiritual and material needs of peoples and Churches throughout the world, for the salvation of all” (*Message for World Mission Sunday, 2020*).

I am very much aware of the wonderful efforts of dioceses throughout the United States in support of specific missionary works, and in support of missionary dioceses. I thank you for your own commitment, particularly in encouraging your priests and deacons to be a “voice” for the Missions in advance of the Mission Sunday collection. The vision of Blessed Pauline Jaricot, who founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith some 200 years ago, was precisely this: a mobilization of the Church in every land on behalf of the missions.

Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington
55 Joy Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403

My own diplomatic service in several mission territories, including Uganda, Haiti, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and the Pacific Islands, has given me firsthand experience of the *vital importance of the Mission Sunday collection*. In particular, the generous contributions of the faithful in the United States make it possible for the Pontifical Mission Societies to provide annual subsidies to missionary dioceses, and to directly support mission seminaries and religious formation houses, the education of children in mission schools, the building of chapels and churches, as well as sustaining homes for orphaned children, the elderly and sick.

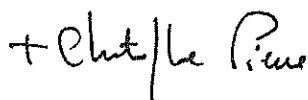
This support makes possible the proclamation of the Gospel, the celebration of the Sacraments, and service to the poor in mission dioceses. For the first decades of its life, the fledgling Church in the United States received essential support from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and the Catholics of this country have returned that generosity in abundance.

However, I must draw to your attention to a notable decline in donations to the Pontifical Missionary Works from U.S. Catholics in recent years. The National Director, Monsignor Kieran Harrington, informs me of helpful initiatives underway to enliven collaboration between his Office and Diocesan Offices for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, in union with many of your brother Bishops.

Knowing personally just how much the Missionary Church depends on the generous response of Catholics to this Mission Sunday appeal, I would ask you to do everything you can to promote the celebration of Mission Sunday and to encourage a generous response that will help to ensure continued support for the Missions.

As I ask your prayers for the Missions, especially in areas where the Church is persecuted and suffering, know that I pray for you and all in your diocese.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christophe Pierre". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

✠ Christophe Pierre
Apostolic Nuncio