

Diocese of Richmond

Pastoral Center • 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23294-4201 • Phone: (804) 359-5661 • Fax: (804) 358-9159



Office of the Bishop

"Mercy Changes the World!"

Dear Father,

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated in our local church and throughout the world on **October 23, 2016.**

On this 90th World Mission Sunday, your role is critical in reminding your parish family of our common missionary call. We have the opportunity to *change the world through merciful acts*: our prayers and sacrifices accompanying the good works carried out in Mission Churches across the globe. This annual gift, gathered through the World Mission Sunday collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, supports missionaries serving in more than 1,111 mission dioceses, each of which fervently needs help to provide service and spiritual comfort for the poorest and most vulnerable, sanctifying them with the Sacraments, and offering them the Lord's hope and peace.

Preparation for World Mission Sunday begins in the early weeks of October. The materials that your parish has received will assist in that preparation, as well as with the celebration itself, providing information about the Missions and suggestions for the Liturgy. Additional materials are available online at IAMAMissionary.org. Deacon Bob Griffin, our Director for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, is also able for further assistance.

Following World Mission Sunday, your parishioners may continue this connection with the Missions all year long, amplifying the mission solidarity of our own local church, through **MISSIO**, online at missio.org or on your phone.

As Pope Francis reminds us in his Message for World Mission Sunday 2016, "Let us not close our hearts within our own particular concerns, but let us open them to all of humanity." May you and your parish be blessed with a spirit of God's mercy through His mission, in this Jubilee Year of Mercy and always!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Francis X. DiLorenzo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Rev. Francis X. DiLorenzo
Bishop of Richmond