

## SUGGESTED PASTORAL LETTER

### THE NATIONAL BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION YEAR 2012

The Catholic Church has a rich history in the United States. Today, we continue to build the church by the witness of our lives as baptized Catholics.

Soon you will be asked by your parish to participate in the Annual Collection for the Black and Indian Missions. Your contributions support missionaries here in the United States who are evangelizing in the Black and Indigenous Catholic communities. Your monetary sacrifices assist with mission schools, religious education programs, the purchase of Catechetical materials, Bibles and ministry training, to name a few ways you help to continue the mission of Jesus Christ.

Our Theme for the 2012 Collection echoes the recent announcement of Pope Benedict XVI being a special “Year of Faith.” The theme is “*Faith: Anchored in Jesus, Alive in Mission.*” Please give generously to this appeal.

Evangelization efforts among African Americans, Native Americans, Eskimo and Aleut communities, Churches and schools depend on the annual evangelization grants to continue building their Christian communities and sharing the joy of knowing Christ. Your mission efforts at home have a huge impact on the Church of the United States.

On \_\_\_\_\_, 2012 all will be asked to participate in the Black and Indian Mission Collection. We evangelize by the witness of our faith and by our sacrifice for the Black and Indian Missions. Remember, be anchored in Jesus, alive in mission! Together we build up the Church and announce the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I ask everyone in the (Archdiocese/Diocese) to make a sacrificial gift to the 2012 Annual Black and Indian Mission Collection. *New this year, the National Office in Washington, DC, requests that following the collection you please return to them the completed offering envelopes or a listing of donor contact information.* Learn more about the Black and Indian Mission Office at [www.blackandindianmission.org](http://www.blackandindianmission.org) . God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Bishop’s Signature)