



DIocese OF SUPERIOR

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 14, 2010

To the people of God of the Diocese of Superior
My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since 1884, proceeds from the Black and Indian Mission Collection have been distributed as grants to dioceses supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which would otherwise be in danger of disappearing among the Black, American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleute communities of the United States.

That tradition of evangelization continues here in the Diocese of Superior as we prepare for the Black and Indian Mission Collection on the weekend of February 20 & 21, 2010.

For over one hundred years, without exception, there have been missionaries, priests, sisters, catechists and devoted faithful working side by side in parishes and missions – assisting the Church among the American Indian people of northern Wisconsin. They have been able to bring the Church to people because of the financial assistance from the Collection.

With the conveniences of today – automobiles, computers, cell phones – the distances of the past are not the problem as they were for early missionaries. However, the need for ministry remains just as real, providing evangelization and the sacraments to the Black and Native American people.

There is a definite need for those in ministry to receive financial assistance for both parishes and schools. Each year by contributing to the Collection there is a real opportunity for Catholics to participate actively in evangelization programs. **This past year our Diocese received a grant for \$84,000, in addition to a special grant for \$12,000, due directly to the local response to the collection.**

I ask everyone in the Diocese of Superior to be as generous as possible to the Black and Indian Mission Collection on the first Sunday of Lent. Together, let us join in the work of the missionaries across the country as our gifts help their evangelization efforts.

With warmest personal regards and continuing prayer,

I remain gratefully yours in Christ,

Bishop Peter Christensen

P.S. This letter will appear in the Catholic Herald on February 18, 2010. It may be used with your parish bulletin or read from the pulpit at all Masses the weekend of February 13 & 14, 2010.