



January 23, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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. Echoing the recent announcement of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI that 2012 is a special “Year of Faith”, the Black and Indian Mission collection’s theme this year is *Faith: Anchored in Jesus, Alive in Mission*. The collection will be taken up in our diocese on February 25-26, 2012.

Your contributions support missionaries here in the United States, including those in our own Belleville Diocese, who are evangelizing in the Black and Native American Catholic communities. Your monetary sacrifices assist with mission schools, religious education programs, catechetical materials, Bibles and ministry training, to name only a few ways you help to continue the mission of Jesus Christ.

Evangelization efforts among African-Americans, Native Americans, Eskimo and Aleut communities, churches and schools depend on the annual Black and Indian Mission 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. Together we build up the Church and announce the Good News of Jesus Christ!

If you are able, please consider making a generous gift to the 2012 annual Black and Indian Mission Collection. For additional information, please visit www.blackandindianmission.org. Thank you so very much for your consideration and generosity; may God bless you always.

Sincerely and appreciatively yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton
Bishop of Belleville

Please read this letter or print a synopsis of it in your bulletin and make appropriate announcements on the weekend of February 18-19, 2012. The collection is to be taken up on February 25-26, 2012.

Envelopes for this collection should be in your parishioners' regular envelope packets. Please send the proceeds of this collection to the Chancery no later than Friday, April 20, 2012. Please make the check payable to "Catholic Diocese of Belleville" and indicate "Black and Indian Missions" in the lower left-hand corner of the check. Your cooperation in forwarding the check by the requested date is appreciated.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and assistance.

Bulletin Announcement

Weekend Before the Collection – February 18-19

Next weekend our parish will take up the annual Collection for the Black and Indian Missions. Your financial contribution helps to support Catholic American Indian communities on reservations, in rural areas and inner cities. It also supports African-American evangelization programs, including those in our own Belleville Diocese. Let us unite ourselves with the love of Christ in supporting the Black and Indian Mission Collection with generous hearts. Thank you.