



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

January 27, 2010

Dear People of God:

The Black and Indian Mission Collection is the oldest national appeal. Established in 1884, the collection was the first to ask parishes throughout the nation to assist with the ministry of evangelization, supporting dioceses in providing the tools and human resources needed for passing on our living faith. For more than 125 years, through your help, the Black and Indian Mission Office has kept the light of faith shining, continuing evangelization efforts among African-Americans and Native Americans.

The collection's theme for 2010 is as straight forward as it is urgent: *Evangelization – Strengthening the faith, Continuing the legacy, Sharing the mission.* Through your generosity in 2009 the Black and Indian Mission Collection assisted 132 dioceses, granting \$8.7 million; our Belleville Diocese was the recipient of an \$80,000 grant, which helps support pastoral ministry, Catholic schools and religious education in impoverished areas.

Please consider joining the Black and Indian Mission Office evangelization team through your support of this year's collection which will be held on February 20-21. While I realize these are difficult times for many, I ask that you give as generously as you are able.

For more information about the collection I encourage you to visit its website – www.blackandindianmission.org. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely and appreciatively yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton
Bishop of Belleville

Please read this letter, print a synopsis of it or the suggested announcement below in your bulletin and make appropriate announcements on the weekend of February 13-14, 2010. The collection is to be taken up on February 20-21, 2010.

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 16, 2010. 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.

Suggested Bulletin Insert – Weekend of February 13-14

Next weekend, February 20-21, our parish will take up the annual Collection for Black and Indian Missions. Your financial contribution helps to support Catholic communities on reservations, in rural areas and inner cities across the United States, including our own Belleville Diocese. Your donation funds evangelization programs to strengthen the faith, continue the legacy and share the mission with children and adults. For additional information go to www.blackandindianmission.org. Please be generous in your support.