

## CHRIST'S MISSION APPEAL Homily: Oct. 27, 2024



Dear brothers and sisters we are called to be mission because by virtue of baptism we are called to mission of Jesus Christ. We all are born in this time to bring the transformational change in this diocese.

What is Jesus is asking all of us?

Jesus is asking each one of us to keep full confident on him, to trust him, to rely on him so that Jesus will bring a change and accomplish great things in the diocese of Saginaw, and if we are docile to the Holy Spirit and to allow him to work in each one of us.

The theme for this year's Christ mission appeal is "**one Heart and one mind**" which comes from Acts 4:32 " now the whole group of those who believe were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common." This was the mind set of people after the Resurrection of Jesus.

The Lord Jesus has sent us on Mission, united in one heart and mind. We are to be the living presence of Jesus in caring for our Church, the body of Christ, sharing his love and mercy in our world. This is not limited to those in our own parish or even our own city or town. Our Baptism has sent each of us to live lives of charity by sharing what we have with those we know, and strangers alike, following the example of Jesus Christ himself.

He had compassion on them who were like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus could not allow His grief to keep Him from caring for the people. He needs to feed them in word and in deed. He tells his disciples who try to send them away hungry, "They need not go away. You give them something to eat". Of course, the disciples had only five loaves of bread and two fish with them.

Matthew 14:13-21 Jesus took them, blessed and gave them to the people. Everyone had enough and more!

My dear Brothers and Sisters, Jesus could not allow His grief to keep Him from caring for the people. As Christians and as His disciples we are also challenged to follow his example..

Jesus told his disciples, “don’t send them away, you give them something to eat”.

Today, speaking from our context, I feel that Jesus is asking us to do the same thing in different ways. I can hear Him telling us: Don’t send them away, you do something to encourage them; you do something to heal them; you do something to feed them; you do something to cloth them; you do something to give them shelter etc. etc.

Christ’s Mission Appeal is the primary opportunity for Catholics throughout the Diocese of Saginaw to support one another through our widespread ministries that impact our 56 parishes and beyond.

I deeply appreciate the amazing things are happening within our parishes, and while this is true, there are many more ministries across the diocese supported by Christ’s Mission Appeal that would be very difficult or impossible for one parish or individual to effectively sustain. Some of those things are very visible like the ordination of priests and deacons and Great Lakes Bay Catholic Magazine, or the recently launched “Beg-Form-Call” plan, a challenging goal of having 20 seminarians by 2030. Things you may not see include planning and carrying out events for youth and young adults, support for our diocesan website as well as the information of parishioners throughout the diocese, to name a few.

Every gift, regardless of the amount, touches the lives of the people we serve in our diocese. Your sacramental support is necessary and very much appreciated as it helps us to continue and expand the Lord’s work

In our coming together as disciples on Mission, let us be “of one Heart and Mind”, as were those first century disciples, by caring and supporting one another across the Diocese. Your support matters.

May God bless you and your families.