



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin our Lenten journey, we are reminded by Pope Francis that everyone is meant to evangelize. Some of us are sent physically to spread the Good News of Jesus, and others are asked to support the endeavor of evangelization by prayer, sacrifice, and financial offerings.

On the First Sunday of Lent, **February 18th**, parishes in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will take up the annual collection for ***Black and Indian Missions***. This collection provides support for parishes, schools, religious education programs, and diocesan projects that focus on building up the Church in African American, Native American, and Native Alaskan communities. The national Black and Indian Mission Office works with three inter-related organizations to be the presence of Jesus Christ in these communities.

Your contribution to this collection allows the Black and Indian Mission Office to fund a wide variety of ministry grants across the United States. Here in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis 25 students received tuition assistance to attend the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies. The faith formation programs of Holy Angels and St. Rita parishes received funds to purchase catechetical materials. Black Catholic adults and youth were able to attend faith-building events sponsored by the Intercultural Ministry Office.

Thank you for your generous support of the mission of evangelization, opening the door of faith in Jesus Christ through the Black and Indian Missions collection.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

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