



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

1150 Buffalo Road  
Rochester, New York 14624  
(585) 328-3210

May 2025

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

With this letter, I am pleased to announce the weekend of May 17 and 18, 2025, the Fifth Sunday of Easter, as Diocesan Mission Sunday.

The mission given to the Church by Jesus Christ to share the Good News, must remain a deep concern for every Christian. As a community of faith we express our genuine solicitude for our brothers and sisters throughout the world, thereby enriching our universal and treasured identity as His disciples. Indeed, proclaiming our salvation in Christ is the message that must be etched into the very heart of every member of God's family in the whole world!

In the first reading for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, we see Paul and Barnabas proclaiming the Gospel and welcoming into the fold a growing number of disciples. "And when they arrived they called the Church together and reported what God had done with them and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles" (Acts 14:27). Furthermore, Jesus in the Gospel of John gives us a new Commandment to love one another. "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (John 13:34). Inspired by these passages we rejoice that we have the privileged opportunity to proclaim the Good News and put Jesus' love into action by generously aiding our dedicated sisters who serve the poor in the missions - the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Brazil and the Sisters of Mercy in Chile.

Additionally, this Jubilee Year is designated as a year of hope, a virtue so necessary in places marked by deep suffering and many serious challenges. Let us take advantage of this Mission Sunday to foster this hope for our brothers and sisters by offering our prayers and financial assistance to these areas so lovingly served. Our generous response will enable the sisters to continue to meet the pastoral needs in these countries, and I thank you for your dedicated prayerful support.

With an assurance of my prayers, and asking a remembrance in your good prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Salvatore R. Matano*  
The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano  
Bishop of Rochester

*Debtor in Possession*