



Archdiocese of Anchorage

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Dear Friends in Christ:

Soon I will encourage you participate in the annual Black and Indian Mission Collection. This Collection has, for the last 134 years, changed the landscape of evangelization and education efforts for Alaska Natives, Native Americans and African Americans throughout the United States. Our financial support of the collection is the mechanism that affects the Church's evangelization efforts. We all agree that never have the needs for the Alaska Native, Native American and African American communities been so great. History tells us that lasting change to a community can all come through faith, hope and charity.

Historically, evangelization efforts by Churches and schools among our Native communities are funded by the Collection's grant awards, which are instrumental in the building of their Christian communities and sharing the joy of knowing Christ. Your support has helped educate African American and Native American seminarians for priestly service to our Catholic communities. It has also helped begin a new religious community for service to Native Americans in Arizona. Just as the Jubilee Year of Mercy has opened the door to the faithful to experience God's unfathomable mercy, your financial commitment opens the door of faith to these Americans.

Education is fundamental in changing the mores and morals of a society. Your monetary assistance provides opportunities for a solid Catholic education in our Indian and Black Catholic mission schools, allows the purchase of catechetical materials and bibles, and provides for the formation of lay leadership, to name just a few ways the collection supports evangelization.

Next weekend, all will be asked to participate in the Black and Indian Mission Collection. Together we build up the Church and announce the Good News of Jesus Christ. I ask everyone in the Archdiocese of Anchorage to make a sacrificial gift to the 2019 Black and Indian Mission Collection. Your generosity to this collection reflects the depths of your faith and your willingness to help our brothers and sisters in need; it is an opportunity to evangelize and further the missionary cause of bringing the Gospel to our Alaska Native, Native American and African American family.

Learn more about the Black and Indian Missions at www.blackandindianmission.org. Help us invite all peoples to open the door of faith and begin the journey of a lifetime! With gratitude, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

†Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Anchorage