



CARDINAL RIGALI CENTER
20 ARCHBISHOP MAY DRIVE
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63119
P) 314.792.7841
F) 314.792.7842
WWW.ARCHSTL.ORG

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 17, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Since 1956, the Archdiocese of St. Louis has sent over 45 archdiocesan priests to serve the people of Bolivia, one of the poorest countries in South America. This year, we offer praise and thanks to our Lord, as Fr. Patrick Hayden and Fr. James Michler continue to serve in the Latin America Apostolate, each with over 25 years of missionary service to the apostolate. Their perseverance and endurance, especially in the midst of the recent crisis in Bolivia, is an outstanding testimony to their faith and to the support and encouragement they receive through the faithful of our local archdiocese.

All of us are facing unprecedented challenges because of the pandemic. Pope Francis reminds us,

"Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying 'We are perishing' (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this" (*Meditation in Saint Peter's Square*, 27 March 2020).

Right now, we have the opportunity to come together. We are the Body of Christ and are called to live this reality; comforting one another. One of the ways we can do this is through the support of our Latin America Apostolate. Our brothers and sisters in Bolivia are, too, suffering the effects of the pandemic. Without the prayers and sacrifices of the people of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, our Latin America Apostolate could not offer pastoral care, formation, catechesis, and social services to the parish community of Maria Reina. Ask God how He is calling you to participate in this mission financially. Please pray for our Latin America Apostolate, missionaries, and all involved with this ministry. The annual collection for our Latin America Apostolate will take place in all parishes during the weekend of August 1st & 2nd.

I am asking God's blessings on you and your families, and am grateful for your support of our Latin America Apostolate.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Apostolic Administrator
Archdiocese of St. Louis