



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

August 8, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am aware that many worthy charities contact you annually. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, our parishes and schools are asked to support first the Pontifical Mission Societies [*The Society for the Propagation of the Faith* and *Missionary Childhood Association*] and Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl.

Church documents direct that the Pontifical Mission Societies should be given "*first place*" [*Ad Gentes* no. 38] and "*the leading role*" [*Redemptoris Missio* no. 84] in the Church's work of missionary formation and cooperation, and we need to support that work as best we can. We also need to support Catholic Relief Services [*CRS*] in the international humanitarian assistance they give to impoverished people overseas.

Knowing this, I ask you to prioritize your schedules to first accommodate the Pontifical Mission Societies and CRS/Rice Bowl. Parish weekend appeal schedules should follow those established on the Diocesan and Extra-Diocesan Collections list.

Parishes, schools, and religious education programs may elect to support other worthy charities but this should be in addition to the Missionary Childhood Association, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and CRS/Rice Bowl. I also ask that you carefully research any additional groups you do choose to support to ensure that their work follows Catholic teaching.

The Pontifical Mission Societies, given their standing in the Church internationally, are in the position to vet credentials of other Catholic mission relief groups if you require assistance. Following these guidelines should help better support the universal evangelization efforts of the Church through the Pontifical Mission Societies, and the overseas humanitarian relief efforts of CRS.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia