



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

222 North Seventeenth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299
Telephone (215) 587-0506 • Fax (215) 587-4545

OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

May, 2020

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 our Catholic Charities, one of which is the Pontifical Mission Societies [*The Society for the Propagation of the Faith and Missionary Childhood Association*].

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 through their material support, benefiting the poorest in the world. We need to support that work as best we can.

Knowing this, I ask you to prioritize your schedules to accommodate the *Society for the Propagation of the Faith* and *Missionary Childhood Association*. 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 their works of prayer and sacrifice through the Missionary Childhood Association, one of the Pontifical Mission Societies. I also ask that you carefully research any additional groups you 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.

I extend my thanks to those parishes, schools and religious education programs that already actively participate in the works of these charities, and am ever grateful for your efforts in forming those you serve in the Catholic Faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '+ Nelson J. Pérez'.

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D. D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia