

Office of the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary

October 15, 2017

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"The times talk to us of so much poverty in the world and this is a scandal," says Pope Francis. And how are we to respond? He cites chapter 25 of Matthew's Gospel for the "protocol":

"I was hungry, I was thirsty, I was in prison, I was sick, I was naked and you helped me, clothed me, visited me, took care of me. Whenever we do this to one of our brothers, we do this to Jesus. Caring for our neighbour; for those who are poor, who suffer in body and in soul, for those who are in need. This is the touchstone."

Simply stated, such "poverty calls us to sow hope," he says. It's all about our vision and mission as Jesus' followers. Jesus calls us to express our faith through action in our respect-based presence to others.

For the past eighteen years, the people of our diocese have uniquely experienced just such hope-affirming relationships with communities widely regarded as the poorest of the poor. I am referring, of course, to the mountain peoples of southern Mexico with whom we partner through Mission Mexico.

Our share in this partnership of hope has been to assist these mountain people in self-help, dignity-affirming projects that include women's issues, education, human rights, and healthcare. Their share in this partnership has been their prayers for us and their faithful witness of endurance and perseverance in the face of unimaginable adversities in their pursuit of a brighter future.

But we need your continued support to be faithful to our role in this partnership.

Therefore, as has been our custom, I am declaring December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, "Mission Mexico Day" in the Diocese of Calgary. Donations may be made through your parish collections on December 9-10 or at participating schools on Monday, December 12.

For sowing hope among the poorest of the poor, your generosity is greeted with gratitude.

In Christ,



† Most Reverend William T. McGrattan, D.D.
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