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ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 29, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

For over 60 years, the Archdiocese of St. Louis has embraced the Church's missionary nature through the works of our Latin America Apostolate. Since its conception, over 45 of our archdiocesan priests have served in the Latin America Apostolate at five different parishes in both Bolivia and Chile. This year, it was my privilege to commission yet another priest, Fr. Eric Olsen, to serve the people of Bolivia. Fr. Olsen will work alongside Fr. Patrick Hayden and Fr. James Michler at the parish of Maria Reina in La Paz.

After dutifully serving in the Latin America Apostolate for the past 5 years, we joyfully welcome the return of Fr. Timothy Noelker as Director of the Missions Office and the Pontifical Mission Societies. Fr. Noelker also joins St. Joseph in Manchester as a part-time associate pastor. Although the value of his work in Bolivia is immeasurable, we are grateful that Fr. Noelker will remain involved in the Latin America Apostolate in his new role.

Pope Francis tells us, "Mission reminds the Church that she is not an end unto herself, but a humble instrument and mediation of the Kingdom". Our Latin America Apostolate upholds this statement, reminding us that, as the faithful of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, we are called to be the Church to everyone, not just those within the boundaries of our archdiocese. Our missionaries witness our archdiocesan commitment to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people of all nations. The Latin America Apostolate strives not only to meet the physical and spiritual needs of parishioners through the celebration of the sacraments, catechesis, and formation, but the entire local community through the Maria Reina Health Clinic, the Lunch & Tutoring Program, and other forms of community outreach.

None of this missionary work would be possible without the prayers and sacrifices of the people of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Please pray for our Latin America Apostolate, missionaries, and all involved with this ministry. Ask God how He is calling you to participate in this mission financially. The annual collection for our Latin America Apostolate will take place in all parishes during the weekend of August 5-6th.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis