



office of the Bishop - p.o. box 610 - crookston, minnesota 56716
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This past year has been challenging for the people of St. Mary's Mission at Red Lake, MN. The parish church burned to the ground in the early morning of December 2, 2017. The beloved church, treasured artifacts, vestments, *everything* was lost in the fire. The flames consumed the 159-year-old church so quickly that the fire department, housed only a block away, had no choice but to pull out of fighting the fire inside the church and instead focus on saving the school. The loss of the church was as if a venerated elder had died. For many, the happiest most memorable moments of their lives were spent in that building----- baptisms, marriages, graduations and kids' Christmas programs. It was where prayer was awakened and where the Ojibwe people had encountered Christ in celebrations of Word and Sacrament. The grief that followed the fire testified to what the church meant to the people of the Red Lake Nation. Farewells have been said to so many loved ones at St. Mary's Parish.

But I'm not writing to you about replacing the church. The people continue to meet and celebrate Mass in the school gym which was built over one hundred years ago by Mother Katherine Drexel, a Benedictine nun. In due time, the lost church will be replaced. Meanwhile, the important ministry of the Mission will continue and my support for the Mission will not waver.

I AM writing to you in gratitude for your gifts which have meant so much to the success of the school. Enrollment is at an all-time high; students continue to test at or above reading and math grade levels. There is ever increasing parental involvement. This year, a long-awaited dream of students and parents was fulfilled with our beginning 7th grade! The commitment to excellence in education is maintained by the extraordinary faculty and staff. They challenge the children with high expectations of behavior and learning. This is what YOU make possible with your prayers and support of St. Mary's Mission Appeal! ***I am imploring you to continue to be generous to St. Mary's Mission Parish and School.*** The commitment of the people of the Diocese of Crookston toward the Mission has been a deeply felt blessing. Your gifts brought the Mission back from the brink. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity!

Sincerely in the name of the Lord Jesus,

Most Reverend Michael Hoeppner
Bishop of Crookston



See the SMMA video and donate online.

PS: Please enjoy the story of Roman Beaulieu who represented St. Mary's as the school brave for the 2017/2018 school year. It is a delightful instruction about Ojibwe culture.

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Please return this form and your prayer request on SMMA weekend, November 24th & 25th, or mail with a stamp in the enclosed envelope.

Anishinaabe Children...
God's Children...
OUR CHILDREN

Yes! I want to support the 2018 St. Mary's Mission Appeal!

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$35 Other \$ _____

This is a one-time gift (I understand I may give again throughout the year)

This is Sustaining Donation (see back of this card)

This is a Pledge (see back of this card for giving options)

Make your gift to the St. Mary's Mission Appeal by:

Check (make checks payable to: SMMA) or Credit Card: Visa Master Card Discover AmEx

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____ Security Code _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

For secure online giving, please visit www.crookston.org/SMMA or call toll-free: 1-855-397-8252



Thank you for your support of the SMMA!

Faces of St. Mary's Mission School



Anishinaabe Children...
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OUR CHILDREN

AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL

I authorize the Diocese of Crookston to withdraw \$ _____ automatically from my checking account.
 PLEDGE: monthly until my pledge of \$ _____ is paid in full.
 SUSTAINING DONATION: monthly until I notify you to stop.
You must include a VOIDED check. Deductions will be made on the business day closest to the 27th of each month.

Signature _____ Date _____
 Please remember to include a voided check and fill out the information on the other side of this form.

CREDIT CARD (DEBIT CARDS WITH MASTERCARD OR VISA LOGO ALSO ACCEPTED)

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard Discover AmEx
 ONE TIME for this amount: \$ _____
 SUSTAINING DONATION: \$ _____ monthly until I notify you to stop.
 PLEDGE: \$ _____ monthly until my pledge of \$ _____ is paid in full.

Card # _____
Exp Date ____/____ 3 or 4 digit code on back _____
Name _____ (as it appears on card)

Signature _____ Date _____