



DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA
CHANCERY OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1297
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA
95402-1297

PHONE (707) 566-3325

FAX (707) 566-3310

“The Lord is Risen! Alleluia!”

April, 2009

My Dear People,

As we celebrate the events of Holy Week, the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord and learn of the infinite love that God has for us, we appreciate more deeply that our faith is a great gift. But it is a gift that must be shared with others – with our children, our family members, our fellow parishioners, and all whom we meet.

Each one of us is called by Christ to be a missionary, one who shares the faith with others. The last words of Christ to the Church were: “Go, make disciples of all nations.” Because of these words of Christ the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. It is a mission that is still only beginning and we must commit ourselves wholeheartedly to its service.

As your bishop, I have been consecrated not only for the Diocese of Santa Rosa, but for the salvation of the whole world. Like the apostles, the bishop is called to reach out to those who are far away and do not know Christ yet or have still not experienced his liberating love. A bishop’s commitment is to make the whole diocesan community missionary by contributing willingly, according to the possibilities, to sending priests and laypersons to other Churches to evangelize.

The Diocese of Santa Rosa has been blessed by priests from other countries who come to evangelize, from Mexico, Kenya, Nigeria, India, Ireland, Sri Lanka, Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. Presently we in the Diocese of Santa Rosa have a priest shortage but that does not eliminate our responsibilities to the mission to the nations. I hope and pray in the not too distant future we as a local Church can send missionaries to other lands to share the wonderful faith that has been given to us.

I pray that the Risen Lord will help all of us to fulfill our responsibilities to share of great faith with others here and throughout the world.

Assuring you of my prayers in this holy season, I am

Your Brother and Servant in the Lord,

Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh
Bishop of Santa Rosa