



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

January 27, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On February 10 we mark Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent, traditionally a time of prayer, fasting, and repentance. This year, Lent comes to us in the midst of the Year of Mercy, and on that day Monsignor Anthony Frontiero and I will be in Rome, where he will be commissioned by Pope Francis as a Missionary of Mercy.

Pope Francis' Missionaries of Mercy are priests from various parts of the world, recommended by their own bishops, who are to be "living signs of the Father's readiness to welcome those in search of his pardon," as Pope Francis said in the Bull of Indiction, *Misericordiae vultus*. For this extraordinary moment in the Church, 800 Missionaries worldwide will be commissioned by Pope Francis, with some 100 priests being assigned from the United States.

Immediately after the Mass at the Vatican, Monsignor Frontiero and I will return to New Hampshire, where he will begin to fulfill his mandate from the Holy Father. He and the other Missionaries are to preach, teach, encourage, and to hear Confessions throughout the Lenten season and the entire Year of Mercy. They will also receive from the Holy Father the authority to pardon "even those sins reserved to the Holy See" (Bull of Indiction, n. 18).

Monsignor Frontiero will be available to fulfill his mission throughout our diocese and wherever he is called—in fact, he has already been invited by another diocese to speak to their presbyterate. I am pleased to support Monsignor Frontiero's enthusiastic "yes" to the Holy Father's request, and as I ask you to join me in praying for him and all those who will be touched by his ministry. I am certain he will carry out a fruitful mission with love, patience, generosity, solicitude, and joy.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci
Bishop of Manchester