



September 2019

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Join me on Thursday, October 24, 2019, as we celebrate our 54th Annual Peru Mission Dinner! It will be a memorable night, continuing the very special relationship—a *Bridge of Love and Hope*—that connects the people of Pittsburgh with our sisters and brothers in need in Chimbote.

This night of celebration will strengthen our mission maternity hospital, clinic, orphanage and home visit program that we have supported over three generations, from its founding by Pittsburgh priest, the late Monsignor Jules Roos. Special guests will be our mission's co-founders, Dominican Sisters Margaret Mary Birchmeier and Lillian Bockheim, who, along with His Excellency Francisco Simon Piorno, Bishop of Chimbote, will travel nearly 4,000 miles to join us for that night's celebration.

What will we celebrate? We proudly mark the 100,000th birth at our *Maternidad de Maria*, the Maternity Hospital of Mary that the people of Pittsburgh built and generously sustain. We celebrate the construction of a modern new medical center serving more than 1,000 patients each day, thanks to the people of Pittsburgh! And we celebrate nine regional college students—our first *Mike Clark WTAE Mission Travel Awardees*—who volunteered as Chimbote missionaries to “Go, Witness, and Return to tell the story” of this Gospel-inspired mission service firsthand.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has declared October 2019 as the *Extraordinary Mission Month*. At the heart of his invitation is for us to consider how we are living our Mission call. What better way to answer the Holy Father's exhortation than by celebrating this life-affirming Catholic outreach to our needy sisters and brothers!

Please bring a friend or two and join us. You may never have the opportunity to go to Chimbote yourself. But by your presence at this dinner, you will be playing a most significant role.

Grateful for our continued efforts together in being *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, and for our belief that “Nothing is Impossible with God,” I am

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

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