



August 2023

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I pray you will join with me on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 to celebrate our 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Peru Mission Dinner at the Sheraton Station Square. It will be a very memorable night as we welcome Bishop Angel Zapata Bances, the new Bishop of Chimbote.

The evening will be a celebration of the life of Sister Margaret Mary Birchmeier, who recently went to her eternal reward. Father Jules Roos, Sister Margaret Mary Birchmeier and Sister Lilian Bockheim created both the *Maternidad de Maria* and the Center for Social Works with the hope that general healthcare be accessible in a loving Catholic atmosphere to all the people of Chimbote. Sister Margaret Mary leaves behind a well-trained local staff that numbers well over a hundred people. Bishop Zapata, along with the leadership in Chimbote, are excited to continue this important work for years to come.

I look forward to celebrating with you, the supporters of the Chimbote Foundation. You have held up the Pittsburgh end of the *Bridge of Love and Hope* with substantial support all these years. Please join us to show once more that we remain committed that the people of Chimbote will continue to have access to quality Catholic healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay.

Please bring a friend to join us. By your presence at this dinner, you help the Church of Pittsburgh extend our hospitality to the poor of Chimbote, affirming their dignity and providing the opportunity for them to experience God's gracious love through the life giving work at the *Maternidad de Maria* and the Center.

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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