

Students and staff from St. Vincent Martyr School make the sign of the cross during Mass.

## **Annual World Mission Sunday Mass remembers** work of missionaries in foreign lands



Bishop Emeritus Rodimer with Msgr. George Hundt, pastor, and the first-place awardees for parish CCD program from St. Vincent Martyr Parish in Madison.





By CECILE SAN AGUSTIN

Reporter

PASSAIC - In communion with those missionaries evangelizing around the world, the diocese came together at Holy Rosary Church here to celebrate the annual World Mission Sunday Mass Oct. 21. The event is a worldwide celebration promoted by the Society of the Propagation of Faith, a Pontifical Mission Society.

Bishop Emeritus Frank Rodimer was main celebrant of the Mass along with Msgr. John Demkovich, director of the diocesan mission office, Father Stefan Las, pastor of Holy Rosary and priests from around the diocese including religious priests whose orders are dedicated to

Many of the faithful came together for the Mass with a love for the missions, which included many religious sisters whose orders were founded by missionaries.

An annual tradition for the diocesan World Mission Sunday Mass celebration is honoring school-aged children who shared their generosity in supporting other children in mission lands. The students at St. Gerard School in Paterson have received the first place award for schools with the highest per capita offering for the seventh year in a row.

Filippini Sister Jo-Ann Pompa, principal of St. Gerard's, said, "Our students are so supportive of the missions and they give with their heart and soul. The message to help others is instilled in them from a very early age. We pray everyday for those children in distant lands.'

The school gets the children involved through several activities during the school year, which include projects for Advent and Lent. They also host a Mission Fair with carnival-style activities with all donations support-

During the Mass, Mila Burdeos, diocesan mission activities coordinator, welcomed the school principals and CCD directors, and announced the awards from the Holy Childhood Association. Bishop Rodimer then presented the honorees with their awards.

Other schools honored were: St. Anthony School in Hawthorne, second place and Sacred Heart School in Rockaway, third place. Parish CCD programs honored were: St. Vincent Marty Parish in Madison, first place; St. Anthony Parish in Passaic, second place and Corpus Christi Parish in Chatham Township, third place.







Above left: Bishop Emeritus Rodimer with representatives from St. Gerard Majella School in Paterson, the first-place school honoree. Above: Bishop Emeritus Rodimer congratulates Salesian Sister Marisa DeRose, principal of St. Anthony School, Hawthorne, and Mary Baig, mission moderator. Left: Bishop Emeritus Rodimer with religious sisters from different orders serving in the diocese whose founders originate to serve the missions.

Beacon photos / Joe Gigli





Above: Ana Vasquez accepts the second-place award for CCD program at St. Anthony Parish in Passaic. Above right: Sister of Sorrowful Mother Marie DiLorenzo, principal of Sacred Heart School in Rockaway, accepts the third-place award for schools. Right: Mary Jane Cece from Corpus Christi Parish, Chatham Township, accepts the third-place award for CCD program.





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