



# Post Assembly Message

*Dear sisters and brothers,*

*Greetings in Christ! It is with deep joy and anticipation that I announce that the Diocese of Lansing is embarking upon a new phase in our life as the Church. I spent the past two days with over 1700 faithful Catholics around our Diocese as we prayed about how to help fallen away Catholics return to the Church. Today I ask you, in the name of Christ, to join us in this effort to fulfill the great commission. In order to do this, we must understand that the call does not come from me or any earthly source; rather, in baptism, it comes from Jesus Christ himself.*

*You have been called to be coworkers with me and all the clergy and lay faithful of this Diocese working side by side for Christ in response to his missionary mandate and to seek out and to save the lost. I'm entrusting leadership of this to your pastor. Please renew your commitment to pray for him.*

*Sisters and brothers, no doubt you have been hearing about the new evangelization in the past several years. I am convinced that the time has come and that the full grace of the new evangelization is now upon us. God will do His part. Our responsibility is to say yes to him. And then let him bring the message of salvation through us to the world.*

*Today our Diocese is expanding its focus from intentional discipleship to missionary discipleship. Of course, none of us can do this alone. We need each other, we need the graces of the sacraments, we need vibrant prayer lives, and we need the ever constant help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. I invite you to open yourselves even more to the Holy Spirit and to those gifts that only he can bestow upon you for this mission. I implore you to remain ever close to Christ as this is ultimately His work and we can do nothing without Him. And, I ask you to beg the Father with me to send more laborers into the fields.*

*May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

*Holy Mary, Star of the New Evangelization, pray for us.*

*St. Monica, pray for us.*

*St. John Paul II, pray for us.*