**Congregation of the Mission (China Province)**

Dear friends in Christ:

Thanks for the opportunity to make an appeal in your parish.

We would like to ask the parishioners to pray and to support the ongoing formation needs of priests and nuns in the name of the **Chinese Province of the Congregation of the Mission**, which has been working cooperatively with De Paul University in Chicago and St. John’s University in Jamaica, N.Y. Since 2012 we have been able to invite priests and sisters from China to St. John’s University (one week) and to De Paul University (four weeks) for a program designed for pastoral leadership in China called The Chinese Leadership Initiative, which aims at compassionate and collaborative ministry. Diocesan priests have participated in 2012 (pilot program), 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019. The religious sisters have come in 2014, 2016, 2018 and will be invited again in 2021. Altogether there have been 179 participants from quite a few dioceses, sisters’ communities, and provinces in China.

De Paul University gives us housing and classroom facilities and St. John’s receives us on the basis of their well-known hospitality. We raise the otherwise $80,000.00 USD to run the program. Our goal now is to begin to **expand** knowledge and support of this exceptional opportunity to serve the church in China **to the Catholics in the U.S.** Your support is an opportunity for us to share the good news and elicit enthusiasm and support for what is happening in and for the church in China.

At this extraordinary time when so many people are suffering from the Covid-19 pandemic, we place our trust in God’s hands. May He guide our efforts to sustain us as we continue to reach out to those we serve. I am very grateful to your prayer and now asking you to prayerfully consider a gift to this program*.*

Again, special thanks to Cardinal Blase Cupich, the Mission Office of the Archdiocese, the pastor and all the parishioners! May the Lord bless you and keep your good work.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Rev. Joseph Lin, C.M.

Director of Chinese Leadership Initiative