



DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

January 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the past few weeks we have joined in celebrations of the birth of Our Lord and the revelation of the Christ Child to the magi on the feast of the Epiphany. We recognize the importance of spreading the Good News of our Lord to people of all nations. The 2021 Combined Mission Collection, which will be taken at Masses on the weekend of January 16 - 17, gives each of us an opportunity to reach out to people throughout the world.

The envelope for this collection is part of your parish envelope packet. Checks for this collection, like all second collections, should be made payable to your parish. If you are unable to attend Mass the weekend of January 16 - 17, please consider making a gift by mailing in your contribution or at your parish's website if they offer online giving.

The enclosed brochure offers you important information about five appeals that have been combined into this single second collection:

- Collection for the Church in Latin America
- Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe
- Catholic Home Missions Appeal
- United States Mission Collection
- Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

Please take the time to learn more about the many missionary works of the Catholic Church throughout our own country and the rest of the world and support their efforts through prayer, generosity, and commitment. Thank you very much for all that you already do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Winslow".

Rev. Msgr. Patrick J. Winslow, J.C.L.
Vicar General and Chancellor

Fact Sheet
Combined Mission Collection
Weekend of January 17, 2021

Collection for the Church in Latin America

"Share Your Faith" is the theme for the collection for the Church in Latin America. Your gift helps fellow Catholics - who are rich in spirit but lacking in material resources - to participate more fully in the life of the Church.

Throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, the Catholic Church is an effective sign of faith and hope. Generous contributions made by United States Catholics to the annual collection for the Church in Latin America provide support for nearly 300 pastoral projects annually and serve as "concrete testimony of the preferential love for the poor which the Church in America nurtures." (Saint John Paul II, *Ecclesia in America*, no. 33)

Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

"Restore the Church, Build the Future" is the theme for the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Generations of young Catholics are once again learning about the roots of their faith and receiving the sacraments after 75 years of militant atheistic Communism and some of the most devastating religious repression in the history of the Church.

The Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe nurtures the growth of religious education, scholarships, training for seminarians, assistance to the elderly without pensions, and food for children.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

"Strengthening the Church at Home" is the theme of the Catholic Home Mission Appeal. The annual appeal provides help for poor and isolated Catholics who find it difficult to receive the sacraments or to participate in parish religious education programs because of long distances, few resources, and a lack of priests. Here in the United States 85 dioceses have benefited from Catholic Home Missions funding for evangelization, outreach, religious education, campus ministry, seminarian education, diaconal formation, lay ministry training, and Hispanic ministries.

Approximately 45% of the dioceses in the United States are simply unable to provide the basic pastoral ministries of word, worship, and service for their people without funding from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

United States Mission Collection

Formerly the Black and Indian Missions, this collection supports evangelization programs in almost every Archdiocese and Diocese in the United States.

Within the Diocese of Charlotte, some of the evangelization projects partially funded by The United States Mission Collection include Campus Ministry at Thea House in Greensboro and workshops and special programs sponsored by the diocesan office of African American Affairs Ministry.

Your donation to the United States Mission Collection will make a difference in the lives of many of your brothers and sisters throughout the United States and here in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa supports the pastoral works of the Church through grants for projects like pastoral care for the sick, evangelization, building church facilities, leadership training and peace-building workshops. The people of Africa face incredible challenges like poverty, the high incidence of disease, food shortages and migration. Amid personal and community struggles, the people of Africa need our help to support their faith communities. Your donation to the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa will help us "Be one with the Church in Africa."