

# STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME

Dear Editor/Communications Director,

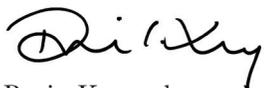
The Catholic Home Missions Appeal is an opportunity to help strengthen the Church in the United States, and we need your help. Over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered mission territories, affecting over nine million Catholics. Through annual grants, Catholic Home Missions provides funding for seminary formation, lay leadership training, catechetical programs, Hispanic ministries, and other essential pastoral programs. This appeal is an opportunity to support and strengthen the Church's mission here in the United States.

In the Pacific Ocean, between Guam and Hawaii, are the Marshall Islands, a collection of atolls and islands covering an area of 500,000 square miles. Given the great distance between these islands, travel is often difficult and communication is unreliable. The islands themselves do not have any local priests and have only one local permanent deacon and sister; and so, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart provide for the pastoral and sacramental needs of the Islands. Additionally, many people move to the United States after high school, making it hard for the Catholic Church there to find men interested in joining the priesthood. Against those odds, the Marshall Islands welcomed with joy a seminarian in 2014! Thanks to a grant from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, they are able to afford to send him to seminary for his studies. Through his studies, he is a witness and example to other young men on the Islands.

You can make this appeal more successful by promoting it through diocesan websites, newspapers, and social media sites. **The most important thing you can do is ask your parishes to speak about the appeal during Mass.** In most dioceses, this appeal will occur the weekend of April 23-24, though your (arch)diocese may schedule it at a different time.

If you have any questions or need more materials, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or [bkennedy@uscgb.org](mailto:bkennedy@uscgb.org). I truly appreciate your support of the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

With gratitude,



Bevin Kennedy

Assistant Director, Promotions, Office of National Collections

To learn more about this appeal or to find additional resources,  
please visit [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).



## CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

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*Strengthening the Church at Home*