

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME



We need your support to continue to strengthen the Church at home and help mission dioceses right here in the United States. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal supports dioceses in the United States and its territories that lack the resources to provide basic pastoral ministry to their populations. Through annual grants, Catholic Home Missions funds catechesis, seminarian education, lay ministry training, Hispanic ministry, and other pastoral programs for dioceses in need. As a result of parishioners' generosity, Catholic Home Missions impacts the lives of nearly nine million Catholics. The dioceses funded by the appeal comprise nearly 45 percent of all US dioceses.

The Diocese of Tucson, Arizona, covers an area of more than 43,000 square miles. Parish communities are separated from each other by vast stretches of desert, so providing basic ministries to each parish presents a challenge. For example, priests living in Tucson must travel to parishes in the nine surrounding counties, which requires a one to five hour drive. The diocese serves a large population of Spanish-speaking Catholics, including many workers travelling from

Mexico. Because of the mobility of the Hispanic community, it is difficult to reach them with catechesis and sacraments. The diocese also serves four extremely poor Native American reservations, one of which has only two priests serving 24,000 people.

With help from a Catholic Home Missions grant, the diocese was able to provide materials for basic catechesis, outreach to the Hispanic community, and a ministry program for deaf children and their families. The grant was also necessary to support the priests who work on the reservations, who would be unable to continue without this assistance.

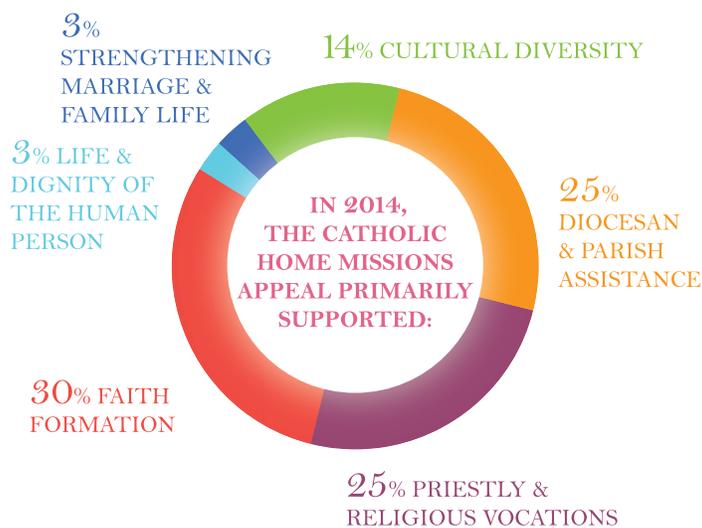
For the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota, the call to a New Evangelization rings home. While there are approximately 35,000 Catholics living within the borders of the diocese, several thousand have become estranged from the practice of their faith. In order to reach out to these people, the diocese must overcome the challenge of distance, as well as a shortage of priests. The small Catholic population spans 14 counties, with only 36 active and 12 retired priests. This shortage leaves one county in the diocese with only a single Catholic church and one priest.

With a grant from Catholic Home Missions, the diocese is training seven seminarians for the priesthood. These

young men will return to their dioceses to administer the sacraments within the parishes and to evangelize those who have fallen away and are waiting to be called back into the fold.

Through your donations, home mission dioceses like the Diocese of Tucson and the Diocese of Crookston will receive the resources they need to support their parishes and strengthen the Church at home. Your gift today is an act of solidarity with your struggling brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you!

2014 Distribution of Funding



CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1194

202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS

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