“Brothers and Sisters, the Church is not a border station; she needs open doors, because the heart of her God is not only open, but also pierced by the love which has embodied pain.”

—Pope Francis, Homily During the Apostolic Journey to Colombia, September 9, 2017

DEAR FATHER,

Millions of people around the world are fleeing their homes out of love for their children, spouses, and parents. Families forced to flee often face challenges like poverty, political persecution, and gang violence. They come looking for work, looking for opportunity, seeking safety. Their lives hold so much pain, but their hearts are pierced with love.

Many migrant workers work under harsh conditions, day and night, seven days a week—in the cold, the rain, the heat—through disease, discrimination, poverty, and loneliness. These brothers and sisters of ours reflect the face of Christ to us as they live in the shadows of the American dream.

Your support for The Catholic Relief Services Collection gives migrants hope, peace, and virtue that flow from encountering the love of God and of the Church. For example, your generosity has helped shape a leadership formation program for migrant farmworker communities in Idaho. The program is now identifying, forming, and inspiring new migrant leaders. Your support has empowered them to do even greater things for themselves, their families, their communities, the Church, and this country. Indeed, across the United States, migrant farmworkers bless us with their hard work, the richness of their culture, and their inspiring faith. They need your support today more than ever.

The most effective way you can support The Catholic Relief Services Collection is to announce it during Mass. You can also use the parish appeal and bulletin announcements found inside this resource inside. Additional resources, including a social media tool kit, bulletin cover, and Web ads, can be found at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief/collection. If you have questions or need additional materials, please contact Nicole Germain, assistant director for promotions, at 202-541-3365 or at ngermain@usccb.org.

Thank you for helping Jesus in disguise. We could not do this without you.

In the Heart of Christ,

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne
Archbishop of Anchorage
Chairman, USCCB Committee on National Collections
PARISH APPEAL

Today, we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your support for this collection gives aid to victims of persecution and natural disasters, provides legal services to poor immigrants, and advocates for the powerless. Through your generosity, six Catholic agencies help Jesus in the disguise of the vulnerable refugee, the immigrant family, and the poor and marginalized. Please prayerfully consider contributing to the collection today.

YOUR DONATIONS HELP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS . . .

IN THE UNITED STATES
Feed Jesus’ hunger in suffering refugees . . . through the USCCB’s Migration and Refugee Services (MRS).

Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants . . . through the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC).

Reach out to comfort Jesus’ loneliness in isolated workers . . . through the pastoral work of the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.

AND AROUND THE WORLD
Give water to quench Jesus’ thirst in the people of Syria and Niger . . . through the humanitarian work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and marginalized . . . through the public policy work of the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster . . . through the Holy Father’s Relief Fund.

LLAMADO A LA PARROQUIA

Hoy realizaremos The Catholic Relief Services Collection. El apoyo que le des a esta colecta ayuda a las víctimas de persecución y de desastres naturales, proporciona servicios legales a los inmigrantes pobres y aboga por los indefensos. Gracias a tu generosidad, seis agencias católicas ayudarán a Jesús en el rostro del refugiado vulnerable, de la familia inmigrante y del pobre y marginado. Por favor, en oración, considera contribuir a la colecta de hoy.
**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ENGLISH**

**Week Before the Collection**
Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ’s love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection, and help Jesus in disguise. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

**Week of the Collection**
This week, we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to help Jesus in disguise. This collection helps six Catholic agencies provide relief and support to struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

**Week After the Collection**
Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for helping Jesus in disguise. Your contributions make a difference for the poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collection, it’s not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections, and click on the “How to Give” link on the left.

**ANUNCIOS PARA EL BOLETÍN**

**SPANISH**

**Semana antes de la colecta**
La próxima semana nuestra parroquia realizará The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Los fondos recaudados en esta colecta proporcionarán comida a los que pasan hambre, apoyo a los refugiados que han sido desplazados y llevarán el amor y la misericordia de Cristo a todos los pueblos aquí y en el exterior. La próxima semana, por favor, contribuye generosamente a la Colecta de CRSC. Es Jesús con otro rostro, ¿le ayudarás? Infórmate más acerca de la colecta en www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

**Semana de la colecta**
Esta semana realizaremos The Catholic Relief Services Collection para ayudar a Jesús con otro rostro. Esta colecta ayuda a seis agencias católicas a proveer asistencia y apoyo a las comunidades que luchan por salir adelante y trabajan por la paz y la reconciliación entre nuestras hermanas y hermanos marginados, aquí y alrededor del mundo. Por favor, en oración, considera la manera de apoyar a esta colecta. Infórmate más acerca de esta colecta en www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

**Semana después de la colecta**
Muchas gracias por tu generoso apoyo a The Catholic Relief Services Collection y por ayudar a Jesús con otro rostro. Tus contribuciones hacen una diferencia para el pobre y el marginado alrededor del mundo. Si tú no alcanzaste a dar en la colecta, ¡todavía lo puedes hacer! Solo tienes que visitar www.usccb.org/nationalcollections y hacer click en “How to Give”, en el lado izquierdo.

**SIMPLE STEPS**

Use these simple steps to promote The Catholic Relief Services Collection. How will you help Jesus in disguise?

1. **Announce** the collection in your parish, using the bulletin announcements and parish appeal provided, so your parishioners know what the collection is, when to expect it, and why they should support it. **This is the best way to ensure the success of the collection.**

2. **Preach** about the challenges facing our world and about our call to stand in solidarity with the poor and marginalized here in the United States and around the world.

3. **Pray** for the suffering and marginalized around the world. A digital prayer card is available for download and to share with parishioners at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief/collection.
HELP
Jesus
IN DISGUISE

Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

Photos: © Philip Laubner/CRS, Michael Stulman/CRS, Laura Sheehan/CRS, Jennifer Hardy/CRS,