



“AMEN, I SAY TO YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID
FOR ONE OF THESE LEAST BROTHERS
OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.” (MT 25:40)

Dear Editor/Communications Director,

Each time we encounter a suffering person, we encounter Jesus in disguise. The Catholic Relief Services Collection funds six Catholic agencies that serve the disguised Jesus in our suffering brothers and sisters around the world. His disguise might be that of those suffering from natural disaster, those displaced by violence or war, or those migrants searching for a better life. Your support of this collection is an opportunity to help Jesus in disguise.

In 2005, in war-torn Afghanistan, Aazar* and Ali* lost their family due to their father's political affiliations. The boys, ten and eight years old, fled to Pakistan, looking for safety amid the many threats to their lives. Shortly after they arrived in Quetta, Pakistan, they were separated, and despite days of searching, Aazar could not find his younger brother. Continuing to receive threats, Aazar was forced to keep moving, making his way through Pakistan and Iraq, and finally reaching an orphanage in Turkey, where he was granted refugee status. In 2012, he received a referral to be placed in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program, bringing him to the United States.

Once here in the United States, Aazar reached out to the BBC, which held a nightly radio program broadcast in the Middle East to find missing persons, for help in finding Ali. Within one week, his brother was found alive in Pakistan, having lived with a family for the past seven years. However, he had been residing as a domestic helper and so did not attend school, nor did he have any friends. The USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) program began working with agencies in the United States and Nepal and with the United Nations to reunite the brothers, and ultimately, Ali was also referred to the USCCB URM program. After nine years of separation, the brothers were once again reunited and could begin to resettle and reconnect as family.

MRS is one of the six worldwide Catholic relief agencies funded by The Catholic Relief Services Collection. You can make this collection more successful by promoting the collection through your publication(s), website, and any other outlets available to you. In most dioceses, **this collection will occur the weekend of March 5-6**, though your (arch)diocese may schedule it at a different time. Materials to promote the collection are available at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief under the “Collection Resources” tab on the left. There, you will find ads, web banners, and other useful information.

For more information, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or bkennedy@usccb.org. We truly appreciate your support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

With gratitude,

Bevin Kennedy
Assistant Director, Promotions, Office of National Collections

*Names changed to protect children's identities.



The Catholic Relief Services Collection

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