Dear Diocesan Director,

In the first book of Samuel, we read about a young Samuel who does not recognize the voice of God. God calls to Samuel, but Samuel thinks his teacher, Eli, is calling him. Eli realizes that the Lord is trying to call this young man, so he tells Samuel, “Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening’” (1 Sm 3:9). Samuel does as Eli says and responds to God’s call. Because Samuel trusts in God, he becomes a great prophet for the Israelites.

Young people today are called by God—but like Samuel, they need help from the Church to recognize the sound of his call. You helped the youth in Jamaica experience God and hear his voice. By supporting the Collection for the Church in Latin America, your diocese made possible a camp for young people centered on the gift of the Eucharist. More than 500 young people attended the camp in the Archdiocese of Kingston, opening their hearts to hear the voice of God. The young people spent quiet time in the chapel each day to strengthen their relationship with God. Other activities focused on developing these young people’s human and spiritual dimensions through talks and games.

Because of your diocese’s generosity, these young people grew in courage and faith and found the strength to answer the call of God. Please continue your support of the Collection for the Church in Latin America. The generosity of your parishioners is changing the lives of young people throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

The most important thing you can do to support the collection is to remind pastors and deacons to mention it at Mass, especially during their homilies. Other resources to promote the collection, including other stories of funded programs, can be found online at www.usccb.org/latin-america/collection. If you have any questions or need additional materials, please contact me at 202-541-3346 or ngermain@usccb.org.

On behalf of those who benefit from the collection, thank you! May our Merciful and Loving God, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, bless you always.

Sincerely,

Nicole Germain
Assistant Director, Promotions, Office of National Collections