Dear Pastor/Parish Administrator,

Soon our diocese will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. We need your help to promote this collection with your parishioners.

Jesus entrusted the Church to his disciples, and we know that today’s young people, as we form them as missionary disciples, will be vital to its future. Pope Francis has called the youth of the world to “go beyond the confines of what is humanly possible and create a world of brothers and sisters!” (Address to the Twenty-Eighth World Youth Day Welcome Ceremony, July 22, 2013). But with all the challenges of modern society, young people need spiritual and human formation to be strong and faithful leaders. Young people need the support of the Church as they become missionary disciples.

Your parishioners have helped form young people from all over Latin America and the Caribbean. Their generosity has made possible several Missionary Congresses of the Americas. At the Fifth Congress, held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 2018, delegations from more than 20 countries gathered to pray, learn, and build community. The young people who attended learned more about their faith and grew in relationship with Jesus Christ. They then brought these lessons back to their communities. These young people will be the next generation of missionary disciples leading our Church with hope.

The most effective way you can promote the collection is to mention it to your parishioners during Mass. You can find additional resources at www.usccb.org/latin-america/collection. If you have any questions about the collection or need additional materials, including other stories of beneficiaries, please contact Nicole Germain, assistant director of promotions, at 202-541-3346 or ncpromo@usccb.org.

And may our Merciful and Loving God, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, bless you always.

Gratefully in Christ,

Bishop Octavio Cisneros
Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America
**Simple Steps for a Successful Collection for the Church in Latin America**

1. **Announce** the collection. Use the parish appeal and bulletin announcements—including stories of projects funded by the collection—to tell parishioners what the collection is and how it makes a difference. This is the best way to ensure the success of the collection.

2. **Preach** about the challenges facing the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean. Issues include the lack of access to education in the faith and to resources to strengthen the faith. The collection helps by funding catechetical programs, youth ministry, and leadership training for priests, seminarians, religious, and lay ministers. The stories provided to you or on the collection website can help you enhance your preaching about the Scriptures and about the collection.

3. **Pray** for the Church in Latin America as it works to provide basic pastoral care to its parishioners and shares the faith with future generations. Use the intercessions and the “Prayer for Solidarity” to unite your parish with these communities.

4. **Share** collection information on your social media channels and website using the web banners and social media tool kit online. Some of the collection’s posts include timely announcements or information about grantees and other events in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Parish Appeal**

**English**

This week, our special collection is for the Church in Latin America. For many living in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers make it difficult for people to practice the faith. Your donations fund catechesis, marriage and family life programs, and seminarian and religious formation so people can grow closer to Christ. Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection to share your faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Thank you!

**Español**

Nuestra colecta especial esta semana es para la Iglesia en América Latina. Para muchos que viven en América Latina y el Caribe, la creciente cultura secular, el terreno rural y la escasez de ministros hacen que les sea difícil practicar la fe. Su donativo financia la catequesis, los programas para el matrimonio y la vida familiar y la formación de seminaristas y religiosas para que las personas puedan acercarse más a Cristo. Por favor, en oración, considere apoyar a esta colecta y compartir su fe con nuestros hermanos y hermanas en América Latina y el Caribe. ¡Muchas gracias!

**Intercessions**

**English**

R/. Lord of all creation, hear our prayer.

That our Holy Father, Francis, our bishop, N., and all church leaders will continue to strengthen the faith of Catholics around the world and especially in the Americas as they lead the Church today, we pray to the Lord. . . R/. That the Holy Spirit may move our hearts to seek unity and solidarity with the faithful throughout Latin America and the Caribbean by sharing our material and spiritual goods, we pray to the Lord. . . R/. That we may follow the example of the many saints from the Americas and become humble and loving witnesses in our own communities, we pray to the Lord. . . R/. 

**Español**

R/. Señor de toda la creación, escucha nuestra oración.

Que nuestro Santo Padre, Francisco, nuestro obispo, N., y todos los líderes de la Iglesia continúen fortaleciendo la fe de todos los católicos en el mundo y, especialmente, en el continente americano, mientras lideran a la Iglesia hoy, oremos al Señor. . . R/. Que el Espíritu Santo convenga nuestro corazón para buscar unidad y solidaridad con los fieles en toda América Latina y el Caribe, compartiendo nuestros bienes materiales y espirituales, oremos al Señor. . . R/. Que sigamos el ejemplo de tantos santos del continente americano y seamos testigos humildes y amantes en nuestras comunidades, oremos al Señor. . . R/. 

These resources and others can be downloaded at www.usccb.org/latin-america/collection.
Prayer for Solidarity

Merciful and loving God, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we ask you to help us grow in unity and solidarity with the faithful around the world, especially those in Latin America and the Caribbean. Grant us the grace to give generously of our time, treasure, and talent to those in need. May we learn from the example of Sts. Junípero Serra, Rose of Lima, Oscar Romero, and all the saints from the Americas, and share our faith with humility and love. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Week Before the Collection

Next week, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support to the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how you can make a difference, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

Week of the Collection

This weekend is the Collection for the Church in Latin America! Many people in Latin America and the Caribbean do not have access to church programs and ministries because of a rising secular culture, rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers. Your generosity makes it possible for our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean to share in the life of the Church and grow closer to Christ. Please be generous to the special collection! To learn more, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

Week After the Collection

Thank you for your generous support last week of the Collection for the Church in Latin America. As a parish, we collected $[amount], which will be used to share the faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean so they in turn can share it with others. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click “How to Give” on the left. Your gift makes a difference!

Semana antes de la Colecta

La próxima semana tendremos la Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina. Para muchos en América Latina y el Caribe, una creciente cultura secular, un terreno rural difícil y una escasez de ministros son obstáculos para practicar la fe. Su apoyo a la colecta proporciona capacitación para el liderazgo laico, la catequesis, la formación de sacerdotes y religiosos y otros programas para compartir nuestra fe con aquellos que ansían escuchar la Buena Nueva de Cristo. Para informarse más sobre cómo usted puede hacer una diferencia, por favor, visite www.usccb.org/latin-america.

Semana de la Colecta

¡Este fin de semana tenemos la Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina! Muchas personas en América Latina y el Caribe no tienen acceso a programas ni a ministerios de la Iglesia debido a una creciente cultura secular, a terrenos rurales y a la escasez de ministros. Su generosidad hace posible que nuestros hermanos y hermanas en América Latina y el Caribe puedan participar en la vida de la Iglesia y acercarse más a Cristo. ¡Por favor, contribuya generosamente a esta colecta especial! Para informarse más, por favor, visite www.usccb.org/latin-america.

Semana después de la Colecta

Muchas gracias por su generoso apoyo la semana pasada a la Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina. Como parroquia, recaudamos $[cantidad], que serán utilizados para compartir la fe con nuestros hermanos y hermanas en América Latina y el Caribe para que ellos, a su vez, la compartan con los demás. ¡Si usted no alcanzó a dar en la colecta, todavía lo puede hacer! Visite www.usccb.org/nationalcollections y haga clic en “How to Give” en el lado izquierdo. ¡Su donativo hace una diferencia!

Oración por la solidaridad

Dios amoroso y misericordioso, mediante la intercesión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, te pedimos que nos des unidad y solidaridad con los fieles de todo el mundo, especialmente, con los de América Latina y el Caribe. Concédenos la gracia para dar generosamente de nuestro tiempo, tesoro y talento a aquellos que lo necesitan. Que aprendamos del ejemplo de los santos Junípero Serra, Rosa de Lima, Oscar Romero y de todos los demás santos del continente americano, y compartamos nuestra fe con humildad y amor. Te lo pedimos por tu Hijo, nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.
Grants by Region

- Andean Countries 33.9%
- Caribbean 21.5%
- Mexico and Central America 21.0%
- Southern Cone 16.6%
- Multinational/Other 7.0%

2017 Funding Snapshot (Where Your Donations Go)

$1.6 Million
More than 90 grants totaling over $1.6 million have supported vocational programs, including the formation of seminarians, permanent deacons, and religious men and women, as well as the continuing education of clergy.

$1.6 Million
More than 130 grants totaling over $1.6 million have been awarded to laity, marriage, family life, and youth ministry programs.

$1 Million
More than 85 grants totaling over $1 million have funded evangelization and catechesis programs, including lay religious education, mission outreach programs, Catholic social teaching projects, and campus ministry.

More than 90 grants totaling over $1.6 million have supported vocational programs, including the formation of seminarians, permanent deacons, and religious men and women, as well as the continuing education of clergy.