



## Collection for the Church in Latin America

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

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# Share your Faith

Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America

National Collection: **Weekend of January 23-24, 2016**

(or a date set by your [arch]diocese)

Dear Communications Director/Editor,

This year we celebrate the important milestone of 50 years of solidarity with the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Church there faces many challenges, including lack of access to resources the faithful need to nourish their spiritual lives. Often, there are too few priests to meet the needs of the many communities they serve, or the communities themselves are simply too isolated to have access to other important resources for the faith. Strategies to train and support evangelization leaders are vital to reach those who are disconnected from the life and mission of the Church.

For the past 50 years, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops through its Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America has helped 25 countries in Central and South America as well as the Caribbean confront challenges to the faith. With your help and the support of the Catholic faithful, we have helped develop evangelization and catechetical programs. We have also funded activities that promote an encounter with Jesus Christ, so that the faithful can become missionary disciples.

In the Archdiocese of Santiago de Los Caballeros in the Dominican Republic, many people are very dedicated to their parishes but do not have access to formation resources to fully understand the mission of Jesus to spread the gospel message. To address this problem, the archdiocese developed a three-stage plan to prepare people to become missionary leaders. Thanks to a grant from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, the archdiocese was able to implement the first stage of the plan to provide workshops, retreats, and door-to-door missions.

Now, 90 participants are leaders in their communities. They offer formation and catechesis and seek out parishioners who may be interested in becoming missionaries themselves. This program strengthened both the participants' connections to the universal Church and their bonds with their neighbors and fellow parishioners. As one participant noted, "This training and course helped me, as a mother and wife, to feel loved by Jesus, to know a God that is alive, and to carry my burden each day with love, patience, and strength."

The national date for the Collection for the Church in Latin America is the weekend of **January 23-24, 2016**. Your (arch)diocese may take up the collection on another date. You can make this collection successful by printing a letter from the bishop in support of the collection, placing an ad in your diocesan paper, and placing web banners on your diocesan website. These materials are available online at [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america) under the "Collection Resources" tab on the left. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or [bkennedy@usccb.org](mailto:bkennedy@usccb.org).

We truly appreciate your support of the collection. Thank you for your generosity to the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bevin Kennedy

Assistant Director, Promotions  
Office of National Collections