Dear Pastor/Parish Administrator,

Last year, Pope Francis wrote a letter commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Collection for the Church in Latin America which he sent to Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, representing the entire Catholic community of the United States. In it, Pope Francis said, “I write to thank you . . . for this outstanding sign of communion and solidarity with the Church in South America and the Caribbean.” Yes! Your continued support of this collection is an important sign of solidarity between our local Church and that of our brothers and sisters in Latin America. Supporting this collection in your parish makes a real difference in the lives of the faithful in these regions.

Let me give you an inspiring example of this solidarity. In Nicaragua, members of the deaf community are often unable to participate in Mass or proper sacramental formation because resources are not available in sign language. With a grant from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, the Archdiocese of Managua is increasing the number of workshops, Masses and educational materials in sign language. The generosity of your parishioners has provided these resources to train over 200 ministers to serve the deaf community. Our subcommittee visited one of those events and was uplifted by it. I am sure you also would. During that visit, a mother told the story how she realized her daughter was deaf and what she then had to do to make sure her daughter would know Jesus Christ and share her faith. You and your parishioners have helped her do so.

As you can see, supporting this collection in your parish makes a real difference in the lives of the Catholic faithful in Latin America and the Caribbean. **The most effective way you can promote the collection is to mention it to your parishioners during Mass.** In this mailer, you will find a parish appeal you can read aloud directly as well as bulletin announcements, intercessions, and a prayer for solidarity. If you have any questions about the collection or need additional materials, please contact Bevin Kennedy, assistant director of promotions, at 202-541-3346 or ncpromo@usccb.org.

Thank you for taking this opportunity to **share your faith** with the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America
Parish Appeal

Your generosity to the Collection for the Church in Latin America is invaluable to the future of the Catholic faith in this region. Your donations and renewed support will fund catechesis, pastoral programs, marriage and family life programs, seminarian formation, and many other necessary programs. Please give today with a joyful and generous heart. This collection is an opportunity to share your faith with the people of Latin America and the Caribbean. Thank you!

Simple Steps to a successful Collection for the Church in Latin America

1. Use the bulletin announcements and parish appeal provided.
2. Insert the Church in Latin America flier into all bulletins the weekend before the collection.
3. Preach about the many challenges facing the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean. Issues include the lack of education in the faith and the lack of access to resources to strengthen the faith. The collection helps alleviate this problem by funding many programs such as catechetical programs, youth ministry and leadership training for priests, seminarians, religious, and lay ministers.
4. Announce the collection. Tell parishioners what it is and how the donations change people’s lives. This is the best way to ensure the success of the collection.
5. Pray for the Church in Latin America as it struggles to provide basic pastoral care to its parishioners and works to share the faith with future generations.

Intercessions

English

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That our Holy Father, Francis, our bishop, N., and all church leaders will continue to strengthen the faith of everyone around the world but especially in the Americas as they lead the Church today, we pray to the Lord. . . R/.

That our hearts may be moved to seek unity and solidarity with the faithful throughout Latin America and the Caribbean by sharing our material and spiritual possessions, we pray to the Lord. . . R/.

That we may follow the example of St. Juan Diego’s faith and become humble and loving witnesses in our own communities, we pray to the Lord. . . R/.

Spanish

R/. Señor, escúchanos.

Que nuestro Santo Padre, Francisco, nuestro Obispo, N., y todos los líderes de la Iglesia continúen fortaleciendo la fe de todos en el continente americano mientras guían a la Iglesia en el mundo de hoy, rogemos al Señor . . . R/.

Que nuestro corazón se conmueva y busque la unidad y la solidaridad con los fieles de toda América Latina y el Caribe compartiendo nuestras posesiones materiales y espirituales, rogemos al Señor . . . R/.

Que sigamos el ejemplo de fe de san Juan Diego y nos convirtamos en testigos humildes y amorosos en nuestras propias comunidades, rogemos al Señor . . . R/.

These resources and others can be downloaded at www.usccb.org/latin-america/collection. Estos recursos y otros se pueden encontrar en 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 give us unity and solidarity with all the Catholic 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 Saint Juan Diego how to share our faith in humility and love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
In 2015, **426 grants** were awarded totaling **$6,867,869**. Catholic organizations in twenty-five countries were granted funds.

The following categories received significant funding:

- **112 grants** totaling **$1,986,451** supported permanent deacons, religious men and women, the formation of seminarians, and continuing education of the clergy.
- **153 grants** totaling **$1,858,399** funded catechesis and religious education, youth ministry programs, and lay leadership programs.
- **15 grants** totaling over **$229,147** were awarded to family ministry, pro-life activities, and women’s programs.

The top six countries for total grant amounts in 2015 were:

- **Colombia** $1,052,222
- **Peru** $687,242
- **Haiti** $597,332
- **Cuba** $488,787
- **Mexico** $364,678
- **Brazil** $319,034.

**Share your Faith. Support the Church in Latin America.**

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**Funding Snapshot (where your donations go)**

**Grants by Region**

Pie chart reflects the amount of grants received by a region.

- **Andean Countries 36.5%**
- **Caribbean 21.8%**
- **Mexico and Central America 17.6%**
- **Southern Cone 14.0%**
- **Multinational/Other 10.1%**

Map reflects the regions.