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.

The collection supports groups like the Federación San Jose de Guadalupe: a network of 37 monasteries of Carmelite nuns throughout 21 states in Mexico. With your support of the Collection for the Church in Latin America, you help cover the cost of food, clothing, and health care for 35 women at all stages of formation so they can eventually commit to God for life. The formation process includes annual courses on church teaching, as well as spirituality in the Carmelite tradition of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross. Through the efforts of the Federación, sisters receive religious formation not only as individuals, but also in solidarity with their communities and with the other monasteries in the Federación. The contemplative prayer of the Carmelite order lies at the heart of the Church’s prayer of intercession for the many needs of the world and of humanity.

Religious sisters and nuns are the very heart of the Church. By supporting their material and educational needs, you help them give their gifts of selfless prayer and service to the Church and to the entire world. Your generosity ensures that their mission continues into the future.

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 202-541-3365 or ncpromo@usccb.org.

May our merciful and loving God, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, bless you always.

Gratefully in Christ,

+ Octavio Cisneros
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 lack of access to education in the faith and to resources that 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 (as well as many more on the program’s website) can help enhance your preaching about Scripture and about the collection.

3. **Pray** for the Church in Latin America as it works to provide basic pastoral care to parishioners and to share the faith with future generations. Use the intercessions and the “Prayer for Solidarity” in this resource 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 available online. Some of the collection’s posts include timely announcements or information about grantees and other events in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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**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 conmueva 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 seas testigos humildes y amorosos en nuestras comunidades, oremos al Señor. . . . R/.

All collection resources can be found 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 St. Junípero Serra, St. Rose of Lima, St. 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.
Grants by Region

- Andean Countries: 33.41%
- Mexico and Central America: 23.17%
- Southern Cone: 20.08%
- Caribbean: 14.97%
- Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM): 5.93%
- Multinational/Other: 2.44%

2018 Funding Snapshot (Where Your Donations Go)

$1.8 Million
More than 100 grants, totaling over $1.8 million, supported formation and education programs for priests, permanent deacons, seminarians, and consecrated religious men and women.

$1.4 Million
More than 80 grants, totaling nearly $1.4 million, funded evangelization, catechesis, and religious education ministries for prisoners, university students, and diverse ethnic groups.

$1.4 Million
More than 80 grants, totaling nearly $1.4 million, assisted pro-life, marriage, family life, and youth ministries.