



# 2008 PRESS RELEASE

## *10 Years and Counting . . .* **CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH IN AMERICA**

Since 1998, this national collection has been a powerful expression of stewardship and our Catholic communion. Catholics from more prosperous parishes across America give generously to offer desperately needed help to the Mission Church here at home. The suggested national date for the 2008 Catholic Home Missions Appeal is the weekend of **April 26-27, 2008**.

This Appeal offers Catholics a wonderful opportunity to help fellow Catholics practice their faith in such rugged areas as Alaska, Appalachia, the Deep South, the Rocky Mountain states, the dusty Southwest, Puerto Rico, and island dioceses in the Pacific and Caribbean. It is one practical way for parishes to be good stewards of God's gifts and to make a difference.

### **What is a Home Mission?**

If you have ever visited eastern Kentucky or Tennessee, driven through rural Georgia, Alabama, or Mississippi, spent time on the Mexican border, or passed through scattered small towns in Wyoming, Montana, or Oregon, you have been in mission territory. The little brick or clapboard churches you see along the way, housing pockets of Catholic faithful, are the home missions. This Appeal also benefits Catholic communities in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and island chains in the Pacific that have ties to America.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal allows more prosperous Catholic communities to support poorer ones here in America. "Home missions" are as simple as that.

The Church is quite fragile in many parts of the United States where Catholics are a small minority. In the Diocese of **[insert name of your Diocese here]**, the Appeal currently supports **[name of parishes/ministries]**.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal, dedicated to strengthening the Church at home, is administered by the Committee on the Home Missions, a division of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information, please contact the Catholic Home Missions at (202) 541-5400 or visit the website at [www.usccb.org/hm](http://www.usccb.org/hm).