



Catholic Home Missions Appeal

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
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SHARING ONE FAITH

Catholic Missions in America

Dear Communications Director/Editor,

The shortage of priests is an unfortunate nationwide problem in the United States. It is further complicated in home mission dioceses by a lack of funding for seminarians. A year of training and education for a future priest costs approximately \$25,000. Currently, more than 400 seminarians are studying for priesthood in America's home missions. Home mission dioceses that can barely afford basic pastoral services are severely challenged by the mission to educate and encourage future leaders.

The Archdiocese of Anchorage has 11,500 registered Catholic families over 140,000 square miles, but only 30 active diocesan priests. This is only one of many examples illustrating the need for more priests to serve the home mission dioceses. For 10 years, the Catholic Home Missions Appeal has relied on the solidarity of parishioners in the United States to provide for less fortunate mission parishes. Since 1998, Catholic Home Missions has allocated \$100 million to fund evangelization, prison ministry, religious education, and other essential pastoral services in home mission dioceses.

With your help, we can make this year's Appeal successful. We are providing you with the necessary promotional materials in an easy, cost-effective way. Please visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections to find all of the information formerly provided on the Press CD, plus additional helpful tools. You can make a difference by reviewing the information and by using it in your publications and on your Web sites.

For more information, please call or e-mail the Office of National Collections Promotions staff at 202-541-3346 or ncpromo@usccb.org.

We appreciate your help in supporting the Catholic Home Missions through this annual Appeal.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Suley".

Dr. David J. Suley
Director, Catholic Home Missions Appeal
Office of National Collections

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.