



## Catholic Home Missions Appeal

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS  
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS  
3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194  
202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections)



# SAMPLE BISHOP'S LETTER

*May be read from the pulpit or inserted in the bulletin.*

## SHARING ONE FAITH Catholic Missions in America

My Dear People,

The shortage of priests is a growing problem in the United States. It is further complicated by the lack of funding in home mission dioceses, where parishes often struggle with poverty among parishioners, difficult or isolated terrain, religious hostility, and other circumstances that challenge the practice of the faith.

In the Archdiocese of Anchorage, in Alaska, there are 11,500 registered Catholic families over 140,000 square miles, yet only 30 active diocesan priests. Sadly, such shortages occur often in our United States mission dioceses.

As the Church, we are called to solidarity with our sisters and brothers who need our help to practice their faith right here at home. Our diocesan goal for this year's Appeal is [one day's wage/one hour's wage/etc.]. Please give generously to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, and continue to pray for our United States mission parishes.

Thank you for your stewardship and faith!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[Bishop's name, title, and signature]

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections).**