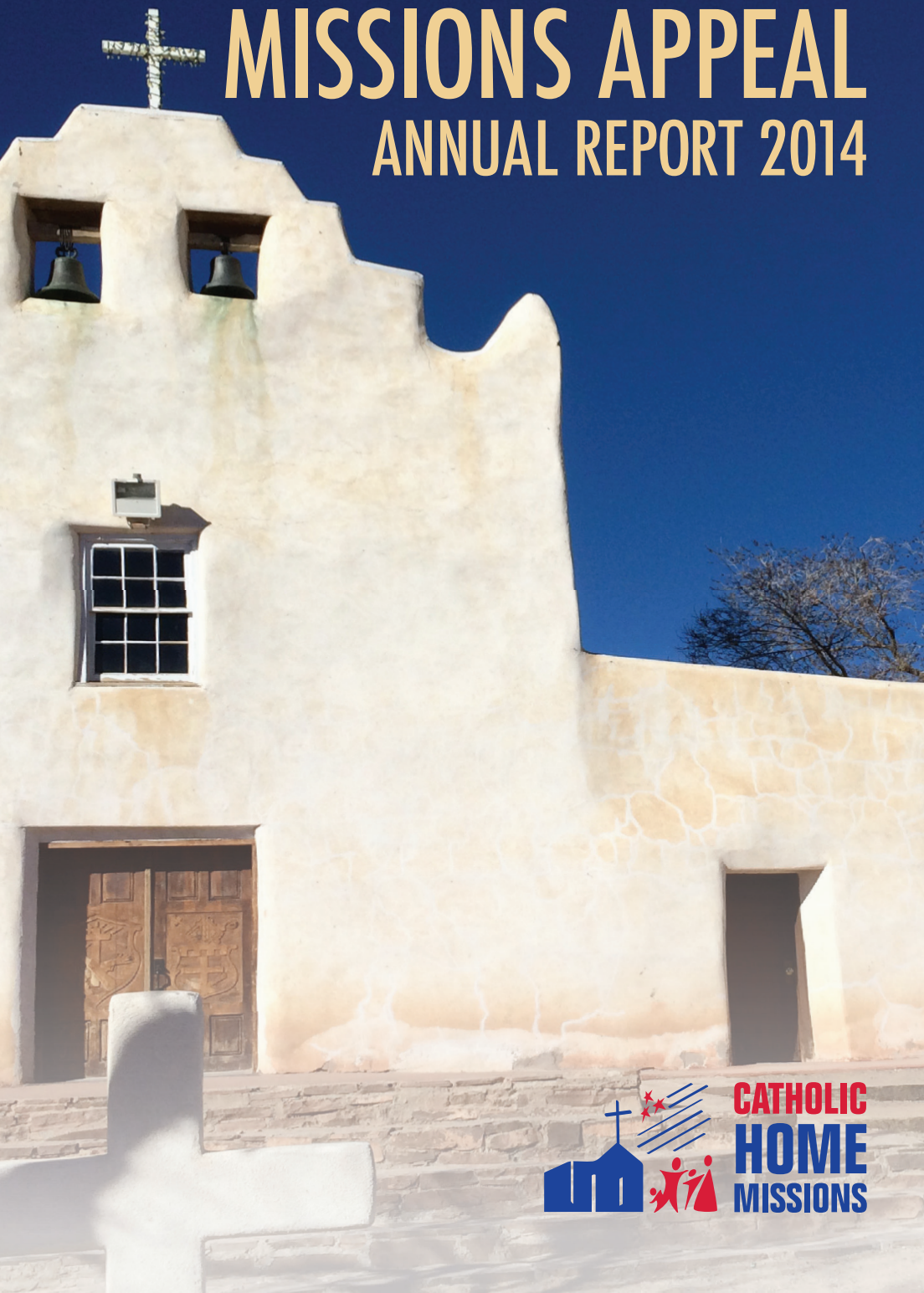


CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



CATHOLIC
HOME
MISSIONS



SUBCOMMITTEE ON CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS

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STAFF

Ms. Mary Mencarini Campbell, Executive Director

Ms. Jessi Poré, Director

Mr. Ken Ong, Grant Specialist



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am delighted to present to you this annual report for the year ending December 31, 2014, from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on our continuing efforts to support home mission dioceses—those dioceses here in the United States and its territories and dependencies that cannot provide for basic pastoral needs without outside help. In 2014, the USCCB Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions funded 84 dioceses, or 41% of all dioceses in the United States.

Our mission dioceses span across all regions of the United States, posing unique challenges in each location. For some dioceses, arid, dry terrain spans for miles between churches, and for others, snow and mountains present real travel obstacles for priests. In some regions, the number of Catholics living in the area is so low that building community can be a challenge, and in others, the sheer lack of priests means that Catholics do not always have access to the sacraments. Despite these difficulties, the faith of people in home mission territories is strong, and there is a spirit of joy and gratitude for the ministries that are present.

I thank you for your support of the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Without your steadfast generosity, we would not be able to strengthen these dioceses as they provide essential pastoral care. In this report, you will find examples of how donations are being put to work aiding those in mission territories as well as a breakdown of the fund allocations for 2014.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bevin Kennedy in the Office of National Collections at 202-541-3365 or at bkennedy@usccb.org. Thank you again for your generous support of Catholic Home Missions. May God bless you and all you do to build up the Church here at home.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter F. Christensen
Bishop of Boise
Chairman, Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME

The Church has vast needs around the world, and the United States is no exception. Many dioceses here at home face challenges due to priest shortages, lack of funds, geography, or impoverished parishes. These dioceses are unable to fund essential pastoral outreach without assistance. In 2014, forty-one percent of all dioceses in the United States received Catholic Home Missions (CHM) support for evangelization, catechesis, ministry formation, and other areas of faith development. Generally speaking, the home missions exist everywhere in the United States where the Church is fragile.

Each year, the Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions reviews and disburses grants to dioceses that are considered to be in great need, in order to augment their scarce resources and strengthen the Church. Funds for these grants are raised through the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, a collection taken up in many dioceses across the country. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal is a source of much-needed funding and provides grants for projects in home mission dioceses like Helena, Belleville, and El Paso to strengthen the faith of the people.

DIOCESE OF HELENA

Madison County of rural Montana has two parishes within its 3,600 square miles but no resident priest at either parish or even a visiting priest living within the county. Thanks to a grant from the Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions, the diocese was able to cover the costs for a priest to travel 160 miles every week to celebrate Mass in these parishes as well as to provide the Eucharist to patients in two care centers, an assisted living facility, and Catholics confined to their homes.



The faith of the people of Madison County has blossomed, as they are able to attend Mass every Sunday with the same priest. Along with more regular attendance at Mass, the parishes also saw an increased participation in the Sacrament of Penance and higher attendance at church functions, bible studies, and religious education classes. The parishioners say they feel like they belong to a parish community. They feel that the larger Church has recognized them and made them feel important enough to provide a priest for them and to make Mass available on a regular basis. As Glenda Seipp from the Diocese of Helena expressed, “Over time, the consistent presence and friendship of a priest or pastoral administrator unites believers and opens the door for all members of a community to discover ministry, outreach, and belonging.”



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

The Diocese of Belleville in southern Illinois covers 28 counties, most of which are rural. East St. Louis–Belleville is the only metropolitan area in the diocese, but it is also one of the poorest communities in the nation. The Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School (STBCS) provides the only alternative elementary school to the troubled public school system. The population of STBCS is made up of 99% minority populations, while 90% of the families fall below the poverty line, and only 4% are Catholic. The children are often raised by someone other than their biological parents and know the realities of drugs, violence, and crime.

With a grant from the Subcommittee on the Catholic Home Missions, STBCS continues providing the best holistic Catholic education possible for the children enrolled. The school teaches a Peacemaker Program, instilling skills of empathy, anger management, impulse control, and problem solving in addition to after-school programs and prayer services. Despite the challenges that the children at STBCS face, the school has a 100% graduation rate, and 95% of its graduates are enrolled in colleges or universities.



DIOCESE OF EL PASO

The population within the Diocese of El Paso in West Texas is 80% Catholic, one of the highest percentages of any diocese in the United States, and more than two-thirds are Hispanic. The rural parishes experience poverty, extreme geographic isolation, and rugged terrain. Through a grant from CHM, two Missionary Sisters of Jesus have served five parishes, six missions, and nearly 4,000 Catholics through the West Texas Evangelization Program (WTEP). These two sisters are the only presence of consecrated women in the area, and with the shortage of priests, they do much to help strengthen the local Catholic communities.

Through WTEP, the sisters have helped form small faith-sharing groups, conducted Lenten missions, and made door-to-door visits in the neighborhoods. They have encouraged parishioners to live out the works of mercy by visiting those confined to their homes and ministering to those in prison as well as their families. Even when prisoners are moved, the sisters continue to provide outreach through letter writing. WTEP also brought medical professionals to provide much-needed health and wellness presentations to these rural communities, which otherwise lack access to these resources.

The needs of home mission dioceses are substantial and highly varied. With the invaluable financial help and prayers from our supporters, we are able to continue to strengthen the Church at home.

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

*Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Other Changes in Net Assets
for the Year Ending in December 31, 2014*

Revenue

National Collections Contributions:	\$9,322,096
Income on Investments:	\$1,602,333

Total Revenue: \$10,924,429

Expenses

● Grants and Donations*:	\$9,174,372	94%
● Promotions and Fundraising Expenses:	\$257,784	3%
● Administrative Expenses:	\$205,455	2%
● Program Costs:	\$124,881	1%

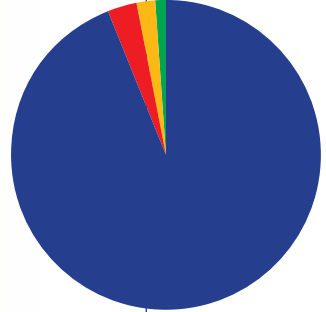
Total Expenses: \$9,762,492 100%

*Grants approved in 2014 totaled \$9,162,500. Grants and donations in 2014 totaled \$9,174,372 and included payments on 2014 grants, prior year grants, and donations.

Changes in Net Assets from Operations:	\$1,161,937
Non-Operating Activities	
Unrealized (Loss) Gain on Investments:	\$(88,920)
Changes in Net Assets:	\$1,073,017

Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year: \$13,966,211
Net Assets at the End of the Year: \$15,039,228

See the complete USCCB financial report at www.usccb.org/about/financial-reporting.

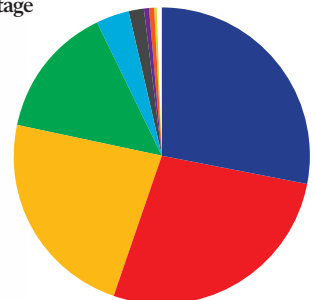


2014 DISTRIBUTION OF APPROVED GRANTS

Total Number of Dioceses That Received Grants: 83

Total Amount Approved: \$9,162,500

Program Area	Grant Amount	Percentage
● Faith Formation	\$2,575,000	28.1%
● Diocesan & Parish Assistance	\$2,500,000	27.3%
● Priestly and Religious Vocations	\$2,127,500	23.2%
● Cultural Diversity	\$1,310,000	14.3%
● Strengthening Marriage & Family Life	\$330,000	3.6%
● Life & Dignity of the Human Person	\$150,000	1.6%
● Installation Gifts	\$60,000	0.7%
● Emergency Grants	\$50,000	0.5%
● Gift to Nuncio	\$35,000	0.4%
○ Professional Development for Mission Dioceses	\$25,000	0.3%





For more information regarding the USCCB's work with the **Catholic Home Missions** and around the world, please visit www.usccb.org/home-missions or write:

Office of National Collections
3211 Fourth Street, NE | Washington, DC 20017

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