

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME

Dear Diocesan Director,

When your diocese supports the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, the faith in the United States grows stronger. Home missions dioceses are those dioceses that face fragile financial situations, vast distances, or difficult terrain that significantly impacts their ability to offer the most basic pastoral programs to the faithful. But with your help, basic pastoral programs become accessible for our brothers and sisters who long to grow closer to Christ.

For example, in the woods of northwestern Minnesota at the edge of the Great Plains, the Diocese of Crookston serves a sparsely populated area where harsh winter weather impedes travel and where poverty affects many, especially on the two Native American reservations located there. At the Red Lake Nation reservation, poverty, crime, racial conflict, and substance abuse all contribute to an average life expectancy of 46 years. In these surroundings, the diocesan elementary school is crucial to this vulnerable community. The community relies on it so heavily that it must turn away children because of capacity enrollment.

Your support to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal helps Catholic schools such as the one at Red Lake provide a strong education to the neediest children. Because of your contributions, the diocese can strengthen the curriculum, lower fees, and help all its schools achieve accreditation to ensure students continue to receive a quality education informed by our faith. Your generosity provides vulnerable children with the tools they need to live their faith and build their futures.

We need your help to promote this appeal in your parishes. **Please remind parishes to announce the appeal at Mass and to use the parish appeal, bulletin insert, and social media tool kit, free for download by you and your parishes at www.usccb.org/home-missions/collection.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or ngerman@usccb.org. On behalf of all who benefit from this appeal, thank you for helping to strengthen the Church at home.

Gratefully in Christ,



Nicole Germain
Assistant Director, Promotions, Office of National Collections



CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

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