

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Much of my life has been spent in the landlocked states of Oklahoma and Nevada. Yet that experience makes me acutely aware of how much we depend on seafarers who bring countless products that we use daily, from cars to electronics to seafood. They voyage thousands of miles across oceans, often under harrowing conditions. Their life is why the Church offers them pastoral care through a global ministry called Stella Maris.

Such ministry is the beauty of a Church that transcends all borders and cultures to bring God's love to everyone. And such transcendence is also how The Catholic Relief Services Collection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) works every year. This annual collection supports the international emergency relief efforts and creation of economic opportunities in developing nations by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), as well as pastoral care and practical assistance initiatives that serve maritime personnel and people on the margins here in the United States.

CRS, the US bishops' flagship international relief agency, receives the largest share of this collection. Operating worldwide, CRS is present wherever people experience catastrophic disasters, wars, or hunger. It does far more than provide food and shelter—CRS helps recipients to become self-sufficient by acquiring new skills and opportunities.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection is also a response to Jesus' call to recognize him in the immigrants or strangers in our communities. One of the immigration-related services it supports is the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC), a USCCB agency that provides legal representation to immigrants and asylum seekers.

Meanwhile, the USCCB's office of Migration and Refugee Services helps newcomers who have navigated the US immigration process to integrate

successfully, offers educational initiatives, and advocates for meaningful immigration reform. In this report you'll learn about its efforts to preserve a 35-year-old program that has allowed thousands of immigrant clergy and religious to serve in Catholic parishes. Dioceses with a severe clergy shortage—many of which are rural—depend greatly on immigrant clergy. I've been inspired to learn of priests from Africa and India who come to minister in dioceses with cold climates and vastly different cultures. Their ministry is heroic, and your gifts support our efforts to keep those priests and thousands like them in parishes across the nation.

As you read about what your gifts have done, I hope you will be moved to continue giving. All of it is for Jesus, as he is revealed in the face of strangers and of the poor.

Yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Daniel H. Mueggenborg
Chairman, USCCB Committee on National Collections

2024 USCCB COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL COLLECTIONS*

CHAIRMAN

Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg, Diocese of Reno

CHAIRMAN

Bishop James S. Wall, Diocese of Gallup†

MEMBERS

Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer, OFM Conv, Archdiocese of Atlanta

Bishop Peter F. Christensen, Diocese of Boise

Bishop Octavio Cisneros, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Brooklyn

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, Diocese of Jefferson City

Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Detroit

Bishop Peter L. Smith, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

CONSULTANTS

Mr. John Matthew Knowles, Executive Director, Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference

STAFF

Ms. Mary Mencarini Campbell, Executive Director, Office of National Collections

2024 USCCB ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, Archdiocese of the Military Services, USA

MEMBERS

The Administrative Committee is made up of the USCCB officers, elected chairmen of standing USCCB committees, and an elected representative from each episcopal region of the United States.

The Administrative Committee operates as the governing body of the USCCB.

STAFF

Rev. Michael J. K. Fuller

Mr. Anthony J. Granado

Ms. Theresa Ridderhoff

Mr. James L. Rogers

*The Committee on National Collections promotes The Catholic Relief Services Collection. The USCCB Administrative Committee distributes collected funds. Members and staff listed here reflect 2024 membership.

†Bishop Wall's tenure as chairman of the Committee on National Collections ended and Bishop Mueggenborg's tenure began at the conclusion of the USCCB Plenary Assembly in November 2024. Listed committee members likewise concluded their service at the same time.

THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION is a response to Jesus' call to assist and protect "the least of these." This annual national collection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) supports Catholic Relief Services as well as several complementary ministries of the bishops of the United States. In 2024, gifts to The Catholic Relief Services Collection funded distribution of more than \$13.4 million to six Catholic agencies, with the largest share going to Catholic Relief Services itself.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS)

CRS equips people affected by war and natural disasters with the skills and assistance they need to rebuild their lives and support their families. This dedication can be seen in Nepal, where an earthquake killed 9,000 people, injured 23,000 others, displaced millions and destroyed 750,000 homes in 2015.

KunMaya and Khadak are a couple whose home was destroyed and whose adult son was killed in the earthquake. They are among more than 6,200 Nepalese families whom CRS assisted in 2024. For more than eight years, they raised their granddaughter in a temporary wooden shelter that offered little protection from the summer monsoons and bitter winters. Now they are overjoyed to have a snug, earthquake-resistant house, built by construction workers who received training from CRS. Meanwhile, CRS helped the couple to become small-scale chicken farmers by instructing them in animal husbandry and financial management. They now earn enough to support their family and save for future needs. A \$7.9 million grant from The Catholic Relief Services Collection to CRS helped make this possible.

CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK INC. (CLINIC)

The United States was built on immigration—a process that became more difficult a century ago when the

federal government instituted restrictions based on immigrants' country of origin and increasingly complex paperwork. The US bishops have continued to assist immigrants and have sought humane immigration reform. At the heart of their efforts is CLINIC, to which the collection gave a 2024 grant of \$1.2 million.

Immigrants who apply for residency or asylum have double the chance of being approved if they have legal representation, but only about one-third of them can obtain or afford such assistance. To expand access, CLINIC works with more than 430 nonprofit organizations: updating them on ever-shifting immigration policies, providing some direct representation, training nonlawyers to serve as federally recognized legal advocates, and recruiting private attorneys to provide pro bono services in particularly difficult cases.

CLINIC provided such help for a Cuban human rights activist facing imprisonment by Cuba's communist government. In 2018 she fled to the United States and was denied asylum due to a technical error in the asylum application that she had filed herself. She then turned to CLINIC for help with an appeal. Her case was complex, so CLINIC enlisted volunteer attorneys from a private law firm to provide the expert assistance she needed.

When her initial appeal was denied, the woman was forced to leave the United States and travel to Bolivia, where her husband was living—though without

permanent status. While her attorneys navigated a years-long legal maze in the United States, Bolivia began deportation proceedings to send her back to Cuba. In March 2024, two weeks before Bolivia had scheduled her for deportation, her CLINIC attorneys, another immigrant-serving nonprofit organization's lawyers, and her volunteer private attorneys together convinced a high-ranking US immigration official to allow her back into the United States. She has returned to Miami, where the attorneys are now working to bring her husband from Bolivia to join her.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

The US bishops' office of Migration and Refugee Services provides social and pastoral assistance to newcomers and also advocates for just and sensible immigration policies. Since March 2023, it has worked to address challenges faced by Catholic dioceses and other religious organizations that rely on the Religious Worker Visa Program (RWVP). Through this program, foreign-born priests, men and women religious, and others can come to serve communities throughout the United States, becoming, as Pope Leo XIV said, "joyful witnesses of [God's] love that heals, accompanies and redeems."

To better understand our reliance on these religious workers for the Church in the United States, The Catholic Relief Services Collection funded a study that found 90% of responding dioceses rely on priests and religious who come through the RWVP. The USCCB has used this data to advocate for relief to the challenges facing the program: waiting periods for permanent residency applications that extend past the expiration dates of temporary

religious worker visas. As a result, the bipartisan Religious Workforce Protection Act was introduced in 2025 in both chambers of the US Congress. If passed, this bill would ensure that religious workers can continue serving in parishes, schools, hospitals, and other settings while waiting for their green card to become available. The Catholic Relief Services Collection grant of \$1.8 million underwrote the study and other projects.

STELLA MARIS

Seafarers journey far from home for months at a time, often in treacherous working conditions, going without access to the sacraments. The chaplaincies and service centers of Stella Maris—named for Our Lady, Star of the Sea—provide maritime workers and their families with pastoral care and social services. In the United States, Stella Maris maritime chaplains and portside ministry centers serve seafarers of many nationalities under the auspices of the USCCB's Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT).

In 2024, The Catholic Relief Services Collection provided a grant of just over \$850,000 to Stella Maris and the other ministries of PCMRT.

When a cargo ship lost power and collided with Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge in March 2024, Stella Maris chaplains responded with pastoral and material support to the ship's crew, emergency personnel, and families of the six construction workers killed when the bridge collapsed. Stella Maris leaders also made pastoral visits to the ports in New York City, Houston, and Elizabeth, New Jersey, to offer encouragement and support to the local chaplains to ensure that the spiritual needs of seafarers and their families are met.

THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Other Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ending December 31, 2024.

REVENUE

	AMOUNT
National Collections Contributions*	\$15,914,423
Income on Investments	\$1,621,832
Total Revenue	\$17,536,255

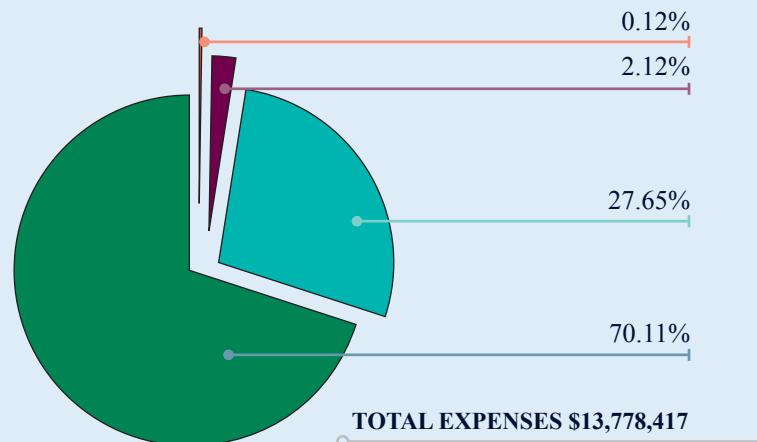
* Includes diocesan remittances to The Catholic Relief Services Collection and direct individual and institutional contributions.

EXPENSE

	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Grants and Donations*	\$9,660,635	70.11%
Allocations–Internal Grants**	\$3,809,174	27.65%
Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	\$291,423	2.12%
Program Costs	\$17,185	0.12%
Total Expenses	\$13,778,417	100%
Total Expenses, Excluding Internal Grants	\$9,969,243	
Total Grants and Donations, Including Internal Grants	\$13,469,809	

*Grants and donations in 2024 totaled \$13,469,809 and included payments to grants approved in 2024 and in prior years.

**Internal grants include distributions from The Catholic Relief Services Collection for USCCB programs for migration and refugee services, education and outreach on Catholic social teaching, international peacebuilding efforts, and pastoral ministries to ethnic groups and people on the move.



Changes in Net Assets from Operations	\$3,757,838
Non-Operating Activities:	
Unrealized Gain on Investments	\$1,150,839
Changes in Net Assets	\$4,908,677
Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year	\$30,315,524
Net Assets at the End of the Year	\$35,224,201

GRANTS

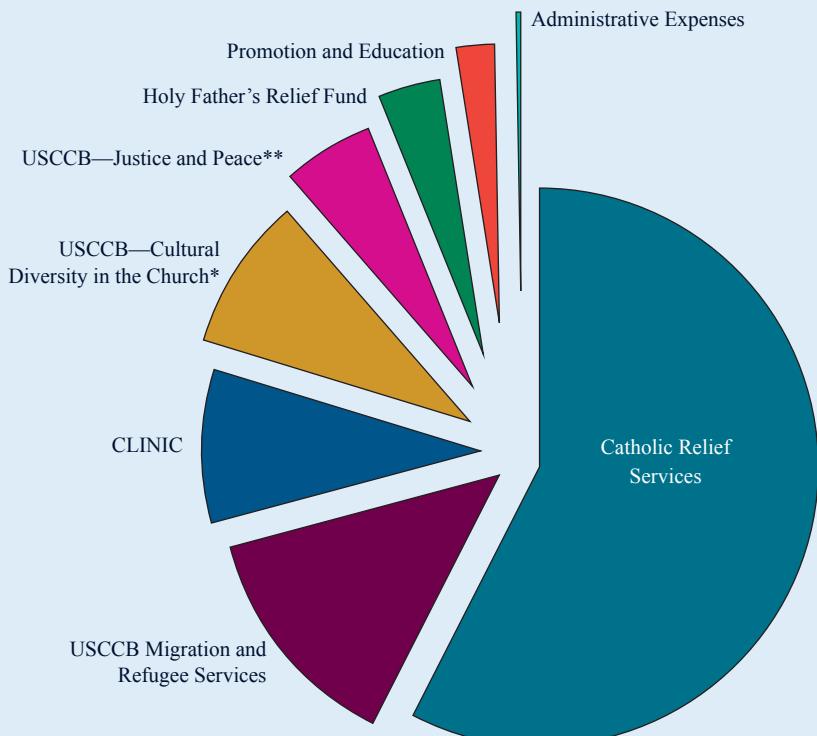
	GRANT AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Catholic Relief Services	\$7,939,217	57.62%
USCCB Migration and Refugee Services	\$1,832,127	13.30%
CLINIC	\$1,221,418	8.86%
USCCB—Cultural Diversity in the Church*	\$1,221,418	8.86%
USCCB—Justice and Peace**	\$755,629	5.48%
Holy Father's Relief Fund	\$500,000	3.63%

ADMINISTRATION

Promotion and Education	\$291,423	2.12%
Administrative Expenses	\$17,185	0.12%
Total Spent	\$13,778,417	100%

*The funding granted to the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church supports its Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (\$854,992) and Asian and Pacific Island Affairs (\$366,426) ministries.

**The funding granted to the USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace includes International Justice and Peace (\$671,427) and education and communication (\$84,202) activities.





If you miss the collection or wish to give outside the collection, #iGiveCatholic (at QR code below or igivecatholic.org/story/USCCB-CRS) accepts funds online to support the good work of The Catholic Relief Services Collection.



Thank you for your support!

For more information about the USCCB's work with **The Catholic Relief Services Collection** around the world, please visit usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Or write to

Office of National Collections

3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017

