

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME

Dear Diocesan Director,

"I was . . . ill and you cared for me" (Mt 25:35-36). Jesus reminds us of our responsibility to show mercy to those who are sick by visiting and caring for them. In the Diocese of Mayagüez, at the western end of the island of Puerto Rico, the faithful live this biblical calling through the diocesan Pastoral Care of the Sick program. Volunteer participants are trained to visit the sick in private homes, hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices. They learn about not only pastoral topics such as praying with the sick and the conditions necessary for an emergency Baptism but also principles of bioethics, infection control, and sanitary practices, as well as spiritual issues of loneliness, death, and grief. Two classes of new volunteers participate each year in a training program of seven weekly lessons followed by an eighth session featuring a pastoral conference, Mass, Rosary, and a graduation ceremony, at which volunteers receive a certificate of completion and an official ministerial ID.

The support of Catholic Home Missions to the Diocese of Mayagüez makes possible a ministry of mercy that enriches the lives of volunteers and also those of the sick to whom they extend compassion and kindness. When you participate in the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, you join Catholics across the country in supporting vital pastoral ministries where they are most needed.

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, available free for download by you and your parishes at www.usccb.org/home-missions.**

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



CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

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