

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME

Dear Diocesan Director,

Many Catholic Home Missions-funded dioceses have small Catholic populations spread across vast territories, and the Diocese of Jackson is no exception. Spanning 37,000 square miles of northern Mississippi, the diocese is the largest territorial diocese east of the Mississippi River, with a population that is only about 2% Catholic. The minority status of Catholics in the diocese affords them regular opportunities to witness to their Catholic faith with family, friends, and neighbors who belong to other Christian traditions. As a result, the area's Catholics—particularly youth seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation—want to know their faith better and share it with other Catholics.

The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry has expanded its program offerings, beginning with hiring a new office coordinator in 2016. In subsequent years, the diocese hosted an annual Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference and retreats for junior high and high school students as well as for young people preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thanks to your support for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, more than 80 dioceses are forming energetic and joyful disciples like those served by the youth ministry in the Diocese of Jackson.

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 ngermain@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

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1194

202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS

