

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME

Dear Diocesan Director,

Dioceses supported by the Catholic Home Missions program of the Catholic bishops of the United States are found throughout the nation, its territories, and former territories. They also include dioceses and eparchies of Eastern Catholic Churches, which are in full communion with Pope Francis and the Holy See but have their own distinct cultural heritages, liturgical traditions, and bishops. Here in the United States, these communities often have large populations of recent immigrants and refugees who present unique challenges to pastoral outreach, including language barriers and cultural pressures to assimilate.

Among the most ancient of the Eastern Churches is the Chaldean Catholic Church, whose members trace their roots from ancient Mesopotamia to the northern region of modern-day Iraq. Facing persecution from groups in their homeland, many Chaldean Catholics have migrated to the United States, especially in and around Detroit, Michigan, where the Chaldean Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle is based. With support from Catholic Home Missions, the eparchy covers more than 30 states and serves more than 180,000 members through essential pastoral ministries such as its marriage preparation program to help couples build a solid foundation for their lives together.

The program, offered through the eparchy's Eastern Catholic Re-Evangelization Center, is led by lay people. It incorporates small-group discussions of practical topics, presentations by married couples, and prayer. The support of Catholic Home Missions has allowed the eparchy to create a translated Syriac Aramaic/Arabic-language version of the program, which it can now offer to those who do not yet speak English.

We need your help to promote this appeal in your parishes. **Please remind parishes to announce the collection 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 mhren@usccb.org. On behalf of all who benefit from this appeal, thank you for helping to strengthen the Church at home.

Gratefully in Christ,



Margaret Hren
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

