

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME

Dear Editor/Communications Director,

We need your help to promote this year's Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Please use your publications, website, social media channels, and other outlets to share our stories and the importance of this appeal. Helpful materials, including a social media tool kit, web banners, and a sample letter from the bishop, are available at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal supports nearly 70 dioceses across the United States and its current and former territories that require outside assistance to support parishes, seminarians, and other essential pastoral ministries. Although many home mission dioceses have in common rugged terrain, vast rural territories, small populations, and economic challenges, each reflects the faith and strength of the people it serves.

On the Great Plains of southwestern Kansas, the Diocese of Dodge City embodies home mission territory. Covering an area of 23,000 square miles without interstates, and serving a small Catholic population of 44,500, whose economy is rooted in farming and meatpacking, the diocese relies on the support of Catholic Home Missions to carry out its ministry among a changing population.

Increased costs have led many farming families to close operations and move away from rural areas. At the same time, Dodge City's growing meatpacking industry has attracted a Hispanic/Latino immigrant workforce with its own pastoral needs. Funds collected through the Catholic Home Missions Appeal enable the Diocese of Dodge City to address the pastoral needs of its growing Hispanic/Latino population by providing Spanish translations of resources, Spanish-language formation training, and certification for Spanish-speaking pastoral ministers. Several years ago, the diocesan family life office began running Spanish-language marriage and spirituality parish retreats for married and not yet married couples alike, with 13 couples participating in the first event. Since then, the program has grown significantly, with additional parishes expressing interest in hosting retreats.

Your diocese's support for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal helps dioceses like Dodge City to bring the saving news of Jesus Christ into the parishes, homes, and lives of many people who truly live on the margins every day. The #iGiveCatholic website also accepts funds online for the collection: igivecatholic.org/story/USCCB-CHM.

If you have any questions or need more materials, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or ncpromo@usccb.org. Thank you for helping to strengthen the Church at home.

Gratefully in Christ,



Margaret Hren
Assistant Director, Promotions

To find additional resources or learn more about how this appeal makes a difference,
please visit www.usccb.org/home-missions.



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

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