

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME

Dear Diocesan Director,

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 an immigrant workforce with unique 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.

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 ncpromo@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



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

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