

Collection for the Church in Latin America

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Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America

Dear Communications Director,

"Interest and concern for the cultural values of the indigenous groups should be shared by everyone, for their richness is also our own" (*Querida Amazonia*, no. 37). In this exhortation on the Amazon basin, Pope Francis calls us to prayerful solidarity with the indigenous peoples of this rich and vital region. In place of environmental degradation and commercial exploitation, we are called to affirm the dignity of the peoples living there and the ecosystem they inhabit.

Since its creation in 1972 by the Brazilian bishops' conference, the Missionary Council for Indigenous People has worked to proclaim the Gospel to Amazonia's native people and to help them secure and defend their human rights against unjust laws and encroachment on their lands by commercial and government interests. With support from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, the council helps train indigenous and missionary leaders in interreligious dialogue, builds relationships with other Amazonian groups, and engages society more strongly in the cause of justice for this vulnerable region and its people. By supporting the collection, parishioners in your diocese answer the Holy Father's call to stand in solidarity with the Amazonian people. Our brothers and sisters in the Amazonian region need your help to continue this lifesaving work.

You can make this year's collection successful by sharing more stories about projects funded by the collection on your social media channels, using collection web banners on your diocesan website, and placing an ad in your diocesan paper. The materials you need are available at *www.usccb.org/latin-america/collection*. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or *ngermain@usccb.org*.

We appreciate your support of the collection. Thank you for your generosity to the people of Latin America and the Caribbean. May our merciful and loving God, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, bless you always.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Nicole Germain Assistant Director, Promotions