

HELP *Jesús* IN DISGUISE

“BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK.”
—REV 3:20

Dear Editor/ Communications Director,

The Catholic Relief Services Collection provides parishioners an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people around the world and right here at home. The collection supports organizations that provide housing for victims of natural disasters, educational opportunities for refugees displaced by war, ministries to maritime workers who have unique pastoral needs, and legal services for immigrants and asylum seekers.

In addition to such humanitarian outreach, the Church also plays a role in advocating on behalf of marginalized communities. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace (IJP) advocates and works for the cause of religious freedom for all people around the world wherever it is threatened. The Church experiences various forms of persecution around the world, from terrorist attacks to oppression and intimidation by anti-Catholic government leaders. For instance, in both Venezuela and Nicaragua, the Church faces mounting challenges by political regimes that threaten the Church's independence and its mission to preach the Gospel and attend to the needs of the people.

Through the generous support of participants in The Catholic Relief Services Collection, IJP hosted delegations from both the Episcopal Conference of Venezuela and the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua in Washington, DC. IJP facilitated meetings between those religious leaders and officials and policymakers on Capitol Hill and in the U.S. Department of State that raised the crucial issue of international religious freedom.

When parishioners in your diocese participate in The Catholic Relief Services Collection, they support the expressions of solidarity by the Church in the United States with our Catholic brothers and sisters around the world who seek to preach the Gospel and serve those in need.

We appreciate your help in promoting this collection. Promotional materials, including prayer cards, web banners, and a social media tool kit, are available at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief/collection. Use your publication(s), website, social media channels, or any other outlets to tell this story and the story of all those who benefit from The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or ngermain@usccb.org. Thank you for your continued support.

Gratefully in Christ,



Nicole Germain
Assistant Director, Promotions, Office of National Collections



The Catholic Relief Services Collection

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