

REVEAL *Christ's* LOVE

Dear Diocesan Director/Coordinator,

Your diocese will be taking up The Catholic Relief Services Collection soon. When your diocese participates in the collection, it supports organizations that provide housing for victims of natural disasters, educational opportunities for refugees displaced by war, pastoral ministries to travelers and migrants who lack consistent access to the sacramental life of a parish community, and legal services for immigrants navigating the process of becoming naturalized U.S. citizens, along with other pastoral and humanitarian services.

Every year, the United States observes Citizenship Day on September 17, the anniversary of when the U.S. Constitution was signed. Citizenship Day recognizes all who have become citizens “by coming of age or by naturalization.” For immigrants and those who work with immigrants, marking this day has grown into a full week of education and reflection on the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens.

The economic and social benefits of naturalization are significant. Naturalized citizens have better access to education and higher-paying jobs, participate more in their communities, are more likely to be homeowners, and can sponsor family members coming to the United States so that families can be reunited. As a founding partner for the New Americans Campaign in 2011, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC)—funded by proceeds from The Catholic Relief Services Collection—has given low- or no-cost naturalization application assistance to lawful permanent residents seeking U.S. citizenship. When you participate in the collection, you become a caring neighbor to these new Americans on their paths to citizenship.

We rely on you to promote this collection and are here to support your efforts. Bulletin announcements, parish appeals, web banners, and more are available for your use at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief. There you can also find a social media tool kit with Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram posts and photos to use. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or ngermain@usccb.org. On behalf of the National Collections staff and all who benefit from The Catholic Relief Services Collection, thank you.

Gratefully in Christ,



Nicole Germain
Assistant Director, Promotions



The Catholic Relief Services Collection

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