



Dear Editor/Communications Director,

Your diocese will soon participate in The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Through this collection, parishioners reveal Christ's love in ways that make a positive global impact for people on the margins. The collection supports Catholic organizations that aid victims of war and natural disaster, resettle refugees and migrants displaced by violence and poverty, address the pastoral needs of migrants and others lacking stable parish communities, and work to build peaceful solutions in regions and nations affected by conflict, such as Colombia.

Since 1964, Colombia has experienced guerrilla warfare between insurgent and government forces, resulting in regional instability, drug wars and trafficking, and high rates of kidnapping and murder. The Catholic Church in Colombia has worked tirelessly to forge a peaceful settlement, with the Episcopal Conference of Colombia playing a key role in negotiations that led to a groundbreaking peace agreement with the Colombian government. One of the two insurgent factions signed the agreement in 2016. The Colombian bishops are now engaged in a similar peace process between the Colombian government and the second faction.

The Committee on International Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, supported in part by The Catholic Relief Services Collection, has helped the Colombian bishops' advocacy efforts to maintain and strengthen relations between the US and Colombian governments as they cooperate to establish peace where war has raged for 60 years. Your support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection is crucial to this hard-won success and this much-needed hope.

We rely on your help to promote this collection. Prayer cards, web banners, a social media tool kit, and other promotional materials are available at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief/collection. Use your publication(s), website, social media channels, and other outlets to tell this story and the story of all who benefit from The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

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

Gratefully in Christ,

Margaret Hren
Assistant Director, Promotions



The Catholic Relief Services Collection

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