



Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

January 24, 2019

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Many dioceses here in the United States face challenges due to priest shortages, lack of funds, remote geography, or impoverished parishes. The **Catholic Home Missions Appeal** supports these dioceses that struggle to make ends meet and to serve the many needs of their parishioners. Through last year's grants of \$9.75 million, the Catholic Home Missions Appeal supported evangelization, catechesis, ministry formation, and other areas of faith development and pastoral programs in needy dioceses. Over forty percent of all dioceses in the United States are considered home missions. As a result of the generosity of parishioners like you, this appeal impacts the lives of nearly 9 million Catholics.

If you were to cross the Diocese of Colorado Springs, you would see the stunning mountain valleys and peaks of the Continental Divide to the west, and the wide expanses of the Great Plains to the east. However, the Diocese of Colorado Springs is a mission diocese because the terrain poses so many challenges for priests and ministers. Each weekend, priests of the diocese traverse the treacherous mountain routes or drive hundreds of miles across the plains to preside over Sunday Masses. The lack of priests and ministers makes it difficult for the diocese to serve all of the region's Catholics. Without regular pastoral care, people, especially young adults, are susceptible to leaving the Church.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal supports campus ministry efforts across the diocese. Your support gives young adults the opportunity to make retreats, go on pilgrimages, participate in service projects, and attend vocational discernment events. These ministry centers also offer daily and Sunday Masses, RCIA classes, regular confession times, Eucharistic adoration, Bible studies, and other opportunities to build community.

As Michelle Maher-Lyons, Director of Catechesis, Youth Ministry, and Evangelization, expressed: "Our program is growing larger all the time and we still have large numbers of young people to welcome to what we do. It is with your support we are able to be the light of Christ to the young Church. Thank you for your support."

I encourage you to be generous on the weekend of January 28 to help strengthen the Church at home. Your support will truly make a difference. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/home-missions.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Please read or print this letter in the parish bulletin on the weekend of January 27 and take the collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal at all Masses on the weekend of February 3.