



Office of National Collections

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“From the very beginning Christians have brought, along with the bread and wine for the Eucharist, gifts to share with those in need. This custom of *collection*, ever appropriate, is inspired by the example of Christ who became poor to make us rich” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 1351. Washington DC: Libreria Editrice Vaticana—USCCB, 2000).

National special collections provide an opportunity for Catholics to participate in building up the Church both at home and abroad through eight different collections administered by the Office of National Collections. Just as participation in the Eucharist brings about our unity with Christ and the Church around the world, participation in the work of stewardship brings us into unity with Christ in the needy whom we serve and support.

These collections are: [Collection for the Church in Latin America](#), the [Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe](#), the [Catholic Relief Services Collection](#), the [Catholic Home Missions Appeal](#), the [Catholic Communication Campaign](#), [Peter’s Pence Collection](#), the [Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa collection](#), and the [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#) collection. Any gift, regardless of size, helps support pastoral ministries, trains lay volunteers, provides material and support to the poor, and gives relief to those affected by wars and natural disasters.

Did you know?

- 1) For over 50 years, the Collection for the Church in Latin America has supported the evangelization, catechesis, religious and clerical formation, and youth ministry efforts of the Church throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Through these and other efforts, the Collection fosters closer relationships between the bishops of the United States and those in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 2) Your support of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe provides invaluable aid to countries where the Church is rebuilding after decades of communist rule, especially in the lands of the former Soviet Union. Your contributions help build churches, provide social services, and train seminarians and lay leaders for the next generation of Catholics in these countries.
- 3) Victims of war, persecution, and natural disasters need assistance in a wide variety of ways, from development projects to address basic material needs to legal support and advocacy services for immigrants and refugees. The Catholic Relief Services collection provides funding to the Catholic organizations dedicated to assisting the most vulnerable among us.
- 4) 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are Mission Dioceses. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal, begun in 1998, provides funding to support evangelization, education, and pastoral services in these areas where resources are lacking and Catholic populations are small. In fact, the Catholic Home Missions Appeal provided stipends to home mission dioceses sending staff to the 2019 Mid-Atlantic Congress and to participate in the bishop day at MAC. The home missions quarterly newsletter *Neighbors* gives a glimpse into the valuable work in the dioceses and eparchies that are supported through the collection.

- 5) Catholic radio, television, and other media activities receive support through the Catholic Communication Campaign. Dioceses that participate in this collection retain *half of the funds* raised for use in local communications efforts.
- 6) The Peter's Pence Collection is your opportunity to join Catholics from around the world in assisting the Holy Father's emergency relief efforts to aid victims of war and natural disasters.
- 7) The rapidly-growing Church in Africa is young and vibrant, but faces challenges in building and maintaining structures and ministries previously funded by missionary orders. The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa helps create and maintain programs and efforts to build up the Church in this dynamic environment.
- 8) The Catholic Campaign for Human Development ("CCHD") collection funds organizations that address affordable housing, job creation, access to healthcare, and other issues at the root of poverty in America. *One quarter of the funds* raised remain in the participating diocese to address such anti-poverty initiatives! The quarterly CCHD newsletter *Helping People Help Themselves* features the people and organizations that work every day for justice in cities and towns across the country with the support of CCHD grants.



For more information, please visit: <http://www.usccb.org/about/national-collections/index.cfm>

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