



Collection for the Church in Latin America

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

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Share YOUR Faith

Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America

National Collection: **Weekend of January 25-26, 2014**
(or a date set by your diocese)

Dear Diocesan Director,

Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean face many challenges when it comes to sharing their faith, yet the light always shines through and hope arises. In the Diocese of San Miguel, El Salvador, the youth of Holy Family Parish are at high risk for violence and gang activity. In response, the parish designed a youth enrichment and leadership program to address young people's need for critical-thinking skills and values education. The parish hopes to help the youth living in these high-vulnerability areas create a culture of solidarity and peace within their neighborhoods. The parish currently engages a group of 75 young adults. They will become youth leaders to spread the gospel message in their neighborhoods and break the cycle of violence.

In Ecuador, the Diocese of Loja organized a three-day formation program for their catechists, many of whom work in isolated areas. More than 2,500 catechists gathered from around the diocese to participate in training sessions on rural ministry, bible instruction, and other areas of catechesis. One of the participants, Andrea, said that the experience was informative and enriching and that the catechists were able to meet each other and share their diverse experiences. She said that the sessions fortified her spirit so that she can go back to her ministry in the parish and better serve the people in the diocese.

The Collection for the Church in Latin America, through projects like these youth and young adult ministry programs, as well as catechesis programs, empowers the people of Latin America to deepen their faith and share it with each other and the world.

The national date for the **Collection for the Church in Latin America** is the weekend of **January 25–26, 2014**. Your diocese may take up the Collection on a different weekend. Whenever your Collection is held, you can help the people of the Church in the Latin American region to deepen and share their faith by encouraging your parishes and the diocesan communications director to use the materials provided to them.

If you have any questions or need additional materials, please contact me at 202-541-3346 or bkennedy@usccb.org. Resources are available online at www.usccb.org (search "Church in Latin America Collection Resources"). Helpful items include bulletin announcements, web banners, and additional information about the Collection and its funded projects.

On behalf of those who benefit from the Collection, thank you for sharing your faith.

Sincerely,

Bevin Kennedy
Assistant Director, Promotions,
Office of National Collections