



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 23-24, 2016**
(or a date set by your [arch]diocese)

Dear Diocesan Director,

This year we celebrate the important milestone of 50 years of solidarity with the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Church there faces many challenges, including lack of access to resources the faithful need to nourish their spiritual lives. Often, there are too few priests to meet the needs of the many communities they serve, or the communities themselves are simply too isolated to have access to other important resources for the faith. Strategies to train and support evangelization leaders are vital to reach those who are disconnected from the life and mission of the Church.

For the past 50 years, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops through its Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America has helped 25 countries in Central and South America as well as the Caribbean confront challenges to the faith. With your help and the support of the Catholic faithful, we have helped develop evangelization and catechetical programs. We have also funded activities that promote an encounter with Jesus Christ, so that the faithful can become missionary disciples. Your support and the support of your Catholic faithful funds several ministries and projects that ensure the people in Latin America and the Caribbean can share their faith and strengthen connections with members of the church community.

In the Diocese of Garzon, Colombia, the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe is blessed with a large community; however, there are only a few priests to address its many needs. Through a grant from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, the parish was able to train pastoral and evangelization leaders for the parish community. These leaders participated in formation on leadership and teaching catechesis, as well as in spiritual retreats, so they could reach out to the larger community. The parish also created “Catholic Faith” kits to aid in evangelization and teaching catechesis to those in the community. Through this project, the parish was able to achieve its goal of creating an evangelization program that can reach the 3,700 families of the parish.

The national date for the **Collection for the Church in Latin America** is the weekend of **January 23-24, 2016**. Your (arch)diocese may take up the collection on a different weekend. Through this collection, you can help families in Latin America and the Caribbean deepen and share their faith. Please encourage your parishes and the diocesan communications director to use the materials provided.

If you have any questions or need additional materials, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or bkennedy@usccb.org. Resources are available online at www.usccb.org/latin-america under the “Collection Resources” tab on the left. 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