



Collection for the Church in Latin America

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

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Dear Diocesan Director,

In 2003, the Catholic bishops of the Antilles issued a pastoral letter entitled “Stewardship and the Revitalization of Parish Life in the Caribbean,” proclaiming: “Stewardship is a sharing, an acceptance of common responsibility for the Church, recognizing the Body of Christ for what it is” (section II.4). Dioceses throughout the Caribbean are generally small, and their faithful are not financially well off. These dioceses face financial constraints and declining rates of funding from external sources.

As a result, the bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference called on local leaders to learn new skills and adopt more fully the principles of stewardship to increase local capacities for fundraising, rather than relying on external funding sources to meet the needs of the Church in this part of the world.

With help from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, these dioceses were able to send three bishops and eight other leaders from the Antilles to the International Catholic Stewardship Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. These leaders returned home to share with their dioceses and parishes what they learned. They were newly empowered to carry out the bishops’ vision to make stewardship and good church administration a reality.

Because of your diocese’s generosity, these diocesan leaders are learning and implementing principles that help them better administer the resources of their churches. Please continue your support of the Collection for the Church in Latin America. The generosity of your parishioners is strengthening the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We are here to support your efforts to promote this collection. Bulletin announcements, parish appeals, web banners, and more are available for your use at www.usccb.org/latin-america/collection. There you can also find a social media tool kit with Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram posts and photos to use. If you have any questions or need additional materials, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or ngermain@usccb.org.

On behalf of those who benefit from the collection, thank you! May our merciful and loving God, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, bless you always.

Sincerely,

Nicole Germain
Assistant Director, Promotions, Office of National Collections