



**CATHOLIC
HOME
MISSIONS**



The Diocese of Salt Lake City used a special grant from Catholic Home Missions to help send 14 young adults from six parishes to World Youth Day in Panama in January 2019.

By Beth Griffin

For almost 100 years, Catholic Home Missions (CHM) and its predecessor the American Board of Catholic Missions have worked tirelessly to support the Church in poor or remote areas of the United States. Although the tools of evangelization, education, and outreach have changed to meet contemporary needs, the underlying reason has remained the same: Jesus Christ and his Apostles insisted that Christians share with one another and spread the Good News.

One of the principal tasks of the Apostles in the early Church was to collect goods and redistribute them in an equitable way. The process is described in the Acts of the Apostles: “There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.” (4:34-35)

Catholic Home Missions now extends assistance to the Church in 80 dioceses. Each year, it provides more than \$9 million in critical grants to help local bishops minister to their people and carry on the faith tradition.

This issue of *Neighbors* provides snapshots of how those grants make a difference.

DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

“As a missionary diocese, our rural parishes and diocesan programs depend on Catholic Home Missions support for basic pastoral ministries,” says Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham. Daniel McCormick, diocesan director of religious education, describes involving parish leaders to make sure the diocese’s objectives meet the needs of its people. As an example, he points to parish-based campus ministry programs, which are coordinating outreach at local colleges and universities to stem the loss and attrition of young adult Catholics.

CHM funds also support Catholic Youth on Mission, a diocesan program that aims to manifest missionary discipleship. “It joins together middle and high school students from parishes that don’t often work together,” Daniel says. The initiative provides formation in the principles and practices of Catholic social teaching and offers opportunities to perform works of mercy with local ministry partners.

“We have a lot of goodwill and energy, but not always a lot of resources,” Daniel says. “Being in a mission diocese makes us value partnerships. We can’t go it alone. This reflects the nature of the Body of Christ but is also a lived necessity.”

DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Bishop Oscar A. Solis of Salt Lake City says there were “tears of joy” when the diocese

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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM MISSION AMERICA

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each autumn provides an opportunity to reflect on and give thanks for the blessings we have received throughout

the year. At Catholic Home Missions, we look at the many ways your support helps to pass on the faith, strengthen families, and address the practical and pastoral needs of Catholics in nearly 80 dioceses all across America.

In this issue, it is my pleasure to share with you the gratitude that bishops, religious, and lay leaders from across the country have expressed for Catholic Home Missions' support of their ministries. Take a tour with us and see how Catholic Home Missions fosters the growth of young people in Alabama, supports catechesis and priestly formation of Romanian Catholics across the country, supports parish life in rural Montana, sent young people from the Diocese of Salt Lake City to World Youth Day with Pope Francis, and helps minister to Hispanic Catholics in Idaho.

These stories all help to give a close-up of the work that you support throughout the year when you give to Catholic Home Missions. Your contributions make positive stories like these possible, and we are grateful to you. Enjoy reading them, and be assured of my gratitude to you for the difference you make with your support.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight
Bishop of Jefferson City
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on
Catholic Home Missions

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received a special grant from Catholic Home Missions to help send 14 young adults from six parishes to World Youth Day in Panama in January 2019. Participants

were selected by their parishes but were responsible for raising funds needed for the trip. Junee Castro, diocesan director of youth and young adults ministry, said groups of youths worked "week after week" to promote their participation and collect funds.

Junee says most of the diocesan participants came from low-income parishes and would not have been able to make the trip without CHM funds, "regardless of how many fundraising events they had."

The highlight of the World Youth Day experience was seeing Pope Francis and hearing his personal words of encouragement. "He told the young adults to be protagonists in the mission of the Church and to not lose hope," Junee recalls. Since their return, several participants have become more deeply involved with diocesan youth events.

ROMANIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON, OHIO

"The continued generosity of Catholic Home Missions for the work of our diocese is a blessing [showing] that the Holy Spirit is carrying us forward in God's work," says Bishop John M. Botean. He relies on CHM funds to minister to his eparchy, which covers all of the United States and Canada.



Catholic Home Missions grants help Bishop Botean (second from right) minister to his eparchy, which includes all of the United States and Canada.

Fr. Ovidiu Marginean is the chancellor of the diocese, rector of the cathedral, and one of only seven full- and part-time staff at the chancery office for this Eastern Rite Church. He says distance is the most obvious challenge for a diocese of 14 parishes and five missions across most of North America. But he also encounters a cultural challenge: in Romania, the government has traditionally supported the Catholic Church financially, except during the 1947-1989 communist era when the Church existed largely underground. As a result, parishioners in this hemisphere are not accustomed to fully funding the needs of their parish and clergy.

Nonetheless, Fr. Ovidiu observes growing interest in the practice of the faith among young people. Parishes are providing robust catechism classes and helping youth maintain a connection to Romanian culture through language instruction and children's dance groups, among other things. Fr. Ovidiu says the youth are proud to participate in something that showcases their uniqueness.

The diocese recruits priests from Romania and seeks young, open-minded men who are likely to succeed in a new environment. Fr. Ovidiu says most of the diocese's priests are married, and the selection and interview process often entails an extended visit

to the United States for the candidate and his wife.

Catholic Home Missions funds are used for staffing, programming, and Bishop Botean’s travel to his far-flung parishes. The bishop says, “This kind of support is a great relief and I constantly thank God for the Catholic Home Missions and for the Catholic people of this country for the interest that has been shown us.”

DIocese OF HELENA, MONTANA

Spirit of Christ is a mission parish in a mission diocese. It serves 40 families, some of whom helped found the parish in the early 1970s. Fr. Edward Hislop, the pastor, says, “With this size comes the difficulty of maintaining a viable community of believers. The grant from Catholic Home Missions helps fill the gaps in the revenue necessary to cover the day-to-day expenses of the mission parish.”

“Actually, the grant is a lifesaver that keeps the small community of faith alive,” he adds. “The parishioners have a very strong sense of belonging to the community and being bonded to one another. They are involved in each other’s lives in good times and bad and can count on the parish to celebrate the events of their lives.”

Fr. Edward describes Spirit of Christ’s central focus on liturgy and its strong participation in local social outreach. “The CHM funds touch just about every element of parish life and enable us to maintain a relatively

vibrant liturgical, music, and faith formation ministry,” he says.

Although the parishioners are responsive to stewardship requests, the pastor says, “Every penny is used each week as it comes in.” The mission has also recently opened its doors to twice-monthly celebrations of the liturgy by a regional community of Byzantine Catholics.

DIocese OF BOISE, IDAHO

Deacon Salvador “Sal” Carranza is director of youth and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Boise. He is also active in Hispanic ministry in the diocese, which covers the entire state of Idaho. In September 2018, he used a grant from Catholic Home Missions to help a seven-person delegation attend the V National Encuentro in Grapevine, Texas. “Without CHM, only three people would have been able to go,” he recalls. The event was a powerful reminder that every ministry exists to support the Church, not itself, and that

“everything we do should contribute to the whole Church,” he says.

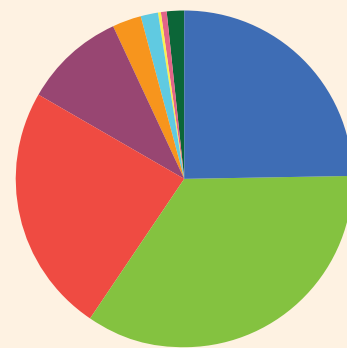
Deacon Sal says the intellectual elements of formation can probably be accessed electronically, but most people crave human interaction, and accompaniment is the essence of being present to people.

The deacon says the catechetical program in the diocese is directed toward youth, but it tries to engage the entire family. “We want to be more intentional with the parents in helping them accompany the youth,” he says. Deacon Sal is organizing day-long formation programs in each deanery of the diocese to help parish catechetical leaders prepare to serve the parish as a whole.

He says CHM offers him accompaniment as well as much-appreciated grants. “There is a sense we are not alone and there are people who care for us and care about what is going on in the diocese,” he explains. The CHM staff “are willing to invest because they believe in our efforts, and that’s a tremendous blessing.”

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2018, Catholic Home Missions approved 83 grants totaling over \$9.6 million to support the pastoral works of over 80 dioceses nationwide. With over 91% of expenses going toward grants and donations, Catholic Home Missions directly supports faith formation, assistance to poor dioceses and parishes, vocations to the priesthood and religious life, family life and human dignity programs, and other vital ministries in the neediest and most remote areas of the country.



Program Area	Grant Amount
Faith Formation	\$2,379,000
Diocesan & Parish Assistance	\$3,360,000
Priestly and Religious Vocations	\$2,295,000
Cultural Diversity	\$920,000
Strengthening Marriage & Family Life	\$285,000
Professional Development for Mission Dioceses	\$145,000
New Bishop Installation Support	\$45,000
Gift to Apostolic Nuncio	\$35,000
Life and Dignity of the Human Person	\$155,000



Strengthening the Church at Home

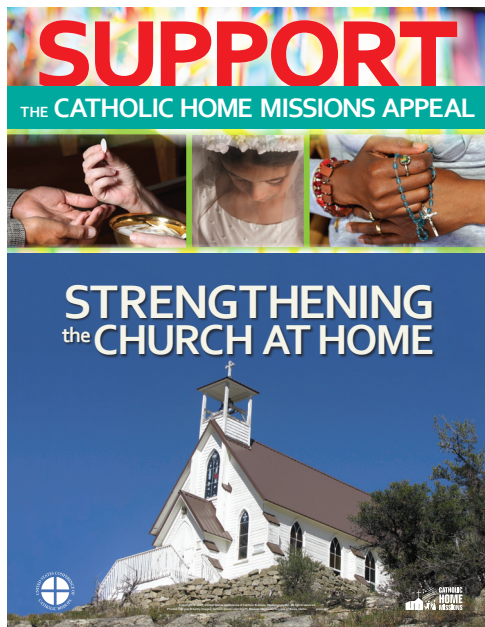
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ISSUE 4 2019

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READ ABOUT HOW Catholic Home Missions positively impacts the lives of the faithful through its support of a broad range of ministries in 80 dioceses across the United States and its territories.



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