

MY DEAR CATHOLIC PEOPLE:

Each parish is part of the Church Universal; it is the Catholic Church in a particular place. The bishops of the United States created the national collections so that, by combining resources, we can more effectively carry out our mission as Catholics. Each of these important collections is worthy of your support. Each collection represents our community of faith at work in the world, saving souls and improving lives.

I encourage you to view the national collections in the light of stewardship and of sharing. God has given us our life and our prosperity, all we need and more. It is right and just that we give something back through these collections, helping people in our own country and around the world to live better and to grow in the love of Jesus.

The brief descriptions in this brochure will explain who benefits from your gift to the national collections. More detailed information is available on their websites, as noted.

As always, the bishops are most grateful for your generosity.

MOST REV. WILLIAM S. SKYLSTAD
President
United States Conference of
Catholic Bishops

PARISHES CAN ORDER FREE COPIES OF
THIS BROCHURE BY CALLING 800-235-8722 OR
AT WWW.USCCBPUBLISHING.ORG.

PUBLICATION NO. 5-799

Scripture texts used in this work are taken from the *New American Bible*, copyright © 1991, 1986, and 1970 by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC 20017 and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All rights reserved.

PHOTOS *Cover*: CNS photo by Sam Lucero. *Inside* (from left to right): CCHD photo by Ken Touchton; CHMA photo by David Suley; RFR photo by Jim Judkis. *Outside*: (from left to right) CLA photo by Bishop Phillip F. Straling; PPC photo provided by *L'Osservatore Romano*.

Copyright © 2006, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright holder.



Why
do we have
NATIONAL
COLLECTIONS?

www.usccb.org/nationalcollections

STEWARDSHIP: THE GIFT OF GIVING

The bishops of the United States have established the national collections to support the Church's works of social justice, evangelization and education, both domestically and around the globe.

Jesus reminds us that the two greatest commandments are to love God with our whole heart, our whole mind, and our whole soul; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. The national collections offer us an opportunity to help our neighbors in the light of the Gospel. In doing so, we act as faithful stewards of the gifts God has given us.

Through our parishes, every Catholic participates in a global community of faith. The national collections are a powerful expression of this community. Our contributions help people across the street and around the world, people who struggle to practice the faith, people who live in great need.

GREAT IS THE GENEROSITY YOU SHOWED
ME TODAY . . . MAY THE LORD REWARD
YOU GENEROUSLY FOR WHAT YOU
HAVE DONE THIS DAY.
1 SM 24:19-20



IN THE UNITED STATES . . .

Black and Indian Missions Collection

NATIONAL DATE: *1st Sunday of Lent*

WEB SITE: www.usccb.org/finance/schedule.htm

The National Black and Indian Missions Collection, mandated by the III Plenary Council in 1884, embodies the Church's concern for evangelizing Black, American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut peoples in the United States. These needs exist throughout the country.

Each year, bishops appeal for help in the great and growing task of parish evangelization. The collection is needed now more than ever.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

NATIONAL DATE: *Sunday before Thanksgiving*

WEB SITE: www.usccb.org/cchd

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) works to uphold the dignity of human life by breaking the cycle of poverty across the United States through grants to local community-based groups who create jobs, improve education, and strengthen neighborhoods.



Twenty-five percent of the CCHD collection stays in the diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects; seventy-five percent supports national grant and education programs. CCHD helps break the cycle of poverty not just for one day, but for a lifetime.

Catholic Communication Campaign

NATIONAL DATE: *3rd Sunday in May*

WEB SITE: www.usccb.org/ccc



The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) develops media programming, projects, and resources that promote Gospel values. Fifty percent of the collection supports local communication efforts such as televised Masses and diocesan newspapers. The other 50 percent supports the production of national media programming that offers a slice of Catholic life in the United States. The Catholic Communication Campaign is "How the Good News Gets Around!"

The Catholic University of America Collection

NATIONAL DATE: *1st or 2nd Sunday in September*

WEB SITE: www.cua.edu

The Catholic University of America (CUA), located in Washington, D.C., is the national university of the Catholic Church. Founded in 1887, CUA offers students an excellent education in a faith-filled atmosphere that is grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition. The Collection for The Catholic University of America underwrites scholarships to assist financially deserving students in completing their education at CUA in over 50 disciplines.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

NATIONAL DATE: *Last Sunday in April*

WEB SITE: www.usccb.org/hm

There are many places right here in the United States and in its overseas dependencies where the Church is poor, communities are scattered, and priests are few. Money given to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal (CHMA) helps Catholic communities across America survive and thrive by underwriting evangelization, religious education, education for future priests, training for lay ministers, and poor parishes that would have to close their doors without outside help.

The CHMA helps strengthen the Catholic Church in America.



IF YOU DO GOOD, KNOW FOR WHOM YOU ARE
DOING IT, AND YOUR KINDNESS
WILL HAVE ITS EFFECT. DO GOOD TO THE JUST
MAN AND REWARD WILL BE YOURS.
IF NOT FROM HIM, FROM THE LORD.
SIR 12:1-2

Retirement Fund for Religious

NATIONAL DATE: *2nd Sunday in December*

WEB SITE: www.usccb.org/nrro



The Retirement Fund for Religious distributes grants to religious institutes for the retirement needs of senior religious priests, brothers, and sisters. The fund also provides retirement planning and educational assistance to religious institutes.

AROUND THE WORLD . . .

Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

NATIONAL DATE: *Ash Wednesday*

WEB SITE: www.aidtoeasterneurope.org

While the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union endured decades of communist oppression, the Church suffered grave wounds to its spiritual life and its ability to live as One Church. Through the Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (AEE), Catholics can now build bridges to these countries, spread God's Word over vast areas with modern communications media, train Church leaders of tomorrow, help needy families materially and spiritually, rebuild churches in disrepair, and support those sisters and brothers who have suffered for the faith.

ON THE SUBJECT OF MUTUAL CHARITY YOU HAVE NO NEED FOR ANYONE TO WRITE YOU,
FOR YOU YOURSELVES HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY GOD TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

1 THES 4:9

The Catholic Relief Services Collection

NATIONAL DATE: *4th Sunday of Lent*

WEB SITE: www.usccb.org/lcrscollection

The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports five Catholic organizations that advance the international social ministry of the Catholic Church. These ministries include relief and resettlement services to victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; sustainable development programs to improve the living conditions of the poor; advocacy on behalf of the powerless; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and legal and support services for poor immigrants.

Collection for the Church in Latin America

NATIONAL DATE: *4th Sunday in January*

WEB SITE: www.usccb.org/latinamerica

The Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA) promotes solidarity throughout the hemisphere by providing support for pastoral projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Through its grants and partnerships, CLA supports catechetical and lay leadership programs, youth ministry, evangelization programs, and formation programs for religious, priests, and deacons. CLA

is making it possible for the Catholic faithful in the Western hemisphere to help each other.

Collection for the Holy Land

NATIONAL DATE: *Good Friday*

WEB SITE: www.custodia.org

The Collection for the Holy Land, in the words of Paul VI, is “not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities.”¹

Peter's Pence Collection

NATIONAL DATE: *Sunday nearest the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul*

WEB SITE: www.usccb.org/ppc

The Peter's Pence Collection helps the Holy Father provide emergency assistance to suffering people throughout the world. Contributions to the Peter's Pence Collection are given directly by the Holy Father to dioceses that are suffering from immediate emergencies as a result of war, oppression, and natural disasters.



World Mission Sunday Collection

NATIONAL DATE: *Next-to-last Sunday in October*

WEB SITE: www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org



By Baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church, called to share their faith as missionaries. World Mission Sunday gathers support for the pastoral and evangelizing programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. The funds gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith—a Pontifical Mission Society.

¹ Paul VI, *The Church in the Holy Land (Nobis in Animo)* (Rome: March 25, 1974) in *The Pope Speaks* (Washington, D.C.: TPS), 19: 1, pp. 5-11.

SHOULD ANYONE PRESS YOU INTO
SERVICE FOR ONE MILE, GO WITH HIM
FOR TWO MILES. GIVE TO THE ONE WHO
ASKS OF YOU, AND DO NOT TURN YOUR
BACK ON ONE WHO WANTS. . . .

MT 5:41-42