



Catholic Home Missions Appeal *Strengthening the Church at Home*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The struggle to receive basic pastoral care and catechesis is faced by thousands of faithful living in home mission dioceses. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal helps ease that struggle through grants that support priestly and religious vocations, faith formation, and education for leaders to attend to the unique needs of their faith communities.

For example, last year the Appeal enabled the home mission diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi, to support 100% of the expenses of educating 12 seminarians. These future priests will be invaluable, as 11 priests are currently retired, and several more are eligible for retirement in the next few years. A unique aspect of seminarian education in Biloxi is training as a sign language practitioner. One-quarter of the hearing-impaired individuals in the Biloxi region are Catholic. With the help of the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, these and other programs ensure that parishioners here at home can worship well in vibrant faith communities.

A mission diocese must often contend with high rates of poverty and a lack of educated pastoral and lay leadership. With your support, the Catholic Home Missions Appeal can continue to provide essential pastoral outreach in home mission dioceses.

Please be generous in the Catholic Home Missions Appeal and help *strengthen the Church at home*. Your support will truly make a difference. Thank you. God bless you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Daniel Conlon". To the left of the signature is a small blue plus sign.

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon
Bishop of Joliet

For more information on the Catholic Home Missions and the dioceses and eparchies funded by the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, please visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.