CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of COLUMBUS
OFFICE *of the* BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated one weekend each year for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. In our diocese, the collection will take place on the weekend of **April 25 - 26.** The program was established to guarantee continued funding for the mission dioceses in the United States which cannot continue to exist without the financial help from Catholics elsewhere.

Financial assistance is offered to the scattered and isolated churches in the vast wilderness of Alaska, in the Deep South, the Rocky Mountain States, the Appalachian regions, the Southwest, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the distant Pacific Islands. Funds from the appeal extend and strengthen the presence of the Catholic Church in these areas by providing basic pastoral services.

The Catholic Home Mission Appeal helps fund evangelization efforts, religious education programs, formation of seminarians, and the training of pastoral care givers in the areas of the United States where Catholics are few and the Church is fragile.

Our prayers and support for the appeal help meet the faith needs in these dioceses. Helping the spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters across America unites all of us as a Catholic family. I invite you to respond generously to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

Grateful for your efforts to expand and strengthen the presence of the Church at home and assuring you of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

198 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215-3702 | columbuscatholic.org | 614.224.2251