



Please read and/or publish in conjunction with the Second Collection for the Catholic Home Missions and the Black and Indian Missions on April 27 and 28, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the weekend of April 27 and 28, our Archdiocese will take up the national collection for the Catholic Home Missions and the Black and Indian Missions.

Our Catholic faith is one of beauty and hope, mercy and joy. But for too many people across the country, there are few opportunities to learn about and deepen that faith. Even the most basic programs are out of reach because of fragile financial situations, tough terrain, or small populations of Catholics. One does not need to go far to find mission territory: it is right here at home.

Nearly half of our country is considered home mission territory. This appeal strengthens the Catholic Church in the United States and its territories where resources are thin and priests are few. Proceeds are distributed as grants to dioceses supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which would otherwise be in danger of disappearing among the Black and American Indian communities.

Your support helps these Mission Dioceses form vibrant faith communities and strengthens the Church at home. Monies are used for a wide range of pastoral services including evangelization, religious education, and maintenance of mission parishes, the training of seminarians and lay ministers, and ministry with ethnic groups. I can speak to this personally, having written extensively about the missions during my doctoral studies and wrote my dissertation titled "Catholics and the Missions of the Pacific Northwest." My time in Helena, Montana as Bishop further solidified this understanding, serving in a Mission Diocese before coming to serve the vibrant community here in Las Vegas.

Please be generous, and prayerfully consider how you can support this collection.

Asking the Lord's continued blessings upon you and your families, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'George Leo Thomas'.

Most Reverend George Leo Thomas, Ph.D.
Archbishop of Las Vegas

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