



January 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon our diocese will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For more than 50 years, this collection has given Catholics in the United States an opportunity to share faith in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout Latin America and the Caribbean islands.

The work of evangelization is carried out by Christians who meet people where they are—not only in a geographical sense but also in the context of culture. Though the Gospel is unchanging, we have many ways to make it relevant to people of all cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds.

The countries of South America have diverse populations from Indigenous, African, European, and Asian ancestries, all with different cultural experiences. By welcoming and understanding people from so many backgrounds, the Church grows and continues its mission of making disciples of all peoples. In Brazil, the Brazilian Bishops' Conference organized visits and meetings to engage Afro-Brazilian Catholic leaders in discussing a variety of themes, including social pastoral ministry and the vision of Pope Francis. In Peru, missionaries working in the Peruvian Amazon bring the Gospel to the Ashaninka and Matsigenka communities of about 60,000 people.



Such encounters and engagement with the peoples of South America are made possible when Catholics in our diocese are generous to the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Your participation in the collection truly becomes a way to share your faith and support evangelization efforts among all peoples.

Our diocese takes up this collection on the weekend of January 28. Please be generous toward this collection. Consider giving at Mass or through your parish's online giving platform. The [#iGiveCatholicTogether](https://usccb.igivecatholictogether.org/organizations/usccb-church-in-latin-america) website (<https://usccb.igivecatholictogether.org/organizations/usccb-church-in-latin-america>) also accepts online funds for the collection. Your support truly makes a difference. Thank you and God bless you.

For more information on the Church in Latin America and the many projects funded by the collection, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

Paz y bien,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet