



Collection for the Church in Latin America

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Annual Report 2015



Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America

Chairman

Bishop Eusebio L. Elizondo, MSPS, Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

Members

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Boston

Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami

Archbishop John Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe

Bishop Edgar DaCunha, SDV, Bishop of Fall River

Bishop Mark Seitz, Bishop of El Paso

Bishop Oscar Cantú, Bishop of Las Cruces

Bishop Robert McElroy, Bishop of San Diego

Bishop Felipe Estévez, Bishop of St. Augustine

Consultants

Bishop Octavio Cisneros, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn

Bishop Alberto Rojas, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

Bishop John Manz, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

Staff

Ms. Mary Mencarini Campbell, Executive Director

Rev. Juan J. Molina, OSST, Director

Mr. Kevin Day, Grant Specialist



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord! I am pleased to present to you this annual report for the year ending December 31, 2015, from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Collection for the Church in Latin America. As a Mexican native and US citizen, I am particularly honored to serve as the chairman for the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America and to see concretely how the faith is shared throughout the cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This collection has been in existence for 50 years as a way for those of us in the United States to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the 2015 fall General Assembly of Bishops in Baltimore, we were honored with a letter from Pope Francis in which he shared his warm regards for this collection. In his letter, Pope Francis said:

I have seen first-hand the good that the continuing generosity of the faithful in the United States has accomplished throughout the world and particularly in Latin America. Through your support, many lives have been touched by the Good News of Christ's merciful love, especially for the poor.

Your faithfulness and generosity to this collection has helped share Christ's merciful love with countless people across many generations and has served as a means to support our brothers and sisters as they grow in the faith. The programs that we fund are diverse, but they all help deepen the faith of the Church. Please read this report, and see the many ways that your gifts have been put to work. And as you read it, be sure to plan on helping the next Collection for the Church in Latin America in your parish. To learn more about the collection and how you can help, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

Thank you for your dedicated support of this collection. We truly could not do this work without you and the help of so many Catholics from around our country. May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

Gratefully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eusebio L. Elizondo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Most Reverend Eusebio L. Elizondo, MSPS
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America

In 1965, as the Second Vatican Council came to a close, the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America was created by the bishops of the United States; and in 1966, the first Collection for the Church in Latin America was taken up. This collection was created to support those who seek to live a life of faith in Latin America and the Caribbean but face obstacles in their spiritual journey.

Even today, the challenges of the faithful in this region include poverty, difficult rural landscapes, and severe shortages of priests and other pastoral ministers. But through this collection, people find hope. Grants funded by the collection support projects for catechesis, family ministry, lay leadership training, and prison ministry, among others, in more than 23 countries.

Mexico

In southern Mexico, the indigenous communities of Náhuatl and Populca descent felt their faith practices were disconnected from their native culture. Seeing this challenge, the Diocese of San Andres Tuxtla, with the help of a grant from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, trained 50 pastoral leaders to minister especially to the youth, to accompany them as they share and live their Christian faith as indigenous peoples. The leaders created spaces for dialogue in order to find commonalities between the Gospel and the values of these indigenous communities. It is through your support that these communities are strengthening their ethnic and cultural customs while deepening their relationship with Christ.





En 1965, luego de clausurarse el Concilio Vaticano II, los obispos de los Estados Unidos crearon el Subcomité para la Iglesia en América Latina y, en 1966, se realizó la primera Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina. Esta colecta fue creada para apoyar a aquellos que buscan vivir una vida de fe en América Latina y el Caribe aunque ellos enfrentan obstáculos en su camino espiritual.

Incluso hoy en día, los retos que enfrentan los fieles en esta región incluyen la pobreza, un entorno rural difícil y una grave escasez de sacerdotes y de otros ministros pastorales. Pero, mediante esta colecta, las personas encuentran una esperanza. Las subvenciones otorgadas por la colecta financian proyectos de catequesis, ministerio para la familia, capacitación para el liderazgo laico y el ministerio en prisiones, entre otros, en más de 23 países.

México

En el sur de México, las comunidades indígenas de origen Náhuatl y Populucan sentían que la práctica de su fe estaba desconectada de su cultura nativa. Al percatarse de este desafío, la diócesis de San Andrés, Tuxtla, con la ayuda de una subvención otorgada por la Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina, capacitó a 50 líderes pastorales para que éstos hicieran su ministerio, particularmente, con los jóvenes para acompañarlos mientras compartían y vivían su fe como cristianos y personas indígenas. Los líderes crearon un espacio para el diálogo a fin de encontrar puntos en común entre el Evangelio y los valores de estas comunidades indígenas. Es gracias al apoyo de ustedes que estas comunidades están fortaleciendo sus costumbres étnicas y culturales a la vez que profundizan su relación con Cristo.



Nicaragua

In Nicaragua, members of the deaf community are often unable to participate in Mass or receive proper religious and especially sacramental formation because resources are not available in sign language. With a grant from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, the Archdiocese of Managua is increasing the number of workshops and educational materials in sign language. Your generosity has provided the resources to train over 200 ministers to serve the deaf community, ensuring that all can participate in the Mass, receive the sacraments, deepen their spirituality and engage in parish life.

Cuba

Because of political, economic and social developments in the last 60-plus years, communities in eastern Cuba did not have contact with priests or missionaries. This isolation left the people living there with little connection to Catholic faith communities or catechetical resources. With a grant from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, one priest and ten missionaries will now visit these previously isolated communities twice a month. Your support is providing the missionaries with religious education resources they can share with those who long to connect with the Catholic faith, and through it, with God.

Your generous donations to the Collection for the Church in Latin America are vital to the success of these programs. Through the generosity of Catholics across the United States, projects like these have support, helping the people of Latin America and the Caribbean to continue to share their faith.

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

*Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Other Changes in Net Assets for the
Year Ending in December 31, 2015*

Revenue

National Collection Contributions:	\$7,041,282
Income on Investments:	\$435,154

Total Revenue: \$7,476,436

Expenses

● Grants and Donations*	\$6,871,553	89%
● Program Costs	\$564,058	7%
● Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	\$204,156	3%
● Administrative Expenses	\$83,892	1%

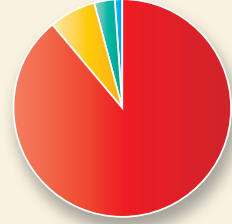
Total Expenses: \$7,723,659 100%

Total Expenses Including Internal Grants: \$8,169,515**

Changes in Net Assets from Operations:	\$(693,079)
Non-Operating Activities	
Unrealized (Loss) Gain on Investments:	\$(475,281)
Changes in Net Assets:	\$(1,168,360)

Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year: \$11,823,817

Net Assets at the End of the Year: \$10,655,457



* Grants approved in 2015 totaled \$6,867,869. Grants and donations in 2015 totaled \$6,871,553 and includes payments and write-offs to grants approved in 2015 and prior years.

** Internal grants include a distribution from the Collection for the Church in Latin America to the USCCB's International Justice and Peace program. This grant supports US advocacy and policy advisory work for Latin American countries and issues.

See the complete USCCB financial report at www.usccb.org/about/financial-reporting.

2015 DISTRIBUTION OF APPROVED GRANTS

Total Number of Grants Approved: **426** | Total Amount Approved: **\$6,867,869**



Geographic Region	Grant Count	Grant Amount	Percentage
● Andean Countries	157	\$2,506,242	36%
● Mexico and Central America	122	\$1,497,790	22%
● Southern Cone	64	\$1,209,301	18%
● Caribbean	73	\$961,536	14%
● Multinational	8	\$510,000	7%
● Council of Latin American Bishops Conferences (CELAM)	2	\$183,000	3%

Top Six Countries by Total Grant Amount:

Colombia—\$1,052,222	Peru—\$687,242	Haiti—\$597,332
Cuba—\$488,787	Mexico—\$364,678	Brazil—\$319,034



For more information regarding the USCCB's work with the **Collection for the Church in Latin America** and around the world, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america or write:

Office of National Collections
3211 Fourth Street, NE | Washington, DC 20017

Copyright © 2016, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All rights reserved.
Photos: © Jack Kurtz, © iStock, © CRS.

