

BISHOP'S OFFICE
PASTORAL CENTER
40 NORTH MAIN AVENUE, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12203
FAX (518) 453-6795 • TELEPHONE (518) 453-6611

PULPIT LETTER

August 14, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Today I invite Catholics across the Diocese of Albany to contribute to the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**. I am most grateful for all you do to promote the Appeal to be held in the Albany Diocese next weekend, August 22/23.

Nearly half of our country is considered mission territory. This appeal helps our brothers and sisters here in the United States who do not have access to basic pastoral services that support and grow their faith, like Mass, the sacraments and religious education.

Each weekend, priests of the diocese traverse the treacherous mountain routes or drive hundreds of miles across the plains to preside over Sunday Masses. The lack of priests and ministers makes it difficult for the diocese to serve all of the region's Catholics. Without regular pastoral care, people, especially young adults, are susceptible to leaving the Church.

Our diocese's generosity to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal supports campus ministry efforts across these underserved dioceses. Campus ministry serves students at two four-year institutions, a large community college population, those attending trade and vocational schools, and cadets from the United States Air Force Academy. Your support gives young adults the opportunity to make retreats, go on pilgrimages, participate in service projects, and attend vocational discernment events. These ministry centers also offer daily and Sunday Masses, RCIA classes, regular confession times, Eucharistic adoration, Bible studies, and other opportunities to build community.

Your support of this appeal makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the appeal this year. To learn more about the appeal and those who benefit from it, visit www.usccb.org/home-missions.

Thank you for strengthening the Church at home.

Your servant in Christ,



Most Rev. Edward B. Scharfenberger
Bishop of Albany