

# STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME

I should no longer say that I have neighbors to help, but that I must myself be a neighbor to others.

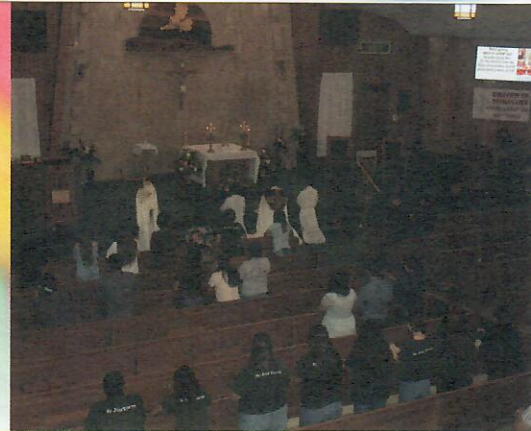
—Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 81

The ten counties of southern New Mexico that constitute the Diocese of Las Cruces have a small population spread across an area the size of the entire state of Ohio. Given a population density of only 17 people per square mile, priests often travel long distances over rugged mountainous and desert terrain to serve the faithful in local parishes. Despite the challenge of accessibility and a high poverty rate, the faithful of the diocese assist each other in creative ways to form disciples.

With a diocesan poverty rate ranging from 13% to 29%, parishes of limited means lack resources to provide catechetical textbooks and the other religious education materials that volunteer catechists need so they can provide children

and youth with quality religious education. Thanks to the generosity of local parishioners and support from Catholic Home Missions, the Diocese of Las Cruces has implemented a Mission Textbook Fund. Needy parishes and missions can apply for and receive the funds they need to purchase materials for their catechists to use in religious education programs. Since 2015, 18 parishes and missions in the diocese have benefited from the program. When you participate in the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, you become a neighbor to Catholics in Las Cruces and other home mission dioceses across the country that benefit from the collection.

For more information about the Catholic home missions, visit [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).



## What Is a Home Mission Diocese?

Home mission dioceses are those Catholic dioceses in the United States, its territories, and former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and laypeople. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home missions.

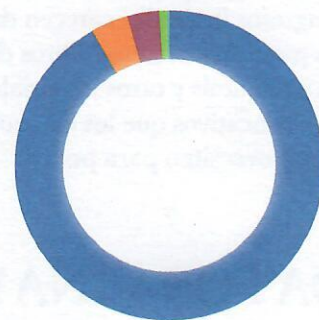
## CHMA FINANCIALS 2020



### Totals by Program Area

- Diocesan and Parish Assistance \$3,615,000
- Faith Formation \$2,430,000
- Priestly and Religious Vocations \$2,125,000
- Cultural Ministries\* \$940,000
- Strengthening Marriage and Family Life \$840,000

\*including Hispanic and other ethnic and cultural ministries



- Grants and Donations 91.68%
- Program Costs 3.95%
- Promotions and Fundraising Expenses 3.53%
- Administrative Expenses 0.81%
- Allocations—Internal Grants\* 0.03%

\*Internal grants include support for staff from CHM-funded dioceses to attend the national Pro-Life conference.

**Total Expenses: \$10,382,605**



### CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

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