



GLENMARY

HOME MISSIONERS

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Greetings from the Glenmary Home Missioners, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. We are a community of priests, brothers and lay co-workers ministering exclusively in the rural and impoverished counties of Appalachia and the South. Glenmary stands as a corrective to the notion that all missions are foreign, as we minister ONLY in the United States and ONLY in areas that are frequently less than one percent Catholic where poverty is twice the national average. When we were founded in 1939 there were 1,022 counties in our nation without a Catholic Church. Today that number stands at well over 300, so there is a lot of work left to be done. Glenmary enters these poor and remote counties – develops them and then turns them back to the pastoral care of the diocese, so staff can be freed up to minister in other counties without a Catholic Church. For example, Glenmary opened its 142nd mission, located in North Carolina, in 2018 and we will open a new mission in Smith County, Tennessee in the Diocese of Nashville in 2021. Currently, Smith County has NO Catholic Church, NO rectory, and NO organized Catholic community.

Glenmary will enter Smith County just like it has entered over 100 other counties previously—to share the best gift we have—the precious gift of our Catholic faith. For more than 80 years, we have served on the front lines in Mission Land, USA, providing access to the sacraments, faith formation and outreach ministry to the poor. Especially now, during the pandemic, we share the **HOPE OF CHRIST** with folks on the front lines of our poor and remote missions.

The recipients of our crucial and unique ministry are the un-churched and inactive Catholics. In Macon County, Tennessee, for example, over 74 percent of the population is unchurched and our missioners are there to share the precious gift of our faith. Please take home with you the reality that our faith is a privilege and not a convenience. In our missions, we never get phone calls asking what time our Masses are, or what style of music do you have, or who's preaching. The folks in our missions are just glad to be participants in the miracle of Eucharist when so many surrounding counties have no Catholic Church. So, I need you to savor and appreciate your local church here, thank your staff, and take advantage of the programs that are being offered. Just know that our missions do not have this privilege.

When I was a young priest for example, there were 55 counties in Georgia without a Catholic Church. Together with the Holy Spirit, I had the privilege of starting a Catholic Church in Dodge County, Georgia from most humble beginnings, as our rented church had a seating capacity of 50 and most of the people were poor. So, we need your prayers and we need your financial support. Your pastor will explain how this special collection will take place. If you can help us, my promise is that we will be the best of stewards of your generosity and we embrace sweat equity. If you want more information or a copy of our map which lists all the counties we minister in visit www.glenmary.org. Thank you for your attention and let us remain co-missioners and partners in prayer.

– Father Don Tranel, Director of Development

Catholic Missioners Serving Rural America Since 1939
www.glenmary.org