



Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

February 11, 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For more than a half century, the **Collection for the Church in Latin America** has been a sign of the solidarity of the Church in the United States with the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the mountains of northeastern Colombia, on the border with Venezuela, the Diocese of Cúcuta has been a migration point for needy Venezuelan refugees coming in search of food, medicine, and daily necessities. For several years, the diocese's welcome centers have served more than 1,000 meals each day to hungry migrants. The primary center, at Casa de Paso Divina Providencia, has been addressing the needs of these refugees with diocesan resources as well as assistance from local businesses, charities, and parishes.

The Collection for the Church in Latin America, in solidarity with these vulnerable refugees and the local diocese serving them, provided much-needed assistance to ensure that Casa de Paso Divina Providencia can continue its work of hospitality and mercy. Your contribution to the collection not only supports and sustains these invaluable efforts but also allows you to stand in closer unity with refugees and those serving them. This is but one example of how this collection empowers the faithful of Latin America and the Caribbean to deepen their faith and share it with each other and the world.

A significant portion of this collection is also used to assist in the ongoing efforts of our local **Diocesan Hispanic Ministry**, which serves the large number of Hispanic and Latino Catholics who are now in the Diocese of Worcester. It is gratifying to see the life of faith flourishing in these parish communities as their faith life enriches us all.

I encourage you to respond to the national theme to "Share your Faith" by supporting the special Collection for the Church in Latin America on the weekend of February 21. Please be assured of my appreciation for your generous response.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Please read or print this letter in the parish bulletin on the weekend of February 14 and take the collection for the Church in Latin America at all Masses on February 21.