


CATHOLIC  EXTENSION

PARISH PARTNERSHIP



**MISSIONS THAT BUILD,
INSPIRE, AND TRANSFORM**

MEETING THE CHALLENGES AND TRANSFORMING LIVES

A message from Father Jack

As Catholics, we identify with our parish. It's our spiritual home; in some cases, for generations. I understand the feeling. After all, I was a parish priest myself.

Yet in our hearts, we know that the church extends far beyond our congregation. We understand that Christ commands us to serve the poor, to bring hope, and to offer relief well outside the boundaries of our individual parishes.

Catholic Extension is the ideal conduit through which we can build faith, inspire hope and ignite change in disadvantaged communities throughout the United States.

Through our Parish Partnership, we can extend God's love together—and transform lives in ways that you could never imagine.

I hope you'll be inspired to join us in supporting Catholic communities across America. I know you'll find an ongoing partnership with Catholic Extension rewarding.



CHOOSING THE PROJECT THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOUR PARISH

A step-by-step guide

FIRST, THINK ABOUT THE MISSION AREA THAT YOUR PARISH WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT.

- ❑ **Building or repairing churches in disadvantaged communities**
- ❑ **Ministries and parishes in remote areas of Appalachia, Native American reservations, and along the southern U.S. border with Mexico**
- ❑ **Youth centers, camps and religious education programs**

FIND THE PROJECT YOU WANT TO SUPPORT, AND WE'LL SUPPORT YOU.

Once you have a sense of where and how you'd like to help fundraise, we'll show you several projects from which to choose. Then we'll structure your program, whether it's a single Sunday, a Lenten appeal, or anything in between. Catholic Extension will provide the materials you need, such as:

- **Bulletin inserts**
- **Flyers**
- **Project templates**
- **Donation envelopes**
- **Talking points**

All materials will be printed, customized to your parish, and delivered directly to you.





A parish partner helped Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel in Puerto Rico rebuild after Hurricane Maria.



YOU'LL SEE THE RESULTS.

The partnership won't end once you've made your gift. We'll share updates, stories and photos. It's a moving experience to see how much your gifts can do, and how grateful the people you help will be.

ENGAGE THE CHILDREN IN YOUR PARISH.

Schools can join a larger parish project, or take on one of their own. In fact, a number of the missions we support specifically serve children, including:

- **Summer Camps**
- **Youth Centers**
- **Sisters' Ministries**

It may be most meaningful to let the students discuss several projects and choose one that they feel moved to take part in. It's up to you and your parish leadership.



WHY PARTNER WITH US?

These relationships between Catholic Extension and the ministries that need support is what makes the difference between “helping” and “serving.” Melissa Howlett, director of religious education at a Chicago-area parish, said it's the difference between “coming out, meeting people, being with people ... as opposed to coming with our own agenda.”

“Catholic Extension does such a good job seeing who's already there, working hard, and investing in those people,” she said.

With the support from this parish, a “literacy wagon” program is fighting summer learning loss among the children of migrant farmworkers in the Yakima Valley in Washington State. Read the full story at catholicextension.org/literacy-wagon.

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

Milwaukee-area parish paid it forward during Lent

A **Milwaukee-area parish** and school raised money for Sister Phyllis Wilhelm and St. Mary Parish, a remote Catholic faith community in the far northern reaches of their own state. Their church had benefited from a Catholic Extension grant years ago, and they wanted to help a parish who was now in need.

The pastor said the parish needed to remember those rural, isolated mission churches that need help now more than ever.

The St. Mary community is extremely grateful. In a letter to the parish, Sister Phyllis wrote, “It is said that St. Francis told his followers to ‘preach the Gospel and if necessary to use words.’ That is exactly what you, good people, have done. You have spread God's love and word through your loving actions toward the mission and ministry of all of us at St. Mary's.”

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR PARISH PARTNERSHIP.

Call (312) 795-6057 today.

Catholic Extension works in solidarity with people in America's poorest regions to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities. Many parishes partner with Catholic Extension for Lenten or Advent appeals, but partnerships can take on many different forms, from one-time church collections to multi-year pledges.

Parish Partnerships aren't "one-size-fits-all." We've found the most fulfilling partnerships are those in which we work with parishes to create a custom program that is rewarding for the pastor, parishioners, and the ministry being supported.

It's our long-established relationships in the places that we support that makes our parish partnerships a unique and trusted resource.

You can learn how easy it is to connect your parish fundraising to projects that change lives at

catholicextension.org/parish-partners.



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