



July 29, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On the weekend of August 17-18 our diocese will take up the **Collection for the Church in Latin America**. For more than 50 years, this collection has given Catholics in the United States an opportunity to share faith in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout Latin America and the Caribbean islands. The Catholic Church in Latin America is currently facing barriers to practicing its faith. Shortages of resources and pastoral workers, as well as poor infrastructure, make simple things like attending weekly Mass difficult for many.

The work of evangelization is carried out by Christians who meet people where they are—not only in a geographical sense but also in the context of culture. The countries of South America have diverse populations from Indigenous, African, European, and Asian ancestries, all with different cultural experiences. By welcoming and understanding people from so many backgrounds, the Church grows and continues its mission of making disciples of all peoples.

This collection, scheduled for the weekend of August 17-18, is an essential resource for dioceses – such as our Sister Archdiocese of Yucatán in Mexico – parishes, religious congregations, seminaries, and other Catholic institutions in Latin America. Please give generously to this collection. Consider giving at Mass or through your parish's online giving platform. Evangelization programs are made possible in Central and South America in part through the generosity of the people of our diocese to the Collection for the Church in Latin America.

For more information on the Church in Latin America and the many projects funded by this collection, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie