YOUNG CATHOLICS
CELEBRATING THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH

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Honoring A Holy Pioneer: Father Augustus Tolton
Donor Spotlight: Deacon Roger Mullaney
Dear Friends,

As we begin this blessed season of Lent, hope is upon us. I feel your presence as I contemplate this sacred time of self-giving because I believe the desire to sacrifice is born out of deep love for God and each other. Lent requires a prayerful awareness of God in our lives, in the world, in humanity. It allows for the time to let go of our attachment to material things. It opens us up to a freedom and generosity of heart that lifts us up and lifts up those around us.

In other words, Lent is life-giving, the season that ushers in birth, growth and, ultimately, Resurrection.

Lent was therefore our inspiration for this issue of Extension. We have chosen to focus on one of the most hopeful and life-affirming aspects of the Catholic Church in the 86 under-resourced and remote dioceses we serve — the young people who are flocking to the youth and campus ministry programs we support, from Florida to California, from Texas to Montana. They are yearning for an alternative to our culture of acquisition. They are awakening to the power of the Holy Spirit. And they are radiating their love of God outward into their communities.

Within these pages, you will hear from youth ministers on fire with a passion to serve, and convinced that our best days as a church and as a country are ahead of us. You will see stories of teenagers determined to build the faith necessary to turn their peers away from gang violence. You will learn of a huge secular university where one of the largest organizations on campus is the vibrant Catholic Student Union. You will read a letter written by a young woman raised in a predominantly Mormon part of the country who takes her Catholic identity wherever she goes.

I urge you to pass this issue along to anyone you know who may be feeling discouraged at the state of the world or burdened by the harshness of a long, hard winter. Share with them the good news that Catholic Extension witnesses and then brings to you in the pages of Extension. Resurrection is in the air, and the youth of our great country are riding it like a wave. And that wave, like God’s love, will lift us all.

Yours in Christ,

Father Jack Wall

President
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ON THE COVER: Students at Spirit Night at Florida State University's Catholic Student Union
Mr. Joe Boland  
Senior Director of Grants Management, Catholic Extension  
150 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL  60606  

Dear Joe,

I hope this letter finds you well! I appreciate this opportunity to give you an update on the Center.

In the last few months, we have offered an Evangelization retreat, which 120 men attended. The retreat was three days, two nights and was conducted right here! I have witnessed the transforming effect of such a strong religious and spiritual experience in the lives of these men.

We had a retreat experience conference with the world-renowned speaker Roberto Ramirez. About 500 people attended and benefited greatly from this presentation.

Last month, we hosted a conference with Rev. Angel Espinoza for families and youth. There were two seminars and more than 700 people in attendance.

I have just begun a second group that will begin the Escuela de Fe first-year program. There are 45 men and women participating. I presented the Escuela de Fe program to both the Diocesan Vicar for Hispanic Ministry and the Diocesan Vicar for Education. Both priests were impressed with the program and have asked that this high-quality formation be instituted throughout the Diocese beginning in the spring of 2011.

Presently, I am arranging for the grant-funded purchase of the computers for the intensive online component of this program. I will keep you up to date on our activities.

I am very grateful for all the good that the Catholic Extension grant is helping to achieve in the lives of our Catholic Hispanics here.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Julio C. Dominguez  
Director, Catholic Hispanic Evangelization Center  
Lenoir, North Carolina
Dear Father Jack Wall and all,

What a beautiful gift to receive the day after Thanksgiving!

Our weather has been cold — in the 30s and 40s in the daytime and 10s at night. With it came this wind from Chicago! The cold has blown right through our windows and, of course, the sand came, too. I’ve closed off rooms and lined the sills with towels. Even this Wisconsin gal is cold!

Now, just when we appreciate it the most, your donation came for our new energy-efficient windows! Thank you! Thank you! How grateful we are for you, Father Wall, and Extension for being our guardian angels.

Thank you for being the hands and feet, but most of all, the heart of Jesus to us!

Gratefully with love and prayers,

Sister Mary Rogers, DC
St. Jude Parish
Tuba City, Arizona

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Double the impact of your gift.

TAKE THE DRIEHAUS CHALLENGE.

Chicago philanthropist Richard H. Driehaus has once again issued a challenge grant in which he will provide a $1,000 match for the first 500:

- New and existing donors who make a first-time gift of $1,000
- Existing Socius Circle donors who increase their level of giving in 2011.

The Socius Circle is a membership society open to our partners in giving who make an annual commitment of $1,000 or more.

NOW’S YOUR CHANCE to increase the impact of your gift by accepting the 2011 Driehaus Challenge.

TO LEARN MORE, please call our Development Office at 800.842.7804, or visit catholicextension.org.
The Diocese of Covington has received $200,000 from Catholic Extension to help fund the education of 19 seminarians and build the next generation of ordained Catholic leadership in northern Kentucky.

“While we have been blessed with a large number of seminarians, it also means increased costs and presents a big financial challenge,” said Michael Murray, Director of Stewardship and Mission Services in the Diocese of Covington. “We are working very hard to make sure these young men can pursue their vocation, and Catholic Extension's assistance has been essential.”

The Diocese of Covington spends an average of $36,000 a year per seminarian for training in theology and pastoral formation in preparation for ordination to the priesthood. Expenses have increased approximately 12 percent in the last year.
Catholic Extension will award $16,500 per year for the next three years to the Diocese of Fargo to fund the salary of Doc Brien, the Director of Development at St. Ann’s Indian Mission Parish in Rolette, North Dakota.

Brien has been serving as a part-time volunteer since the Development Office was created in 2006. Bringing him on as a full-time employee will enable the five parishes of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian Reservation to create and execute fundraising programs and activities to better support themselves. Approximately 16,000 Native American Catholics belong to these parishes.

“St. Ann’s Development Office is just four years old, but in that short time we have already made a positive impact on our parish communities,” Brien said. “Thanks to Catholic Extension, we will be able not only to continue growing our fundraising and stewardship capabilities, but also create a better infrastructure for our long-term financial health.”
Courage to Grow

Three decades ago, Catholic Extension helped Afton’s Catholic community establish itself and build Holy Family Catholic Church. Today, our donors are fueling the tenacious parish’s growth.

The Catholics sprinkled across Star Valley in west central Wyoming have always stoically accepted one fact of their faith life: Getting to Mass during the long winter months is treacherous business. They also have embraced another: Being part of the Holy Family Catholic Church community is worth the risk.

Like Father Charles Bartek before him, Deacon Bill Hill is a can-do leader of the Holy Family community. Fr. Bartek is well remembered for being brash and bold. Deacon Bill takes a quieter approach that speaks volumes nonetheless. “I purposely wear the collar wherever I go, and I make a point to be seen, to be friendly,” he says. “There are a lot of Catholics in this Valley who don’t feel comfortable making that known. I want them to see the Church in me, a Church that welcomes them.”
As parishioners gathered recently in the basement of Holy Family, an A-frame chapel in the tiny town of Afton, they spoke matter-of-factly about the dangers.

“Father Flo and I rolled,” said Deacon Bill Hill of an accident that left him and Father Florante Marcelo upended by the side of a winding mountain road.

“I think each one of our priests has wrecked,” said a parishioner. “And Father Carl once hit a moose.”

“Our biggest fear is sliding into the river,” said another, “but very seldom is Mass ever canceled. We always feel that if a priest is going to travel 78 miles to get to Afton, well, we can, too.”

Overcoming hardship, making do, banding together. These are the traits that have characterized the intrepid community of Holy Family since it was founded in 1977 under the leadership of a big, barrel-chested priest who had a reputation for never backing down.

In 1976, when Father Charles Bartek was assigned to shepherd three small parishes scattered throughout Bridger National Forest in the west central portion of the Diocese of Cheyenne, he made two critical decisions: to insist that the 18 Catholic families in the Afton mission parish help build the new church, and to ask Catholic Extension and our donors for critical funding support.

This combination of sweat equity and Catholic Extension capital gave birth to a community that has grown, despite a predominant Mormon culture and a location that is difficult to reach.
These days, Holy Family is the spiritual home to 160 registered families and filled to overflowing each week. Parishioners have developed a thriving religious education program for young children, activities for teens, and clubs and prayer groups for adults.

Given the influx of Catholic families moving to the area, the community believes it’s time to build a new, larger church in the geographic center of the Valley that is more accessible and visible. In doing so, they are relying on Fr. Bartek’s tried-and-true formula for getting things done: Parishioners are donating their time and raising their own funds while asking Catholic Extension to match their fundraising efforts up to $240,000.

The parish also is relying on powerful spiritual guidance, as Deacon Bill well knows. Recently, he was praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament and heard a voice within, “Bill, we need to build this new church.” Immediately after, he left to take Communion to the homebound and was no more than a mile away from Holy Family when he received a call from an official at the diocese confirming Catholic Extension’s matching commitment to help fund construction. At that moment, he knew it was the Holy Spirit at work in him as he prayed.

Thirty years ago, Catholic Extension awarded the people of Holy Family a $20,000 grant to help them establish themselves. They used that funding to put down roots strong enough to withstand
It’s been over 30 years since Farish Thompson joined with a handful of Catholics from Star Valley to finally build their own chapel. But he’ll never forget Father Charles Bartek, the mountain of a man who made it happen:

Father Bartek came down here from Pinedale in ’76 and said, “You guys need a church.” Back then, we were meeting in stores, people’s homes, wherever. He started figuring out who could do what, and it was as good as done. You didn’t say “no” to Fr. Bartek.

He asked a local builder, Dale Moscos, to design it. But once Dale figured up a sketch for him, he also ended up building the shell while the rest of us filled it in.

He was a real scrounger, Fr. Bartek. He said, “I can find the pews,” and he did! I don’t remember where he got ‘em, but he got ‘em. Everybody was expected to contribute, and we were happy to. He was a gruff old individual, but he had a heart of gold.

“He was a gruff old individual, but he had a heart of gold.”
The year was 1957. Deacon Roger Mullaney, then in high school, was vacationing with his family at a working cattle ranch in rural Wyoming. On a Sunday, they made the long drive to the nearest Catholic church through 40 miles of desolate, breathtaking open country so different from the Chicago suburbs where he lived it may as well have been a foreign land.

“I still remember going into the church and seeing the plaque on the wall. ‘Generous donations built this church through Catholic Extension,’” says Deacon Roger, whose parents were supporters of Catholic Extension. “Here was this little church out in the middle of nowhere, but it was connected to us.”

“How do you form community in these small pockets where priests often are like circuit riders? You do it with strong lay leaders, and you need the resources to train those leaders. Providing those resources — Extension does that.”

— DEACON ROGER MULLANEY
Deacon Roger is all about connections — to his parishioners at St. James Catholic Church in Highwood, Illinois; to the many people he has served over the years in parishes throughout the mission dioceses; to his history and the devout parents who raised him; and to his faith.

Everyone he has ever encountered, he believes, is a gift from God. And every day is an opportunity to “reach out beyond your local parish to the universal church. As Catholics, ours is a universal call to holiness.”

This core philosophy drives his longtime support for Catholic Extension. It also drives his determination to encourage others to learn about and support an organization to which he has contributed more than $10,000 over the past 25 years.

“We need the Church’s presence in areas of our country where there are very few Catholics; that’s what Extension is all about,” he says. “Catholics have to be able to come together. It’s not an option. We come to God through each other.”

Deacon Roger also is a strong proponent of developing lay leadership in the Catholic Church, especially in the under-resourced and remote dioceses Catholic Extension serves.

“How do you form community in these small pockets where priests often are like circuit riders, trying to serve two and three missions at a time? You do it with strong lay leaders, and you need the resources to train those leaders on the ground,” he says. “Providing those resources — Extension does that.”

Deacon Roger is a living testament to the importance of Catholic leadership. Determined from a very young age to spend his life working for the Church, he first became a deacon in 1972. Since then, he has served across four states — from Nevada to North Carolina to Texas and finally back to Illinois.

He particularly remembers his time at St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church in Atlanta, Texas, now located in the Catholic Extension-supported Diocese of Tyler. There, he went out of his way to join prayer groups heavily attended by non-Catholics. He taught a class on marriage at a local high school. He tried to be, he says, the loving and giving face of the Catholic Church in an area skeptical of his faith. He also vividly recalls a young man in the parish whom he mentored.

“Today, he is the Vicar General of the diocese, Msgr. Joseph Strickland. He told me once, ‘I owe my vocation to you and my family still talks about you,’ ” says Deacon Roger, his blue eyes welling with tears. “I was very humbled by that. Because it’s not about me or what I’ve done. It’s about God working through all of us.”

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ABOVE: Mass at St. James Catholic Church in Highwood, Illinois  RIGHT: Deacon Roger with Father John Mulvihill
From all of us at Catholic Extension, thank you for your tremendous support of the 2010 Christmas Wish List — and for the immediate impact your gifts are making in Catholic communities across the country.

The 2010 Christmas Wish List featured requests from mission dioceses seeking opportunities to grow their faith and flourish. From recruiting seminarians in Texas, to bringing Communion to the sick in New Mexico, to supporting Catholic college ministry in Tennessee, your donations are helping build faith, inspire hope and ignite change — well into 2011 and beyond.

We are pleased to announce that more than 1,000 Catholic Extension donors responded to the 25 heartfelt “wishes” from the mission dioceses — and many supported more than one wish. In fact, one generous donor supported all 25 wishes!

“I don’t know where we’d be without the help of Catholic Extension donors. They have been instrumental in fostering communities of faith throughout the Diocese of Helena. I am deeply grateful for their continued support.”

FATHER JEFFREY BENUSA
DIOCESE OF HELENA
1. **Buy fuel in rural Montana**
   Harlowton and White Sulphur Springs, Montana: Diocese of Helena (218 donations)

2. **Bring a priest to two parishes in Texas**
   Van Horn and Sierra Blanca, Texas: Diocese of El Paso (104 donations)

3. **Provide bibles to a poor diocese**
   Brownsville, Texas: Diocese of Brownsville (92 donations)

4. **Educate chaplains to serve church and country**
   Archdiocese for the Military Services (84 donations)

5. **Extend flying ministry in Alaska**
   Dillingham, Alaska: Diocese of Anchorage (83 donations)

6. **Protect parishioners from harsh weather**
   Shiprock, New Mexico: Diocese of Gallup (82 donations)

7. **Teach children about God in New Mexico**
   Roswell, New Mexico: Diocese of Las Cruces (73 donations)

8. **Buy a tractor in Louisiana**
   Scott, Louisiana: Diocese of Lafayette (64 donations)

9. **Welcome Sudanese Catholics in South Dakota**
   Sioux Falls, South Dakota: Diocese of Sioux Falls (63 donations)

10. **Repair a collapsing wall**
    San Elcario, Texas: Diocese of El Paso (57 donations)

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We request a minimum gift of $5,000 to participate.

Calculate your gift annuity benefits at [catholicextension.org/annuities](http://catholicextension.org/annuities).

To learn more, contact Judy Blackmer at 800.842.7804 or jblackmer@catholicextension.org.
Born into slavery in rural Missouri in 1854, Father Augustus Tolton, who also was known as Augustine, escaped to freedom in his childhood, fought discrimination to pursue his vocation and became the first African-American priest in the United States. His life is an illustration of faith, hope and perseverance that has inspired thousands.

In recognition of the pioneering priest’s life and ministry, Cardinal Francis George of the Archdiocese of Chicago has introduced a cause for canonization for Fr. Tolton. Catholic Extension donors are sharing in honoring this future saint’s legacy with a grant to fund repairs necessary to preserve St. Peter Catholic Church in Brush Creek, Missouri, where Fr. Tolton was baptized.

Fr. Tolton was born in the Brush Creek area on April 1, 1854. He was baptized into the Catholic faith by his owners, the Elliott family. He attended church at St. Peter until the start of the Civil War, when he escaped to the free state of Illinois.

Fr. Tolton felt the call to priesthood early in life, but was denied acceptance to any seminary or religious order in the U.S. because of the color of his skin. With the help of sympathetic priests, he was invited to attend the Urban College in Rome, where he was ordained in 1886.
Following his ordination, Fr. Tolton returned home to Illinois, where he became a very popular pastor.

He attracted both white and black Catholics to the church communities he served until he died from heat stroke in 1897. He was just 43 years old.

“Fr. Tolton, a humble son from Brush Creek, persevered against all odds in pursuit of his calling, and it is this perseverance we wish to honor and celebrate,” said Jane Rutter, Director of Stewardship in the Diocese of Jefferson City, where St. Peter is located. “It is our hope that upholding his legacy will help inspire the next generation of Catholic sons and daughters to do and dream big.”

Catholic Extension’s $21,293 grant will help the diocese make necessary repairs to the church building, including its roof, window sills, gutters and doors. It also will help purchase a stone marker to commemorate the section of the cemetery containing more than 50 unmarked slave graves.

Dear Father Wall:

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Catholic Extension Society and to its many benefactors for your most generous gift of $21,293 for use at St. Peter Church, Brush Creek, Missouri. This location is where Father Augustine Tolton, the first Black American to be ordained a Roman Catholic priest was baptized. This small church, erected by the hands of slaves, stands as both a religious and secular monument to the struggles of races, the division of a nation, and a Catholic Church amidst the socially raging struggle of slavery in 19th century America.

Within the countryside of rural Missouri stands this church on hallowed ground that includes the burial sites of slaves and their owners. This engaging site is a testament to the struggles many of these individuals experienced — whether slave or free — and the realization that all freedom and the fulfillment of one’s life is not measured by social status or monetary value, but listening and responding to God’s call and rising above the challenges and persecutions the world presents. There is much work to do to the church and its grounds. There will be additional projects in the future necessary to advertise and direct the increasing numbers of pilgrims to this site. Thanks to you, and to the benefactors of the Catholic Extension Society, the baptismal site of Father Augustine Tolton, a man whose cause for sainthood is currently underway, will be allowed to move forward and progress in stages in the future.

On behalf of the Friends of Brush Creek, six members of the parish with family and spiritual bonds to this location, I thank you for your most generous gift. May God bless you and the Catholic Extension Society for your wonderful work these many years and for your continued promotion of the Faith for years to come.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Michael W. Penn, Pastor
HOLY ROSARY CHURCH
Monroe City, MO
In August, hundreds of thousands of young Catholics from all over the world will gather in Madrid, Spain, for World Youth Day to celebrate their Catholic faith and its central role in their lives. The theme for this year’s event is “Planted and built up on Jesus Christ, firm in the faith,” (Colossians 2:7) a reflection on the critical need to establish a foundation of faith at an early age.

As we at Catholic Extension travel the country visiting the communities where resources may be scarce but faith is changing lives, we have been astounded time and again by the young people we have met whose faith has not only taken root, but blossomed across the nation. They are proud to be Catholic, full of contagious energy and bent on changing their communities — and our world — for the better.

In the pages that follow, we will tell you the stories of optimistic young Catholics from Florida’s Gulf Coast to the shores of California who are on fire with faith. We will also share a fascinating conversation between Catholic Extension President, Father Jack Wall, and four youth and campus ministry leaders in the mission dioceses.

We hope to show you what we have witnessed: extraordinary young Catholics who make us believe that tomorrow will be better, and that the Catholic Church in America is on the verge of exciting times led by a strong and visionary generation committed to Christ’s call to “love one another as I have loved you.”

Please enjoy these stories, in pictures and in words, and rejoice with us for our future!
STUDENTS SING AT the Florida State University Catholic Student Union's Spirit Night.
Wyoming native Betsy Palmer, 18, is a product of the tenacious and deeply spiritual community of Holy Family Catholic Church in her home town of Afton (see story on page 8). Raised in the heart of rugged terrain whose residents are predominantly of the Mormon faith, she and other young Catholics in the Diocese of Cheyenne are a steadfast generation. In the essay below, Betsy discusses how she intends to always stay true to her faith no matter where she goes.

"Wyoming is the most beautiful place in the world. This is God’s country. Living here has brought me closer to my faith. Every morning when I wake up, I get to experience God’s beautiful creations. There is a moose that sleeps in the front yard and a mountain lion that lives behind my house.

However, being Catholic where I live is a challenge. The Catholic faith is a minority in the valley where I live. My family tries to drive to church every Sunday but it is difficult to drive 30 miles to church every week. If I lived closer to my church, my church would be my reflection place. Consequently, I created my own reflection place in my room.

My reflection place is the corner located furthest from the door. The walls of this corner are decorated with pictures of saints, Bible verses, saint quotes, a cross and a statue of the Infant of Prague.

I go to this corner every day. When I sit down there, my mind quiets and I feel peace. This is where I go to reflect upon the day and to thank God for all the blessings in my life.

Sometimes, when I have a hard day, I go to my corner to find myself. A lot of times in school, I am not accepted because I am Catholic. On days like this, I run to my corner to meditate upon the story of my favorite saint, Saint Joan of Arc. She stayed true to her beliefs, and I intend to do the same thing. Thinking about her story, as well as other saints’ stories, helps me discover the kind of person I want to be.

My corner is my grotto. My corner is a place of reflection and peace. I know I will not be able to take my room with me to college. I will, however, take the ability to create a new reflection place with me wherever I choose to go.

— Betsy Palmer"
Father Jack Wall, President of Catholic Extension, recently convened a roundtable with four youth ministers to gain insight into the faith lives of young Catholics across America’s most far-flung regions. The participants were from dioceses as diverse in landscape and experience as they were similar in spiritual richness. Join us for this fascinating discussion about the future of our faith.

**FATHER JACK WALL:** Tell us a little about yourself and how you came to work with young Catholics.

**BROTHER CLINTON REED:** I wasn’t raised Catholic. I chose to go to a Catholic high school, and several people I befriended had a good faith life. The priest at the school reached out to me, and I decided to become baptized and enter into the Catholic faith.

I went to Boston University and met a wonderful Catholic community of students that was run by the religious community I am now a member of, The Brotherhood of Hope. It lit my heart on fire with love for Christ and this Church.

I know the incredible struggle it can be for youth these days when they are confronted with a culture that is entirely contrary to a Christian lifestyle. I believe the Lord wants us to change the world and if that’s going to happen, a good place to begin is with the youth.

**DAVID BALCH:** I had some difficulties in my teenage years. My parents divorced, and then when I was 14, my stepdad died. I think not having that male influence in my life affected me.

I became a lawyer and thought that maybe if I made a lot of money, I would find happiness. That didn’t work. I met a woman, and peace radiated out of her soul. I said to her, ‘How do I get what you’ve got?’ She invited me to church with her, and I finally found the peace I had been looking for.

I started doing prison ministry and then began working in juvenile facilities. We don’t have good kids and bad kids. We have kids who we’ve reached and kids who we haven’t. I love working with these kids. ▶

**OUR PARTICIPANTS**

**JESUS ABREGO,** Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry, Diocese of Beaumont, Texas

**DAVID BALCH,** Director of Youth Ministry, Sacred Heart Parish, Salinas, California, Diocese of Monterey, California

**BROTHER CLINTON REED,** Florida State University Catholic Student Union, Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida

**DOUG TOOKE,** Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Diocese of Helena, Montana
During a recent visit to the Diocese of Monterey, we asked a group of nearly 30 young people if they knew someone who had died in the gang violence that plagues their community of Salinas, California. All hands went in the air. Yet those who we met are determined to change the status quo. They want to be leaders — not followers or victims. And they are flocking to the youth groups of Sacred Heart and Cristo Rey parishes to learn how to put their desire for change — a change rooted in deep faith — into action. From the sanctuary of their church community, they are learning to show the larger community that they offer hope for a better tomorrow. And they’re showing their peers that the way to that better tomorrow isn’t through drugs, violence, sex or money — but through faith in God.

Catholic Extension has developed an exciting challenge grant for 33 of these inspired young leaders — they will be raising approximately $29,000 to help fund their trip to World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid and, in turn, commit to one year of service and leadership within their parishes upon their return. The students brainstormed their own ministry possibilities, including outreach to young, at-risk kids; multimedia evangelism; caring for shut-in seniors; and more. Catholic Extension donors will match the additional $29,000 to fund the trip, a cost of only $906 per attendee. “We are committed to bringing the spirit of World Youth Day to Salinas,” the attendees wrote. “When we get back, we will continue with regular faith formation,” which is key to initiating lasting change in this community.
DOUG TOOKE: I found myself at Carroll College in Helena, Montana. I fell in love with the academic pursuit of theology. I thought it was amazing. You could ask questions and actually find answers. I got a glimpse into youth ministry, and I fell in love with it.

I think the reality of 21st century Catholicism is the need to evangelize, and I don’t think anyone does that better than the young Church. I don’t think anyone is as fearless and courageous to really preach Christ crucified as a 16-year-old heart. I want to be part of that.

JESUS ABREGO: I was born and raised in Mexico, and I grew up Catholic. As Mexicans, we don’t differentiate between Church and culture — it goes together. When I moved to the States fresh out of college, I went to the only Spanish-speaking Catholic Church in town. They didn’t have a youth group, so with the advice of the pastor I started one.

Currently, I am the Director of Hispanic Ministry — Hispanic youth ministry is under my office. I have a passion for ministry to these kids. They are brilliant. I’ve been doing this for 19 years now.

FR. WALL: Tell me about the young people with whom you work. What are their strengths and challenges?

BR. REED: I work in a college environment. Their zeal is phenomenal. They want to change the world. On top of that they have a grand vision, the capacity to think big.

Two challenges jump to mind. The first is, as much as young people “relate,” they don’t understand how to enter into authentic, deep relationships. Facebook and texting promotes superficial relationships.

The second is young people being raised without fathers. It is striking. Because they don’t have a good relationship with their earthly father, who has either been very distant or was never in the picture, they have difficulty encountering a God who they can trust in their difficult times.

BALCH: My core ministry is high school, ages 14 to 18. We just started a middle school ministry, and I also oversee the young adults — people 18, 19, in their 20s.

The main challenge we have is heavy gang violence. Salinas is a city of 150,000. Last year we had 18 or 19 murders. There is a hopelessness that pervades the city and affects the way teens see life.

But against that backdrop, our teens have hope and are hungering for something real. When you show them church is encountering Christ — boom! Their hearts blaze up. Our communities have a lot of struggles, but these teens are determined to rise above it.

TOOKE: I generally work with young Catholics ranging from 6th grade through young adults.

We do a middle school program about helping the kids understand what it means to be a follower of Christ. There is a wisdom about the rural kid. These kids are driving trucks when they are 10. They are wise behind their years and can grasp the concept.
A challenge is competition for time and attention. Kids sometimes are consumed by their social life, their sports. They grab the one thing that brings them direction. We are in competition to make sure that people know that salvation is a priority.

*Abrego:* When I first got to Beaumont, probably 5 percent of the population was Hispanic, and today we are close to 20 percent. We are dealing with a new reality of racial tension. People are very prejudiced against others they would call different. That’s one of the challenges for us.

A few years ago, we realized that we were losing our kids to drugs when they were 12. Not only drugs, but sex. We have a big problem in the Hispanic community with pregnancy among adolescents. So, we started a program and are working with kids 12 and up, trying to avoid the gang activity, sex and drugs.

The spirituality of these kids is so rich. They have so much to offer. They really want to know God and share that with the rest of the community. That’s the greatest gift we have.

*Fr. Wall:* What are young Catholics teaching us? What can they teach the rest of the Church about living our faith? How are they shaping the future of the Church?
Traveling through East Texas, we were invited to go to a Hispanic youth ministry meeting in the Diocese of Beaumont. One of the young people attending, Jonathan Camargo, stood up and challenged his peers by asking, “What kind of Catholic are you?”

The responses were wide-ranging and compelling, but what was most important was that he forced the question. He wanted to encourage his peers to think about their faith.

This kind of bold leadership has become common among the Hispanic youth in the diocese. It’s a result of the unique “Pastoral Juvenil Hispana” ministry, supported by Catholic Extension donors, who have committed more than $250,000 to the diocese’s youth and campus ministries since 1973.

Kids enter the first of the program’s three phases at the age of 12. By the time they graduate from high school, they have begun to take the initiative to lead their own meetings and create or run their own ministries. Like Jonathan, they are coming to understand their important role in the Church—and to embrace it.
On a weekday evening, a line stretches out the doors of Florida State University’s Catholic Student Union (CSU) as students patiently wait for the first Spirit Night of the school year to begin.

It is one of many extremely popular CSU events, and it’s a youth ministry program to which Catholic Extension’s donors have given more than $370,000 in operational support since 1978. The result? Today, CSU is the second-largest student group on the university’s 40,000-student campus, a testimony to the power of campus ministry. An average of 70 students attends daily Mass.

The remarkable impact extends beyond the college, located in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. Thanks to support from Catholic Extension, the five Brothers of Hope who lead Florida State’s CSU have helped numerous students pursue leadership roles within the Church. CSU has produced 36 graduates who are now lay leaders in the Church. Additionally, 27 students have gone on to pursue vocations in priesthood and religious life. Of the three men ordained to the priesthood this past year in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, two are former CSU participants.
FR. WALL: Are there things in the Gospel that you find yourself trying to express to young people?

BR. REED: The Lord wants a personal relationship with each of us, and this relationship is the only thing that will ultimately satisfy the deepest desires of one’s heart. The Gospel is infused with this. That’s followed by the inseparable reality that, once we encounter Christ, we can come to understand the beauty of his Church through the sacraments, her traditions and the Scriptures.

BALCH: We talk a lot about Romans chapter eight, ‘You are adopted as sons and daughters of the living God and nothing can separate that from you.’ The teens right now still have this feeling of, ‘Well, okay, God loves me, but if I screw up, is he going to stop loving me?’ No! God’s love is unconditional!

Also, Thessalonians 4:13, ‘We do not grieve as those who have no hope.’ In our town, there is a lot of darkness. A girl came to me whose friend had just been killed from gang violence. While she was in the church, another one of her friends was killed. Yet she has hope that there is light in the darkness. That theme that light is calling you resonates with these teens.

ABREGO: The message of Our Lady of Guadalupe is alive among these kids. When Guadalupe appeared to an Indian, the conquerors had taken everything away from him — his land, his language, his food, his God. It really resonates. They identify themselves with Juan Diego, and they start searching. Mary can unite the rich and the poor, educating them. She is also the mother figure that speaks to our heart.

TOOKE: Luke 24:13-35, the Road to Emmaus. Young people are finding their own paths. Our job is to walk with them on the road and meet them where they are.

The other is John 10:10, ‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.’ Just to teach young people that they are not complete until they are complete in Christ — that the longings of your heart will not be satisfied until these pieces are in place. I love that.

FR. WALL: What would you like to say to our donors that would encourage them to be supportive of youth and youth ministry? What part can they play?

BR. REED: Their generosity is allowing the Gospel to be preached to the ends of the earth and in places where there are no resources. Their support is raising up leaders who are changing the world through their Catholic faith. Their prayerful support is very welcomed and appreciated.

BALCH: With evangelization today, these kids are so tech savvy. If we aren’t meeting them in a tech savvy way, they are going to tune it out. But, unfortunately, that’s expensive. Another huge thing for us is World Youth Day. I’m taking 30 kids. They can’t afford it, but I know when they get exposed to the World Church, they are going to come back on fire. They are going to see a new definition of peace and love, and bring it back to the community.

ABREGO: Any culture that invests in young people is really investing in the future. Our kids are the future — not only of the Church, but of this great country. So I thank these great people for their vision for the future.

TOOKE: It’s impossible not to say thank you to donors for so many unbelievable blessings.
Multiple Benefits with a Charitable Remainder Trust

John Crawford has always been there for those he loves — and so have his financial resources. More than 25 years ago, he began setting up charitable remainder trusts for family members who needed support — including one with Catholic Extension that directly benefitted his sister-in-law. Upon her death last year, the “trust remainder” went to Catholic Extension.

“A charitable remainder trust is a good way to ensure a steady income for yourself or a family member, while at the same time supporting the good work of a trusted organization,” said Crawford, who has helped several loved ones whom he felt could benefit from a steady lifetime income through this gift opportunity.

Charitable Remainder Unitrusts and Annuity Trusts

Charitable remainder trusts are planned gifts that allow donors to transfer a present gift of cash, securities or other appreciated property into a trust. There are two types:

- **A Unitrust**, the type set up by Crawford, in which the beneficiary receives a percent of the trust, valued each year, for the duration of his or her life.

- **An Annuity Trust** in which the beneficiary receives a fixed amount for life based on a percent of the original trust value.

With each type of charitable trust, the “trust remainder” goes to Catholic Extension. Beneficiary payments can be monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually.
Catholic Extension a Family Tradition
Growing up, Crawford recalls a long-standing family interest in Catholic Extension, which he understood was dedicated to supporting Catholics in far-flung areas of the country. “We were directly impacted by the work of Catholic Extension because my mother’s cousin, Fr. Michael O’Donoghue, worked as a missionary in Nevada in the early 1930s,” he said. “He was a young priest from Ireland and most likely received support from Catholic Extension.”

Benefits of a Charitable Remainder Trust
The year Crawford set up his Catholic Extension charitable remainder trust, he received an income tax deduction based on the calculated remainder interest. This sum takes into consideration the percent of the trust payment and the age of each of the beneficiaries. Trusts also can be set up for beneficiaries to receive income for a shorter term. Other benefits of a charitable remainder trust include no upfront capital gains taxes on appreciated assets that are donated, and the ability to make subsequent gifts to the trust to allow for additional income and tax benefits. The charitable remainder trust also permits more than two individuals to receive income.

Plan ahead.
Catholic Extension’s four planned gift opportunities bring real savings and benefits to you and your family during and after your lifetime — and strengthen America’s neediest dioceses far into the future.

- Convert a low return on CDs and stocks into higher lifetime payments by establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust or Charitable Gift Annuity. Receive a tax deduction and reduce capital gain, too.
- Eliminate income tax payments on your retirement fund by naming Catholic Extension as a future beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) plan.
- Use life insurance to ‘leverage’ a larger gift by naming Catholic Extension as a beneficiary of your policy. Your premiums will be tax deductible.
- Build a legacy gift by remembering Catholic Extension in your will or living trust.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS, contact Catherine Marquis, Director of Planned Giving, at 800.842.7804 or cmarquis@catholicextension.org.

TO LEARN MORE, contact Catherine Marquis, Director of Planned Giving, at 800.842.7804 or cmarquis@catholicextension.org.
Young people, the Church depends on you! She needs your lively faith, your creative charity and the energy of your hope. Your presence renews, rejuvenates and gives new energy to the Church.

— POPE BENEDICT XVI FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

$2 million in Catholic Extension funding supported ministries and programs for children, teens and young adults last year.

84% of young Catholics report their faith is important in their lives.

76% of young Catholics plan to remain Catholic into adulthood.
50
mission dioceses receive Catholic Extension funding for youth ministry

74%
of young Catholics are interested in learning more about their faith

83
grants for youth ministry were provided by Catholic Extension in the last year

58
college campus ministries are supported by Catholic Extension

Sources:
Catholic Extension
National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry’s National Study of Youth and Religion