



2017
ANNUAL
REPORT



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Last year, your humbling generosity enabled Catholic Extension to provide \$25 million to build and sustain vibrant faith communities in America. Please accept my deepest gratitude for your support of this important mission!

At Catholic Extension, we are constantly witnessing the transformative power of faith at work across the country and how it truly impacts our society, especially in the most challenging of circumstances.

This could not have been more vividly evident this past year when, tragically, many areas of our country experienced total devastation due to unprecedented storms—Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Particularly hard hit were our poorest communities.

The heroic response of Catholic churches in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Texas, to the recent hurricanes was nothing short of remarkable. In a time of immense suffering, they reached out to their communities to help those most in need.

Catholic Extension was proud to be their partner in this inspiring effort.

Many church leaders called Catholic Extension *first* in the wake of the storms, knowing that they could count on us to assist them in their hour of need.

Recently, on a trip to Puerto Rico, I saw firsthand how so many of the parishes that have been built and sustained by Catholic Extension over the years, provided not only for their neighbors' basic human needs but, more importantly, provided God's love to those most isolated and vulnerable.

Through the generous response from you, our donors, Catholic Extension was able to closely collaborate with **eight** of the hardest hit Catholic dioceses, allowing them to provide the level of spiritual and charitable care that their local communities required in their moment of crisis. This was truly the Church at her best.

In many of the hardest hit communities the road to recovery will be long. Nonetheless, we must appreciate the immediate and profound impact you helped us achieve in these suffering communities.

Thank you for joining us and supporting all the work of Catholic Extension.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend John J. Wall
PRESIDENT, CATHOLIC EXTENSION

Above: Catholic Extension President Father Jack Wall with Randy Tejada of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel in Caguas, Puerto Rico

Front cover: Flooding left by Hurricane Maria in Humacao, Puerto Rico



Father Jorge Morales, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary parish in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, shows Father Wall the hurricane damage to his historic church.

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OF FAJARDO-HUMACAO:
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Creating a
community of hope

Children sing at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.



“The soul of our community is found here in this chapel. We are a community, and we will not give up, no matter what has happened.”

—Randy Tejada, lay coordinator,
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel, Caguas, Puerto Rico

A BEACON OF HOPE

Large areas of the **Diocese of Beaumont, Texas**, were inundated by massive flooding in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. With an all-out mobilization of volunteers, church organizations, nonprofits and government agencies in Texas, the diocese was able to handle the initial relief and recovery effort well.

Of the 50 parishes and missions in the diocese, 23 were damaged and four are unable to be used. The flooding was particularly devastating at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School, a beacon of hope in the southern part of the diocese.

From 2011 to 2015, St. Catherine's was part of Catholic Extension's Catholic School Sustainability program, which helps



struggling Catholic schools become viable, well-managed institutions. Bishop Curtis Guillory wanted to save the school from closing because it is the only Catholic school in Port Arthur and the majority of the students come from economically disadvantaged homes.

Following the hurricane, Bishop Guillory said, **“Catholic Extension has been there for us not just during times of hurricanes and tragedies. Without Catholic Extension, we would not be able to have many of our ministries. I certainly want to thank the donors who are so gracious and so generous.”**

Catholic Extension has supported the diocese for more than 50 years providing more than \$6 million in funding. The diocese will need hurricane relief funding in 2018 for the long-term cleanup, and with your support Catholic Extension will be there to help.

Left: Bishop Curtis Guillory helps the community of Beaumont, TX, with recovery efforts after Hurricane Harvey.

“I learned at church that good things can come out of bad things. The really good thing that came out of the hurricane was that everyone came together to help each other.”

—Olivia Bush (center), student at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School





NEW STORM-TESTED CENTER TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY



Above: Hurricane-damaged St. Martin de Porres Chapel in Cidra, Puerto Rico

On map: The newly completed, hurricane-resistant pastoral center in Fajardo

In September, in a span of two weeks, the northeast of Puerto Rico was devastated twice, first by Hurricane Irma and then by Maria. But despite widespread, heavy damage in the surrounding area, one large new building still under construction in the town of Fajardo escaped with few scratches.

Established in 2008, the **Puerto Rican Diocese of Fajardo-Humacao** is the youngest mission diocese served by Catholic Extension. Over the past few years, Bishop Eusebio Ramos Morales has overseen the construction of a new pastoral center in Fajardo that will help build greater community and strengthen the diocese's ministries and outreach.

In 2017 **your generous donations allowed Catholic Extension to provide two matching grants totaling \$138,000 to help the diocese complete the building.** In constructing the new pastoral center, the diocese opted for high environmental and energy-efficiency standards and also made it hurricane-resistant. That decision paid off: The only

minor damage to the building occurred in the parts that were unfinished.

The building's large central plaza with a capacity of 500 will be used for Masses and other community celebrations. In addition to the diocesan offices, the building will house a chapel, a library and conference and meeting rooms. It will serve the diocese's 21 parishes, support its schools and provide religious education to families, outreach ministries to at-risk youth and other social ministries.

Catholic Extension released the second of the two matching grants in December 2017, and the diocese is set to complete and dedicate the building in early 2018.

Catholic Extension's chancellor, Cardinal Blase Cupich, got a tour of the almost-complete building in December 2017 when he made a pastoral visit to Puerto Rico on Pope Francis' behalf.



From left, Archbishop Roberto González, Catholic Extension Chancellor Cardinal Blase Cupich and Bishop Eusebio Ramos Morales stand in front of the pastoral center in Fajardo.

“In the face of the catastrophic devastation that our people suffered from Hurricane Maria, it was of great solace and hope to receive immediate assistance from Catholic Extension.”

**—Bishop Eusebio Ramos Morales,
Diocese of Fajardo-Humacao**



QUICKLY AFTER THE STORMS, SCHOOLS REOPEN

The Diocese of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands is the second smallest U.S. diocese by territory and one of the poorest. Last year, like Puerto Rico, it was hit hard by two Category Five hurricanes. First Irma struck St. Thomas and St. John, and then Maria devastated St. Croix.

Bishop Herbert Bevard told Catholic Extension that after the storms many areas of the islands looked like they had been bombed and that essentially “every church and every school” in his diocese were impacted.

In the wake of the hurricanes, your dedicated support made it possible for Catholic Extension to quickly provide an emergency grant to the diocese. That grant was used to support critical diocesan activities amid the sudden economic collapse, a main focus of which was sustaining schools.



On map: Sts. Joachim and Ann Catholic Church in Kingshill, St. Croix

Above: Bishop Bevard greets kindergartners at St. Patrick Catholic School, St. Croix.

Even though they sustained significant damage, Catholic schools were back in operation shortly after the hurricanes — much quicker than local public schools.

In fact, Bishop Bevard asked his pastors to open Catholic schools to any displaced public school students, regardless of whether they could pay tuition. Scores of families took up this offer and have remained enrolled. By doing so, Virgin Islander Catholics were able to provide a much-needed haven of “normalcy” to children and their families and gave profound witness to what being a community of faith is all about.

According to the bishop, it was Catholic Extension’s quick disbursement of funds that made this happen.

Catholic Extension has a long history of financially supporting the Diocese of St. Thomas and has committed to helping its hurricane-impacted communities to rebuild and to continue to reach out and serve the poor and suffering.



Above: Bishop Herbert Bevard speaks with Father Louis Kemayou outside the damaged parish hall of Sts. Joachim and Ann Church, Kingshill, St. Croix.

Right: Students from Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School attend Mass at the cathedral of St. Thomas.

“Irma and Maria struck hard, but they also remind us that we always recognize our dependence on almighty God.”

—Bishop Herbert Bevard,
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands



“SAY YES TO HOPE;
PUERTO RICO
RISES!”



CREATING A COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Imagine living in Puerto Rico, months after Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the island, and trying to carry on without electricity or running water. Generators have helped to ease the problem, but they are expensive and not accessible to all.

Residents throughout the island, particularly in rural areas, have felt isolated, forgotten and frustrated. Some of the mountain communities remained without communication and support for many weeks. Groups from local parishes were sometimes the only ones who reached out to those who were stranded and felt abandoned.

Daily life has been extremely difficult. In addition to struggling for basic needs, many Puerto Ricans face huge economic worries because their jobs were impacted or eliminated by the hurricanes. Many of their neighbors have had to leave the island and have moved to the mainland.

In this crisis, faith communities have stepped up to not only provide much-needed relief or to find and assist those who need help the most. They are also bringing hope and healing through creative outreach in many different forms.

In the **Diocese of Ponce, Puerto Rico**, Catholic radio stations have played a big role in extending the Church.

And with the current scarcity of other forms of communication in Puerto Rico, radio is a main source of information and help.

Your generous support enabled the diocese to create a new radio program called “Say yes to hope; Puerto Rico rises!” It offers comfort and practical advice in the face of post-hurricane desperation.

In this crisis, faith communities have stepped up. Not only have they provided much-needed relief or assisted those who need help the most, but they are also bringing hope and healing through creative outreach in many different forms.

Your donation allowed Catholic Extension to extend a grant toward the cost of producing this radio program, which is helping people to persevere in this time of rebuilding in Puerto Rico.



Left: *Parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Caguas*

THANKS TO YOU IN

2017...

essential ministries
reached Catholics in

36 STATES

550

SEMINARIANS

received education
assistance

35

BUILDING PROJECTS

helped communities
gather together in faith

campus ministry
reached young
people at more than

75

COLLEGES

AND MORE THAN

100

WOMEN RELIGIOUS

were supported in their ministries
across the United States



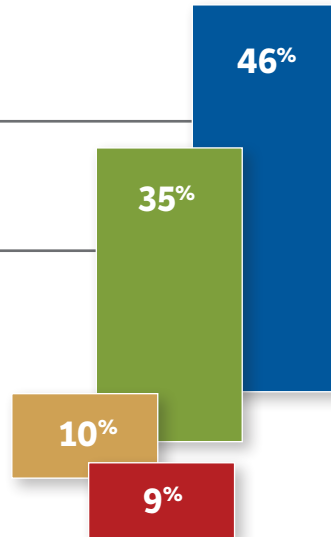
Father Jack Wall and volunteers prepare care packages in the hurricane-damaged parish hall of Immaculate Conception Parish, Carolina, Puerto Rico.

Building Churches - Developing Leaders - Engaging Youth

FINANCIALS

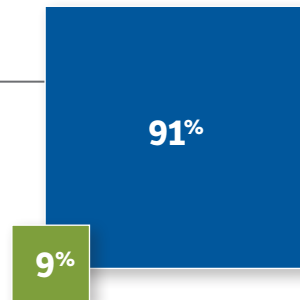
SOURCES OF FUNDS

- Donations
- Estate Gifts
- Investment Earnings
- Parish Calendars



USES OF FUNDS

- Support to Mission Dioceses
- Administrative Costs



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

IN MILLIONS

General Investments	\$114.2
Charitable Gift Annuities	\$36.4
All Other Assets	\$25.8
Total Assets	\$176.4

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Charitable Gift Annuities	\$28.7
All Other Liabilities	\$11.4
Total Liabilities	\$40.1

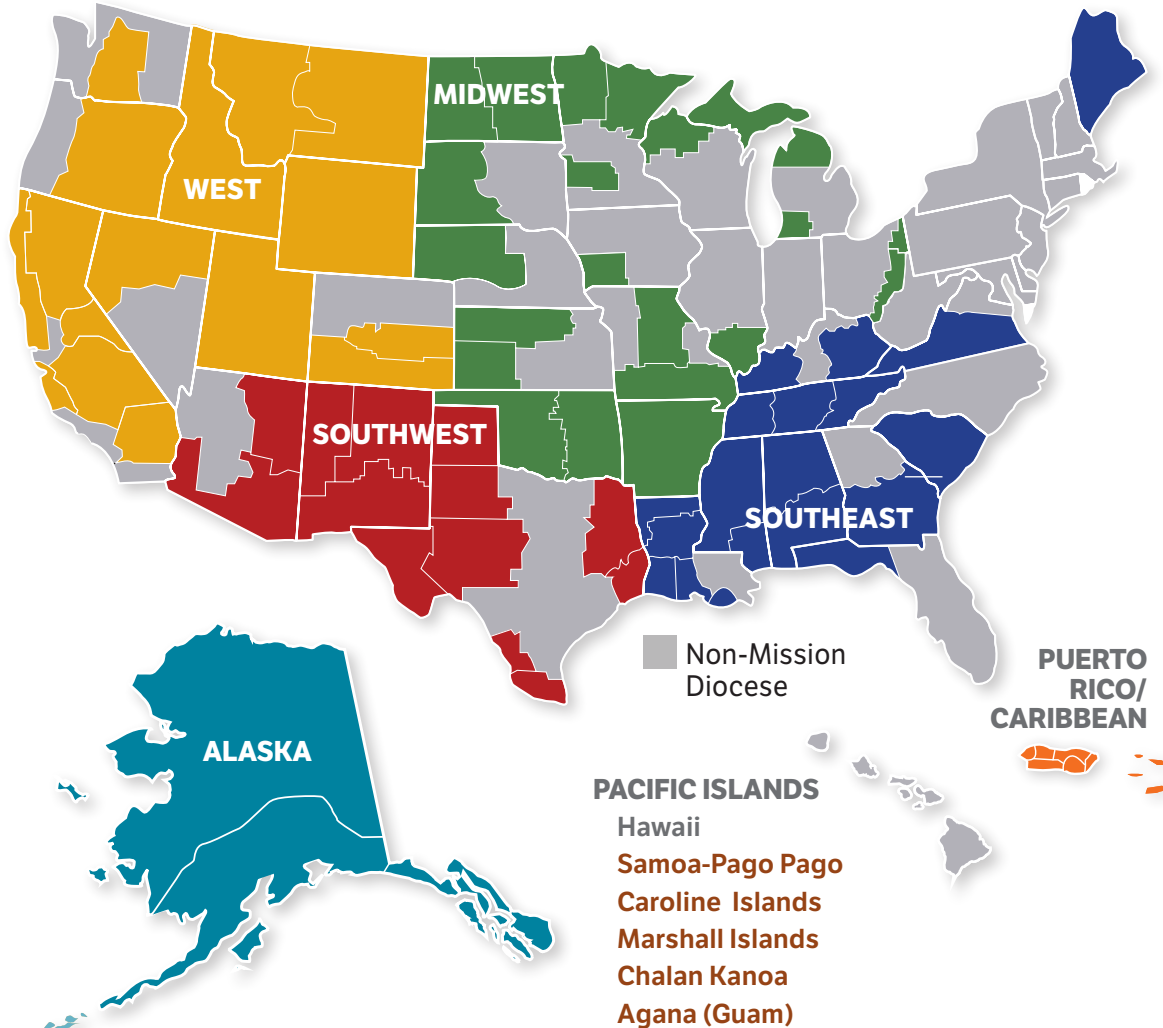
NET ASSETS









Unrestricted	\$85.4
Temporarily Restricted	\$17.4
Permanently Restricted	\$33.5
Total Net Assets	\$136.3

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$176.4

SUPPORT BY REGION

Supporting 90 mission dioceses, homes to one in four Catholics



REGION	SUPPORT (Millions)
 Multi-Regional	\$4.9
 West	\$4.9
 Midwest	\$4.5
 Southwest	\$4.0
 Southeast	\$3.3
 Puerto Rico/ Caribbean	\$2.0
 Alaska	\$1.0
 Pacific Islands	\$0.4
GRAND TOTAL	\$25.0

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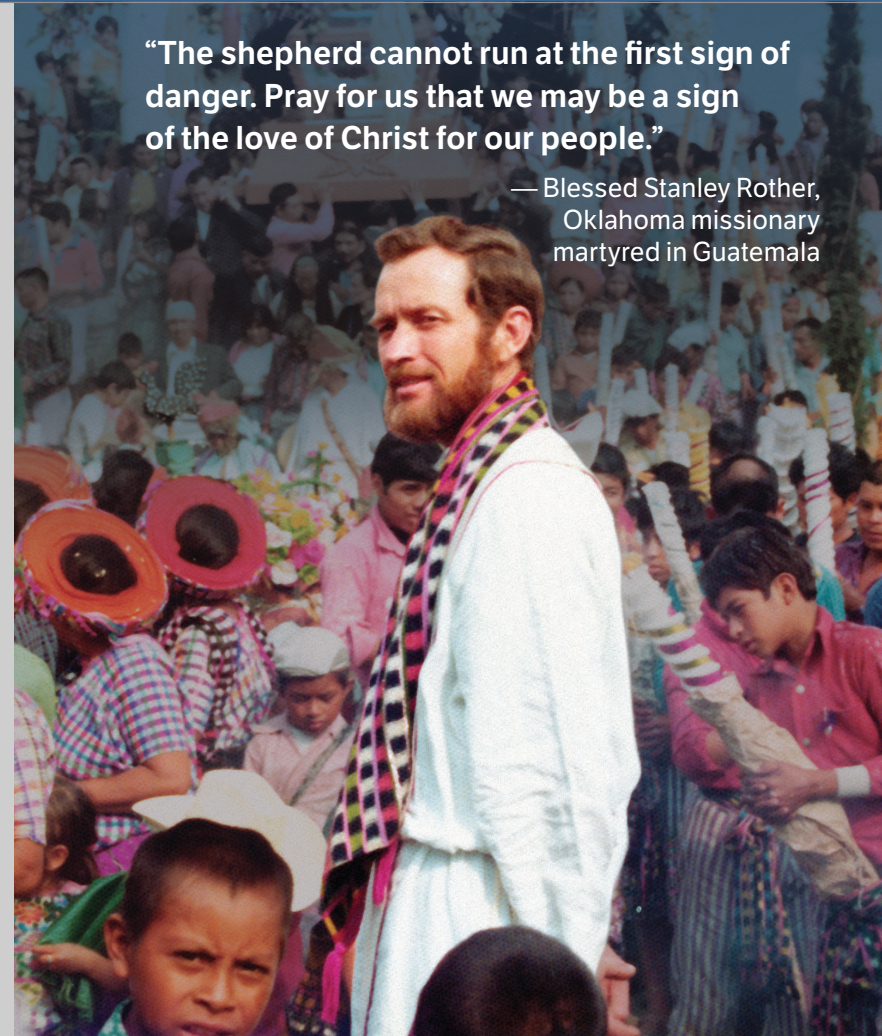
Kelly Shannon
Vice President of Strategic
Communications Services

BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER

March 27, 1935 – July 28, 1981 Beatified Sept. 23, 2017

Catholic Extension dedicates this Annual Report to Blessed Stanley Rother, the first beatified U.S.-born martyr. In one of Catholic Extension's best investments, donors helped fund his seminary education.

Catholic Extension provided continuing support in honor of the martyred missionary with a "Francis Grant" for the world's first church bearing his name, the Blessed Stanley Rother Mission in the Diocese of Little Rock, AR.



“The shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger. Pray for us that we may be a sign of the love of Christ for our people.”

— Blessed Stanley Rother,
Oklahoma missionary
martyred in Guatemala

CATHOLIC  EXTENSION

Building Faith | Inspiring Hope | Igniting Change



Taiesa Williams, a 17-year-old senior, stands in St. Joseph Catholic High School on the island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin