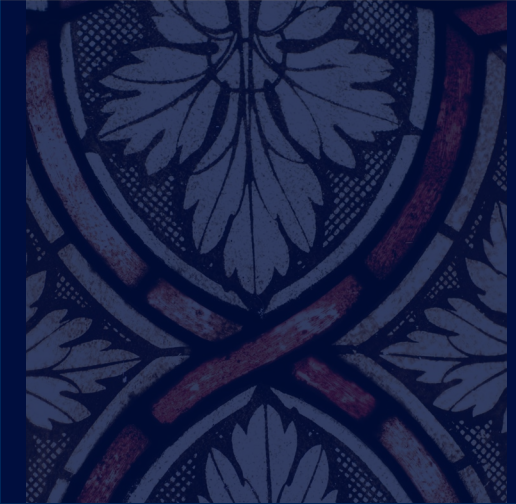




# 2018

## ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating Women Religious



CATHOLIC  EXTENSION

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

We believe that faith is transformative — that it changes who we are, how we live and how we see the possibilities in our own lives and in the lives of those around us.

Last year, faith communities throughout America were able to explore their own possibilities because of you. Your generous donations allowed people to look past their difficult circumstances, to garner confidence and to imagine a different future.

In 2018 we accomplished so much together. We extended much-needed assistance to communities in Puerto Rico and Florida who are desperately trying to rebuild their lives after recent hurricanes. We established the Family Reunification Fund to support ministries on the southern border that help immigrant families who are separated. We built and repaired 47 churches. And with great enthusiasm, we supported hundreds of women religious throughout the country who are heroically on the front lines of our faith.

In this annual report, we celebrate these women religious — trailblazers, entrepreneurs, leaders — who are building and transforming

our Church. These women are brave and innovative problem solvers. They are finding ways to improve people's lives and to encourage them to move forward. With you, we are providing these women religious with the resources and tools to change communities.

In the following pages, we present sisters in Brownsville, Texas, who are welcoming immigrants and creating new opportunities for them to integrate into society and fulfill their dreams; a sister in northern Wisconsin who is lifting Native Americans out of poverty through education and faith; and a whole network of Latin American sisters who are completing their final year of a five-year program to serve Hispanics in struggling parishes.

Each of these women religious is having a huge impact in her community. With compassion and courage, she is tirelessly building relationships among people facing great hardships. Her unwavering commitment gives them hope.

Since our Church's beginning, women religious have contributed so much to its

growth. With persistence, kindness and humility they have shaped institutions, ministries and pastoral care. They have built and managed hospitals and schools, and many have leadership roles in parishes with no resident priest. We honor their many gifts.

In this report, we also feature a story about a Catholic Extension pilgrimage to Rome and a special message from Pope Francis to you, our donors.

We are thankful for each of you. Without you — our donors — none of this great work would happen. We are enormously grateful to partner with you in building the Church in America's poorest places. Together, we are connected by a sense of possibility.

Yours in Christ,



Reverend John J. Wall  
President, Catholic Extension



# THANKS TO YOU IN 2018...

The design of this annual report features a Brigid's cross, inspired by St. Brigid, patroness of Ireland. Starting with the cover, this cross can be seen throughout. St. Brigid is celebrated for her generosity to the poor, particularly women. She defended, protected and supported women. She is a champion for the plight of women, and we see her strength lived out in the women we feature here.

Cover photos  
(clockwise from top):

Sister Zita Telkamp, CDP  
(story page 6)

U.S.-Latin American sisters  
(story page 9)

Sister Phyliss Wilhelm, OSF  
(story page 8)

Missionary Sisters of the  
Immaculate Heart of Mary  
(story page 4)

and Sister Yelitza Ayala Gilot, OP  
(center)

500+

## SEMINARIANS

received education  
assistance

150+

## LAY LEADERS

### AND RELIGIOUS SISTERS

attended Catholic universities

125K

## STUDENTS

sponsored in campus  
ministry

400

## DEACONS

received formation  
assistance

1,750

## GRANT PAYMENTS

awarded to  
mission dioceses

47

## CHURCHES

built or repaired

\$6.1

## MILLION

extended for Hispanic  
ministries

\$1

## MILLION

given for Native American  
ministries

\$1.5

## MILLION

awarded to areas impacted by  
recent hurricanes

Building Churches | Developing Leaders | Engaging Youth

# A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR RURAL TEXAS

This past year was a significant year for a small town of immigrants in southern Texas. With your generous support of \$65,000, a local outreach center, started more than a decade ago by missionary sisters, expanded its services, allowing the residents of this town to greatly improve their lives.

Three sisters came to the impoverished town of Pueblo de Palmas in 2004 and found that residents, particularly women, were fearful, lonely and would not leave their homes. There was no central gathering space, church or access to social services. The sisters committed to empower the women and build trust in the community.

**With financial support from Catholic Extension, the sisters created the Proyecto Desarrollo Humano (Human Development Project), an outreach center to offer English and sewing classes, tutoring, health services and a community garden.**



*The Proyecto Desarrollo Humano (Human Development Project), an outreach center in Texas, offers health services, Zumba classes, sewing classes and a community garden. Right: Father Wall presents a check to Sister Santiago.*

They built St. Anne Church in the middle of town to bring the community together in faith. Their work was so impactful that the sisters earned our Lumen Christi Award in 2014.

The outreach center and church are transformative for this community, especially women and children, and a continuous source of strength and growth.

In 2018 the outreach center served more than 6,000 people, extending its services outside the immediate community. The health clinic helped more than 1,200 patients and partnered with a local medical school. The after-school tutorial sessions have been expanded.

Thanks to your generosity, community members like Cristina Arellano live confident, independent and optimistic lives. “At the center, I am a volunteer Zumba teacher. I shop at our thrift store, and I receive food each Wednesday at its distribution bank,” she said. “I take nutrition classes, come for counseling, visit the health clinic, and my children attend the summer camps. I’m so grateful.”

*Sisters Emily Jocson, Fatima Santiago and Carolyn Kosub, ICM, at St. Anne Church in the Diocese of Brownsville.*



# SUPPORTING SEPARATED FAMILIES AT THE BORDER

*All of us know at least one migrant family – the Holy Family.*

**T**hey flee their homeland under harrowing circumstances to embark on an arduous journey. They arrive in the U.S., often to be cruelly separated at the border, parents from their children. Strangers in a strange land, they await their immigration court dates with fear and uncertainty.

*The border of south Texas and Mexico.*

In San Benito, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, these brothers and sisters are greeted into the open arms of La Posada Providencia, an emergency shelter that provides housing, food, health care and legal assistance for refugees and asylum seekers pursuing permanent status. With your help in 2018, Catholic Extension was able to create the Family Reunification Fund to support ministries like La Posada Providencia to provide direct outreach and advocacy to families separated at the southern border.

Under the leadership of Sister Zita Telkamp, CDP, director of the center, the shelter has greatly expanded its services. It operates 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. In the second half of 2018, through the Family Reunification Fund, your donations allowed La Posada Providencia to provide 12,799 meals, 85 medical appointments and 4,532 nights of shelter to 373 guests from 23 countries.

These ministries are vital for vulnerable immigrants. **“Welcoming the stranger is a gospel value that is practiced daily at La Posada Providencia,”** said Rev. Daniel Flores, Bishop of Brownsville. **“It is a haven for those without a home.”**

The Family Reunification Fund granted \$75,000 in 2018.



*Top and center: Sister Zita Telkamp, at La Posada Providencia, a shelter in San Benito, Texas.  
Left: Cardinal Blase Cupich, chancellor of Catholic Extension, greets guests at the shelter.  
Bottom: Guests raise the flag at the shelter.*

# UPLIFTING A NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY



In a Native American parish facing poverty, an aging population and a lack of priests, Sister Phyliss Wilhelm, OSF, keeps the light of the Catholic Church shining brightly.

Native Americans, at St. Mary Parish, an historic church in Odanah. As one of four small, rural churches clustered around Our Lady of the Lake in Ashland, the parish pastor and his assistant must cover many miles in their territory. Sister Wilhelm leads the parish on many fronts. She is the cantor, sacristan and confirmation teacher and also makes house visits. She is also the diocese's vicar for women religious.



Having served this community in northern Wisconsin since the 1970s, she was named pastoral associate of St. Mary Parish on the Bad River Indian Reservation, home of the Ojibwe, a decade ago. When she arrived in the Diocese of Superior, she was assigned to teach at Holy Family Catholic School in Bayfield, where two-thirds of the students came from the Ojibwe tribe. She became principal and helped students whose families faced economic hardships, addiction issues and joblessness. She showed them that the Church was present during their struggles and that they were not alone.

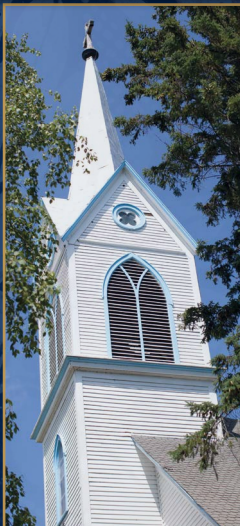
**Thanks to Sister Wilhelm and to your generous contribution toward her salary, tribal members who had dropped out of the parish before she took the helm are returning.**

She is helping to preserve their cultural traditions by incorporating native customs into the liturgy. She is walking with the Ojibwe in their daily struggles and making sure that faith is guiding their path forward.

Sister Wilhelm is now building that same sense of community, particularly among

For her lifetime of selfless service, Sister Wilhelm was one of our Lumen Christi finalists in 2018.

*Center: Sister Phyliss Wilhelm serves Native Americans in northern Wisconsin and is pastoral associate at St. Mary Church (bottom) in Odanah.*





# SISTERS MAKING A NATIONAL IMPACT

For years, parishes across the country did not have the means or capabilities to effectively serve their burgeoning Hispanic populations. Thanks to our U.S.-Latin American Sisters Exchange Program, Latin American sisters are changing that. They are expanding pastoral care, religious education and ministries geared specifically toward Hispanics. They are building up the unique gifts that immigrants bring to the Church.

**This ambitious initiative was started in 2013 with a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and other donors. This grant allowed a group of 36 sisters to work in 12 parishes from Maine to California.**

Their impact is enormous. They have created and supported 234 ministries that have reached more than 100,000 people. They are

nurturing new vocations to religious life; to date, five young people have entered religious life in their communities, with many more still discerning their vocation. Additionally, the sisters are training new lay leaders to carry out their work once their five-year commitment is completed and they return to Latin America.

As part of this initiative, the sisters also receive training and education. Many have received bachelor's degrees during their stay. In May, 12 sisters will graduate from Boston College with a master's degree in applied leadership studies.

With such great success, the Hilton Foundation has agreed to a subsequent grant to allow a second cohort of sisters to come to the U.S. this summer to begin another five-year commitment to serve, learn and enhance the presence of Hispanics in our remote parishes.

*Latin American sisters visit the Grand Canyon.*



# REBUILDING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

Last year was a time of intense rebuilding for many communities still reeling from the effects of massive hurricanes in both 2017 and 2018. Four hurricanes — Harvey, Irma, Maria and Michael — broke records in terms of intensity, damage and costs. In Florida, Puerto Rico, Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the hurricanes destroyed homes, businesses, roadways and churches. In these disasters, it has been the Catholic Church who has stepped up to provide relief and recovery. And thanks to you, we are providing humanitarian assistance and making long-term commitments to rebuild these communities, which may take years.

**In times of crisis, parishes have a central function as a gathering place, a source of basic supplies and a font of inspiration and hope.** When the hurricanes struck, key parishes took up leadership roles to guide their congregations and surrounding residents through this arduous healing process.

As part of our assistance, we extended nearly \$700,000 to the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, in 2018. We have established a fund for communities in the Florida Panhandle who are still suffering from Hurricane Michael. We also created the Patrons of Puerto Rico program last year and sent over \$110,000 to rebuilding projects.

In May 2018, when our president, Father Jack Wall, was on a pilgrimage in Rome, he attended an address by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square. The pope recognized the generous support of you, our donors, for our rebuilding efforts in Puerto Rico. As they say in Puerto Rico, "We will rise." Together, we will rise.





Left: With your help, Our Lady of the Rosary, built in 1794, was repaired from hurricane damage in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico.

Above: Archbishop Roberto González Nieves of San Juan and others receive the flag in Puerto Rico.

Right: Pope Francis, Father Wall and friends on a Rome pilgrimage in May 2018 with Puerto Rican flag. After the pope's blessing, the flag was delivered by Catholic Extension to Puerto Rico with funds from our Patrons of Puerto Rico program.



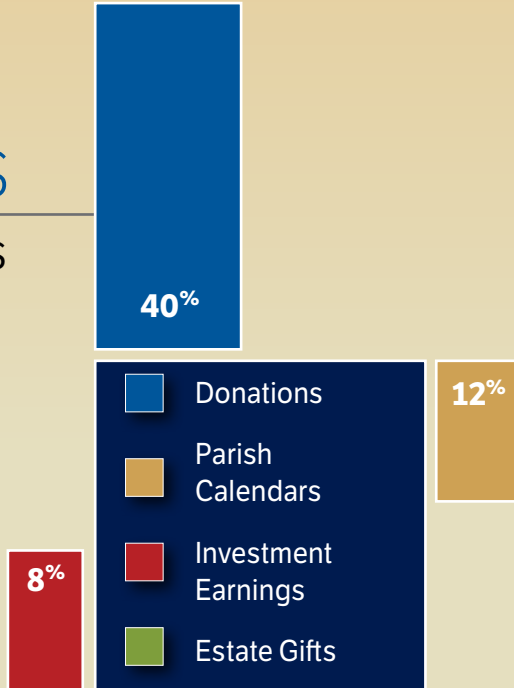
***“In a special way, I greet the members of the Catholic Extension Society of the United States, with gratitude for their contribution to the work of rebuilding in Puerto Rico. In the joy of the risen Christ, I invoke upon you and your families the loving mercy of God our Father. May the Lord bless you all.”***

***—Pope Francis***



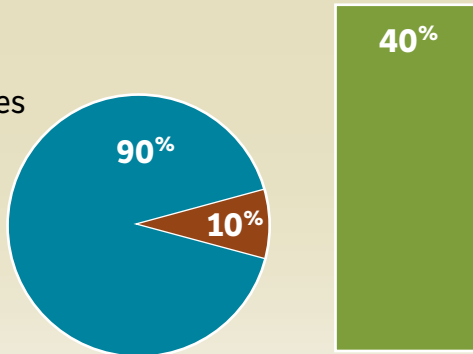
# FINANCIALS

## SOURCES OF FUNDS



## USES OF FUNDS

- Support to Mission Dioceses
- Administrative Costs



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### ASSETS

IN MILLIONS

General Investments	\$105.9
Charitable Gift Annuities	\$32.2
All Other Assets	\$26.8
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$164.9</b>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### LIABILITIES

Charitable Gift Annuities	\$26.9
All Other Liabilities	\$12.5
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$39.4</b>

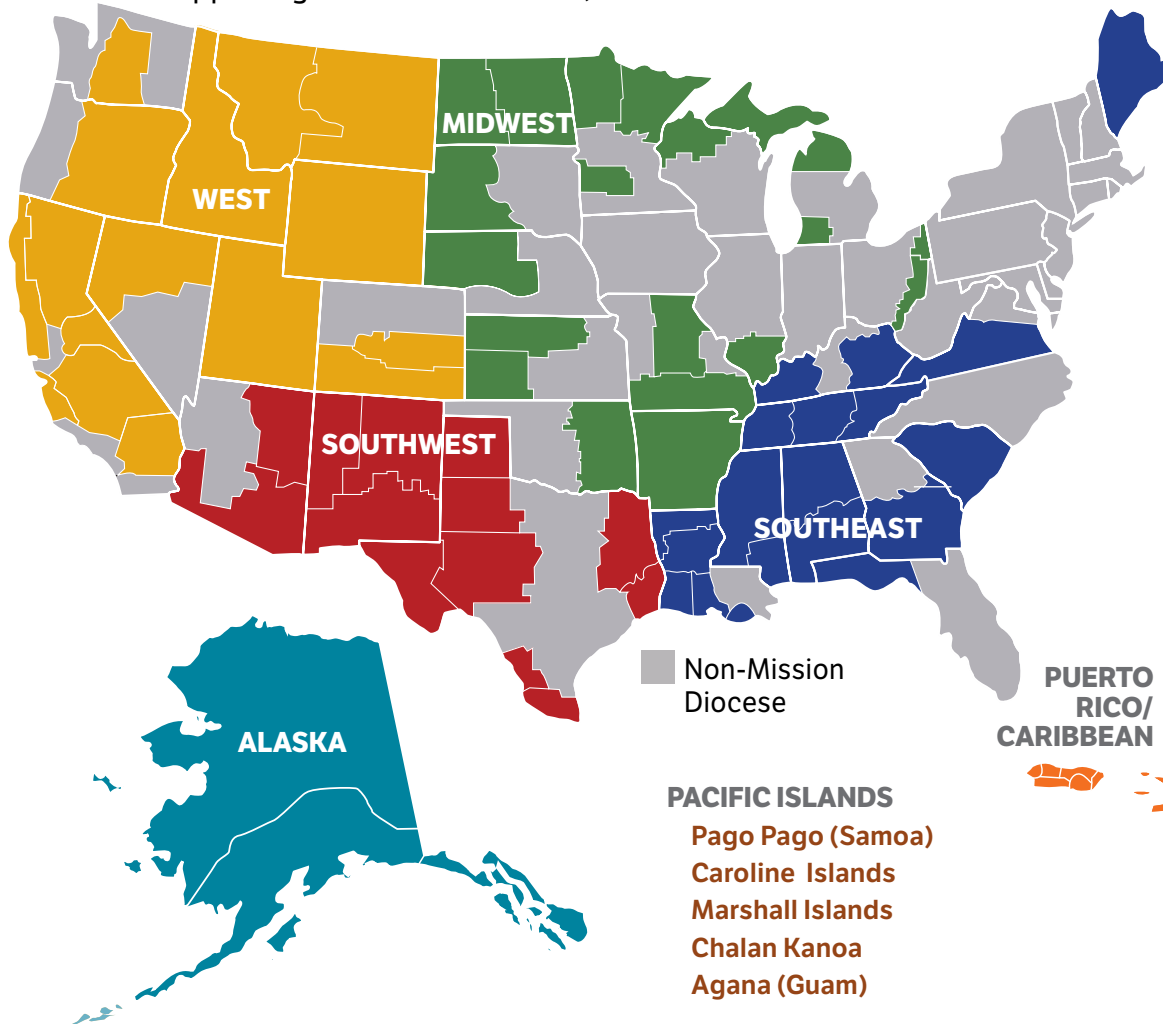
### NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restriction	\$66.3
With Donor Restriction	\$59.2
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$125.5</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**      **\$164.9**

## SUPPORT BY REGION

Supporting 87 mission dioceses, homes to one in four Catholics



REGION	SUPPORT (Millions)
Midwest	\$5.5
West	\$4.5
Southwest	\$3.6
Southeast	\$3.5
Multi-Regional	\$3.3
Puerto Rico/ Caribbean	\$1.5
Alaska	\$1.0
Pacific Islands	\$0.5
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23.4</b>

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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### CHANCELLOR

**Cardinal Blase J. Cupich**  
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### **Kevin McGowan**

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Vice President of Communications  
and External Relations

### **Julie Turley**

Vice President of Development

### **Joseph Boland**

Vice President of Mission



This year, Father Jack Wall celebrated 50 years of being a priest and 10 years of leading Catholic Extension.

“Catholic Extension is one of the greatest gifts of my life...”

*Top: Father Jack Wall celebrates mass at Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago, Illinois.*

*Bottom: Father Jack Wall with Sister Marie-Paule Willem, FMM, of the Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico, who was awarded the 2018-2019 Lumen Christi Award.*



*Ojibwe perform during an event honoring St. Kateri Tekakwitha in the Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin, where Catholic Extension supports Native American ministries.*