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**Catholic Extension Launches Emergency Campaign to Support Poor**

**Faith Communities During COVID-19 Crisis**

*Catholic Extension’s Give. Pray. Inspire. Campaign aims to keep the Church accessible in the most under-resourced areas, even with no one in their pews*

CHICAGO – Catholic churches all across the world are an integral part of daily life, providing community, acts of charity and support for the elderly and vulnerable. Now, at a time when faith communities are more important than ever, the poorest among them are in dire straits, grappling with COVID-19 in the most under-resourced corners of our country.

**The average Sunday collection in these poor Catholic parishes is just $375.**

**With churches closed due to the pandemic there are no parishioners in their pews.**

**They have absolutely nothing.**

Catholic Extension works in solidarity to support the poorest faith communities across the country. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Catholic Extension has launched *Give. Pray. Inspire.,* a fundraising campaign to support the poorest among us, whose needs will only grow as this disease grabs hold and illness and dying increase.

A gift to Catholic Extension’s [virtual collection basket](http://catholicextension.org/give) will provide immediate relief to 120 vulnerable parishes in 40 isolated dioceses from Alaska to Puerto Rico. Catholic Extension hopes to provide these parishes the resources to help their communities at a time they need it most and ensure the healing presence of the Church remains available and accessible for all during this difficult time and into the future.

<http://catholicextension.org/give>

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**About Catholic Extension:**Founded in 1905, Catholic Extension works in solidarity with people in America’s poorest regions to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities. For more information visit [www.catholicextension.org](http://www.catholicextension.org/); follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/catholicextension](http://www.facebook.com/catholicextension) or on twitter at [@CathExtension](http://www.twitter.com/cathextension).