

Contact: Lisa Gunggoll (National Media)  
[lisa@lg-pr.com](mailto:lisa@lg-pr.com)  
708.829.8669

Trey Salinas (Texas Media)  
[tsalinas@3pointpartners.com](mailto:tsalinas@3pointpartners.com)  
512.925.1688



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## Meet Catholic Extension's Lumen Christi Award Nominees

*Catholic Extension honors individuals and groups serving in the poorest regions of the country who are this year's hidden heroes in the Catholic Church*

CHICAGO (May 24, 2021) – [Catholic Extension](#) supports 86 dioceses across the country and annually asks bishops of those dioceses to nominate their most inspiring people for the annual [Lumen Christi Award](#). Latin for the “Light of Christ”, the Lumen Christi Award is Catholic Extension’s highest honor, and is bestowed on a missionary working in the United States.

This year’s 34 inspiring nominees are as varied as the Church itself and have shown great resolve during this most difficult year. They are nominated as hidden heroes of the Church who are serving their communities selflessly to bring faith and hope to the forgotten corners and peoples of our country, inspiring those around them to be the “Light of Christ” as well.

This diverse group of clergy, lay leaders, religious, and community groups show the enormous breadth of the Catholic Church across the country.

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual Lumen Christi Award nominees consist of two sisters in Knoxville selflessly serving a Hispanic community recently impacted by tornadoes; a pastor in Jackson serving a Native American community ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic; and a lay woman in Arkansas who provides health services to thousands of uninsured people, among many more. In America’s poorest regions, these inspiring Catholic leaders bring the light of Christ to very difficult circumstances.

“This past year has been filled with struggle and hardship, especially for the poor and vulnerable, but these selfless nominees continued to put others first and led with great faith and courage,” said Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension.

Catholic Extension, a Chicago-based papal society, raises funds to help build faith communities and churches in poor Catholic dioceses. Each Lumen Christi Award nominee receives \$1,000 in support of his or her ministry, and the award recipient is given a \$50,000 grant with the honoree and nominating diocese each receiving \$25,000 to enhance their community and ministry.

*For a complete list of the 2021-2022 Lumen Christi Award nominees and to learn more about each one, visit <https://www.catholicextension.org/lumen-christi-award/>.*

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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](https://facebook.com/catholicextension) or on twitter at [@CathExtension](https://twitter.com/CathExtension).