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1000 *Sisters on the Frontlines* receive \$1,000

Ambitious goal reached funding of \$1M to women religious on the frontlines of the pandemic

CHICAGO (May 10, 2020) – Just shy of the one-year mark from when the program was launched, the <u>Sisters on the</u> <u>Frontlines</u> initiative, an alliance formed to respond to the immediate needs of communities impacted by COVID-19, has been fully funded. <u>Catholic Extension</u> made the announcement, indicating attainment of an ambitious goal that granted 1,000 Catholic sisters \$1,000 each to help an individual or family suffering the adverse effects of the pandemic. More than \$1,000,000 has been granted in total since the program's inception.

The program was created by the <u>Congregation of St. Joseph</u>, <u>Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters</u>, <u>FADICA</u>, <u>GHR</u> <u>Foundation</u>, <u>The Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities</u>, <u>Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland</u>, <u>Sisters of</u> <u>Mercy of the Americas</u> and <u>Catholic Extension</u> in June of 2020. The alliance recognizes the vital role of Catholic sisters in communities with the greatest needs and sought to aid them in their work by providing direct funding.

In return for the \$1,000 grant, each sister was asked to report back to the Frontlines alliance on how she used the funds to care for those in need. As a result, Catholic Extension received hundreds of videos, stories, letters and photos, which have been archived and shared on Catholic Extension's <u>website</u> and social media channels.

In all, the funds reached 107 dioceses in 41 states, as well as Washington D.C., the Caroline Islands, the Pacific Islands (Samoa and Chalan Kanoa), and the Caribbean (St. Thomas Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico).

"This initiative has provided a powerful example of the prophetic witness of women religious and is a continuation of their long history of solidarity with the poor and vulnerable," said Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension. "To know that so many sisters have come together to help make such an impact in the lives of the poor during this most difficult year has been truly humbling. We are indebted to the sisters and all of the alliance members who helped make this program possible."

To read more about the stories, visit <u>https://www.catholicextension.org/sisters-on-the-frontlines/</u>.

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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 <u>www.catholicextension.org</u>; follow us on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/catholicextension</u> or on twitter at <u>@CathExtension</u>.