



Building Faith | Inspiring Hope | Igniting Change



Experience the Church's mission on the margins

Catholic Extension works in solidarity with people in America's poorest regions to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities. We seek to deepen and expand our commitment to Catholic faith communities by providing resources to develop leaders, ministries, and facilities, while inviting more people across our country to invest in this work.

Since our founding in 1905, we have built or helped build over 12,700 churches, and today, through the support of donors, we financially support faith communities on the peripheries and their leadership in 87 of the 190 dioceses of the United States and its territories.

Catholic Extension's Mission Immersion Program for Pastors invites pastors to experience firsthand the Church's inspiring and diverse missionary work, while forming bonds with fellow priests and lay ministers both at home and in the mission communities they visit. This is an opportunity to travel to one of the dioceses we serve to see, up close and personal, the work local priests, nuns, and lay leaders are doing.

We invite pastors with at least a few years of experience, and an openness of lifelong learning, to a 3-day, mid-week, all expenses paid, mission immersion trip. All expenses for this 3-day trip are completely covered thanks to a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. We handle all the travel arrangements for you, so you can focus on the immersion experience.



Priests from the Archdiocese of Chicago on an immersion trip near Las Cruces, New Mexico

CATHOLIC EXTENSION

Building Faith | Inspiring Hope | Igniting Change



Below are some of the Catholic Extension supported communities you could visit:

- Native American Reservations in the West
- African American Missions in the Deep South
- Migrant farmworker camps
- Small towns along the U.S. southern border
- Remote missions in Appalachia
- Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Over the last five years, priests described the experiences as deeply formative. Testimonials:

“Both the mission staff and mission parishioners revealed the ways they have to adapt to harsh living conditions and still evangelize and nourish faith – their faith and joy was inspiring!” – a priest who traveled with us to the Diocese of Gallup, NM and AZ

“The trip increased our friendships, spirits, and was very inspiring to our personal priestly missions and faith.” – a priest who traveled with us to the U.S. southern border

“These people of faith we visited impacted me in ways that I pray will help me be a better priest going forward.” – a priest who traveled with us to Puerto Rico

To learn more about our Mission Immersion Program for Pastors, please visit

www.catholicextension.org/grant-information/strategic-initiatives/mission-immersion-program-pastors/

Join us in discovering all the good that is happening in our country’s poorest regions because of the presence of the Catholic Church.



Priests from various dioceses throughout the country on an immersion trip receiving a blessing from Sr. Norma Pimentel near McAllen, Texas.

Questions – Contact Natalie Donatello at (312) 795-6057 or ndonatello@catholicextension.org