

Search for
Director of Mission



Building Faith | Inspiring Hope | Igniting Change

Fall 2025

CATHOLIC EXTENSION SOCIETY

Founded in 1905, [Catholic Extension Society's](#) mission is to work in solidarity with people to build vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities in the poorest regions of America. The organization accomplishes this by strategically partnering with dioceses to build facilities, educate leaders, and support essential ministries in under-resourced areas. With its high-touch and innovative approach, Catholic Extension Society helps Catholic communities build their capacity to inspire hope and drive positive change.

Our initiatives span from southern border ministries and post-hurricane rebuilding in Puerto Rico to campus ministry support and scholarships for lay and ordained Catholic leaders at major Catholic universities. In the past 10 years alone, our collective programs and partnerships had an economic impact exceeding \$1 billion across 40 U.S. states and territories.

To sustain this vital mission, Catholic Extension Society raises \$25-30 million annually from 25,000 donors through a comprehensive development program with diverse revenue streams. For more information on our impact, see our [2024 Annual Report](#).

Headquartered in Chicago, the organization has a staff of 50 professionals working in the main office and regional locations. The team thrives in a dynamic, fast-paced environment with a strong culture of collaboration and mission focus.



“People come together in faith in moments of crisis to strengthen one another and to realize that they are not alone.”

--Fr. Jack Wall, President of Catholic Extension Society

ABOUT THE ROLE

With the generous support of major donors and foundations, Catholic Extension Society's Mission Department develops strategic relationships with Catholic community leaders to nurture and implement programs that transform faith communities and serve marginalized populations. Each year, Catholic Extension Society supports more than 1,200 projects, partners with dozens of organizations and universities and other organizations to expand our impact.

The Mission Team, made up of seven full-time staff reporting to the Chief Mission Officer, oversees this work in close collaboration with our colleagues in Fundraising, Marketing and Communications, and Finance. Together, we are building vibrant Catholic communities across the country to help transform hearts, lives, and society.

To strengthen this leadership team, Catholic Extension Society is seeking a Director of Mission Programs—a dynamic, strategic individual who will serve as a thought partner to the Chief Mission Officer and take initiative in shaping, nurturing, and launching programs that bring hope and opportunity to communities across the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

WHAT YOU WILL DO

In this role you will:

- **Deepen understanding of communities:** Build authentic relationships, learn the cultures and aspirations of those we serve, and gather insights that guide Catholic Extension's mission.
- **Align resources with purpose:** Shape budgets and funding plans as tools for growth, ensuring that resources fuel meaningful programs and lasting change.
- **Connect and inspire:** Travel regularly to supported communities, host convenings, and translate mission learnings into stories and experiences that engage donors and the public.
- **Lead with vision:** Supervise and mentor team members, establish clear goals, and foster a collaborative, high-performing Mission Team.

The role offers the opportunity to make a profound impact on economically poor communities across the U.S., working at the intersection of mission-driven leadership and transformative service. The position is based in Chicago and includes regular travel to partner dioceses and faith communities across the country.

IDEAL CANDIDATE PROFILE

Catholic Extension Society seeks a proven leader to join our Chicago office. Candidates should have at least 10 years in nonprofit, university, or business settings, ideally in a midsize or larger organization. Background in leadership or service within the Hispanic community is especially valued. A master's degree is preferred.

Experience & Skills

- Spanish English bilingual, spoken and written
- Leadership experience supervising staff, volunteers, or interns
- Strong project management with a record of delivering complex initiatives on time and within budget
- Experience implementing systems or processes that improve efficiency and coordination
- Excellent communication skills, including donor-facing writing and presentations
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office; comfort with databases and ability to learn new software

Mindset & Attributes

- Passion for advancing the Catholic Church's mission and serving marginalized communities
- Flexible and adaptable, with strong attention to detail and follow-through
- Collaborative team player who works well across departments
- Intellectual curiosity, strategic thinking, and openness to multicultural environments
- Strong relationship-building and listening skills
- Willingness to travel up to 5-10 nights per month
- Positive attitude, humility, and sense of humor

TO APPLY

Catholic Extension Society has engaged DeVine Consulting to support this search. To apply, please email a resume and cover letter outlining your qualifications and interest the role to: CE2025.missiondir@gmail.com. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis; we hope to fill the role this fall.



We offer a competitive salary starting at \$120,000 based on experience and a comprehensive benefits package to include medical, dental, vision, disability, 403b with company matching, paid time off, paid company holidays, commuter assistance, professional development opportunities, mentoring and more!

Catholic Extension Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applicants may request any reasonable accommodation that may be necessary to participate in the application process.

Catholic Extension Society is located at 150 S. Wacker Drive, 20th floor, Chicago, IL. For more information about the organization, please visit: www.catholicextension.org.



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