



Orphanage Gives Children Hope in Ecuador



The Daughters of Charity is a religious community of sisters that runs schools, orphanages, and medical centers throughout the world. Its St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage in Quito, Ecuador, is near and dear to our hearts, and is one of the projects which Cross Catholic Outreach partners with the followers of St. Vincent de Paul and which we help fund. The nuns have devoted their consecrated lives to providing resources and hope to lonely, vulnerable children who have no parents to care for them. They currently have 64 children in their orphanage, where the nuns provide a safe and loving home.

The nursery is, by far, the orphanage's greatest expense, as it requires round-the-clock caregivers, as well as food, formula, diapers and other necessary supplies for the 22 infants and toddlers being cared for. Sister Maria oversees the nutritious meals that are prepared, and she designs the daily menus and works with the kitchen staff to prepare all of the meals.

Additionally, the sisters have been able to establish strong relationships with medical professionals, who monitor the children's health and treat those who are sick. These doctors and pediatricians are necessary because many of the children have specific medical needs that go beyond simple care and compassion. There are oftentimes infants who arrive at the orphanage with physical defects, and for those reasons the parents have no means of taking care of them, so the Ecuadorian government brings them to the sisters. One little boy, Pablo, was abandoned shortly after birth by his mother as he suffers from

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fetal alcohol syndrome. As a result, he is easily susceptible to a variety of illnesses, and his motor skills have been severely affected. If not for the care Pablo receives at St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, his life would almost certainly have been lost — with no one to love him, hold him or treat his unique condition. Now, through the ministry of the Daughters of Charity, Pablo has a chance for a future and perhaps even to be adopted by a loving family.

Unfortunately, children who are abandoned are prone to an increased risk of a weakened immune system. Thus the orphanage is serving a higher number of children with physical and mental illnesses. Each day the sisters manifest untold deeds of extraordinary acts of mercy in caring for these sick and abandoned children. It is that type of ministry that Cross Catholic Outreach seeks to support as we promote the works of mercy. The work of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage reflects the very “Culture of Mercy” that Pope Francis has called us to embrace. As we continue to witness Christ’s love through the works of mercy and the New Evangelization, the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage stands out as a shining example of what transformative Christian love can do in the world. As St. Vincent de Paul wrote, “Let us allow God to act; he brings things to completion when we least expect it.”



Pope Francis Promotes the Extraordinary Missionary Month of 2019

In a meeting he held with national representatives of the Pontifical Missionary Societies, His Holiness Pope Francis asked them to **prepare well for the Extraordinary Missionary Month, scheduled for October 2019.**

Pope Francis said, “Things must always be renewed: Renew the heart, renew the works, renew organizations, because otherwise we would all end up being in a museum.”

The Holy Father remembered that the motto of that extraordinary month will be “Baptized and sent out: the Church of Christ on a mission in the world.”

This requires that each Christian is responsible — as we are called to be missionaries from the moment of our baptism.



Engaging a ‘Culture of Mercy’



L-R: Fr. Tim O’Toole, Fr. Eloy Romero-Rojas, Msgr. Ted Bertagni, Fr. Bernard Olszewski, Fr. John Fischer and Fr. Phong Pham

During the Jubilee of Mercy, more than 21 million pilgrims passed through the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica, while throughout the world, more than 800 million faithful Catholics experienced this act locally in their dioceses. **Pope Francis** wished that we all would become instruments of God’s mercy in our lives, not only during the **Jubilee Year of Mercy**, but every day. In his apostolic letter *Misericordia et misera*, Pope Francis explained that we must trust the maternal assistance of the Church and follow her perennial counsel to look to Jesus, the radiant face of God’s mercy, so that we can realize once more that “everything is resolved in the merciful love of the Father.”

The Missionaries of Mercy, almost a thousand worldwide, were commissioned by Pope Francis to help the faithful discover a profound sense of repentance and forgiveness. Six priests from **Cross Catholic Outreach** have been commissioned as **Missionaries of Mercy** and, on Divine Mercy Sunday this year, were recommissioned to continue that ministry in the future. It is the Holy Father’s wish that the Missionaries of Mercy help the faithful to increase their charitable actions and good works for the poor and those in need. The Cross Catholic priests spread that message throughout the Church in the U.S. as they visit parishes and preach on behalf of the poorest of the poor, to whom Cross ministers.

Pope Francis, socially speaking, said, “We are called **to promote a culture of mercy** based on the rediscovery of encounters with others... The culture of mercy is shaped in assiduous prayer, in docility to the working of the Holy Spirit, in knowledge of the lives of the saints, and in being close to the poor.” We are all called to live this culture of mercy through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The Jubilee Year of Mercy was only the beginning of this new initiative to realize God’s infinite mercy to all of us through the works of mercy. Now, our task is to continue that initiative and develop an identity within this culture of mercy, which is reflective of the Lord’s merciful forgiveness of each one of us.

Pope Francis believes “Now is the time to unleash the creativity of mercy, to bring about new undertakings, the fruit of grace... the Church today needs to speak of those ‘many other signs’ that Jesus worked, which ‘are not written’ (John 20:30),” in order to make God’s goodness visible. **Cross Catholic Outreach** shares this vision concretely through the many missionaries and dioceses we partner with throughout the developing world, to bring hope and the love of Christ to those most in need.

“This is the time of mercy,” he writes five times at the end of his letter, perhaps as a reference to the five wounds of Christ- “since no one can think that he or she is cut off from God’s closeness and the power of his tender love,” for it is through the testimony of believers that “God’s caress may reach everyone.”



Wyoming Parish Hosts Food Packing Event



An air of excitement and energy filled Mother Cabrini Hall at the Church of the **Holy Trinity** in the **Diocese of Cheyenne** on March 10, with 250 volunteers filling the stairway and halls, all to be a part of “Change the World,” sponsored by Cross Catholic Outreach. Parishioners, young and old, chatted with each other while waiting for their instructions, all wearing hairnets, aprons and gloves. They came to pack nonperishable food for the needy and poorest of the poor in the world, creating complete meals in four hours that were enough to feed 43,000 people!

Cameron Smith, Holy Trinity’s director of faith formation and stewardship, who coordinated the food packing event with Cross Catholic Outreach, said that this event “is helping to change our world.”

“Sometimes individuals do not realize the impact that their limited time and money can have to change the world,” Cameron added. “Our goal was to show our parishioners just how great their outreach is. Volunteering for food packing gave people a hands-on experience of the support they are providing.” Throughout the event, volunteerism at its best was on display as parishioners jumped in to substitute for each other at the various packing stations, refilling food supplies, boxing up completed meals and cleaning up. **Bishop Steven Biegler** came to the church and offered a blessing over the food and the volunteers, and he visited with the parishioners.

The volunteers helped individuals at home and abroad. Forty-thousand meals were shipped by Cross Catholic Outreach, which provided the food for the packing, in order to help the hungry and destitute overseas. Three thousand meals were distributed locally through the St. Joseph Food Pantry in Cheyenne, administered by St. Joseph Catholic Parish, one of the main food distribution locations in the area that helps the poor and homeless.

“We hope to hold another food packing event next year,” Cameron added. “In this way, we can double our commitment to the poor. We hope others will take up this event as well. It is a terrific win-win, supporting the poor while nourishing a great community bond within our own parish.”



The foodpacking event is one of several projects that Holy Trinity collaborates with Cross Catholic Outreach. Another is the Christmas Water Project held annually during Advent. Each year, Fr. Thomas E. Cronkleton (“Fr. Tom”), pastor since 2002, works with Cross Catholic to determine a project that is focused on providing clean water to people.

“We began using Cross Catholic for our Christmas Water Project in 2010,” Fr. Tom said. “It helps encourage people to focus more on faith and family at Christmas rather than spending a lot of money on gifts, and to share a little of what is saved for those who have no access to clean water. People make donations and we give 10 percent of the Christmas collection to this project. We like working with Cross Catholic because they allow us to donate to a specific project, and we know it is going to that need.”

Box of Joy® is another Cross Catholic Christmas project at the parish. It ensures that children in extreme poverty, whose parents are too poor to afford any kind of presents for their children, receive a Christmas gift. Parishioners pack their own shoebox-sized gift boxes and Cross Catholic distributes the gift boxes of joy to children in need overseas.

Cross Catholic Outreach, since its founding in 2001, has distributed more than \$1 billion in aid to help the “poorest of the poor” in more than 70 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and other parts of the developing world.

Cross Catholic supports its material aid with spiritual nourishment when helping those who receive the benefits of the effort and stewardship from the parishioners at Holy Trinity. Known as “integral human development,” the hope and the good news of the Gospel is shared in conjunction with aid and social work in order to invoke the Holy Spirit’s transformative power in the lives of those most in need, who are indeed the suffering Christ in our world.

“We are grateful to Cross Catholic Outreach,” Cameron said. “This has turned into a great partnership.”

Cross is blessed to be able to collaborate with parishes throughout the United States and assist them in carrying out the culture of mercy that Pope Francis has called us to promote and witness. It is through such relationships that we grow together as a family of faith and witness the love of Christ in the Church.

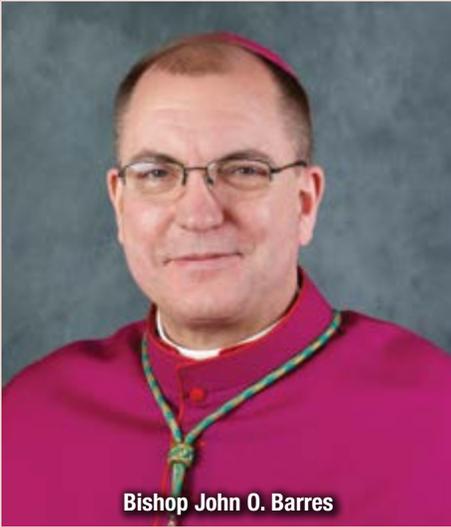


Pictured: Bishop Steve Biegler, Diocese of Cheyenne





Bishop Endorsements Bless Cross Catholic Outreach



Bishop John O. Barres

In the contemporary world, where advertising is not always truthful or clear, Cross Catholic Outreach continues to enjoy the support and endorsement of bishops across the United States. The bishops' words give testimony to the Catholic identity of the organization and recognition of the effectiveness and impact of its work. As a Catholic ministry that collaborates with aid partners who employ a community-oriented aid strategy, we strive to increase the self-sufficiency of the poor. In everything we do, we remain focused on the Lord, serving with humility, fervor and love, and advancing Catholic evangelization. We work in partnership with church-based ministries and other faith-based organizations, creating an ideal synergy for the greatest impact in almost 40 countries throughout the world. In addition to the long-term projects, Cross Catholic Outreach has the capacity to offer direct and meaningful responses to emergency situations throughout the world.

Bishop John O. Barres of Rockville Centre wrote that he was happy to learn *“that the collaboration between Pontifical Council **Cor Unum** and Cross Catholic Outreach will continue through the newly formed Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development under Cardinal Peter Turkson. This stands as a testament ensuring the integrity and fruitfulness of the mission linking charity with the call for New Evangelization as the Holy Father has stressed. Pope Francis has reminded us to remember the poor, and Cross Catholic Outreach is an admirable example of such.”*

Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of Saint Paul and Minneapolis wrote that Cross Catholic Outreach's attentiveness to Catholic Social Teaching and dedication to prayerful discernment consistently inspired him when he served as a member of the board of directors. *“I felt particularly privileged to be on the board of directors as the Holy See erected Cross Catholic as a private juridic person, stressing not only the organization's long collaboration with the Holy See but also its commitment to*

empowering local churches, recognizing that they were positioned to best address spiritual and material needs. I hasten to add my endorsement of Cross Catholic Outreach to that of the scores of bishops who share my appreciation for your great work.”

Echoing the sentiments of his fellow bishops, **Archbishop Alexander K. Sample of Portland, Oregon** wrote, *“Cross Catholic Outreach's mission is to cultivate and encourage the human and Christian growth of people in the developing world, in areas where it is needed the most. The bishops on the board of directors work in partnership with the Pontifical Council **Cor Unum** and stand as a testament toward ensuring the integrity and fruitfulness of its mission linking charity with the call for New Evangelization, as the Holy Father has stressed. Pope Francis has reminded us to remember the poor, and Cross Catholic Outreach is an admirable example of such.”*

In addition to his appreciation for the connection between Cross Catholic Outreach and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, **Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis** stated: *“In particular, I commend your commitment to working directly with those who are serving among those most in need. In reviewing the various activities and*

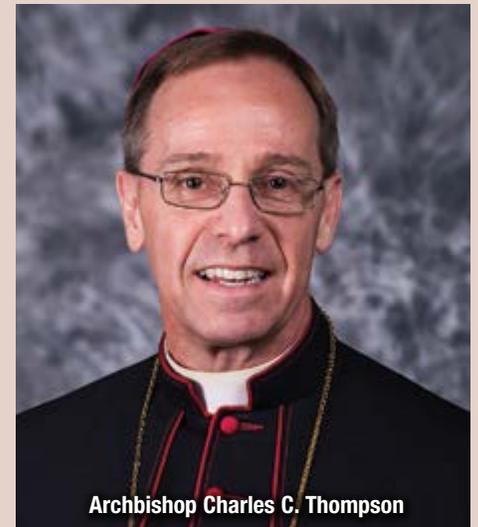
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Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda



Archbishop Alexander K. Sample



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson



Bishop Endorsements a Blessing *continued from page 6*



Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama

*mission of Cross Catholic Outreach, I am reminded of Pope Francis' words in his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation **Evangelii Gaudium** ("The Joy of the Gospel"): 'This is why I want a Church which is poor for the poor. They have much to teach us... We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them.' (#198) I join with my brother bishops in expressing wholehearted gratitude and support for the witness of ministry and service provided by Cross Catholic to the world's poor."*

And because part of the ministry of Cross Catholic Outreach is informing the next generations of priestly leaders about the ways in which charitable work in the

developing world may be accomplished, **Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama of Raleigh** wrote: "I was also interested in Cross Catholic's commitment toward formation of future priests at the visits made to many of our seminaries around and across the country. I appreciated learning the full range and scope of Cross Catholic Outreach in cultivating and encouraging the human and Christian growth of people in the developing world and areas where it is needed the most."



Bishop Schlert Joins Cross Catholic Board

Bishop Alfred A. Schlert, JCL, of the Diocese of Allentown has been confirmed as the newest bishop to join the board of directors. Bishop Schlert was ordained for the Diocese of Allentown in 1987 and subsequently served in various capacities in that diocese in the fields of education and pastoral ministry. Having received his Licentiate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Lateran University, he was subsequently named Vicar General of the diocese, a position that he held until his appointment as bishop of the diocese. His reasons to be part of the work of Cross Catholic Outreach were expressed in his endorsement letter in which he wrote: "I am pleased to offer my personal commendation and support to Cross Catholic Outreach for the extensive missionary work accomplished in assisting the poorest of the poor in various countries throughout the world. As a member of the board, I have witnessed the vast difference that is made through this outreach endeavor. Your collaboration with *Cor Unum*, the Pontifical Council for worldwide charitable assistance, is a sign of your authentic ecclesial mission and the Church's solidarity with the poor. It is my fervent hope and prayer that through the collaboration of Cross Catholic Outreach and the People

of God in the United States, the suffering of the poor will be alleviated throughout the world." We welcome Bishop Schlert to our board and look forward to his contributions of his insights in seeking to guide our work in the world.



Cross Catholic Outreach Priests Needed



Cross Catholic Outreach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Catholic organization that collaborates directly with the **Pontifical Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development**, under His Eminence Cardinal Peter Turkson. Cross is currently inviting Roman Catholic priests in good standing, who might have some weekends available to help preach at parishes throughout the United States, to join our Outreach Priests Speakers Bureau. Any commitment of time is acceptable, and it would not need to affect any pastoral duties a priest would already have in his own Diocese or Province. It is through this effort that priests visit parishes on weekends and share the Gospel in order to help educate the U.S. faithful about the needs of the poorest of the poor throughout the developing world, while giving the laity an opportunity to respond and become part of the solution to the problem. All travel and expenses are covered, as well as a generous stipend for the priest.

Cross Catholic Outreach is a Catholic organization and

the full expression of its Catholic ministry depends on finding priests who possess and demonstrate a good command of the English language. Bilingual priests are also sought for those parishes that have Spanish language Mass. Ideally, the priests should have some mission experience and would need permission from their bishop or major superior. Cross Catholic is an approved Catholic ministry, found in the Official Kenedy Directory in the Diocese of Palm Beach, and their canonical statutes have been approved by the Holy Father through Pontifical Council *Cor Unum*. Priests who preach for Cross need to understand and support Catholic Social Teaching.

If you or a priest friend of yours might be interested in such an opportunity to preach for the poorest of the poor, we invite you to call **Joanne Miceli-Bogash** at 800-914-2420, ext. 174, or you may reach her at her email, JMiceli-Bogash@CrossCatholic.org.

You are also encouraged to visit our website at CrossCatholic.org for more information about our work.



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Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

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