

## **Populorum Progressio Foundation and Cross Catholic Outreach**

A joint work for the poorest in Latin America and the Caribbean

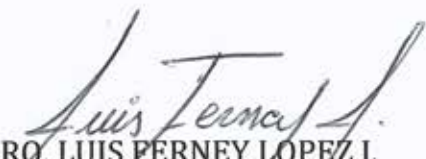
The Populorum Progressio Foundation was created by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1992 with the aim of helping the poorest communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially the indigenous, peasant and Afro-descendant communities. Since then, it has carried out some 4,500 development projects in the areas of production, education, health, infrastructure, finance and communication. Many of these projects have been carried out in the Amazon and, in recent years, efforts have been made to increase the number of aid to Venezuela, Haiti and certain countries in particular need.

Each project is an expression of the Church's solidarity and is carried out on behalf of the Holy Father as a gesture of his closeness and commitment to the local Churches and the poorest communities. Addressing the Foundation on November 20, 2017, Pope Francis declared *"The situation in Latin America requires a firmer commitment to improve the living conditions for all without excluding anyone... The Foundation, despite the limited means available, embodies in its projects the preferential option for the poor, highlighting their dignity"*.

As part of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the Populorum Progressio Foundation highly appreciates that since 2018, Cross Catholic Outreach has been systematically, consistently and in the long-term linked to the financing of a significant number of these projects in various Latin American and Caribbean countries. As Secretary of the Board of Directors of this Foundation, I express my deep gratitude to Cross Catholic Outreach and its benefactors for their valuable contribution that helps to transform the lives of many people and communities and for listening to the call of Pope Saint Paul VI in his Encyclical Populorum Progressio, which is still in force:

*"All of you who have heard the appeal of suffering peoples, all of you who are working to answer their cries, you are the apostles of a development which is good and genuine, which is not wealth that is self-centered and sought for its own sake, but rather an economy which is put at the service of man, the bread which is daily distributed to all, as a source of brotherhood and a sign of Providence. With a full heart we bless you, and we appeal to all men of good will to join you in a spirit of brotherhood. For, if the new name for peace is development, who would not wish to labor for it with all his powers? Yes, we ask you, all of you, to heed our cry of anguish, in the name of the Lord". (# 86-87).*

May God bless you all,

  
PBRO. LUIS FERNEY LOPEZ J.  
Secretary of the Board of Directors  
Populorum Progressio Foundation