



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES

Office of the Bishop

October 29, 2019

Reverend Monsignor Ted Bertagni
Director of Clergy and Diocesan Relations
Cross Catholic Outreach
2700 N. Military Trail, Suite 240
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Dear Monsignor:

I welcome your recent greetings to me upon the occasion of my installation as Bishop of Las Cruces on July 23, 2019.

Having served in South Florida for the last five years I am familiar with the good work done by Cross Catholic Outreach and pleased to endorse the charitable work done across the areas of greatest need in our world. Your partnership with the local bishop in these missionary areas assures those who receive assistance to easily understand that it is the work of the local church and the universal church who, together, act justly to bring food, clean water, health care and education to alleviate their suffering.

I particularly applaud Cross Catholic Outreach for its work to support microenterprise projects. It is merciful to alleviate suffering by caring for those in need. It is even more so to provide the resources to empower the poor to move beyond their need and enjoy the dignity of providing for themselves and their families.

I commend the mission of Cross Catholic Outreach to invite others to join in their good work for the sake of the Gospel and would welcome receiving information about the *Host a Priest* program. In this missionary Diocese of Las Cruces, in one of the poorest states in the United States, I feel it is important that our parishioners recognize that, in the midst of their own need, we are all called to reach out to our suffering neighbors. Several of our parishes might well benefit from the experience of a visit of a Cross Catholic priest and be of support to our own clergy stretched across the vast geography of southern New Mexico.

Thanking you for the good work you do, I remain

Sincerely yours,

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Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino
Bishop of Las Cruces