



Diocese of St. George's Housing

Safe Housing for the Destitute

— Grenada —



That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock;
when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it,
because it had been well built.

LUKE 6:48



We are a Catholic ministry

that mobilizes the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.



Project Synopsis

Description

This project will fund the construction or renovation of homes for destitute families who have been unable to repair dilapidated houses badly damaged by storms and fires.

Purpose

To protect families with hurricane-resistant shelters and bring dignity to their lives.

Our Partner

Catholic Diocese of St. George's in Grenada.

Location

The Caribbean island of Grenada.

Cost

\$50,400 to cover most of the costs of building four new houses and all the expenses for repairing three others.

Highlights

- Impoverished families have been living in unsafe homes that were badly damaged by hurricanes in 2004 and 2005, as well as by fires and repeated storms.
- Housing conditions have worsened as the island economy struggles and more islanders fall into poverty.
- Fires also continue to ravage the neighborhoods of destitute islanders.
- Cross Catholic Outreach has committed to helping a Catholic housing ministry build sturdy homes for destitute families and the elderly living in unsafe conditions.
- Seven families have been identified as most in need of safe housing, but construction can begin only with our help!



The home of an impoverished family in Grenada



The Need

Grenada — promoted as the Spice Island — has long been a popular playground for tourists, but living conditions there have been anything but idyllic for its most destitute local residents.

“Poverty is hidden in Grenada,” said Bishop Clyde Harvey of the Diocese of St. George’s in Grenada. “Bad publicity hurts the tourism industry, so the authorities try their best to showcase the Spice Island as one of the best destinations in the region.”

While “out of sight, out of mind” to many, those families living in rural regions of the country are particularly burdened. For example, a surprising number are still reeling from the devastating effects of hurricanes Ivan and Emily all the way back in 2004-05. Many still live in homes with decaying wood walls, leaky roofs and sagging floors. The situation is so bad that some parents reluctantly send their children to live with other families, hoping their little ones will be housed in safer, more sanitary conditions.

Even homes not damaged by the hurricanes have fallen into disrepair because destitute families cannot afford repairs. Other homes have been damaged by fires that ravage the region.

While tourism has rebounded, poverty continues to grip those who live in the rural areas.. The

poor of Grenada are uneducated and lack the skills to participate in high-end services for island visitors. Other businesses on the island have closed in a sagging economy.

Jobs in fishing and farming pay low wages without benefits, but they are the only jobs available for able-bodied residents who can handle the work. But even these jobs are dependent on economic conditions and weather.

Cross Catholic Outreach shares the heartache Bishop Harvey has for the destitute of the diocese, and like him, we feel called to reach out in love! ***With your help, the diocese can build safe shelters and be a bridge to God’s mercy and compassion!***



The wooden beams and cement supports of an old home are deteriorating.

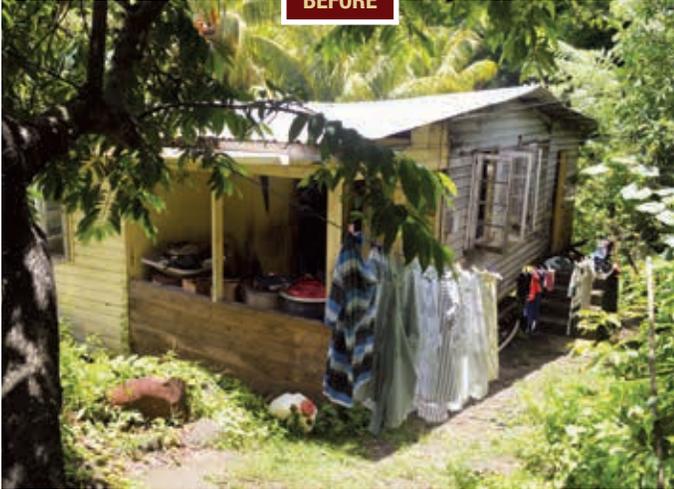
Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

HEBREWS 13:16



Ministry Description

BEFORE



The housing ministry demolished a rickety old house owned by Kingston and Ann Andall and built a sturdy new one. Cancer treatments for Ann take what little money the couple has.

AFTER



Catholic outreach teams in Grenada care deeply for their destitute neighbors living in dilapidated homes, but assisting everyone in need is beyond anything this poor diocese can afford.

Parish volunteers searching remote areas have identified more than 100 families and elderly residents who are living in substandard and unsafe homes. Small children and the elderly live in rickety buildings with leaky roofs and decayed floors that are infested with termites.

Outreach teams do what they can, connecting the destitute with food and clothing programs, but creating safe housing takes more resources than the diocese has. Cross Catholic Outreach connects the caring Catholics of Grenada with generous American Catholics like you.

With your gift, a housing ministry of the diocese can create hurricane-resistant homes for seven families. Priority is given to families with small children or serious medical conditions, as well as the elderly and those impacted by fires or natural disasters.

Skilled local craftsmen will build homes with strong wooden beams that will last. Recipients will participate as much as they are able, providing unskilled labor, unloading construction materials and securing water for crews.

When each home is complete, a parish priest will visit to bless the home and the family. And your blessing will be with them as well! Because of your kindness, they will lie down in peace each night, knowing God has answered their plea for help.

A heart for service

Growing up in Grenada, Francis Darius was just a young boy when he learned the joy of giving. His father took him and his siblings to visit the sick, the elderly and those in need. He taught his eight children to share by bringing home just a few mangoes and asking the children to divide them so everyone could enjoy the tasty fruit. A devout Catholic, his father led by example, and this made a tremendous impact on Francis.

Francis was so inspired that he became the diocesan coordinator of Caritas, the Catholic relief agency that directs the housing outreach. His late brother Vincent likewise was moved to serve — he became a priest and served as bishop of Grenada until he passed away in 2016.



A mother and daughter smile joyfully as a priest prays before blessing their newly constructed house with holy water. The contractor who works with the diocese prays in the background

Help Now!

As you have seen, the diocese housing ministry has an ambitious but noble goal — and its leaders can continue only with our support.

For the coming year, seven impoverished families will be lifted out of unsafe and unsanitary living conditions through the generosity of American Catholics like you. Four of these families live in homes that are in such bad condition that no one should be inside them. These homes will be torn down and replaced. For three others, crews will rehabilitate existing homes so they are safe to live in.

These seven families include 21 adults and 30 children — that's 51 people in need. Your compassion can show them God's mercy and restore their lost hope.

Please give generously to provide this blessing to those in greatest need!

**By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established;
by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.**

PROVERBS 24: 3-4

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2021, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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