



Diocese of Colorado Springs

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January 26, 2022

Reverend Monsignor Ted Bertagni
Director of Clergy of Diocesan Relations
2700 N. Military Trail; Ste 300
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Dear Monsignor Bertagni;

I enjoyed meeting with you in December to learn more about Cross Catholic Outreach. The twenty-year mission of the ministry to support Catholic missionaries on the front lines in the fight against poverty is a blessing to the world!

Last month, the universal Church observed the 5th World Day for the Poor, an observance that our Holy Father Pope Francis instituted in 2017. In his message for this year's observance, Pope Francis wrote "Christ's Gospel summons us to display special concern for the poor.....it is crucial that we grow in our awareness of the needs of the poor, which are always changing, as are their living conditions."

The model of Cross Catholic Outreach to embrace the whole person in the spirit of integral human development is a witness to the world that, in addition to the great material needs of food, water and other physical needs, the Church must address the problem of poverty in a way that includes spiritual development.

The poor are often the most receptive to God's message of love. In fact, God's heart is always close to the poor. Likewise, the poor in the developing world are free from the material trappings that affect those of us living in wealthy countries. As Pope Francis has written, the poor have much to teach us.

As we approach the final days of your ministry's observance of your twentieth anniversary, may the Lord bless Cross Catholic as you begin your twenty first year of ministry to the world's poor.

I'm pleased to endorse this vital work and let us keep each other in prayer for our respective missions to serve God's people.

Sincerely yours in Christ.

+ James R. Golka

Most Reverend James R. Golka
Bishop of Colorado Springs