Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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September 30, 2024

Reverend David G. Caron, OP
Vice President
Cross Catholic Outreach
600 SW 3rd Street, Suite 2201
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Dear Father Caron,

The work of Cross Catholic in support of Catholic missionaries in the developing world is a blessing to the universal Church. Having the ears to hear the cry of the poor is so important in our time, when many in the developed world assume poverty no longer threatens the lives of our brothers and sisters. Too often the poor are caught in the middle of the violence that comes with senseless wars and too often on the local streets where they struggle to find food and shelter.

Recently, Pope Francis released his message for the 8th World Day of the Poor saying, "The prayer of the poor rises up to God." Our Holy Father reminds us that all of us should make the prayer of the poor our own and pray together with them. In solidarity, we must offer not just material support, but our open hearts to those deprived of the basic necessities of life.

I join with my brother bishops in support of your mission to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually, and I encourage you to continue this ministry of service, which aligns with the model of integral human development recognized as so effective by the Church. With the assurance of prayers for you and Cross Catholic Outreach, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark L. Bartchak

Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown