



CATHOLIC EXTENSION

TALKING POINTS: INTRODUCING CATHOLIC EXTENSION

Good morning,

As we look to help our brothers and sisters in need, I have come across an organization, Catholic Extension that is doing inspiring work. For those of you who may not be familiar with Catholic Extension, it's a papal society based in Chicago, and reporting directly to the Vatican. Since 1905, they've been helping build Catholic communities in America's most impoverished areas.

Their goal is actually quite simple—to help Catholics practice their faith. Catholic Extension does this by building churches, training leaders and supporting various ministries.

Now we're pretty fortunate in our parish. We can meet our needs, and bring the presence of Christ into our community. But there is another side of the Catholic Church in America that you may not be familiar with.


There are Catholics in our own backyard who find it far more difficult to practice their faith because their church lacks the resources to provide a sanctuary, a priest or other basic ministries that we take for granted.

Catholic Extension is active all over the country, but they specialize in supporting poor, typically remote or isolated dioceses. They include places like:

- a remote Alaskan fishing village,
- a Catholic mission on a Native American reservation,
- a small church in the Appalachian Mountains or a large, but poverty-stricken Catholic parish along the U.S.-Mexico border,
- and they have spent the past year helping Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands rebuild.

These Mission Dioceses, while impoverished, are also home to some of the most vibrant and energetic congregations you'll ever meet. With help from Catholic Extension, they've been able to overcome some serious challenges in their lives and their communities.

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I want to share an example of their work and its reach. One seminarian Catholic Extension supported is Father Fredy Angel, a priest in rural southwest Georgia. Very early in his priesthood, he oversaw a Catholic community consisting of three mission churches that were growing rapidly in an area of the country where Catholics are a minority. Father Fredy saw an opportunity to unite them under one roof, and Catholic Extension helped them to build a new church.

This is just one example of the many ways that Catholic Extension helps fellow Catholics in our own country to practice their faith in ways we often take for granted.

The mission – as Jesus has said- is to serve the poor and attend to Catholic communities that are isolated and overlooked. And today, we have the opportunity to support their mission ourselves.

(If there is a second collection following this general introduction, feel free to indicate that here. If there is no second collection, continue with announcement of CE magazines and informational handouts.)

I encourage you to learn more about this organization and the work they are doing to support isolated Catholic communities throughout our country. Catholic Extension magazines and informational handouts can be found in the back of the Church.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and God Bless You.



CATHOLIC
EXTENSION

TALKING POINTS: CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENT

Good morning and thank you.

I wanted to announce our latest mission [venture/project]. I'm very pleased to tell you that we'll be partnering with Catholic Extension.

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(EXAMPLE)


The mission we've chosen for [this Sunday/this month/this Lenten season] is to support three sisters in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan. They've dedicated their lives to helping impoverished migrant farmworkers who play a huge role in harvesting cherries and other crops. We're talking about 20,000 workers and their families each year who travel north from April to October to 415 migrant camps run by the Kalamazoo diocese.

The vast majority of these workers and their families rely heavily on their Catholic faith to meet the many challenges in their lives. Those include incredibly long working hours—usually dawn to dusk—and the resulting disruptions to their family life.

These sisters bring the presence of the Church to the farmworkers through Mass at the migrant camps. They reach out by providing faith formation, visiting the sick and holding retreats. They lead music lessons and literacy programs. They engage with the youth. They even maintain a “kitchen ministry”, which helps feed the local community.

[I/we] chose this mission because—as Jesus has said—we who are more fortunate have a duty to serve the poor, the isolated and the overlooked. These migrant workers would likely be forgotten if it weren't for the dedicated sisters whose work we will support.

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If you would like to learn more about this mission, or about Catholic Extension, I encourage you to take a Catholic Extension magazine as well as an informational handout on our particular project which can all be found in the back of the Church.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and God Bless You.