

Strengthening the Church at Home

A typical home mission diocese "by the numbers": Diocese of Grand Island, in Nebraska

- » The diocese is approximately **350** square miles from end to end.
- » On average, **25%** of diocesan families make less than **\$24,000** a year.
- » In one diocesan community, **75.13%** of children in school are eligible for the reduced lunch plan, compared to the state average of **34.79%** eligibility.
- » The Diocese of Grand Island aims to increase the number of its young adults in leadership positions by **5%**.

Forming a New Generation



"Ministry with adolescents helps young people learn what it means to follow Jesus Christ and to live as his disciples today, empowering them to serve others and to work toward a world built on the vision and values of the reign of God" (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Vision* [Washington, DC: USCCB, 1997], 9). The Diocese of Fargo in North Dakota created an innovative program as part of its youth ministry outreach. Each summer, young Catholics are trained to evangelize and minister to rural parishes, missions, and Native American reservations in the northern part of the United States.

They reach more than 1,500 children and 600 teenagers with the message of the Gospel. Grants from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal provide this ministry to the increasing number of parishes that request a visit. This outreach is as important to the parishes that are served as it is to the leadership and development of the young Catholic volunteers. This is one example of important youth ministry programs supported by this annual Appeal.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal supports many essential pastoral services, including youth ministry, in mission dioceses across the country.

Catholic Home Missions' funding specifically for youth ministry provides faith formation experiences that

- Encourage leadership and religious vocations among Catholic youth
- Address the special needs of youth of all cultures in the United States
- Evangelize and catechize youth
- Provide young Catholics with a safe and faith-filled environment for activities and growth
- Educate young Catholics on Catholic social teaching to encourage charity and socially responsible behavior

As we continue to recover from the economic downturn, it is important to remember our Catholic brothers and sisters in the United States whose dioceses are financially fragile

even in the best of times. Home mission dioceses often exist in rural settings with struggling economies, long distances between parishes, and a lack of priests and trained lay people to sustain parishes. Dioceses like Grand Island and Fargo do not have the capacity to support their parishes by funding essential pastoral care such as the youth ministry program described here. They rely on financial assistance from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

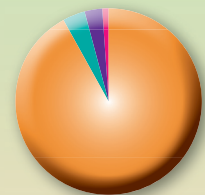


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The 2008 Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Uses of Funds: \$7,077,924*

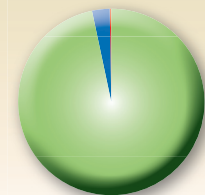
- 92%: Grants
- 4%: Programs
- 3%: Administration
- 1%: Promotion



* Unused funds replenished reserves used for Hurricane Katrina.

Sources of Funds: \$9,849,289

- 97.6%: National Parish Collections
- 2.1%: Interest Income
- 0.3%: Institutional and Individual Contribution



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