



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Catholic Pastoral Center • 1615 West Washington Street • Springfield, Illinois 62702-4757
www.dio.org 217-698-8500 FAX 217-698-0802

Office of the Bishop

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." – Rev 3:20

March, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon our diocese will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your support of this collection serves Jesus in the guise of the poor and vulnerable in some of the most marginalized communities in our world.

Sailors, fishers, harbor workers, and their families have unique pastoral needs because of mariners' long periods away from home. In addition to access to the Mass and sacraments on ships, seafarers also need hospitality and pastoral care in port cities as well as assistance with errands such as shopping and medical appointments. For the past hundred years, Stella Maris – also called Apostleship of the Sea – has ministered to the pastoral needs of mariners through chaplaincies and centers in port cities. This apostleship currently serves the community with more than 100 chaplains and lay ministers in 48 ports across the United States.

In November 2019, 21 bishops, 11 apostleship chaplains, and lay ministers and staff from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT) gathered to discuss the experiences and challenges of chaplains and how best to take on the challenges of maritime ministry. They invited bishops to engage in efforts to raise awareness of the Apostleship of the Sea in their own dioceses. By gathering chaplains with bishops, the apostleship can address challenges in the maritime world and continue to meet the needs of mariners.

Apostleship of the Sea is one of the PCMRT ministries funded through The Catholic Relief Services Collection. When you give, you help to support this valuable ministry.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year. To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

PASTORS/PARISH LEADERS: Please announce this collection to your parishioners in your bulletins, website, or other social media platforms the weekend of **March 6/7, 2021** and gather it on the weekend of **March 13/14, 2021**. The proceeds gathered should be forwarded to our **Office for Finances** within thirty (30) days. Thank you!