

archbishop@catholicaoc.org 513.263.6612

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection on April 17th and 18th. 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. This national collection funds six Catholic agencies that serve those most in need (Catholic Relief Services, USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., USCCB Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church, USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development, and the Holy Father's Relief Fund). The collection helps to provide services for immigrants and refugees, humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters, and advocacy for peace and justice around the 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.

Apostleship of the Sea is one of the USCCB's Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers' (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 supporting the collection and answering the knock of Jesus in disguise.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr

W. Selmer

Archbishop of Cincinnati