



## Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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Office of the Bishop

January 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon our diocese will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. This national collection supports many pastoral projects that benefit the faithful in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the mountains of northeastern Colombia, on the border with Venezuela, the Diocese of Cúcuta has been a migration point for needy Venezuelan refugees coming in search of food, medicine, and daily necessities. For several years, the diocese's welcome centers have served more than 1,000 meals each day to hungry migrants. The primary center, at Casa de Paso Divina Providencia, has been addressing the needs of these refugees with diocesan resources as well as assistance from local businesses, charities, and parishes.

The Collection for the Church in Latin America, in solidarity with these vulnerable refugees and the local diocese serving them, provided much-needed assistance to ensure that Casa de Paso Divina Providencia can continue its work of hospitality and mercy. Your contribution to the collection not only supports and sustains these invaluable efforts but also allows you to stand in closer unity with refugees and those serving them.

Our diocese takes up this collection the weekend of January 23 and 24. Please be generous toward the collection. Take this opportunity to share your faith with our sisters and brothers in Latin America and the Caribbean. Your support truly makes a difference.

Thank you, and God bless you.

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 **January 16-17, 2021** and gather it on **January 23-24, 2021**. The proceeds gathered should be forwarded to our **Office for Missions** within thirty (30) days. Thank you so much for your pastoral support of this appeal for the Church and those who are suffering in Latin America and the Caribbean.