



Strengthening Parishes | \$10 million

"The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach"

Pope Francis' exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel")

The *Called and Sent* campaign will help to strengthen parishes and their evangelization efforts by focusing on essential areas of need unique to each individual parish. A portion of all funds raised at each parish will remain with the parish to address their own needs. For specific details on how your parish intends to use these funds, see the enclosed pastor letter and parish case statement.

Our hope is that parishes will use their funds to strengthen their evangelization programs. This could include investing in leadership, youth and young adult ministry, and Hispanic ministry. The campaign aims to strengthen parishes by providing support for their specific needs, including capital improvements to facilitate evangelization and ensure that the parish remains a safe and welcoming place. Parish case statements have been developed with input from the parish pastoral and finance councils. Recognizing that what may have worked in the past, may not work in the future, we encourage parishes to be innovative in their approach to evangelization. The goal is to make parishes true centers of evangelization, effectively staffed, financially sound, and operating with robust, vibrant ministries.