



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon our (arch)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.

Brazil's Associacao do Sementes do Verbo (Seeds of the Word Community) is a young and growing congregation with a unique vision of forming missionary communities of disciples in all states of life—consecrated men and women, clergy, lay missionaries, and married couples and families, all living together in community. Founded in 2004, Sementes do Verbo has 20 communities throughout Brazil, as well as in Portugal, Belgium, Canada, Comoros, and Mozambique. A central aspect of the group's spirituality is a nine-month formation period called a "sabbatical year," during which participants live in a mission house with the community and study Scripture; take courses in the theology of the body and human sexuality, with an emphasis on prevention of abuse; and participate in spiritual exercises and parish mission weeks.

Supported by a grant from the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America, 100 participants from 25 dioceses in 11 Brazilian states had the opportunity to become formed as more effective missionary disciples in 2021. When you support the Collection for the Church in Latin America, your material gift makes it possible for disciples to use their gifts and abilities as evangelizers, regardless of their states in life or economic backgrounds.

Our diocese takes up this collection on the weekend of January 23rd. Please be generous toward this 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 Robert E. Guglielmo
Bishop of Charleston

For more information on the Church in Latin America and the many projects funded by the collection, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america. It may be helpful to know that #iGiveCatholicTogether (<https://usccb.igivecatholictogether.org/>) also accepts funds for this program if parishioners in your diocese are looking for a way to support this collection through online donations.