



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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 those who are poor and vulnerable in the most marginalized communities in our world.

The Church is called to bring the Gospel to all people and accompany them in their lives of faith, regardless of their state in life, cultural heritage, or occupation. For people who travel most of the time for work—such as seafarers, truckers, airline workers, and itinerant entertainers and show workers—access to the sacraments, fellowship, and accompaniment are essential for strengthening their faith. This is especially true for circus and traveling show workers and their families.

For circus and traveling show performers and workers, life is communal and familial. People traveling together, often in families, have pastoral needs that require special attention, such as religious education and celebration of the Mass that are often inaccessible in local parishes due to time constraints associated with scheduled shows. Approximately 40% of circus and itinerant entertainers in the United States are Catholic, with performers hailing from countries around the world.

The circus and traveling shows ministry, an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT), works to raise awareness and address the pastoral needs of performers. Among those doing this valuable ministry is Deacon Gary Nosacek, a circus and traveling show minister of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, who performs this ministry of presence and prayer with joy. With support from The Catholic Relief Services Collection, PCMRT attends to the needs of these families that might otherwise be unmet.

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, at Mass or through your parish online giving platform. [#iGiveCatholicTogether](#) also accepts funds for the collection. 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 Robert E. Guglielmo
Bishop of Charleston