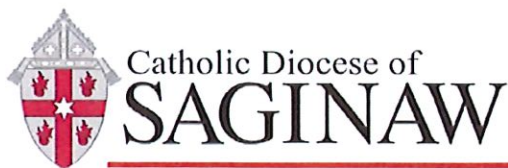


New Announcements:



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Date: Aug. 9, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace and blessings to you and your families.

I write to share an important update regarding the way our Diocese will participate in the **National Collections** established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). For many years, support for many of these collections came directly from the Diocese's **annual Christ Mission Appeal**. After prayerful discernment, consultation with the Diocesan Finance Council and leadership team, we have made a change to how we support these vital missions of the Church.

Beginning this fiscal year, individual parishes will be invited to participate directly in the National Collections throughout the year. These collections — ranging from support for the Church in Latin America, to outreach in the Holy Land, to assisting Catholic communication efforts — offer each of us the opportunity to take part in the Church's mission of mercy, education, evangelization, and solidarity across the globe.

This change offers several meaningful benefits:

- **You, the faithful, now can give more intentionally**, responding to the collections that resonate most personally with you and your family.
- **The collections are spread throughout the year**, allowing for more thoughtful discernment and less pressure on your household budget.
- **Parishes will receive materials directly from the USCCB at no cost**, including envelopes and brochures to help communicate each collection's mission and impact.
- **Envelopes are available through Our Sunday Visitor** and may be added to your parish envelope packets.

We are confident that this approach will not only honor the spirit of giving in our local Church but also deepen our shared commitment to the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world.

Further information about each collection will be made available at your parish and through the Diocesan Mission Office. While participation is not mandatory, I encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting these important efforts throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for all the ways you live out your faith through prayer, service, and stewardship. May we continue to be a people of mission and mercy — at home, and throughout the world.

In Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Bishop Gruss".

Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss

Bishop of Saginaw



September 7 or 14, 2025 – Catholic University of America

Since 1903, the National Collection – the only nationwide second collection taken for higher education in the U.S. – has been a critical source of funding for Catholic University.

January 25, 2026 – Church in Latin America

The Collection for the Church in Latin America supports pastoral programs as awarded by the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

February 18, 2026 – Church in Central and Eastern Europe

This collection provides aid by the Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe through bishops' conferences ... to meet the needs of rebuilding the Church.

February 22, 2026 – Black and Indian Mission Collection

Mandated by the III Plenary Council in 1884, the 140-year-old National Collection for Black and Indian people continues as the embodiment of the Church's concern for evangelizing the Black and Indian peoples of the United States.

April 3, 2026 – Holy Land

Pontifical Collection. Collect funds for support of the Holy Places, and for those pastoral, charitable, educational and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities.

April 26, 2026 – Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Launched in 1998, the Appeal strengthens the Catholic Church in the United States and its territories in 85 Latin and Eastern Catholic dioceses.

May 17, 2026 – Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC)

The essential mission of the CCC is to contribute to the process of evangelization by fostering activities in relation to television, radio, internet, and other media, and through special projects of the Catholic press.

June 28, 2026 – Peter's Pence (Holy Father)

The Peter's Pence Collection fulfills two aims set by the Holy See: (1) To support the Holy Father's mission...; and (2) To support the numerous charitable works in aid of people and families in difficulty, populations afflicted by natural disasters and wars, or who are in need of humanitarian assistance or support for development.

TBD (Summer 2026) – Church in Africa

Through the Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa the Subcommittee on the Church in Africa provides grants to finance pastoral projects that support the maintenance and growth of the Church in Africa.

Please note that we will continue National Collections typically held in parishes each year, including:

The Catholic Relief Services Collection (March 15, 2026), World Mission Sunday (Oct. 19, 2025), The Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (Nov. 9, 2025; held every 3 years), The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (Nov. 16, 2025), and The Retirement Fund for Religious (Dec. 14, 2025).