



Building Faith | Inspiring Hope | Igniting Change

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Experience the Church's mission on the margins

Catholic Extension's mission is to build churches and the Church among the marginalized in the poorest regions of our country. Since our founding in 1905, we have helped build over 12,500 churches, and today, through the support of donors, we financially support faith communities on the peripheries and their leadership in 87 of the 195 dioceses of the United States.

Our Mission Immersion Program invites priests and other pastoral ministers to experience firsthand the Church's inspiring and diverse missionary work in under-resourced regions of the United States and its territories, while forming bonds with fellow pastoral leaders both at home and in the mission communities they visit.

We seek to invite participants with an openness to learning to a 3-day, all expenses paid, mission immersion trip. Past participants have described the trips as memorable, formative experiences of some of the most hopeful work the Church is doing in our country.



Priests from the Archdiocese of Chicago on an immersion trip
near Las Cruces, New Mexico

Church communities supported by Extension, 2010 – present:

- Native American reservations in the Southwest
- African-American parishes in the Deep South
- Migrant farm worker camps in farmlands
- Shanty towns along the U.S. – Mexico Border
- Remote missions in Appalachia
- Caribbean islands of Puerto Rico & US Virgin Islands

"Each priest is called to have a missionary spirit, that is to say a truly 'catholic' spirit, which, beginning from Christ reaches out to all so 'they may be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth' (1Tm 2:4-6)".

Congregation for the Clergy, "Directory for the Ministry and Life of Priests" (2013)

"Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus."

Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, paragraph 120



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Feedback from past participants

From those who travel:

- *"Visiting places like Eastern Kentucky and the Indian reservations where the Church is in the minority opened my eyes to the challenge of the Church and...also deepened my respect for the work it does."*
- *"The more we travel, the more open minded we get, when you see the south vs the north and the way the Church operates...It makes everyone aware of different situations. People in smaller areas know they are not alone, [the visit] helps them see...beyond their circumstance."*
- *"This was great, there was a kindred vision of Church, we knew each other — [the trip] created social opportunities, and conversations"*

From the host:

- *"Our experience has been that those [visitors] who have had a good relationship, maintain contact and it has affected them in some form." - Visited Pastor*
- *"For people that have been visited, there is a satisfaction of knowing that people are interested in what they're doing...That in and of itself is very rewarding." - Visited Pastor*

Leadership

Tim Muldoon, Ph.D., Director of Mission Education

Tim is a theologian, professor, and author/editor of twelve books on Ignatian spirituality, the theology of the laity, and marriage and family spirituality. He was the inaugural director of the Church in the 21st Century Center at Boston College, and later served for ten years in the University's Office of Mission and Ministry. He served on Catholic Extension's mission committee for five years before joining the organization full time in 2017. Tim, his wife, and three teen children are parishioners at Good Shepherd Parish in Wayland, MA.

Learn more about Catholic Extension on our [YouTube channel](#),
or watch [this short video](#) of priests from Boston reflecting on their 2018 immersion trip.

For more information, contact:

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