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Welcome to the **Global Solidarity Twinning Parish ministry,** part of your parish Global Solidarity Ambassador Program. Thank you for saying, “Yes,” to spreading the Gospel message to “Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And to love your Neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39)

Pope Francis has said, “In the poor and outcast we see Christ’s face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ…Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution.” (*Lenten Message of Our Holy Father Francis, 2014*)

In your role as the ministry ambassador for your parish community’s Twinning Parish ministry, you have the opportunity to love and serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by bringing His love to others in your parish, your community and around the world.

You and your parish may already enjoy an active twinning relationship with a parish in another country, or you may be interested in initiating such a relationship now. Catholic Relief Services for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis exists to provide parishes with resources and information about issues facing our brothers and sisters around the world today, along with opportunities to make a difference. One of these opportunities is cultivating or growing a thriving parish twinning relationship with a parish in a location such as the Caribbean, Latin America, the Philippines or Africa. Parishes with established twinning relationships may work in solidarity with the sister parish in a variety of ways, e.g., taking a medical mission trip to the twin parish, initiating a water purification project or helping with a construction project for the parish, doing fundraising for the parish or aiding the parish school with materials or student support.

As the Global Solidarity Ambassador for the Twinning Parish ministry, your role is not only to support the initiation or continuation of your parish’s relationship with a twinned parish, but also to help all parishioners connect the Gospel message of solidarity with what it means to live that message of solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. It is an opportunity for them to grow personally in faith and to participate in the temporal and eternal life-saving mission of Christ’s Church on earth.

The Archdiocese is not duplicating effective twinning parish resources that already exist through organizations such as the *Parish Twinning Program of the Americas* or *Hearts for Haiti*. Rather, it seeks to connect parishes with established twinning resources and to encourage archdiocesan parishes to share best practices, lessons learned and helpful information with other parishes in the Archdiocese.

In Solidarity,

Catholic Relief Services

Archdiocese of Indianapolis