



# 2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Making Christ A Home In Your Heart

**100% of your gift supports 14 ministries like [Mandeville Diocese, Jamaica!](#)**

**“Humbled and Blessed!”** These are words spoken often and by many in our diocese after experiencing a mission trip to our twin sister diocese—Mandeville, Jamaica, West Indies.

## **A story of Faith, Hope & Charity.**

Located more than 1,608 miles away from Central Pennsylvania, the diocese’s ‘Twinning Project’ was first initiated in 1998. Twenty years later, the relationship continues as *parishioners turned missionaries* remain steadfast to aid our neighbors in need by helping with their hands in Jamaica or with their hearts here at home.

Jamaica is mostly rural and is the third poorest nation in the Caribbean. Health facilities, running water and public transportation are not readily available. Most children end their education after sixth grade. Sunday transportation is non-existent and it is not uncommon for the faithful to walk three or more miles one way to Mass.

Currently administering the sacraments and much-needed social services to nearly 7,000 Catholics are 17 diocesan priests, six brothers and 34 sisters. The diocese covers 1,300 square miles and pastors often have to travel several hours to preach the Gospel. Parish structures, especially housing for priests and religious, are limited as they often double as schools. With so much poverty, almost all are dependent upon the diocese for support. In turn, Mandeville counts on our diocese to help them.

To address their many needs, parishioners do short-term mission trips that provide hands-on support, such as building or repairing structures. Through school and parish initiatives, care packages of school, personal, and medical supplies are shipped daily. In 2017, the Catholic Ministries Drive allocated \$37,484 including the important Ash Wednesday collections held across the diocese.

Our Jamaican brothers and sisters are poor. But if you ask anyone who has personally experienced a mission trip or heard stories from a visiting priest at Mass, they will tell you that the parishioners, despite their poverty, are all ‘spirit-filled’ as they celebrate their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

As one mission-goer said, “I went there to help them and in turn they helped me. They are always grateful and giving. I felt humbled and blessed!”

*Partnering with the Diocese of Mandeville allows all in our diocese the opportunity to live as missionary disciples. Whether one experiences a mission trip first-hand, financially supports Mandeville collections, or simply keeps the poor in prayer; sustaining this relationship allows us to continue His works of Mercy by following his teaching. **Whatever you do for the least of your brothers that you do unto Me.***

Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Drive can be mailed to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, P.O. Box 409, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; placed in your parish offertory; or made online at [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org). The Catholic Ministries Drive continues through Dec. 31, 2018 and all donations are tax deductible.

