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PARTNERSHIP  
WITH



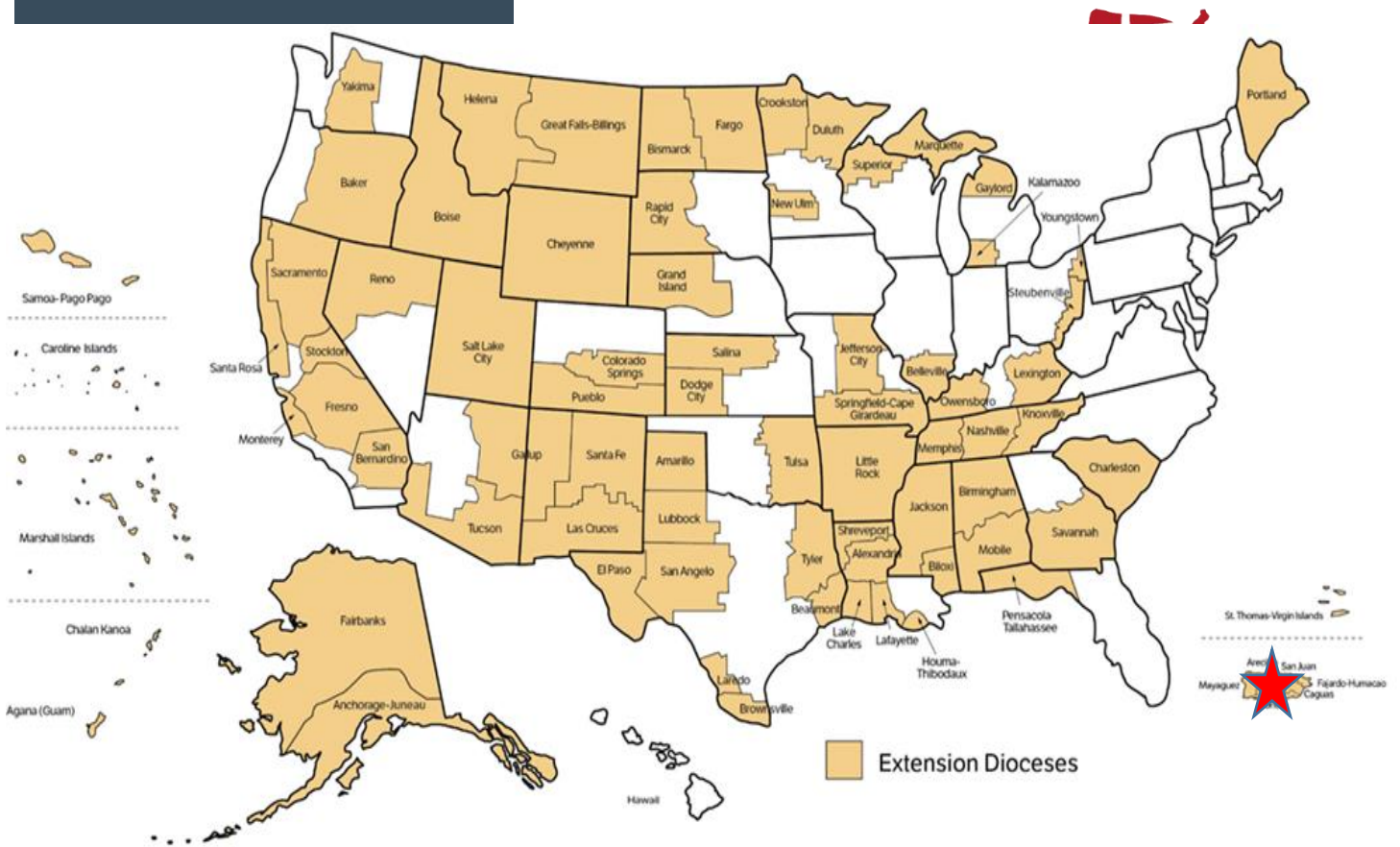
In partnership with Catholic Extension, the Saint Paul the Apostle parish community is supporting **the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in the Diocese of Ponce, Puerto Rico**. Your efforts will assist and sustain their ministry so that they can continue their spiritual works of mercy and serve the people in this poor area.

Catholic Extension works in solidarity with people in America’s poorest regions to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities. We seek to deepen and expand our commitment to Catholic faith communities by providing resources to develop leaders, ministries and facilities, while inviting more people across our country to invest in this work.

Catholic Extension is a papal society that is answering Pope Francis’ call to go out to America’s “peripheries.” Since its founding, Catholic Extension has financially supported communities that cannot support themselves.

**“These communities are the future of our Church. These are the places where our Church is at its most inspiring. It is our responsibility, as fellow Catholics, to nurture these places of hope. Come join us on this journey and help us to build up Catholic faith communities and watch what happens.”**

**Father Jack Wall**  
President, Catholic Extension



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In partnership with Catholic Extension, the Saint Paul the Apostle parish community is supporting **the ministries of the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in the Diocese of Ponce, Puerto Rico.** Your efforts will assist and sustain their ministry so that they can continue their spiritual works of mercy and serve the people in this poor area.



Help the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of Fatima in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican people have their own poem about Mary – Our Lady of Divine Providence. Our Lady of Divine Providence is to Puerto Rico what Our Lady of Guadalupe is to Mexico. Our Lady of Divine Providence is Puerto Rico’s patroness, their deep heart’s core, their spiritual North Star.

Over the last 5 years everything has gone wrong in Puerto Rico. Hurricane Maria, the strongest hurricane to hit the island in nearly a century, made landfall on

September 20, 2017. To make matters worse, an earthquake swarm hit the island in December 2019 and persisted into 2020.

After Maria, Puerto Rico was without electricity for 4 months. Some residents still have no power. Many places, including an estimated 1,000 damaged Catholic properties, have laid in ruins for 5 years. And in September the island was ravaged by Hurricane Fiona.

When the Puerto Rican people face the worst, they are at their best. After a century’s worst hurricane and devastating earthquakes, they are enduring. Their commitment, their joy, their hope makes Providence rush in. We stand with them today because they are still standing. Our Lady of Divine Providence is the outward expression of their inner grit, their belief that together, they and God will make a way out of no way.

The charism of the Dominican sisters is the evangelization of families, especially among the poorest and most vulnerable. As part of the sister’s ministry, they run a center – El Instituto Especial para el Desarrollo Integral del Individuo, la familia y la



comunidad, Inc. (IDIIFCO). IDIIFCO's mission is to ensure the integral development of individuals, children, and families.

The kids that come to the institute are from the poorest of the poor. These kids have basically been abandoned or neglected by their parents because of the overwhelming stress of two very recent Hurricanes and multiple earthquakes. Many of the families in Guanica, Puerto Rico and surrounding neighborhoods have lost their homes in Puerto Rico's many natural disasters, especially the latest Hurricane Fiona. Like so many poor children they are under-resourced, under-estimated, and under-developed. But they come to the right place. The Dominican Sisters offer the kids a place of refuge, safety, security, dignity, and love.



The institute is run by Dominican Sisters Judith and Maristella. They are, in fact, twin sisters. Their habitual smiles are prominent under their Covid masks. Gleeful joy is clearly the only protocol that matters with the kids. The institute typically serves kids ranging from 6 to 15 years old.



The sisters have the kids start off each morning with a group chant:

**Soy grande! Soy inteligente! Soy Fuerto! So importante! Y me doy un abrazo!**

The Dominican sisters say that their charism is to give away the Love that God gives them. Their center takes on the whole of their families' needs. They offer social and mental health services.

They also help the victims of domestic violence and child abuse. This project seeks to prevent and reduce the incidence of domestic violence and child abuse by strengthening the family nucleus. The multitude of natural disasters that have affected the community of Guanica, Puerto Rico have made the issues of domestic violence and child abuse/neglect much worse.

They offer Fine Arts programs and help on the journey to and through high school to post-secondary opportunities. They tutor and train. They serve the elderly. They are the Beatitudes and Corporal works of mercy in action.

Their center was not damaged during the hurricanes or earthquakes. The sisters attribute it to the Eucharistic Presence. The Dominican Sisters and their volunteers love their children, you know for certain that this institute is Christ's home. The Dominican Sisters rely heavily on outside donations to continue the programs offered at IDIIFCO.



**Thank you for your support and generosity!**

**St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church**

# 2023 Lenten Almsgiving

In partnership with Catholic Extension, St. Paul the Apostle parish is **supporting the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in the Diocese of Ponce, Puerto Rico.**

## Let's help our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico!

The following list provides a general summary of the supplies and programs that St. Paul the Apostle parish community can fund during our Lenten Almsgiving. 100% of the funds will go to help the Dominican Sisters of Fatima in Puerto Rico.

### Wish List

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Catechism materials                               | \$ 250 |
| Musical instruments for lessons                   | \$ 125 |
| Various snacks                                    | \$ 100 |
| Travel expenses for home visits                   | \$ 80  |
| Diapers   | \$ 75  |
| Sports drinks for kids                            | \$ 70  |
| Sponsor a teenager or a child to attend a retreat | \$ 65  |
| Supplies for craft workshops for children         | \$ 50  |
| Toys, puzzles and games for children              | \$ 45  |
| Crayons and coloring books                        | \$ 30  |
| Family activity kits to hand out                  | \$ 35  |
| Mass supplies                                     | \$ 25  |
| Baby Bottles                                      | \$ 15  |

Please prayerfully consider a donation to help our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico.

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