

# REVEAL Christ's LOVE

Dear Diocesan Director/Coordinator,

Your diocese will soon take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. By participating in this collection, you support organizations rooted in the mission of revealing Christ's love to victims of wars, natural disasters, and forced migration.

One way Catholics live the call to show Christ's love to strangers is by welcoming immigrants and refugees and helping them establish new lives in the communities where they settle. In addition to material and social needs such as housing, jobs, and a supportive community, immigrants often need specialized assistance from legal professionals and representatives trained in immigration law. The US Department of Justice's Office of Legal Access Programs (OLAP) offers accreditation that allows non-attorneys to represent immigrants through OLAP-approved organizations. This accreditation process requires coursework in immigration law and an application process.

Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC) helps organizations such as Building Hope in the City in Cleveland, Ohio, by training and assisting applicants for OLAP accreditation. Geeta Sharma, a former refugee from Bhutan who is now a naturalized US citizen working for Building Hope in the City, had a lifelong dream of assisting immigrants and refugees. Laura Burdick, a CLINIC field support coordinator, assisted Geeta with her application for accreditation. But after a year went by without any word from OLAP, Geeta started to lose hope. Laura contacted OLAP on Geeta's behalf in August 2022, and within 12 hours, Geeta learned that her application was accepted.

CLINIC obtains results for immigrants and those advocating for them with invaluable financial support from The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your participation in the collection helps CLINIC build on this record of success.

We rely on you to promote this collection, and we are here to support your efforts. Bulletin announcements, parish appeals, web banners, and more are available for your use at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief). There you can also find a social media tool kit with Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram posts and photos to use. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or [mhren@usccb.org](mailto:mhren@usccb.org). On behalf of the National Collections staff and all who benefit from The Catholic Relief Services Collection, thank you.

Gratefully in Christ,



Margaret Hren  
Assistant Director, Promotions



## The Catholic Relief Services Collection

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