

**DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS
NATIONAL COLLECTIONS SCHEDULE
2017**

COLLECTION	SCHEDULED	SUBMISSION INFORMATION	EXPLANATION
Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA)	Fourth Sunday in January January 22, 2017	Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than February 25, 2017	The Collection for the Church in Latin America supports pastoral programs as awarded by the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Projects include the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis. Funding is limited to programmatic expenses and excludes building construction except in cases of emergency.
Collection for Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE)	Ash Wednesday March 1, 2017	Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than April 5, 2017	This collection provides aid by the Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe through bishops' conferences of Central and Eastern Europe and the ex-Soviet Union to meet the needs of rebuilding the Church. It focuses on training seminarians and lay leaders, supporting social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral and catechetical centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and evangelization through Catholic media.
Black and Indian Missions	First Sunday in Lent March 5, 2017	Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than April 7, 2017	Mandated by the III Plenary Council in 1884, the 125 year old National Collection for Black and Indian people continues as the embodiment of the Church's concern for evangelizing the Black and Indian peoples of the United States. The funds are distributed as grants to diocese throughout the United States, supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which otherwise would cease. The Collection was formerly known as the Black and Indian Home Mission Collection.

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The Catholic Relief Services Collection (formerly the American Bishops Overseas Appeal)	March 26, 2017	Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than April 30, 2017	This collection provides funding for Catholic Relief Services; the USCCB Offices of International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugee Services, and Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees; relief work of the Holy Father; and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.
CRS Rice Bowl	Individual and Family Offerings Throughout Lent March 1, 2017 thru April 16, 2017	Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than May 19, 2017	Not a parish collection but a Lenten program run in schools and parishes. CRS Rice Bowl provides funding for Catholic Relief Services' food security projects which support agriculture, nutrition, education, and self-sufficiency in communities around the world. 75% is remitted to CRS for overseas projects and 25% may be retained in the diocese for local antipoverty programs.
Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land	Good Friday April 14, 2017	Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than May 19, 2017	Pontifical Collection. Collect funds for support of the Holy Places, but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities.
Catholic Home Missions Appeal (CHMA)	Last Sunday in April April 30, 2017	Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than June 2, 2017	Launched in 1998, the Appeal strengthens the Catholic Church in the United States and its territories in 87 Latin and Eastern Catholic dioceses. The Subcommittee on the Catholic Home Missions funds a wide range of pastoral services, including evangelization, religious education, and the maintenance of mission parishes, the training of seminarians and lay ministers, and ministry with ethnic groups.

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<p>The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception</p>	<p>Mother' Day <i>One-time collection</i> May 14, 2017</p> <p>Left to Parish discretion whether to take up in the DGFB</p>	<p>Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than June 16, 2017</p>	<p>The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is the nation's preeminent Marian shrine, and is oftentimes affectionately referred to as America's Catholic Church. Open 365 days a year, the Basilica is host to nearly one million visitors annually, attracting pilgrims and tourists alike from across the country and around the world. Proceeds from this collection will assist with the completion of the central and final dome in mosaic, The Holy Trinity.</p>
<p>Catholic Communications Campaign (CCC)</p>	<p>Sunday between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost May 28, 2017</p>	<p>Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than July 3, 2017</p>	<p>The essential mission of the CCC is to contribute to the process of evangelization by fostering activities in relation to television, radio, internet, and other media, and through special projects of the Catholic press. An annual collection is taken up in the dioceses, which remit 50% of the funds collected to the National Office. From these funds, grants are made by the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catholic Communication Campaign. The remaining portion of the collection is retained by the dioceses for use in local communication projects.</p>
<p>Peter's Pence Collection (Collection for the Holy Father)</p>	<p>Sunday nearest the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul July 2, 2017</p>	<p>Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than August 4, 2017</p>	<p>The Peter's Pence Collection enables the Holy Father to respond with emergency financial assistance to requests to aid the neediest throughout the world—those who suffer as a result of war, oppression, and natural disasters. It likewise provides the faithful with a tangible opportunity to not only empower the weak, defenseless, and voiceless, but also sustain those who suffer.</p>

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<p>Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa</p>	<p>July 9, 2017</p>	<p>Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than August 11, 2017</p>	<p>Through the Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa the Subcommittee on the Church in Africa provides grants to finance pastoral projects that support the maintenance and growth of the Church in Africa. Funded projects include outreach programs, schools, evangelization, and education of clergy and lay ministers.</p>
<p>The Catholic University of America</p>	<p>First Sunday in September September 3, 2017</p>	<p>Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than October 6, 2017</p>	<p>Provides funding for academic scholarships at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC in response to the commitment made by the bishops at its foundation in 1887. It is the only U.S. university with Pontifical faculties. Students are enrolled from all 50 states and almost 100 countries in 12 schools.</p>
<p>World Mission Sunday</p>	<p>Next-to-last Sunday in October October 22, 2017</p>	<p>Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than November 24, 2017</p>	<p>In 1926 Pope Pius XI instituted Mission Sunday for the whole Church with the first worldwide Mission Sunday collection taking place in October 1927. The Mission Sunday collection is always taken on the next to last Sunday during the month of October. That day is celebrated in all the local Churches as the feast of catholicity and universal solidarity so Christians the world over will recognize their common responsibility with regard to the evangelization of the world.</p>

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Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services	Sunday before Veteran's Day, every third year Not taken in 2017	Left to Parish discretion whether to take up in the DGFB	Currently, 285 Catholic military chaplains provide pastoral care to over 1.5 million Catholics on ships, in combat, on bases and in 153 VA hospitals. The Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services will fund their co-sponsored seminarian program which identifies vocations within the military and is now educating 30 men for the priesthood and subsequent military chaplaincy.
Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)	Sunday before Thanksgiving November 19, 2017	Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than December 22, 2017	The Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development addresses the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community controlled, self -help organizations and transformative education. Grants are awarded by the Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development with the approval of local bishops.
Retirement Fund For Religious	Second Sunday in December December 10, 2017	Forward Your Check payable to: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings To the Diocesan Business Office no later than January 12, 2018	The Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) provides funding to any religious institute in the U.S. that is listed in the religious institute section of the OCD with an identifying OCD number, and that has an unfunded past service liability. It distributes direct care, planning and implementation assistance from the fund to religious institutes based on a formula and criteria approved by the conferences of major superiors and bishops. Annual appeal begun in 1988 and approved through 2017.