



May 24, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In many places around the globe the Church struggles to be a visible sign of Christ's peace: in poor dioceses where many depend on the Church for social and pastoral support; in regions where Catholics are persecuted and must be helped discreetly; in nations overloaded with refugees or victims of war and natural disasters.

The Peter's Pence Collection gives us the opportunity to extend a sign of peace to the Body of Christ around the world. Our gifts to this annual collection help the Holy Father to support victims of disaster, war and oppression and others most in need of assistance. Pope Benedict uses the Peter's Pence Collection to strengthen dioceses, religious orders and struggling communities of faith when they need it most.

Please give generously to the collection and help cast the peace of Christ upon the world. Thank you so much for your generosity and may God bless you and those you love abundantly.

Sincerely and appreciatively yours in Christ,

+ Edward K. Braxton

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton
Bishop of Belleville

Please read this letter, print a synopsis of it or the suggested announcements below in your bulletin and make appropriate announcements on the weekend of June 18-19, 2011. The collection is to be taken up on June 25-26, 2011.

Envelopes for this collection should be in your parishioners' regular envelope packets. Please send the proceeds of this collection to the Chancery no later than Friday, August 19, 2011. Please make the check payable to "Catholic Diocese of Belleville" and indicate "Peter's Pence" in the lower left-hand corner of the check. Your cooperation in forwarding the check by the requested date is appreciated.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and assistance.

Suggested Bulletin Insert – June 18-19

Next week our diocese will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides the Holy Father with the assistance he needs to carry out his most important charitable works. The proceeds benefit the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Through your generosity we can cast the love of Christ upon the world.

Suggested Bulletin Insert – June 25-26

Today we support the Holy Father in his charitable works. The Peter's Pence Collection is taken up worldwide to support the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression and natural disasters and others in need of emergency assistance. Pope Benedict XVI has said, "It is necessary above all that every person be motivated by the authentic spirit of peace" (Homily, January 1, 2011). Cast the peace of Christ upon the world—please be generous in today's collection.