



May 24, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In 2009 families in the United States experienced an economic downturn that devastated many. Despite these struggles, the faithful have shown that they consider it a priority to help those less fortunate than themselves through their support of the Peter's Pence Collection.

“God’s love...gives us the courage to continue seeking and working for the benefit of all”
(*Caritas in Veritate*, no. 78).

The Peter's Pence Collection allows the Holy Father to support victims of disaster, war and oppression and others most in need of emergency assistance. The pope, being pastor of the whole Church, is attentive to the material needs of poor dioceses, religious institutes and the faithful in grave difficulties. Through loving charity, the Holy Father casts Christ's love upon the world.

Nazareth Boys Town in Mbare, Rwanda, received assistance from Pope Benedict XVI for abandoned orphans who are victims of genocide and civil war. Casa di accoglienza Giovanni Paolo II Opera Don Orione, a residence that gives free shelter and specializes in assisting special needs pilgrims traveling to Rome, was recently refurbished through the Peter's Pence Collection. In Bosnia the Hospital of St. Vincent de Paul, a health institution in Sarajevo staffed by religious, was established with support from the Collection.

If you would like additional information about the good works accomplished through the Peter's Pence Collection, I encourage you to visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections. Please be generous in giving to the Collection and, in doing so, cast the love 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,

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 19-20, 2010. The collection is to be taken up on June 26-27, 2010.

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 6, 2010. 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 – Week of June 19-20

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, with Pope Benedict we can cast the love of Christ upon the world.

Suggested Bulletin Insert – Week of June 26-27

Today we support the Holy Father in his charitable works. The Peter's Pence Collection is taken up worldwide in an effort of solidarity to support the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, and natural disaster and others in need of emergency assistance. Pope Benedict XVI has said, "God's love . . . gives us the courage to continue seeking and working for the benefit of all" (*Caritas in Veritate*, no. 78). Cast the love of Christ upon the world—please be generous in today's Collection.