



March 28, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The commitment of the Church here in our Belleville Diocese and in other dioceses across the country is not without challenge, as many parishes in mission dioceses find it difficult to support their core ministries. Many parishes are also separated by long distances or rough terrain and face the realities of poverty and priest shortages.

Sustaining pastoral work here in our diocese and in poorer dioceses throughout the United States is made possible through our support of the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**. This Appeal supports essential pastoral outreach in our diocese and other home mission dioceses: evangelization, seminary formation, aid to parishes and lay ministry training. If you would like additional information on the Catholic Home Missions and the dioceses and eparchies funded by the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

Please be generous in the Catholic Home Missions Appeal and help **strengthen the Church at home**. Your support will truly make a difference. Thank you for your consideration and may God bless you and those who are dear to you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton
Bishop of Belleville

This collection is to be taken up on April 30-May 1, 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, June 24, 2011. Please make the check payable to "Catholic Diocese of Belleville" and indicate "Home Missions" in the lower left-hand corner of the check. Your cooperation in forwarding the check by the requested date is appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance.