



March 1, 2011

Dear People of God:

In many ways families are the heart of our communities. When families are in distress, are separated or are otherwise challenged, our Church reaches out...doing so whether those families are across the street or half way around the globe.

For example, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC) program called National Pro Bono Project for Children matches unaccompanied immigrant children with legal service providers. These children are the most vulnerable migrants – they are usually without resources and forced to navigate complex legal proceedings without representation. As another example, the Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides coordination, training, funding and monitoring to experts who provide specialized assistance to victims of human trafficking in the United States. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in its initial response to the earthquakes in Haiti, distributed food to nearly 900,000 people. Currently, CRS is providing food to more than 90,000 students in more than 270 schools, as well as monthly food rations to more than 100 orphanages and child care centers in Port-au-Prince.

CLINIC, MRS, and CRS are just three of the six worldwide Catholic relief agencies funded by The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Each agency provides vital assistance, from pastoral support to humanitarian aid, all over the world. The work being supported through The Catholic Relief Services Collection prioritizes family by protecting children, fighting for family reunification and supporting the life and dignity of each human person. Each organization supported by this Collection sees *Jesus in disguise*. How will you help?

I ask that you please be generous in your support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection which will be taken up in our Belleville Diocese on April 2-3. For more information on The Catholic Relief Services Collection and the organizations it supports, please visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections. Thank you so much for your consideration and may God bless you always.

Sincerely and appreciatively yours in Christ,

+ Edward K. Braxton

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton
Bishop of Belleville

This collection is to be taken up on April 2-3, 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, May 27, 2011. Please make the check payable to "Catholic Diocese of Belleville" and indicate "Catholic Relief Services" 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.

Suggested Bulletin Inserts

For insertion in March 26-27 bulletin:

Next week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. This collection supports six Catholic agencies benefiting millions of vulnerable, displaced and impoverished families and individuals around the world. From direct humanitarian service to helping victims of human trafficking and working to reunify families, the funds from this collection make a real difference in lives across the globe. **How will you help?** Next week, please support The Catholic Relief Services Collection and **Jesus in disguise**.

For insertion in April 2-3 bulletin:

Today we can support families that face difficulties most of us could not imagine, like famine, war and life in refugee camps. The Catholic Relief Services Collection helps families by working to reunite them, caring for vulnerable and exploited children, changing unjust laws and providing pastoral care and humanitarian and emergency assistance across the globe. **How will you help?** Please be generous to this collection.