



March 1, 2010

Dear People of God:

Soon our diocese will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. This important collection not only provides for our marginalized, impoverished and vulnerable brothers and sisters all over the world—it does much more. This collection gives hope to Jesus in disguise.

Give hope to the community that has lost its livelihood to crop failure. Give hope to the refugee child, separated from her mother. Give hope to the immigrant, trying to keep faith alive in a foreign land. The Catholic Relief Services Collection helps to fund programs that give hope to refugees, the impoverished and immigrants, including victims of war, natural disaster and drought. These programs aid victims of natural disasters and armed conflict; provide agricultural assistance, water programs and health care; resettle refugees and immigrants to the United States; help alleviate poverty in developing countries; provide legal support services for poor immigrants; and advocate for policies and programs that promote global justice and peace. Through these humanitarian, economic, pastoral and advocacy efforts, The Catholic Relief Services Collection gives hope. For more information about The Catholic Relief Services Collection visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections).

Here in our Belleville Diocese The Catholic Relief Services Collection is scheduled for March 13-14. This is the perfect opportunity for us to express our compassion and generosity to our brothers and sisters in need. While I realize these are difficult times for many, I ask that you give as generously as you are able. Please know that your generosity gives hope to Jesus in disguise.

Sincerely and appreciatively yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward K. Braxton".

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton  
Bishop of Belleville

This collection is to be taken up on March 13-14, 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, May 7, 2010. 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 6-7 bulletin:

Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. This Collection helps fund six Catholic organizations that improve the quality of life and protect human dignity. Your gift will support agricultural development to strengthen economies and create food sustainability, provide outreach services to survivors of human trafficking and supply pastoral care and advocacy for immigrants and refugees. By helping the marginalized and impoverished, you **give hope to Jesus in disguise**. Please be charitable in next week's Catholic Relief Services Collection.

For insertion in March 13-14 bulletin:

The Catholic Relief Services Collection will be taken up today. The earthquake that devastated Haiti, already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, has taken an estimated 150,000 lives and affected 3 million people. The programs supported by The Catholic Relief Services Collection have been hard at work providing for the enormous humanitarian and pastoral needs of the victims, *giving hope to Jesus in disguise*. This Collection supports humanitarian, economic and advocacy efforts for the marginalized and impoverished in Haiti and worldwide. Please be as generous as you are able.