



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

May 27, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In April, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI made a historic journey to the United States. During this time, he made a call to action for the Church in the United States:

“In the finest traditions of the Church in this country, may you also be the first friend of the poor, the homeless, the stranger, the sick and all who suffer. Act as beacons of hope, casting the light of Christ upon the world.”

—Pope Benedict XVI
Homily at St. Patrick’s Cathedral
New York, April 19, 2008

Every year, when the Peter’s Pence Collection is taken up around the world to support the works of the Holy Father, Catholics in the United States are extraordinarily generous. The proceeds of this collection are used to provide emergency funds to those who suffer from oppression, disease, war or natural disaster. If you would like additional information, you may visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

Let us be beacons of hope to those of our brothers and sisters who are most in need. Let us answer the call to cast the light of Christ upon the world. I ask you to be generous in the upcoming Peter’s Pence Collection which will be held in our Belleville Diocese on June 27-28. Together, let us ask the Lord to bless the Holy Father, each of us and all those in need throughout the world.

Sincerely and appreciatively yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward K. Braxton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

The Most Reverend Edward K Braxton
Bishop of Belleville



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Envelopes for this collection should be in your regular envelope packets. Please send the proceeds of this collection to the Chancery no later than Friday, August 7, 2009. 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 truly appreciated.

Thank you so much for your assistance.