



Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of
THE BISHOP

(561) 775-9595 Fax (561) 775-7035

July 2, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year's Catholic Relief Services Collection will take place on the weekend of July 11th and 12th. CRS is the official international relief and development agency of the Catholic Community in the United States. This important annual collection provides an opportunity for Catholics to live their faith in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need overseas by providing financial support, and addressing the root causes of poverty, on the basis of need – not race, creed, or nationality.

The mission of CRS is to provide humanitarian relief and development assistance to the poor and marginalized in over 100 countries around the world working through regional offices within the United States to support Catholic individuals, parishes and dioceses like ours. As you are aware, the economic crisis has resulted in even greater suffering among the poorest of the poor both here and abroad. We continue to partner with CRS to help relieve that suffering. Twenty-five percent of the Diocesan donations from CRS's Lenten Program, "Operation Rice Bowl" is already going to work to serve those in need locally through our parish outreach programs. The ongoing work of CRS in our Diocese aims to assist those who strive to walk with the poor and make decisions as consumers, voters and advocates, to promote more just and peaceful societies. With your assistance we continue to raise the consciousness of our local youth and young adults so that they will carry on our efforts to be of service globally as one truly Catholic family.

The CRS collection theme *Jesus in Disguise* reminds us of the presence of Christ in the poor. Last year in our Diocese, this collection generated \$116,244. This outpouring along with CRS's yearly Lenten Operation Rice Bowl donations helped rebuild the lives of those torn apart by natural disasters, unspeakable poverty and the ravages of war. Your generous support of this collection reaches out beyond borders to build the Church's international social ministry, proclaiming the Gospel Message to serve the least among us.

With gratitude for your continued dedication and generosity and with assurance of my prayers, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito
Bishop of Palm Beach

Note to Pastors:

Please publish this letter in the parish bulletin or have it read at all Masses on the weekend of July 4th and 5th. In the bulletin please include: *To find out how to be more involved with CRS please contact the CRS Diocesan Director at 561 775-9524.*