



# Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of  
THE BISHOP

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August 1, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual appeal for the Church in Latin America and the Church in Africa is scheduled to take place August 8 and 9, 2009.

Each year, the Collection for the Church in Latin America is held in parishes across the United States and supports the work of pastoral projects in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. In past years, as a result of your generosity, the Church in the U.S. was able to fund a record number of 562 projects – including 75 parish based projects and 105 formation projects for priests, religious and laity in more than 224 dioceses in 23 countries. The Collection also supports the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development in its work on behalf of the Church in Latin America.

The second portion of this collection is in support of the Church in Africa which is the fastest growing region of the Universal Church and at the same time the neediest part of our family of faith. Spiritually rich, the Church in Africa remains financially dependent upon our support to meet its current needs and to reach its great potential.

Your contribution to the collection for the people of God in both the Church in Latin America and the Church in Africa supports pastoral outreach, catechetical programs, Catholic schools, evangelization, education of seminarians, and the continuing education of clergy.

With gratitude for your 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 August 1/2**