



## Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of  
THE BISHOP

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April 10, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual Peter's Pence Collection will take place in our Diocese on the weekend of April 17 and 18.

The Peter's Pence Collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters with promptness, love, and compassion, so God's people will not feel alone in their particular time of need.

The Peter's Pence Collection derives its name from an ancient custom. In ninth-century England, King Alfred the Great collected money ó ðenceö or pennies ó from landowners as financial support for the Pope. Today the Peter's Pence Collection supports the Pope's philanthropy by giving the Holy Father the means to provide emergency assistance to those in need because of natural disaster, war, oppression and disease.

On the occasion of the Papal Visit to the United States in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI addressed the Church in America by saying, "*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.*" Let us be living witnesses of the light of Christ and respond with generosity to this important annual appeal!

With gratitude for your generosity, and the assurance of my prayers for you, 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 APRIL 10/11**