



Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of
THE BISHOP

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August 5, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Next weekend's special collection on August 13 and 14 will support the Church in Latin America and the Church in Africa. Each of these continents faces their own challenges which affect the life of the Church within them. By supporting these special collections, you become a disciple and a missionary at the service of the Body of Christ.

The 2010 earthquakes in Chili caused not only damage to physical structures, but also to the fragile economic state of the Church in Latin America. Large numbers of people are emigrating and Catholics are being drawn away from their faith as they search for a more secure life. There is a growing gap between the number of faithful and the number of priests to minister to them. Your generosity will help rebuild the Church here, support evangelization, develop lay-leadership programs, form religious and seminarians, and keep faith in the Church in Latin America.

The Church in Africa is growing but still faces serious challenges of war, oppression, HIV/AIDS, famine, and poverty. Your support helps to provide a wide-range of essential and unique pastoral projects. Giving to the Church in Africa is also one way we can collectively give back to the African continent for the nearly 3,000 African priests and men religious and the 1,500 women religious that are working or studying within our country. Within our own diocese, we recently ordained a transitional deacon who next year will be ordained our first African priest.

I thank you for your support of this collection for the Church in Latin America and the Church in Africa last year which raised \$84,693. As disciples together we can help our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ keep the faith and build up our Universal Church.

With gratitude for your generosity, and with every prayerful wish, 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 6 & 7.**