



# Diocese of Palm Beach

9995 North Military Trail • P.O. Box 109650  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410-9650

Office of  
THE BISHOP

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

July 31, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual Collection to support the Church in Latin America and the Church in Africa will take place on the weekend of August 7/8.

Annually held in parishes across the United States, the Collection for the Church in Latin America supports the work of pastoral projects in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. The Church in Latin America boasts the world's largest Catholic population; however, a study commissioned by the Federation of Latin American Catholic Bishops Conferences revealed that Latin Americans were leaving the Catholic Church at the alarming rate of approximately 8-thousand people each day. This exodus is the result of complex reasons, ranging from the strain that economic globalization places on communities to well-financed competition from other groups that are drawing people away from the Church. To confront these tendencies, this collection for the Church in Latin America supports pastoral projects that engage Latin American parishioners in the Catholic faith, strengthening their sense of mission and identity with the Church.

The second portion of this appeal goes to support the Church in Africa which is the fastest growing region of the Universal Church and at the same time one of the most vulnerable of our family of faith. While the incredible rate of growth is energizing, the Church struggles to keep up with the enormous needs of its parishioners. Your support will help deliver basic pastoral care like religious education, seminary formation, and youth ministry. This collection also supports projects that help combat problems significant to the continent, such as pastoral care for the sick and peace-building workshops. The people of Africa face tremendous challenges. From the prevalence of HIV/AIDS to countries that are torn by war, from extreme poverty to rapid population growth.

I urge you to generously support our brothers and sisters in Christ around the globe who desperately depend upon the providence of God from the Universal Church. Together let us collaborate with God's grace to keep the witness and Sacramental life of the Church burning bright in Christ.

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