



Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of
THE BISHOP

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July 3, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual Collection to support Catholic Relief Services Collection will take place on the weekend of July 10th and 11th. CRS is the official international relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in the United States, and each year your support of this collection enables humanitarian relief and development assistance to the poor and marginalized in over 100 countries around the world.

The recent devastating earthquake in Haiti, combined with escalating worldwide economic unrest, resulted in even greater suffering among the poorest of the poor in the United States and abroad. Pertaining Haiti, Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI appointed Catholic Relief Services as the Catholic Church's official presence and means of outreach to our brothers and sisters in the still devastated region. Your generosity in the Special Collection to support Haiti earlier this year enabled CRS to feed over 900,000 Haitians and provide housing assistance to another 100,000 of the over 4 million Haitians still displaced by one of the world's worst natural disasters.

The ongoing work of CRS in our own diocese assists us to walk with the poor through direct aid, Fair Trade product awareness, speakers tours in our schools, and community advocacy. Twenty-five percent of our Diocesan donations from CRS's Lenten Program, "Operation Rice Bowl," will support our needy locally. CRS awarded 15 grants of up to \$1000 each to our parish outreach programs. We also continue to raise the consciousness of our local youth and young adults. This past year we produced the short film "One Human Family" now visible on our Diocesan website. The film features members of campus ministry Newman Clubs and Young Adult parish ministries challenging their peers to be their brothers and sisters keepers.

This year's CRS collection theme *Solidarity Will Transform the World* reminds us of the power of our actions supporting the Universal Church. Last year in our Diocese, this collection generated \$105,065. Your contribution helps rebuild the lives of those torn apart by unspeakable poverty, the ravages of war, and natural disaster. Please continue to support this collection which aims to build the Church's international social ministry, the evidence of faith in action!

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 JULY 3/4**