



DIocese OF GREEN BAY

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 24, 2018

My Dear Friends in Christ,

As missionary disciples, we are called to follow the Gospel's call to love others! The **World's Poor Collection** on March 10-11, 2018 provides us the opportunity to do just that. This collection encompasses a multitude of agencies working against poverty and promoting human dignity in the name of the Catholic Church. This year's collection includes, the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Peter's Pence and the Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa.**

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development supports programs to empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. Your support of this effort gives people a hand up, not a hand out, and 25% of this collection remains in the Diocese of Green Bay to support local anti-poverty efforts.

Catholic Relief Services provides food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and advocates for peace and justice. It serves some of the most vulnerable populations at home and abroad. It is truly an opportunity to *help Jesus in disguise.*

Peter's Pence supports the charitable works of Pope Francis by reaching out to the marginalized and suffering around the world. Its initiatives provide the Holy Father with the financial means to respond to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease. Pope Francis urges us to, "*Open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help!*" (*Misericordiae Vultus [MV], no. 15*).

The Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa helps the people of Africa to grow close to Jesus Christ and the Church. This fund equips and enables these dioceses to respond and support the people of Africa who are flocking to join the Church. With your support, their local church is able to nurture the faith and encourage missionary discipleship.

Today, I ask you to respond to Our Holy Father, Pope Francis' invitation to be a witness of charity throughout the world. Please share the information above, and encourage your parishioners to be generous as their support will make a great difference in the lives of those in most need in the Diocese of Green Bay and around the world.

Enclosed are resources to help promote, in advance, this charitable opportunity. I thank you for sharing this information and offering your inspiring encouragement to your parishioners; may they embrace this opportunity to give generously to the World's Poor Collection of 2018. Together, we will make the world a better place!

May God bless you with His very best and know of my prayers and gratitude for you and your ministry, as I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay