



DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 13, 2019

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 30-31, 2019 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 Relief Services (CRS)**, **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**, **Peter's Pence** and the **Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa**.

Catholic Relief Services provides food to the hungry, gives aid to victims of natural disasters and persecution, provides legal service to poor immigrants, and advocates for the powerless. Through your generosity, six Catholic agencies help Jesus in disguise.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development supports programs to empower people to 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. 25% of this collection remains in the Diocese of Green Bay to support local anti-poverty efforts.

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.

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 supports pastoral projects to strengthen communities, their faith and foster lasting peace and reconciliation in a continent often marked by division and tension.

Today, I ask you to respond to Our Holy Father, Pope Francis' invitation to be a witness of charity throughout the world. **"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me"** (Matthew 25:40).

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 2019. Together, we will make the world a better place!

May Jesus bless you and walk closely with you and your families, as I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

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