



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Each year, the annual Peter's Pence Collection in support of the works of the Holy Father is held in parishes throughout the world. The proceeds from this collection fund emergency relief assistance to those who suffer from war, oppression, disease and natural disasters. Through works of charity, Catholics stand in solidarity with the weak, the defenseless and the voiceless, and they sustain those who suffer.

The theme for this year's collection echoes that of the Holy Father's historic apostolic journey to the United States this past April, *Christ Our Hope*, and builds upon his recent encyclical, *Spe salvi* (On Christian Hope). In that encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI wrote that faith in Christ brings well-founded hope in eternal salvation, the "great hope" that can sustain people through the trials of this world. He spoke about this also in his homily at the Mass at Nationals Park, telling us "by your prayers, by the witness of your faith, by the fruitfulness of your charity, may you point the way towards that vast horizon of hope...the vision of a world reconciled and renewed in Christ Jesus, our Savior."

By participating in this special collection, we join Catholics worldwide in a loving expression of solidarity. We share in the concern of the successor of Peter for the many different needs of the universal Church and for the relief of those most in need around the globe.

This year, the collection is scheduled for June 28-29. Thank you for generously supporting the Peter's Pence Collection. May the Lord bless the Holy Father and those in need throughout the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Barry C. Knestout
Vicar for Administration