



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

During his April 2008 historic journey to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI inspired, encouraged and blessed our local Church and our nation. Now we have the opportunity to give back to him by supporting the annual Peter's Pence Collection on June 27-28. Each year, this collection is taken up in parishes around the world to assist the works of the Holy Father and provide emergency funds to those who suffer from oppression, disease, war or natural disaster.

As our Holy Father told us during his visit to Washington one year ago, "...the need for global solidarity is as urgent as ever, if all people are to live in a way worthy of their dignity – as brothers and sisters dwelling in the same house and around that table which God's bounty has set for all his children." (*Welcoming Ceremony, April 16, 2008*)

Later in his trip, he also asked of us, "In the finest traditions of the Church in this country, may you also be the first friend of the poor, the homeless, the stranger, the sick and all who suffer. Act as beacons of hope, casting the light of Christ upon the world." (*Homily at St. Patrick's Cathedral, April 19, 2008*)

Through the Peter's Pence Collection, we have the opportunity to be beacons of hope to those of our brothers and sisters who are most in need and to answer the call to cast the light of Christ upon the world. Thank you for your generosity to the collection during the weekend of June 27-28. May the Lord bless the Holy Father, each of you and all of those in need throughout the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Vicar General
Moderator of the Curia