



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

March 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

The **Annual Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Collection** is the weekend of April 2-3 in our diocese. The CRS Collection supports Catholic agencies worldwide whose efforts benefit millions of vulnerable, displaced, and impoverished families and individuals around the world.

The CRS Collection theme, *Jesus in Disguise*, brings to mind the spirit of Christ that is present in every one of our brothers and sisters in need throughout the global community. The funds from this Collection make a real difference in lives across the globe, from direct humanitarian service to helping victims of human trafficking and working to reunify families.

One example of humanitarian relief efforts provided by CRS is the continued aid to those affected by the devastating earthquakes in Haiti; a relief effort that many parishioners generously supported just over a year ago. CRS currently provides food to more than 90,000 students in more than 270 schools, as well as monthly food rations to more than 1,000 orphanages and child care centers in Port-au-Prince. In sharing these burdens, we see Christ in our brothers and sisters; we give hope to *Jesus in disguise*.

The CRS annual parish collection represents 99% of the funding for these humanitarian relief efforts. I encourage your thoughtful participation and prayerful support of this special collection. For additional information about the CRS Collection and the essential organizations it funds, please visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids