



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

February 28, 2007

My dear friends,

In the story of the Last Judgment, Jesus reminds us to care for those in need. If we ignore those who are hungry, thirsty, ill, without clothes, strangers, or in prison, we turn away from Christ. When we act with compassion, generosity, and commitment to justice for the “least among us”, we act as his true disciples.

THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION is an important opportunity to express Christian compassion and generosity. The Collection is scheduled for March 17-18 in our diocese. The Collection theme, “Jesus in disguise”, reminds us of the presence of Christ in every one of our brothers and sisters in need. The Collection helps build the Church’s international social ministry by funding the work of five agencies.

Catholic Relief Services, the official international relief and development agency of the Catholic community in the United States, assists people in 99 countries on the basis of need – not race, creed, or nationality. Catholic Relief Services creates opportunities for Catholics in the United States to live their faith in solidarity with poor people overseas by providing financial support and addressing the root causes of poverty.

Migration and Refugee Services of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops annually resettles one quarter of the refugees admitted to the United States, serves victims of human trafficking, and provides advocacy for and pastoral care to many newcomers and persons on the move.

Social Development and World Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops advocates for poor and vulnerable people and for international peace and justice. It works to build the capacity of the Church to respond to global concerns such as religious freedom, poverty, and hunger.

The Holy Father’s Relief Fund assists victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world.

I thank you for your generosity in the past and encourage you to do what you can in support of this wonderful work of the Church.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Walter a. Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids