

March 7, 2010

My dear Friends in Christ,

On the weekend of March 14, 2010, I am asking Christ's faithful of the Diocese of Superior to respond generously to the annual World Concern Collection. This year, many of the causes that you are familiar with play a significant role in assisting the Haitian people with reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is the official international relief and development agency of the Catholic community in the United States. Since the disaster in Haiti, CRS has provided food to 533,422 people, distributed roughly 22,323 ready-to-eat food kits and other dry food rations that have helped 277,818 people, and distributed rice to support 51,562 families, or 257,808 people. CRS has also distributed emergency shelter kits to an estimated 6,500 families and will be distributing 10,000 more this week in smaller camps, settlements and in Champs de Mars, Port-au-Prince.

The Collection for the Church in Latin America is also providing support in Haiti. It has typically been engaged with the Church throughout Latin America and the Caribbean in their attempt to meet their local pastoral needs through funding programs which include: seminarian and religious formation, religious education, catechesis and youth ministries, evangelization, lay formation and ministry, diaconate training, and research.

The Collection for the Holy Father (Peters Pence) enables the Holy Father to respond with emergency financial assistance to requests to aid the neediest throughout the world - those who suffer as a result of war, oppression, and natural disasters like that in Haiti.

The Collection to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe assists with projects in 28 countries building the pastoral capacity of the Church as well rebuilding and restoring the faith and the light of Christ in these countries which have dark pasts but bright futures. The funds collected in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe are used to grant monies to support seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral centers, church construction and renovation.

Our response to this appeal is an expression of our discipleship and our unity with Catholics throughout the nation and in other countries.

With warmest personal regards and continuing prayer, I am

Gratefully yours in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Christensen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop Peter Christensen

P.S. This letter will appear in the Catholic Herald on March 11, and may be used with your parish bulletin or read from the pulpit at all Masses.