



Peter's Pence Collection *Be a Witness of* **Charity**

“A LITTLE MERCY MAKES THE WORLD LESS
COLD AND MORE JUST.”

—Pope Francis, *Angelus*, March 17, 2013

Dear Editor/Communication Director,

Pope Francis has set for us an example of what it means to be a witness of charity and serve our brothers and sisters around the globe. Through the Peter's Pence Collection (PPC), parishioners in your diocese can join with others from around the world to support our Holy Father as he comforts those living on the peripheries. We rely on your help to spread the word about this collection and promote it in your diocese.

Pope Francis told us, “Let us not fall into indifference, but become instruments of God's mercy. All of us can be instruments of God's mercy . . . and this mercy is an act of restoring the joy of dignity which has been lost” (General Audience, Nov. 9, 2016). By sharing with your parishioners the importance of this collection, you help empower them to become instruments of mercy and join Pope Francis to restore dignity and joy to people suffering in our world.

For example, with support to the PPC and the assistance of the Vicar of the Latin Patriarchate in Amman, Jordan, a funding network has been created to respond to the needs of Immaculate Conception Parish School in Al Huson. The parish assists more than 800 children, many of whom are refugees from the war in Syria. Al Huson is located about 12 miles from the border with Syria; in recent years, the arrival of many refugees has heavily impacted the economy and daily life in the city. With help from university students in the parish who teach math, Arabic, and English, hundreds of children not in the school system are learning to read and write.

Free resources, including a sample letter from your bishop that you can personalize, web ads, and a social media tool kit, are available online at www.usccb.org/peters-pence/collection. Please use your publication(s), website, social media channels, and other outlets to talk about the charitable works of Pope Francis and how your parishioners can help through the PPC. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or at ngermain@usccb.org. Thank you for your support.

With gratitude,

Nicole Germain
Assistant Director, Promotions, Office of National Collections

