



## Diocese of Austin

Office of the Bishop

The Catholic Church of Central Texas  
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June 13, 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Each year, the annual Peter's Pence Collection, in support of the works of the Holy Father, is held in parishes throughout the world. The proceeds from this collection fund special projects of our Holy Father and emergency relief assistance to those who suffer from war, oppression, disease, and natural disaster. Through works of charity, Catholics stand in solidarity with the weak, the defenseless, and the voiceless, and they sustain those who suffer.

The theme for this year's Collection echoes that of the Holy Father's apostolic journey to the United States in April 2008 – *Christ Our Hope*. The theme reflects the message of Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *Spe Salvi*: an invitation for people to encounter Jesus Christ personally. In the encyclical, Pope Benedict said that faith in Christ brings well-founded hope in eternal salvation, the "great hope" that can sustain people through the trials of this world.

As we participate in this special appeal, we join Catholics worldwide in a loving expression of solidarity. We share in the concern of the successor of St. Peter for the many different needs of the universal Church and for the relief of those most in need around the globe. The Holy Father is able to extend the charity of Christ in our name.

This year, the collection in our diocese will be the weekend of June 28-29, 2008.

I ask you to consider contributing to the collection this year, and I am grateful for your generosity. Together let us ask the Lord to bless the Holy Father and us, as well as those in need throughout the world.

Please print in your bulletin the weekend of June 21-22.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond  
Bishop of Austin