



# 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 Diocesan Director,**

We do not need to look far to see the faces of those who are suffering and marginalized. The world can sometimes seem a painful place, but as Christians, we know this is not the full reality. Through the Risen Christ, we have hope that encourages us and fills us as we reach out in love and mercy to one another.

Pope Francis has been an example to us of what it looks like to be a witness of charity in our world. He reminds us, “It is precisely in the measure to which we open ourselves to others that life becomes fruitful, society regains peace and people recover their full dignity” (General Audience, Oct. 26, 2016). The Peter's Pence Collection (PPC) is a way for the parishioners in your diocese to support the Holy Father, to open themselves to others, and serve the poor and marginalized around the world.

In Iraq, many people still live a nightmare of war and violence. This has left many displaced, including young people in the midst of their studies. Without an educated population, it will be difficult for the country to gain stability. But with the support of your diocese to the PPC, the Archdiocese of Erbil, in Iraqi Kurdistan, received funding for 10 scholarships for young displaced persons. With this help, the students can complete their university education and move forward with the hope of rebuilding their country.

Resources to promote the collection can be found online at [www.usccb.org/peters-pence/collection](http://www.usccb.org/peters-pence/collection). There you will find bulletin announcements, a parish appeal, and a social media tool kit. **The most important thing you can do is to remind your pastors to mention the collection at Mass.** If you have questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or at [ngerman@usccb.org](mailto:ngerman@usccb.org). Thank you for your continued support of the Peter's Pence Collection.

With gratitude,

Nicole Germain  
Assistant Director, Promotions, Office of National Collections

