

2009 COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

SAMPLE BISHOP'S LETTER

Disciples. Missionaries. Leaders.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Church in Latin America is vibrant, diverse in culture, and grounded in deep faith. The lived faith of Catholics in Latin America summons all believers to action—to be disciples of Christ, sent by his Spirit as missionaries and leaders in their parish communities.

The proceeds of the annual **Collection for the Church in Latin America** are distributed to dioceses, parishes, religious congregations, seminaries, and other Catholic institutions throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. These essential funds assist in the formation of priests, religious, lay ministers, missionaries, pastoral agents, catechists, and youth ministers.

In 2007, as a result of your generosity, the Church in the United States was able to fund a record number of 562 projects—including 75 parish-based projects and 105 formation projects for priests, religious, and laity—in more than 224 dioceses in 23 countries. The Collection also supports the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development in its work on behalf of the Church in Latin America. This year, I ask you to contribute generously again to this worthy Collection. Additional information can be found at www.usccb.org/latinamerica.

Together, let us ask the Lord and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, to continue to bless us in all that we do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,