**Sample Bishop’s Letter**

*May be read from the pulpit or inserted into parish bulletins.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In their 2000 pastoral letter *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration*, the bishops of the United States called the faithful to embrace an approach to criminal justice that takes into account the dignity of crime victims and their families, communities, and offenders.

The Catholic Home Missions–funded Diocese of Santa Rosa is answering this call for an approach that upholds justice and healing in its six counties of northwestern California, stretching from Napa in the south along the coastline to the Oregon border. The diocese’s Catholic Restorative Justice Ministries program (*www.restorejusticesantarosa.org*) works to fulfill the bishops’ vision through various activities that include support for inmates reentering society, as well as pastoral ministries for crime victims and their families, justice system personnel, and inmates. The program’s broad range of goals are being implemented, expanded, and refined yearly with financial assistance from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. When you participate in the appeal, you join in the Church’s healing mission of mercy to all.

Your support of this appeal makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the appeal this year. To learn more about the appeal and those who benefit from it, visit *www.usccb.org/home-missions.*

Thank you for strengthening the Church at home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*(bishop name, title, and signature)*