



April 25, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The **Collection for International Needs** provides us with the opportunity to broaden our charitable horizons by reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need throughout the world.

This annual collection, to be taken up in the Diocese of Erie the weekend of May 14 and 15, is a combination of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the Catholic Relief Services Collection and the collection for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. It offers a concrete way for us to help those forced to leave their homes because of war or famine, children who go to bed hungry and who cannot attend school, and immigrants and refugees seeking freedom and hope, as well as those who are persecuted for their faith and those who wish to study for the priesthood, but do not have the means to do so. The collection gives us the means to reach out to those who live in lands and cultures far from our own, from Africa to the Middle East to Eastern Europe.

I ask you to please give generously to the Collection for International Needs on May 14-15. Just as importantly, please pray for our brothers and sisters in need, especially those in war-torn areas. Be assured of my prayers for you, your families and your parishes.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie