



PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION —2009—

POPE BENEDICT XVI

CAST THE LIGHT OF CHRIST UPON THE WORLD.

In April 2008, Pope Benedict XVI paid his first visit to the United States, inspiring our nation and reinvigorating our faith. In this year's Peter's Pence Collection, we remember his apostolic journey and the solidarity to which he called us.

"In the finest traditions of the Church in this country, may you also be the first friend of the poor, the homeless, the stranger, the sick and all who suffer. Act as beacons of hope, casting the light of Christ upon the world."

*—Pope Benedict XVI,
Homily at St. Patrick's Cathedral,
New York, April 19, 2008*

The Peter's Pence Collection allows the Holy Father to respond quickly to those who suffer as a result of oppression, natural disasters, war, and disease. Your contribution is vital to these charitable works. In 2007, the funds collected in the United States made up nearly one-third of all donations worldwide. Your support truly makes a difference.

You can cast the light of Christ upon the world with a generous donation to your parish's Peter's Pence Collection.

Please visit the Web site at www.usccb.org/nationalcollections for more information.

The Peter's Pence Collection derives its name from an ancient custom. In ninth-century England, King Alfred the Great collected money—"pence" or pennies—from landowners as financial support for the Pope. Today, the Peter's Pence Collection supports the Pope's charitable work by giving the Holy Father the means to provide essential assistance.



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