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## Pastor's Column

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### “Peter's Pence – ‘Anyone Who Has Discovered Christ Must Lead Others To Him’”

The theme for the 2006 *Peter's Pence Collection* for the Works of the Holy Father is, “*Anyone who has discovered Christ must lead others to him.*”



In his first encyclical, “*God Is Love,*” Pope Benedict XVI urges us to practice love of neighbor. The power of love is expressed in the unassuming quietness of daily service. Through works of charity, Catholics provide a powerful witness of love and deeds to empower the weak, the defenseless, and the voiceless, and to sustain those who suffer.

Contributions to the *Peter's Pence Collection* will: 1) enable the Holy Father to respond with immediate emergency assistance to the most disadvantaged throughout the world—those who suffer as a result of war, oppression, and natural disasters; 2) involve the more than one billion Catholics worldwide in supporting the Holy Father's mission, an active expression of Christ's love for the poor; and 3) have totaled more than \$175 million in contributions by dioceses of the United States, who generously provide nearly half of all gifts.

Your contributions to the *Peter's Pence Collection* allow the Holy Father to respond with timely and effective emergency assistance to our suffering brothers and sisters throughout the world. Thus, in solidarity with the Pope, we Catholics participate in works of goodness that distinguish us as followers of the Gospel.

The worldwide Peter's Pence began as a “pence” in ninth-century England, when King Alfred the Great collected monies from English landowners as financial support for the Pope.

Pope Pius IX formally instituted the modern *Peter's Pence Collection* in the 1860's. Special appeals have since been held in many countries on the Sunday closest to June 29, the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul. The tradition of an annual collection continues today for the charitable works of the Holy Father.

Pray for the Holy Father, asking God's blessing on his mission of justice and peace for all. Please consider giving, if for the first time, or increasing your offering to help build a better world for those most in need. Visit the website at [www.usccb.org/ppc](http://www.usccb.org/ppc) for more information.

*Peter's Pence Collection* envelopes are attached to today's bulletin. They may be returned anytime during the month of June. During the month, envelopes will be available in the Parish Office and in the back of the Church.

Your anticipated generosity is much appreciated!

F. Mike