



The Catholic University of America, Frederick, Md.

Peter's Pence Collection for Our Holy Father 1982

Let us with one voice give him our support.

1. The Peter's Pence Collection

Peter's Pence was originally an Anglo-Saxon tax initiated by King Alfred the Great as early as the year 889. Its purpose was to give financial aid to the pope, "Peter." During the Middle Ages the custom of Peter's Pence was extended to Ireland, Wales, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and probably to such Central European countries as Hungary and Poland. The modern Peter's Pence Collection came into being under Pope Pius IX in the 1860s "as a subsidy to compensate the papacy for the loss of revenue from States of the Church." The Collection was given official approval in 1871. "Today... [Peter's Pence] remains a free offering of Catholic dioceses to the pope."

In the United States, the Collection is held annually. American Catholics have always responded generously. However, there is an especially great need to assist the pope in his ministry this year and in the years to come. For this reason, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States established a Committee on the Economic Concerns of the Holy See at the request of a special international Council of Cardinals, which in turn was set up by Pope John Paul II to examine the organization and functioning of the administrative offices and the financial needs of the Holy See. Following a recent meeting of the council, a deficit of \$30 million has been projected for 1982.

2. Financial Needs of the Holy See

The Holy See is in great financial need for precisely one of the same reasons everyone else is in need—inflation. However, just as inflation is rising worldwide, greater strains are being placed on the Holy Father and the Holy See's administrative offices to serve the Church throughout the world.

The Peter's Pence Collection enables the Holy Father in his pastoral ministry to assist his brother bishops and our sister Churches throughout the globe. The Collection enables us to share in this charitable ministry of the pope.

3. The Apostolic Journeys of the Pope

Pope Paul VI, in response to the new situation of the Church after Vatican II, began a new style of papal ministry which has engendered greater universal respect and esteem for the papacy. Paul VI's visits outside the Vatican to the United States, where he called for an end to war and violence, his journey to Jerusalem where he embraced the Patriarch of Constantinople while calling for a reconciliation of the Churches of the East and West, his visit to the Philippines where an attempt was made on his life—these apostolic journeys not only made the pope more accessible to millions of people, they also demonstrated to the world the concern of the pope, and of the Church, for the plight of the world's destitute.

Pope John Paul II, a man "from a far country," has continued and broadened this new ministry of the papacy. Twice he has visited our country: in 1979 John Paul II visited Boston, Brooklyn, New York, Chicago, Des Moines, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.; in 1980, returning from the Far East, he spent several hours in Anchorage, Alaska, on his way home to Rome.

Like Paul VI before him, John Paul II—Papa Wojtyla as he is called in Italy—is a "Pilgrim Pope," an "Apostle of the Nations." He has journeyed around the globe proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, preaching a message of hope to the poor and hungry, defending the rights of workers against oppression, calling the nations to work for peace and disengage from war and violence. In Mexico, Poland, France, nations in Africa and Asia—everywhere John Paul was welcomed with joy as an Apostle, as a man of faith and love. This ministry, too, is supported in part by the Peter's Pence Collection. Worldwide Catholics assist John Paul II in his apostolic journeys. He will continue to bring hope and peace and the grace of the Gospel to many other nations. At no time in modern history has the papacy been so well regarded and heralded as a major force in the unity of all men and women throughout the world. As a result of this new papal ministry, the Catholic Church is not only better understood by non-Catholics, the Church is also more greatly respected in the realm of justice and peace.



GIVE GENEROUSLY
THROUGH YOUR PARISH COLLECTIONS
JUNE 26 & 27

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