

1991 COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY FATHER

(Peter's Pence)
WEEKEND OF JUNE 29-30

Purpose of the Collection

As the pastor of the Universal Church and spokesperson for peace, the Holy Father needs our continued support. Funds from the Collection enable him to spread the gospel message of love throughout the world and to respond to the needs of the Church. His worldwide pastoral visits encourage the faithful and inspire hope in even the most troubled nations.

History of the Collection

This collection, originally known as Peter's Pence, dates back to ninth century England when King Alfred the Great collected a penny tax from each landowner as financial support for the pope. The assistance was ended at the beginning of the Reformation but was reinstated in the 1860s by Pope Pius IX to compensate for the revenue lost from the seizure of papal territory by the new Italian state.

The Collection Today

Bishops' conferences throughout the world today help support the Holy Father's work through the annual Peter's Pence Collection. In 1981, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Economic Concerns of the Holy See. That committee, chaired by the Most Rev. John E. McCarthy, Bishop of Austin, administers and oversees the collection in the United States.

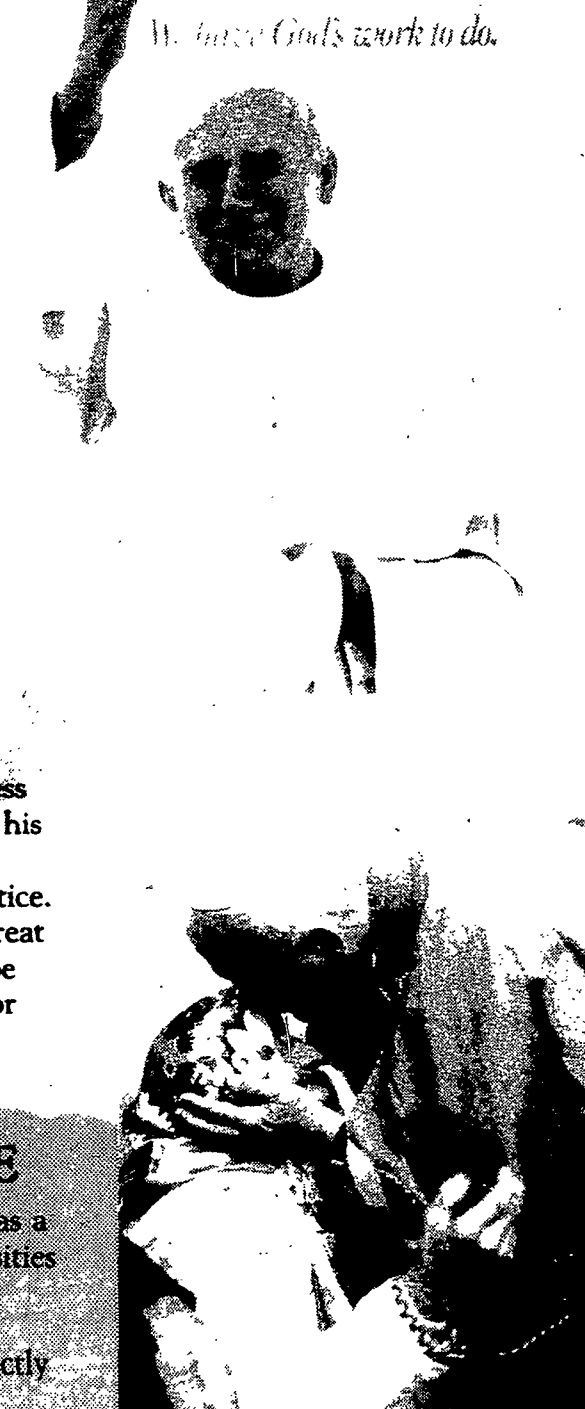
The Holy Father's Concerns

"Come, we have God's work to do," the theme of this year's collection, emphasizes our partnership with the Holy Father in his worldwide mission. In the 12 years of his pontificate, Pope John Paul II has made 49 pastoral visits to more than 80 countries. During the Holy Father's 1990 trip to Czechoslovakia, Vaclav Havel, the newly elected president, welcomed him as "messenger of love...the living symbol of civilization."

As he concerns himself with the whole Church, the Holy Father especially desires to bring to a fullness the religious freedom of all those in Eastern Europe who have suffered under 40 years of oppression. In his trips to Africa and Mexico, he also expressed his deep concern for those who "struggle every day for survival." He appealed to those in the more developed nations to show compassion and to work for justice.

This year the Catholic Church celebrates the 100th anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo XIII's great social encyclical *On the Condition of Workers* which began a century of teaching on human dignity. Pope John Paul II is a strong spokesperson for the Church's social teaching, especially through his concern for world peace and human rights.

COME
We have God's work to do.



THE WORK OF THE HOLY SEE

- In its support for the Universal Church, the Holy See has a yearly budget that is less than some of the major universities and archdioceses in our country.
- More than 98 cents of every dollar contributed goes directly to help the Holy Father to extend his spiritual and charitable works. Less than 2 cents is used for administrative costs.
- Bishops from more than 900 mission dioceses call on His Holiness for the bare necessities to serve their people.
- The Holy Father provides emergency relief to countries all over the world where war, oppression, and natural disasters have left millions of people uprooted and in need of food, shelter, and safety.
- As a member of the community of nations, the Holy See maintains diplomatic offices in 116 countries, including the United States. Through his papal representatives, the Holy Father seeks to provide a clear moral voice among the governments of the world.



Your Support is Needed

Your support of the 1991 Collection for the Holy Father makes you a participant in the worldwide mission of Pope John Paul II. Please remember him in your prayers, that God will strengthen him to continue his vital work.

Please Be Generous!

Thank You



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