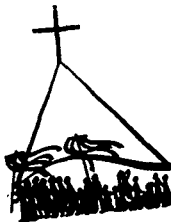


Proclaiming Jesus Christ



My dear sisters and brothers,

As we prepare for the new millennium, the Holy Father asks all of us to strengthen our faith and our witness. In his 1995 address to the U. N. General Assembly, Pope John Paul II described his visits to more than one hundred countries as a "witness: a witness to human dignity, a witness to hope, and a witness to the conviction that the destiny of all nations lies in the hands of a merciful Providence." The 1997 Peter's Pence Collection is one way we can support the Holy Father in his important work of bringing God's love to all nations. The Collection will be held on the weekend of June 28 and June 29.

The theme for the 1997 Collection, "Proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever," echoes the theme for the first year of preparation for the Jubilee, an observance of great significance for the Church worldwide. In his apostolic letter, *On the coming of the Third Millennium*, the Holy Father writes of the need to "inspire in all the faithful a true longing for holiness, a deep desire for conversion and personal renewal in a context of ever more intense prayer and solidarity with one's neighbor, especially the needy."

Our contributions to this special collection enable Pope John Paul II to respond to victims of disaster, continue his pastoral care for the Church, and spread the gospel message throughout the world.

I ask you to please give generously to support the works of the Holy Father and keep him in your prayers.

With every good wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

+Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

***The Same Yesterday,
Today & Forever!***

***Please pray for the
Holy Father
and give generously
in your parish***

**1997 Collection
for the
Works of the
Holy Father**

June 28-29, 1997

Sponsored by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops