

# We are a People of Hope



My dear sisters and brothers,

On the weekend of June 27 and June 28, I ask your support of the annual Collection for the Works of the Holy Father (Peter's Pence). This year's collection theme, "We are a People of Hope," reflects the Church's focus on hope in this second year of preparation for the celebration of Jubilee 2000.

Hope, says the Holy Father, gives meaning and value to life. In *Open Wide the Doors to Christ*, a framework for preparation for Jubilee 2000, the U.S. bishops ask, "What is the source of hope for the future? It is the Holy Spirit in the world today, the promise of God's love for us and his presence among us. The spirit, alive in our world, gives us hope that in opening the doors to Christ, we can achieve great things."

How do we, as a people of hope, reach out to those who know great suffering and struggle to find hope in the midst of difficult circumstances?

One of the many ways we can reach out is by supporting the charitable works of the Holy Father through this special collection. This annual appeal enables Pope John Paul II to respond with emergency assistance to victims of disaster, continue his pastoral care for the Church, and spread the gospel message throughout the world.

Let us support the Holy Father in his mission to bring hope and the promise of God's love to all people. 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

Bishop of Rochester

*God's Love Endures Forever*

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

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

**1998 Collection  
for the  
Works of the  
Holy Father**

**June 27-28, 1998**

Sponsored by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops

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