



Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." —Rev 3:20

March 11, 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Do we recognize Jesus when we see the poor and vulnerable? When we respond to those in need, we "help Jesus in disguise" as we are reminded by the national **Catholic Relief Services Collection on the weekend of March 21**. Through your generosity, you can help ease the burdens of our brothers and sisters in some of the most marginalized communities around the globe.

The years-long civil war in Syria has had catastrophic effects on the lives of millions of Syrians. Neighboring Jordan and Lebanon have taken in many Syrian refugees, over half of whom are children. To address the needs of refugee children, CRS and local church partner organizations provide educational opportunities for refugee children facing unique challenges. One boy, Ibrahim, had behavioral problems and poor academic performance that hindered his learning. With the help of a CRS-sponsored educational program for special needs children, Ibrahim excelled in his studies and became more engaged in the classroom. You give children like Ibrahim opportunities to learn and grow when you contribute to The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

Thanks to your financial support, you can

- alleviate suffering and provide assistance to people in need through the international Catholic humanitarian agency, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- supply outreach and pastoral care to refugees, migrants, and travelers
- provide assistance to victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world such as the recent devastation cause by a cyclone in Mozambique and Malawi
- advocate for poor and vulnerable people and for international justice and peace
- actively help victims of human trafficking and refugees by providing resettlement services and public policy advocacy

Are you ready to answer the knock of Jesus in disguise? I ask that you prayerfully consider how you can support the Catholic Relief Services Collection this year. If you want to learn more about the collection and the people who are assisted, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Please share this letter on the weekend of March 14 and take up the collection on the weekend of March 21 in your parish.