



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

*[Jesus] journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve . . . and many others who provided for them out of their resources. —Lk 8:1, 3*

June 17, 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of June 27 our diocese will take up the **Peter's Pence Collection**. The collection has ancient roots that reach all the way back to New Testament times. The early Christians provided material support that the disciples—those preaching the Gospel—could distribute to those in need (see Acts 4:34-35, 11:29). Today, the Peter's Pence Collection is an opportunity for the Church around the world to stand in solidarity with victims of war, natural disaster, and oppression in their time of need.

In this spirit of mercy, Pope Francis helped the people of Iran when they suffered death and catastrophic damage from floods in March and April 2019. More than 10 million people suffered property damage, and the city of Ahwaz and numerous villages were evacuated. Two million people required immediate assistance. Pope Francis donated €100,000 to direct relief efforts coordinated by the Iranian Red Crescent Society, in which Caritas Iran also participated. Your contributions help Pope Francis fulfill his prayer that the Church will reach out with acts of mercy.

I invite you to join with our brothers and sisters in faith from around the globe to help Pope Francis reach the marginalized in our world. Thank you for considering how you can respond to the call to “be a sign of mercy” by your prayers, by your spreading the word about this good work, and by your financial support.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.  
Bishop of Worcester

*Please announce the Peter's Pence Collection on the weekend of June 20 in your bulletin or by Flocknote and take up the collection at all Masses on the weekend of June 27.*