



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL  
1011 FIRST AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10022

March 8, 2020  
Season of Lent

Dear friends in the Lord:

On Sunday, March 15, in all of our parishes and in churches throughout the country, we will be collecting your offering for the *Catholic Relief Services*. When you support this, you actually serve Jesus in disguise in some of the most marginalized communities in our world. Your participation makes a difference for so many around the globe.

In remote villages of Ethiopia, girls do not always enjoy the opportunity to receive an education. They often are expected to care for family members, and many are encouraged to marry early, at ages as young as 12. For Zeineba, a seventh-grade girl in one rural village, education continues to help her grow and build future opportunities. Her academic scores have improved, she has more confidence, and she leads a group of students that provides support for other girls. Through the support of Catholic Relief Services and partnerships between the Church and local communities, girls like Zeineba are able to stay in school. They receive tutoring and school fee assistance to help them to reach their full potential. Even girls who have left school are helped through training programs that give them opportunities to invest in their own small businesses. Unlike her mother, who never went to school, and her older sisters, who married before completing their education, Zeineba continues her studies with the hope of someday becoming a doctor. She not only has a bright future but sets an example for neighbors and for her two younger sisters. "I'm teaching my sisters to follow in my footsteps," she says.

Through funds from the collection, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' program for the pastoral care of migrants, refugees, and travelers collaborates with local dioceses to visit and attend to the needs of underserved migrant farm workers and others who live on the margins. Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe. Answer the knock of Jesus in disguise. To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

With prayerful best wishes for your characteristic generosity, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

† Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York