



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

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December 17, 2008

Dear Brothers in Christ,

As we begin a new year, I take this opportunity to introduce you to Cross International Catholic Outreach. Founded to provide for the most basic of human needs, Cross International serves a world of want and need offering hope and help in the name of the Catholic Community. Providing the needy with food, water medicines, clothing, and shelter, Cross works directly with priests, religious, and lay leaders who operate overseas social ministries. Cross has entered into a special relationship with *Cor Unum*, the Vatican's Relief Agency. Both share the belief that charity enables us to see Jesus Christ in the needy.

Many of us may never visit the Third World and look into the faces of the poor or see first hand the bloated stomachs and emaciated bodies of the starving, or experience the haunting loneliness caused by deprivation. But we can do something about it by helping those who daily minister to the desperately needy by reaching out to them through our prayer and support for Cross.

I am happy to endorse Cross International Catholic Outreach. It is my hope that all clergy will become familiar with Cross* and its outreach mission and share Cross' message with parishioners. Knowledge of Cross' exceptional work to aid the poor can help parishes to achieve a deeper awareness of need in the Third World and to develop a true missionary spirit.

May the Lord help us to see our responsibility to preach the Gospel to all people and to all nations and to keep the faith He taught by following the way of life He showed us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Bishop of Bridgeport

*For more information about Cross International, please call 1-800-914-2420/1-516-392-9212, or www.crosscatholic.org