



# DIOCESAN MAILING



Most Rev. Louis Tylka  
Bishop of Peoria

Most Rev. Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.  
Bishop Emeritus of Peoria

Monsignor Philip D. Halfacre  
Vicar General

Monsignor Paul E. Showalter  
Vicar General Emeritus

Patricia M. Gibson  
Chancellor



**Most Reverend Louis Tylka**  
Diocese of Peoria  
Office of the Bishop

March 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon our diocese will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your support of this collection helps victims of war and natural disasters receive emergency assistance; assists migrants and refugees who need housing, education, and specialized immigration legal assistance; and supports travelers and people whose livelihoods require special pastoral support and access to the sacraments.

As an example of support, one could look at what is usually an often forgotten need for today's world. Seafarers from around the world sail into the busy ports along the Gulf of Mexico. Because of language barriers, unfamiliarity with the location, and quarantine restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they have special material and pastoral needs. Fortunately, volunteers from the Stella Maris ministry welcome sailors entering the ports at Point Comfort, Texas, and Mobile, Alabama. Port chaplains celebrate Mass aboard ships, and lay volunteers distribute care packages and Christmas gifts to the sailors, including Bibles, rosaries, and other devotional items. In addition to serving seafarers with visits, gifts, and spiritual support, the centers in Mobile and Point Comfort organized free COVID-19 vaccination clinics for the crews.

Stella Maris was founded in 1920 to bring the Church's saving message aboard ships. Over the past century, it has grown into a worldwide ministry to seafarers, port workers, cruise ship passengers, and others associated with the maritime industry. The U.S. national office is a ministry of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on Pastoral Care for Migrants, Refugees and Travelers, which The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports. When you contribute to the collection, you support this special ministry that welcomes and provides for seafarers who are far from home.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year.

Peace and Prayers,

✦ Most Reverend Louis Tylka  
Bishop of Peoria

**Please read on the weekend of March 11-12, 2023 and take up the collection on the weekend of March 18-19, 2023. Please send the proceeds of this collection to the Office of Finance, 419 N.E. Madison Avenue, Peoria, IL 61603.**

**Phone**  
309 671-1550

**Address**  
419 N.E. Madison Avenue,  
Peoria, Illinois 61603

**Website**  
cdop.org