

Dear Monsignor/Father:

In response to the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, and northeast Nigeria, an ecumenical appeal has been launched to provide assistance to the 20 million victims of the devastating famine. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is asking all dioceses to encourage support for the **Pray, Give, Speak Out** project, which is asking people to:

Pray: To remember the people of South Sudan, Somalia, northern Nigeria, and Yemen in their personal and community prayer, praying for an end to the drought and for peace in the region;

Give: To make a financial donation to one of the Canadian aid agencies working to alleviate this crisis;

Speak out: To become better informed about the situation in the four countries; to speak about it with family and friends; and to discuss it with local community agencies and Members of Parliament.

The Government of Canada has established a **Famine Relief Fund** and, **until June 30th, 2017**, is matching donations made to the fund through Canadian charities. Donations can be made to the fund through the following organizations:

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace:

<https://www.devp.org/en/famine-relief-fund>

Phone: 1 888 234-8533

Aid to the Church in Need Canada:

www.acn-aed-ca.org/iamstarving

Phone: 1-800-585-6333

Canadian Jesuits International

<http://www.canadianjesuitsinternational.ca/2017/06/05/famine-relief-appeal/>

Phone: 1-800-448-2148

I would ask you to include the above information in your parish bulletin and to remember the victims of the famine in the Prayer of the Faithful.

June 8, 2017