

Office of the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary

DATE **JUNE 9, 2017**
FROM **BISHOP WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN**
TO **All Parishes**
RE **Famine Relief Fund**
South Sudan - Somalia - Nigeria - Yemen

The United Nations, in February of this year, declared that 20 million people in South Sudan, Nigeria, Yemen and Somalia are at risk of death in the coming months. Armed conflicts, together with severe droughts due to climate change have caused many to be displaced from their homes and land.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, along with other faith leaders in Canada, has launched a **national appeal** to help address the famines in South Sudan, and extreme food shortages in Yemen, Somalia and Northern Nigeria. One of the threefold response is for financial contribution to development and relief agencies. The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace - Caritas Canada is working with partners including Caritas - South Sudan, Caritas - Nigeria and Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) to provide immediate food aid, water sanitation, and health and nutrition services. Most of those impacted by the conflict, hostilities and lack of security in these four countries are women and children.

The Government of Canada has set up the Famine Relief Fund, committing \$119 million to these four countries, of which \$37 million is committed to South Sudan. However, this humanitarian crisis far exceeds the current availability of resources and funds committed thus far by the international community. **The federal government has agreed to match any donations made to development and relief agencies from now till June 30 with an equivalent amount into the Famine Relief Fund.**

I would ask that all parishes take up a second collection for the people of South Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria and Somalia.

Please forward all funds collected to the Diocesan Pastoral Centre by the 23rd of June to allow ample time to meet the June 30th deadline. Please mark cheques with a note - Famine Relief Fund.



✠ William T. McGrattan
BISHOP OF CALGARY