



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

March 14/15, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

More than 2,900 people have been killed because of their Christian faith. Over 260 million Christians live in communities where they experience a high level of persecution just because of their religious beliefs. These astonishing statistics regarding Christian persecution come from Open Doors USA's 2020 World Watch List reporting period (Oct. 31, 2018 – Nov. 1, 2019). We may not be able to see their faces. When we look, however, through the eyes of Jesus, we sense the suffering of our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world. This is your opportunity to help!

Next weekend, March 21-22, the parishes of our diocese will take up the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) collection. Your support for this collection not only brings aid to victims of persecution and natural disasters, it provides legal services to poor immigrants, and advocates for those with little or no power. Through your generosity, the six Catholic agencies supported through this collection help our neighbors, near and far.

Your gift provides more than physical nourishment. It brings hope. Through housing and educational projects funded through the CRS collection, you can help people around the world to be cared for and offer them a new start.

Please contribute to this year's CRS Collection. There are few collections more critical than this one. Your prayers and financial support allow these organizations to bring immediate assistance and the love of Christ to people in need across the globe. For more information on the organizations whose work benefits from your generosity, please visit [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids