

THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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Office of the Bishop

July 23, 2008

Dear Rectors, Vicars and Priests/Deacons in Charge:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

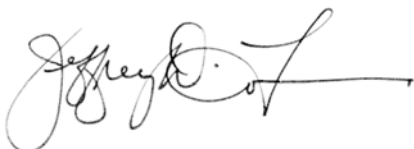
This fall, the Diocese of Chicago will undertake a bold and courageous plan to save 40,000 lives. At our annual Diocesan Convention, I will challenge each parish/mission to help end malaria by sending enough disease-preventing mosquito nets to Africa to represent every member of this diocese. I am challenging you to join The Bishop's One-to-One Malaria Net Challenge.

Every day, 3000 children die in sub-Saharan Africa from this disease, yet by sleeping under malaria nets, children and adults can be protected from the mosquitoes, which cause this disease. Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD), through its NetsforLife© program, sells these nets for \$12, which includes education on how to use the net and follow-up later to ensure the nets are being used properly. Nets last for five years.

To accomplish this goal, I ask for your help and your full participation. We will need one "point person" from every parish/mission to manage this project. It can be your deacon or a committed lay person with a heart for this work. It is a short-term ministry opportunity, concluding at the end of Advent, 2008. All training and materials will be provided. Please identify and designate one "point person" from your church willing to serve. Send their name and contact information (including e-mail) to The Rev. Liz Meade, chair of our diocesan Deacons' Council, at galameade@aol.com **by Friday, August 15th**. Point people will coordinate our efforts to promote The Bishop's One- to-One Malaria Net Challenge during Advent, 2008. They will distribute gift cards to donors and see that the monies collected are documented and disbursed in a timely manner. Monies collected will be sent to Episcopal Relief & Development's NetsforLife© program before December 31, 2008. I am aware that several churches have already raised significant money for ERD this fiscal year by selling mosquito nets. If this is the case in your parish, please send the name of a key person willing to undertake this role, as we have some alternative suggestions for you this Advent.

As we head into gift-giving season, please join me, the Millennium Development Goals Task Force, and the deacons of the Diocese of Chicago as we challenge each other to give the gift of life this year. Imagine the awe of opening a card on Christmas morning this year and being told that you have just saved a life. Together, we can and will save 40,000 lives.

In Christ ,



The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee
Bishop of Chicago



CELEBRATING
AND SHARING
OUR FAITH