

Bishop Lee Issues His Challenge:

Achieve Universal Primary Education: Donate a School Uniform

Over 75 million children are barred from attending primary schools every year, two thirds of them are girls. Bishop Jeffrey Lee wants to change that and issued a challenge to the people of the Diocese of Chicago at Diocesan Convention in November: Send kids to school! To help us achieve universal primary education, we must provide children with the mandatory uniforms that they cannot afford to attend the "free" public schools. The challenge comes just as we head into gift-giving season.

Children who never attend school will never find a place establish a voice at the world's table. They will not learn to work collaboratively or to live into their God given potential. Schools are being built, but the only way a child can attend is if they have the money to pay the fees and to buy requisite uniforms. Each uniform costs \$12.



Village children with new uniforms will start school this year.

This fall, deacons of our diocese created a gift card that will be given to every person who donates a uniform. Think how such a card can simplify your Christmas shopping. These cards can be sent to everybody on your gift list: nieces, nephews, teachers, clergy, service providers – even that person whose name you draw for the office gift exchange! People receiving that card telling them that a child will attend school next year because of a donation you made in their honor. Imagine their pleasure. All monies for uniforms and fees fully tax deductible.

Look for a Bishop' Rep in your Parish. During Advent and through Lent, this person will be available to tell you more about universal primary education, and can help you to make a donation that will save a life. If you have no Bishop's Rep in your parish, please contact The Rev. Liz Meade, chair of the Bishop's Advisory Council on the Diaconate, at: GALAMEADE@aol.com to purchase cards.

If each of the 40,000 Episcopalians in the Diocese of Chicago would donate one school uniform, more than \$400,000 would be raised toward Goal Two of the Millennium Development Goals: achieving universal primary education.