

Bishop Issues

One-for-One Malaria Net Challenge



A child just given
protective
malaria net

During the MDG Summit held September 20 at St. Edmund's Episcopal Church, Chicago, Bishop Jeffrey Lee issued a challenge to the diocese: help end malaria by buying enough disease-preventing nets to represent every member of the Diocese of Chicago. The challenge comes just as we head into gift-giving season.

Over 3000 children die every day from malaria, most of them African children – that's a million people every year! Yet malaria is easily preventable. By sleeping under treated malaria nets, children and adults are protected from the mosquitoes which cause malaria. Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), through its [NetsforLife](#) program, sells these nets for \$12 each. The cost of an ERD net includes not only the net, but education in how to use it effectively, and follow up visits to ensure the nets are properly hung. Treated nets last for five years.

This fall, the diocese has created a gift card that will be given to every person who purchases a net. Think how nets 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 life has been saved in their honor will be touched – and grateful that they didn't receive your famous fruitcake! All nets purchased are fully tax deductible.

Look for a Nets Rep in your parish this fall. During Advent, this person will be giving presentations on malaria and encouraging you to buy malaria nets this year for people on your holiday gift lists. If you have no Nets Rep in your parish, please contact Deacon Liz Meade, Chair of the Bishop's Advisory Council on the Diaconate, at: GALAMEADE@aol.com to purchase cards or get a Nets Rep to come to your parish.

If each of the 40,000 Episcopalians in the Diocese of Chicago would buy one net, more than \$400,000 would be raised toward Goal Six of the Millennium Development Goals: combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Cards will also be available at Diocesan Convention.