

February 1, 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

Malaria kills nearly 1 million people every year. Four out of every five of those who die are children under the age of five in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria is spread by a common mosquito that thrives in more than 100 countries in the world. However, we can do something to stop this threat and save the lives of hundreds of thousands of children. By providing insecticide-treated bed nets through Episcopal Relief and Development's Nets For Life program, we can make a difference. These nets cost about \$10 each and can provide safety for up to 5 years.

I am writing to invite you and your parish to participate in a special Lenten activity for children in our diocese to help buy mosquito nets for the children of Africa. Find a place for the *Nets For Life* box in your church and encourage the children in your parish to fill it up as an offering to God from whom comes all good things, including protection from disease and hope for the future. We are also providing material that you may wish to use every Sunday in Lent with children to help them learn more about malaria, mosquitoes, and children's lives in malaria-threatened countries. This is a great way to help our children participate in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Here's how to get involved.

1. Go to www.ang-md.org/christian_formation/NetsForLife.php to download
 - background information about the Malaria and the Nets For Life program to share with your parish
 - a brief lesson plan for each Sunday in Lent, including photos, information that will connect with the children of your parish, a prayer, scripture passage, and questions for discussion. These are designed to be brief enough so that you can use these in addition to the curriculum you already have planned for Lent, or to be the basis of a children's homily
 - a sheet which you can place on a shoe box to make your "Nets For Life Box" Cut a hole in the lid of the shoe box so children can place the money into the box.
2. Collect the money during Lent from 1 Lent (March 1) through Palm Sunday (April 5). Loose coins can be taken to any Chevy Chase Bank branch and turned into bills. Make a check payable to the Diocese of Maryland, with "Nets For Life" in the memo line. Send your parish's collection to:

The Diocese of Maryland
4 E University Pkwy.
Baltimore, MD 21217
Attn: Nets For Life -- Children's Lent Project 2009

3. Contact The Rev. Amy Richter at arichter@ang-md.org (414-467-1399) to let us know that you plan to participate in the project, or if you want more information, or if you would prefer to have the materials mailed to you. If you would like a net to show to your congregation, there is one at the Diocesan Center (the Rev. Amy Richters office), another with the Rev. Betsy VanAuker (Lusby MD), and a third at St. Mark's Highland (the Rev. Madeleine Beard).

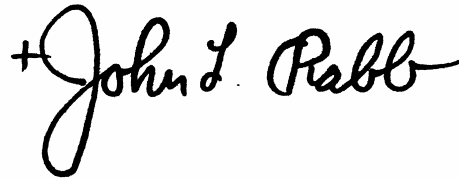
If you want to learn more about the MDGs, how the Diocese is participating, and how your congregation can join in this international effort to eliminate extreme poverty by 2015, contact Steve Howard at stevehoward.howard@gmail.com or Madeleine Beard+ at beardmcd@aol.com. You can find additional information about the MDGs at www.e4gr.org, about the Diocese's contribution to the MDGs at <http://globalmission.ang-md.org>, and about Nets For Life at www.netsforlifeafrica.org.

Thank you for helping us bring an end to malaria and making a difference for children in Africa.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene T. Sutton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

The Rt. Rev. Eugene T. Sutton
Bishop of Maryland

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John L. Rabb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

The Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb
Bishop Suffragan