

January 1, 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is a community in South Africa of about 2500 people who live on a garbage dump. The name of their community, Itipini, literally means “little garbage dump.” The people who live there are among the poorest of the poor in the world, and about 75% of the residents of Itipini are women and children. Despite their impoverished living circumstances, they are not without hope. A program is in place in Itipini to provide its residents with education, health care, and food.

I am writing to invite you and your parish to participate in a special Lenten activity for children in our diocese to help feed the children of Itipini. Find a place for the *Bread for Itipini* 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 nourishing food 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 children’s lives in Itipini, Mthatha, South Africa. This is a great way to help our children participate in the Millennium Development Goals.

This project is being undertaken in cooperation with St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Ellicott Mills, which has long been supporting African Medical Mission’s work in Itipini. This is one of the projects receiving funding in 2008 from the Global Mission Committee of the Diocese as part of the Diocesan mission to participate in the Millennium Development Goals. Additional information about African Medical Mission’s work can be found at <http://www.ammsa.org/itipiniproj.htm> , about the MDGs at www.e4gr.org and about the Diocese’s contribution to the MDGs at <http://globalmission.ang-md.org/> .

Here’s how to get involved.

1. Go to www.ang-md.org/christian_formation/itipini.php to download
 - background information about Itipini 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 “Bread box for Itipini.” Cut a hole in the lid of the shoe box so children can place the money into the box.
 - Bulletin inserts for your parish bulletin for each Sunday in Lent
2. Collect the change during Lent from 1 Lent (February 10) through Palm Sunday (March 16). 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 “Bread for Itipini” in the memo line. Send your parish’s collection to:

The Diocese of Maryland
4 E University Pkwy.
Baltimore, MD 21217
Attn: Bread for Itipini

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.

To learn more about Itipini contact the Rev. Kirk Kubicek at KKUB@aol.com.
Contact the Global Mission Committee through Steve Howard at stevehoward.howard@gmail.com or Madeleine Beard+ at beardmcd@aol.com 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.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our children and the children of Itipini.

Faithfully yours,

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

The Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb
Bishop-in-Charge