

“When we give to the poor what they need most we do not do an act of personal charity, but in fact we give them back what is rightfully theirs. We fulfill just a right duty rather than a charitable one”
(St. Gregory the Great)

Dear and reverend Fathers,
Beloved faithful,

We Christians, always attentive to our mission and to the precepts by which God wishes to share His life with us, are left with the desire to cultivate the relationships among ourselves, relationships that spring from the knowledge of those precepts and the understanding of our noble calling.

Saint Gregory the Great, and before him Saint John Chrysostom as well, being inspired by the Word of Jesus in the Gospels, teaches the people of God that helping the poor and needy is an obligation and not a charitable act.

“The possession of the property and goods – says St. Thomas – is private, the use of it is common, and in that sense the rich should not consider themselves the absolute masters of their goods, but rather the providence’s proxy; only that way the private property is legitimate.”

The goods out of the abundance given to the poor would, in any case, solve the poverty in the world? The response is this: The poverty would not disappear but the misery would. The poverty groups the people, the misery isolates them...poverty is relative – privation of the abundance, misery is the absolute – privation of the necessity.

Our fellow citizens from Moldova and Maramures find themselves in the situation of privation of what is necessary, who at the end of July were hit by catastrophic floods which have caused them to lose their entire livelihood.

In the face of such suffering and need, we are obliged, beloved faithful, to act and prove ourselves through acts of charity that we are sensible towards our fellow human beings in their trouble.

Therefore, we ask all the clergy of our Archeparchy to read this letter Sunday August 17, 2008 in all our churches and organize themselves to do a special collection for this action for the entire month of August. The money collected will be remitted to the Catholic Charity organizations of Maramures and Iasi to help them in their work in flood relief.

The Metropolitan Catholic Charity was empowered to coordinate this humanitarian action, where I am asking each priest to send their remittance collected at their parish as soon as possible.

Note: all money collected will be deposited into the account of the Blaj Metropolitan Catholic Charity Organization: Romanian Commercial Bank Blaj; account number: RO74RNCB0007001695460001. This account number can be given to other individuals who would like to make private donations for this action.

Blaj, August 6, 2008
Press Office of the Blaj Metropolitan Seat