Episcopal Relief and Development is the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. Taking its mandate from Jesus’ words in Matthew 25, Episcopal Relief and Development, together with the worldwide Church and ecumenical partners, works towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Episcopal Relief and Development strengthens communities today to meet tomorrow’s challenges by rebuilding after disasters and creating lasting solutions to end poverty, hunger and disease.

To encourage greater awareness of this work, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has designated February 10, the first Sunday of Lent, as Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday. The Presiding Bishop asks all Episcopalians to take an active part in the Episcopal Church’s ongoing commitment to fight extreme poverty and disease.

One way for church member to participate in Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday is to make a contribution to the Millennium Development Goals Inspiration Fund. It’s a simple way for congregations to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
A message from the Presiding Bishop:

Episcopal Relief and Development plays a significant role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Why? Simply put, churches and other faith-based institutions in the developing world are equipped to fight poverty and disease in ways that few other organizations can, because of their deep reach into local communities and their relationships of trust with millions of people.

Episcopal Relief and Development gives Episcopalians the special opportunity to partner with the worldwide Church and people around the world who are addressing challenging issues in their communities. This work is worthy of the support of all Episcopalians, and the beginning of Lent is an ideal time for us to renew our collective commitment to it.

On February 10 please dedicate a special Lenten offering and prayer for the work of Episcopal Relief and Development, designated for the Millennium Development Goals Inspiration Fund.

With prayers for a holy Lent, I remain

Your servant in Christ,
Kateharine Jefferts Schori

The goal of Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday is to encourage churches to collect special offerings in support of the Millennium Development Goals Inspiration Fund, which focuses on fighting deadly diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS and providing basic health care in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

For more information about the work of Episcopal Relief and Development, or to make a contribution to the Millennium Development Goals Inspiration Fund, visit www.er-d.org

To learn more about the MDG Inspiration Fund and what you can do to help, visit www.er-d.org/mdgif

To learn more about how you can help inspire the government of the United States to increase support for the MDGs, visit www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE

For the full text of Bishop Jefferts Schori’s letter designating February 10 as ERD Sunday, visit www.episcopalchurch.org/ens.