

Dear Friends,

In response to the devastating category four hurricane that hit southeast Texas and Louisiana, numerous Catholic diocese and charities are mobilizing to help the victims. Catholic Charities USA, as well as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Services, are among those going to the aid of the storms victims. To assist them Cardinal Wuerl is calling for a special collection to be taken up this weekend. The collection will be used to both support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to impacted dioceses.

In the words of Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the archbishop of Galveston-Houston,

“Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast in a catastrophic and devastating way . . . bringing with it severe flooding and high winds which have taken human life, caused countless injuries, and severely damaged homes and property throughout the region. The effects of this storm continue to put people in harm’s way, with horrific scenes playing out all around, such as those of people trapped on their rooftops as water continues to rise around them. Many dioceses of the Church in the United States have been affected; many others will be as the storm continues.

As the Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, this crisis hits very close to home. In solidarity with my brother bishops in this area of the country, I call on people of faith to pray for all of those who have been impacted by this Hurricane, and I ask people of good will to stand with the victims and their families. May God, the Lord of mercy and compassion, protect all who are still in danger, and bring to safety those who are missing. May He care in a special way for those who were already homeless, or without support and resources, before this disaster. We pray in thanksgiving for the first responders who are risking their lives to save others at this very moment. We include in our intentions the everyday heroes reaching out to help their neighbors in need, those who, like the Good Samaritan, cannot walk by a person in need without offering their hand in aid.”

On behalf of the millions of people your donations will assist, thank you for your generosity. As Texas and Louisiana begin the clean-up and healing from this powerful storm, let us pray for those who have died and for their families, as well as for everyone who lost their homes and businesses. May God’s blessings and presence be seen and experienced by the people of Texas and Louisiana in the aftermath of this tragedy.

Peace and blessings,  
Fr. John