



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 29, 2017

Dear Fathers and Pastoral Life Directors,

The news of the historic flooding in southeast Texas resulting from Hurricane Harvey is a cause for great sadness and empathy, especially for those who have lost loved ones, homes and are in the midst of great suffering.

Yesterday, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops announced an emergency collection to assist the victims of Hurricane Harvey. Just as we have done following similar tragedies, I ask that you take up a special collection as soon as possible to collect funds to contribute to aid in the recovery effort in Texas. Proceeds from the collection are to be sent by parishes to the Division of Fiscal Services at the Catholic Center, with "Hurricane Relief" written on the check.

This emergency collection will be used to support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to impacted dioceses through the USCCB.

While financial help is needed, so too are prayers. Please include in your Mass intentions the suffering people in Texas, as well as first responders, volunteers and all who are assisting the Gulf Coast region in countless ways.

Thank you for considering these requests and please convey to your parishioners my gratitude for their generous gifts of spiritual and temporal wealth for the benefit of God's people in Texas.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore