



August 29, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The images of the devastation and flooding from Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Harvey are catastrophic and heart wrenching. And with much more rain in the forecasts, there are fears that the death toll will rise and damages will approach the disastrous levels of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, who is also the Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, has asked for prayers for his archdiocese and the other dioceses in Texas that have suffered the brunt of this storm.

I join Cardinal DiNardo and my brother bishops in those prayers and ask for you to pray for the millions of people who are being impacted by this storm and who will need our help to put their lives back together when the storm is over.

May God protect them and care for them. May God also protect the many men and women, some private citizens, who are putting their lives at risk to help and rescue their neighbors.

The USCCB is working closely with the local dioceses, Catholic Charities USA and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, along with other relief organizations, to assess recovery needs. Recovery will be a long term effort, and your help will be needed long after the storm has passed.

The USCCB has asked all dioceses in the country to take a special collection to support disaster relief efforts in Houston and along the Gulf Coast. **The Diocese of Greensburg will take that collection at all Masses the weekend of Sept. 16-17.** Funds given to the collection will support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities USA and will provide pastoral and rebuilding support to impacted dioceses through the USCCB.

You may also contribute directly to Catholic Charities USA at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Edward C. Malesic

The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL
Bishop of Greensburg