

## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

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Dear Friends,

August brought record amounts of rainfall that caused thousands of homes and many businesses throughout Louisiana to be submerged in water. Now with the receding water, we have seen the soggy devastation and heard the stories of people who have lost so much.

From our own experience with natural disasters in Arkansas, we know the immediate and longterm recovery needs of the people in the flooded communities in Louisiana will be great and difficult to meet on their own.

In response, Catholics in all dioceses of our country, as the body of Christ, are being asked to respond with an emergency collection "to support the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to impacted Catholic dioceses." For this reason, I am inviting all the parishes in our diocese to take up a collection to assist in this recovery effort.

I know that you will respond generously with love to the needs of our hurting sisters and brothers in Christ in Louisiana in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, and for this I thank you. I also ask that you join me in continuing to lift up in prayer all who are facing the daunting task of recovering and rebuilding their lives and flood-ravaged communities.

Yours in Christ.

+Anthony **B**. Taylor Bishop of Little Rock