



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

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August 29, 2017

Dear friends,

Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the Texas coast August 25 and has since caused catastrophic devastation to people's lives and livelihoods. This incredibly destructive storm has been called "historic" and "unprecedented" for its 130 mph winds and excessive rainfall measured in feet.

We have all seen the images of people wading through high flood waters, some holding tight to loved ones or pets, homes and businesses under water, and heroic rescue efforts by first responders and volunteers. And tragically lives have been lost. Seeing these moving images compel us to want to do something.

While we all cannot travel to Texas to provide aid first hand, we can help those in need by giving generously to a special collection that will be taken up at this Mass and at all the Masses this weekend in our diocese. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will use this emergency collection "both to support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to impacted Catholic dioceses."

There are thousands of people in Texas who have been displaced and must depend on the generosity and love of their brothers and sisters in Christ. And we in Arkansas know all too well what they are facing as the long-term recovery process because of our own rebuilding experiences after tornados and flooding.

Let us commit to lift up in our prayers those who face a daunting recovery effort, especially that they not lose hope. May they be sustained by God's love through good people like yourselves who care about them. And I thank you for your generosity and prayers.

Yours in Christ,

+Anthony B. Taylor
Bishop of Little Rock