

Dear Brother in Christ,

I write today to provide you with updates and will continue to share with you information as needed.

Natural Disaster Special Collection Request

As you know, in recent months there have been natural disasters, such as the earthquake in Haiti, the flash floods in Middle Tennessee, and most recently, Hurricane Ida, which caused devastation in Louisiana, Mississippi and the East Coast of the United States. These, and many other areas, suffered great loss of life and the work of rebuilding communities will last years.

The faithful of our Church of Washington have many ties to these areas affected by the recent devastation and have always been generous to those in need, particularly when there have been natural disasters as have occurred recently. The Pastoral Center, at the request of Cardinal Gregory, has already sent financial support to Haiti through CRS and to the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in Louisiana.

In response to the continued enormous need, parishes are asked to support relief efforts for these recent Natural Disasters by taking up a special collection during the weekend of **October 2 and 3, 2021**. Funds from the poor box may be also designated for this purpose.

All funds collected by the parish should be processed in the normal fashion for second collections and sent to the Archdiocese of Washington Lock Box with a deposit slip marked Disaster Relief.

All funds received by the archdiocese will be used to support the rebuilding efforts in the areas affected by natural disasters. Please also share with parishioners that they can give online in support of natural disaster relief by visiting **adw.org/relief**.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please keep those affected by these recent tragedies in your prayers, including the prayers of the faithful.

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly. Please see <u>adw.org/coronavirus</u> for information related to the coronavirus, <u>adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/</u> for a listing of live stream Masses and prayers, and <u>cathstan.org</u> and <u>elpreg.org</u> for the *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers.

As always, should you have questions or need assistance from my office and the Pastoral Center, please let us know.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am Sincerely in Christ, Very Reverend Daniel B. Carson Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia