

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



Memo

Date: August 25, 2017
To: Priests, Deacons, Brothers, and Sisters
From: ‡ Wilton D. Gregory, *Archbishop of Atlanta*
Re: Hurricane Harvey Response

As Hurricane Harvey continues to devastate parts of Texas, I remind you once again that, as pastors and administrators of our parishes and missions in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, you are authorized and encouraged to act immediately when these tragic natural disasters occur.

Please promote ways for your parish faith community to assist during announcements at Masses, in your bulletin, on your website and social media, and on video monitors.

While special collections are still a wonderful way for our parish communities to express their solidarity with and support for those affected, more and more people choose to contribute electronically when these needs arise.

If you receive questions about where to donate securely online to assist those affected by Hurricane Harvey, please share that electronic donations may be made and parish collections may be directed to <https://catholiccharitiesusa.org/>. They and their member agencies respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter and medical care, as well as to the long-term need to rebuild and recover after widespread destruction. They also assist the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church.

Catholic Charities USA can be contacted through their <https://catholiccharitiesusa.org/>, by phone at 800-919-9338, or by mail:

Catholic Charities USA

P.O. Box 17066

Baltimore, MD 21297-1066

Please encourage your parishioners to respond as generously as possible. The important thing is not the way our Catholic families participate, but rather that they do. The people of God in our Archdiocese are always incredibly generous in responding during these difficult moments.

Please continue to pray for all those left in Hurricane Harvey's wake and all who remain in its path.

On behalf of Catholic Charities USA and all who rely on and benefit from your extraordinary kindness, thank you in advance.