

## HAITI AND HURRICANE IDA RELIEF COLLECTIONS

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The news has been filled with heart rending images concerning the devastation caused by recent natural disasters including the earthquake and Tropical Storm Grace in Haiti and Hurricane Ida which severely impacted the Gulf Coast causing extreme damage not only there, but in a number of states up and down the East Coast. Sadly, and tragically, many lives have been lost as well, and the effects of these disasters will be felt by many for a long time to come. Along with homes and businesses, many Church properties have been extensively damaged or destroyed. As the community of the Church we continue to pray for all of those who have been adversely affected, and now, we are being asked by the bishops of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), and Archbishop Etienne to support the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund with critically needed financial assistance for humanitarian relief and rebuilding efforts throughout what will be an extended period of recovery in Haiti and in our own country.

As part of the response of a unified Church, our parish will be taking up emergency collections for both calamities beginning this weekend so that those in need can receive assistance quickly. As Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, head of the USCCB writes to all bishops: “The funds collected in [these] special appeal[s] will become part of the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund and will be used to support the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church as well as the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and/or Catholic Relief Services, the official relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church, as they and their local agencies respond to immediate emergency needs and aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts. Funds will be used in response to the hurricane[s] and the impact of subsequent flooding and tornados and any other disasters that occur and will be distributed where they are most needed. However, if such purpose(s) become unnecessary, impractical, or impossible to fill, USCCB may use such contributions for other emergency disaster relief where it is most needed as determined by the Committee on National Collections using its emergency response protocol.”

The funds that you donate in these special collections will be used for Haiti and Hurricane Ida relief because the need is so great! If you are able to give a donation, we will have plain white envelopes available in the narthex in which you can place your gift, or you may bring your own envelope, or mail in a contribution. Please designate where you would like your gift to go – either to Haiti relief or Hurricane Ida relief and mark this clearly of the outside of the envelope. If you are giving to both relief efforts, please use two envelopes so that we can keep the contributions separate for each collection when we remit the monies to the archdiocese. As another option for giving is to give directly through the Archdiocese website use this link for the [“Haiti relief efforts”](#) and/or use this link for the [“Hurricane Ida relief efforts”](#).

Our Holy Trinity Parish family have always been most generous in their giving because of their deep care for those who suffer and are in great need. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, I thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration, sacrificial giving, and for your love for our brothers and sisters in the human family. May God bless you as you bless others!

In Christ’s Peace

*Veronica Kelley*

Pastoral Coordinator)