



September 20, 2017

My brother priests:

I am writing to you today to once again ask that our parishes take up an emergency collection for those impacted by the hurricanes in the southern part of our country, and in particular those affected by Hurricane Irma.

I am aware that this call comes on the heels of the emergency collection for Hurricane Harvey. That storm, which hit Texas and Louisiana and held on for days before moving inland, caused catastrophic damage and compelled us to respond. Likewise, Hurricane Irma has been devastating, and our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean, especially the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, and the southern US need our help.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the families that have lost loved ones and to all who have lost homes and businesses along with their sense of peace and normalcy. We also stand with our brother pastors in the region who have the difficult task of providing pastoral care in these most trying times while managing their own losses. Our prayerful and financial support is urgently needed.

I ask that this emergency collection be taken the weekend of September 30-October 1. The funds will be used both to support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to impacted dioceses.

Please remit the emergency collection to our Finance Office as soon as possible.<sup>[1]</sup> Checks can be made payable to the "Diocese of Joliet"<sup>1</sup> The Finance Office will accumulate and forward these funds to the Catholic Charities USA, Disaster Relief Fund.

Please know that I am grateful for your many actions of generosity and prayerful solidarity. May the Lord bless you and those who are dear to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Daniel Conlon".

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon  
Bishop of Joliet

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