

BISHOP'S OFFICE
PASTORAL CENTER
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TO: Pastors, Parish Life Directors and Administrators
FROM: Howard J. Hubbard + *HJH*
DATE: January 13, 2010

I am attaching the most recent information we are able to share with you about the earthquake in Haiti.

This statement explains what has occurred, how Catholic Relief Services is responding, how people can help, a bulletin insert and prayer.

In light of the massive loss of lives and property, and the plea both from Cardinal George, the President of our Bishops' Conference, and Archbishop Dolan, the President of Catholic Relief Service, I ask that you take a special collection for the people of Haiti on the weekend of January 16-17.

For more information contact: Mary Olsen, Diocesan Disaster Response, Catholic Charities (518) 453-6650 (mary.olsen@rcda.org).

Haiti Earthquake

January 13, 2010

Situation: A 7.0 magnitude earthquake has ravaged the island nation of Haiti. The quake occurred 10 miles southwest of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince just before 5pm EST (Haiti is also on EST). Port-au-Prince, with a population of over 2 million, has been devastated. CRS Country Representative Karel Zelenka reports that "Port-au-Prince was covered with a plume of dust from damaged buildings. We should be prepared for many thousands of dead and injured."

The CRS offices were shaken, with some damage to the compound walls, but there were no injuries in the building. Two CRS staff members remain unaccounted for. Communication with Haiti remains very difficult.

There are also recently confirmed reports that the Archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Monsignor Joseph Serge Miot, was a victim of the quake. The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Port-au-Prince has sustained severe damage.

CRS Response:

CRS has made an initial commitment of 5 million dollars for immediate use in the relief effort. Our agency is geared up for a major emergency response to this severe disaster. CRS is mobilizing food and gearing up our emergency capacity, and deploying prepositioned emergency shelter and hygiene kits in Haiti, as well as bringing supplies in from the neighboring Dominican Republic.

How to Help:

Donate to: Catholic Charities (100% of donations go to CRS)

Write a check: Catholic Charities
Haiti Earthquake
40 North Main Avenue
Albany, New York 12203

Memo portion of check: Haiti Earthquake

Information for Church Bulletins:

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, is responding to victims of the massive earthquake in Haiti. To donate, please send a check to Catholic Charities, 40 North Main Avenue, Albany, New York 12203. In the memo portion of your check, please write: **Haiti Earthquake.** 100% of donations go to CRS. Contact Catholic Charities – 518-453-6650

Haiti Earthquake

January 13, 2010

Prayer

God of all creation, as we weep with our family in Haiti, console us.
In this time of crisis, open our eyes to look beyond the disaster
to see Christ in our brothers and sisters in Haiti, as Christ sees us.
Be with us as we stand in solidarity with those living and working in Haiti.
Be with us in our mourning and guide our efforts to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless,
comfort the grieving and stand for justice.
With your mercy, sustain us at this time as we continue to work for peace and justice.
Amen.

For our Brothers and Sisters in Haiti Affected by the Earthquake

Lord, hear our prayer.
For the Haitian people, that help comes to them quickly and comfort comes to those who hurt.
Lord, hear our prayer.
For the lost or buried, that they are found and reunited with their loved ones.
Lord, hear our prayers.
For the relief workers, that they have the tools they need, the courage and the strength to respond
fully.
Lord, hear our prayers.
For the families in Haiti and in the United States who are waiting to hear from loved one, that
good news comes to them.
Lord, hear our prayers.
For those whose who have perished, may their souls rest with you, oh Lord, where they will find
eternal love.
Amen.