



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE
OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY
DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

**STATEMENT OF THE MOST REVEREND JEROME E. LISTECKI
ON HURRICANE KATRINA**

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have all been overwhelmed by the pictures of New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Over half a million people have been displaced, and many more will be affected in the coming weeks. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked us to take up a national collection, and now I bring this request to you, the parishes of the Diocese of La Crosse. At some point in the next few weeks, I ask you to take a special collection for the relief of our suffering brothers and sisters affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Catholic Charities USA will be among the primary responders, in collaboration with diocesan Catholic Charities in the region. They have professional and well-developed system of reviewing the needs and providing help where it can accomplish the most good. I ask you therefore to designate your funds for "Catholic Charities USA," indicating in the memorandum "2005 Hurricane Relief Fund." Please remind your parishioners that they should not write checks to Catholic Relief Services, which works outside the United States.

Please send all checks to the central office of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 266, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 54602-0266. All funds will be forwarded from there to Catholic Charities USA.

Also, please let parishioners know that they can donate online at:

www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/news/katrina.cfm; or over the phone at: 1 (800) 919-9338. Most

of all, I ask for your prayers for the people affected by Hurricane Katrina, that God may console and strengthen the living, and give eternal repose to the dead.

With gratitude for the work of your ministry, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+The Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse