



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE
OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY
DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE & CATHOLIC CHARITIES
FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

It is with great concern that the Roman Catholic Diocese of La Crosse and *Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse* have been following the devastation that has resulted from the tremendous rainfall and flooding in several areas of Southwestern Wisconsin. Several of the hardest hit areas lie within the boundaries of the Diocese of La Crosse. Many of the faithful of the Diocese as well as some of the parishes of the Diocese have also been affected. (For example, Father Robert Chukwu, a priest assigned to St. Mary's Catholic Parish in Gays Mills was evacuated from the rectory by boat.)

Over the last few days, the Diocese of La Crosse and *Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse* have been busy organizing relief efforts for the victims of the flooding and affected areas. ***Catholic Charities will head the relief efforts on behalf of the Diocese of La Crosse.***

Aside from providing services from the *Catholic Charities* offices in La Crosse, plans are underway to establish temporary emergency relief locations in Viroqua at the **Living Faith Church** beginning today. Beginning tomorrow, August 24, 2007, the Executive Director of

Catholic Charities, Deacon Richard Sage, will be in **Gays Mills** to establish a relief location yet to be determined.

Beginning on Saturday, August 25, 2007, a temporary relief location will be established at **St. Patrick Catholic Church** in Seneca.

Those who are in need of assistance can be in touch with any of these locations.

Catholic Charities has established a relief fund for those affected by the storms. Donations designated “**Catholic Charities Relief Fund**” can be made to local Catholic parishes which will forward them to the Catholic Charities Relief Fund. Donations may also be made payable to and directly sent to *Catholic Charities* at:

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FLOOD RELIEF
P.O. BOX 266
LA CROSSE, WI 54602-0266

In addition, the Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI, Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse, has sent a message to the parishes of the Diocese requesting that a **special appeal and collection** be made in all the parishes of the Diocese of La Crosse as soon as possible for this urgent need. **All the funds collected will go to the Catholic Charities Flood Relief fund which will go directly to the people affected by the storms.**

In his message to the parishes, Bishop ListECKI writes:

“We must reach out to our neighbors in need and provide whatever relief and assistance that we can. Jesus...has given us his perfect example.

“Please remember those affected by this natural disaster in the intercessory prayers during Mass. May our Lord’s unlimited compassion be a source of consolation and hope.”

This information as well as Bishop ListECKI’s full letter will be made available on the Diocesan website at www.dioceseoflacrosse.com

Benedict T. Nguyen, M.T.S., J.C.L.
Chancellor / Director of Communications
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