



Office of the Bishop
Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock

August 30, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Wednesday, August 30, 2017, the Bishops of Texas engaged in a conference call to assess the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. At the time of the call the Diocese of Beaumont was in the throes of the storm's second landfall. The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston was anticipating a second wave of flooding at any time. The Diocese of Corpus Christi, Victoria and Austin all weighed in on damage to their properties and expressed explicit concern for their families who are so negatively impacted by the storm. The Catholic School in Rockport is expected to be closed for six to eight weeks. Parish facilities in Dickson have been virtually destroyed. St. Ignatius Church in Spring has five to six feet of water inside the building. Fort Bend County has had 40,000 homes totally destroyed. Port Arthur has been evacuated and damage to communities south of interstate 10 east of Houston has yet to be assessed. Thirty-five (35) motherhouses and monasteries in the state have been impacted by the storm. Evacuees are fleeing to shelter in large cities throughout the state (Ft. Worth alone is expecting 40,000 evacuees). A conservative estimate is that more than 200,000 people have been displaced; and that figure is expected to rise considerably.

Great solidarity with the dioceses impacted by the storm was expressed by all the bishops of the state. Offers of generous assistance are forthcoming from innumerable sources. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has said, "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."

Most Reverend Robert M. Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock

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The entire country is aware of the need for prayerful and financial support for those impacted in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Thus the US Bishops' Conference has called for an emergency collection to be taken in every diocese throughout the country. The Diocese of Lubbock will take the collection on the weekend of September 9-10. This emergency collection will be used to support both humanitarian needs and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral rebuilding support impacted dioceses through the USCCB.

In addition to financial support, special prayer support is in order. Catholics throughout Texas will be gathering in churches on Thursday evening, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. for Holy Hours, Eucharistic Adoration, praying the Rosary and the offering of other forms of prayerful support for those whose lives have been disrupted by the storm. I would encourage the Faithful of the Diocese of Lubbock to join in such prayer in your parishes, in your homes, as families and as individuals.

Please continue to follow the various Catholic media sources for updates on the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and especially the people whose lives have been effected. The need for spiritual and material support will probably continue for months to come. Let us all make a commitment to be financially and spiritually generous on behalf of our brothers and sisters in the Gulf Coast of our state.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Robert M. Coerver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Robert M. Coerver
Bishop of Lubbock

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