



Office of the President

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Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of New York
President

November 11, 2013

My brother bishops:

Over the past few days, one of the most powerful storms ever recorded destroyed entire villages and devastated cities across Philippines and Vietnam. More than as 10,000 people are feared dead in Super Typhoon Haiyan and more than 9 million people have been affected. The full extent of structural damage is still unknown.

Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of our brothers and sisters affected by this powerful storm. To complicate this situation, Typhoon Haiyan follows on the heels of a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in the same region just a month ago. Citizens in this Pacific Island country are already displaced and have been hurt even more. The local government and church institutions cannot manage the magnitude of this disaster on their own. Those affected need our help.

To this end, I request that you encourage your pastors to take up a second collection for our affected brethren and the Church of the region affected as soon as possible. These funds will then be used to support the efforts of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services (our official international humanitarian agency representing the U.S. Catholic Church) as we respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter and medical care and assist in the long-term recovery from the disaster. Collection funds will also be used to support the long-term need to rebuild the Church after widespread destruction.

Catholic Relief Services has already begun to embark on a major emergency response to this severe disaster and has committed funds to extended relief efforts. Your help and the help of the Catholic community of the United States are urgently needed. Additional information on the U.S. Catholic community's response to this emergency and how U.S. Catholics can help can be found at www.crs.org and www.usccb.org.

On the weekend of November 23-24 many dioceses are scheduled to take up the **Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development**. This Collection is vitally important for our ability to fight the roots of poverty in the United States. We urge that you use both of these opportunities to express our solidarity and our loving support for our brothers and sisters in need and ask you not to substitute one collection for the other.

With assurances of my sincere gratitude for your generous and timely response to the great needs we now face, I am

Fraternally in Christ,

Cardinal Timothy Dolan
Archbishop of New York
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops