

Catholic Charities Disaster Update



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Youngstown
Providing Help. Creating Hope.

DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN

February 2006

Brian R. Corbin, Local Disaster Response Coordinator..... 330-744-8451, ext. 320
Executive Director of Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Youngstown reports that as of 2/13/06 over \$476,383 has been collected locally for long-term recovery efforts in response to hurricanes Katrina and \$5,180 for the CRS Pakistan Earthquake Disaster Fund.

Donations are still being accepted and may be sent to:
Catholic Charities Disaster Funds
144 West Wood Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503

Please make your check payable to:
Catholic Charities Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Fund, or
Catholic Charities Pakistan Earthquake Disaster Fund

HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE UPDATE

Catholic Charities USA is collecting financial donations to Catholic Charities agencies' emergency and long-term recovery efforts in the wake of both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. Catholic Charities USA is consistently ranked among the highest and most efficient organizations across the country. Approximately 96 percent of contributions made to the 2005 Hurricane Relief Fund will be used for emergency response and recovery efforts. Read more about Catholic Charities recovery work at <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/news/katrina/agencies.cfm>.

New Orleans—Testifying before the first field hearing in New Orleans held by a Congressional committee following Hurricane Katrina, James R. Kelly, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, today called on Congress to ensure that mixed-income neighborhoods are an essential part of the city's rebuilding efforts,

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"Operation Helping Hands"
work team from Leetonia St. Patrick Church
spent four days gutting flood damaged homes
between Christmas and New Years.

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“Rebuilding should be carried out in a manner that treats the area’s poorest citizens with the same respect and dignity as the more affluent. High ground should be set aside for the poor and the rich – both black and white. Mixed-income neighborhoods are critical to a successful future. Without government intervention and assistance, the market will not be kind to the less fortunate,” testified Kelly before the House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. Chaired by Rep. Robert W. Ney (OH), the subcommittee is holding two field hearings this week as part of a continuing series of hearings on housing options in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Prior to Katrina, 20 percent of New Orleans’ citizens lived below the poverty line, including 30 percent of the children and 47 percent of African Americans. Sixty percent of the residents of New Orleans were renters and only 40 percent were homeowners – the opposite of the national average. In the wake of Katrina, two-thirds of the city’s housing units were flooded, approximately 120,000 out of 180,000. There were an estimated 327,000 flood victims, 77 percent of whom were African American.

“Today, thousands of people are living in hotels and motels. Thousands have moved in with family and friends – often more than two or three families per apartment,” said Kelly. “How can we begin to help people put their lives back together – get a job, child care or school for their kids, medical assistance, and the critical mental health that is so desperately needed – if they don’t have a place to call their own and a place to begin healing? They are in dire need of temporary trailers, of housing waivers, of more options. Their brave spirits are in need of hope – of a plan for tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year.”

Pakistan Earthquake Response Update

CRS Targets Remote Villages for Shelter Assistance

January 6, 2006, Islamabad, Pakistan - In the weeks immediately following the earthquake, CRS has distributed much needed emergency relief items and is working with local partners to conduct in-depth assessments to determine coping strategies and priority needs. CRS has already assessed over 150 villages and has distributed 10,000 shelter kits. Reaching the majority of these villages it requires several hours of walking from the main road at elevations of over 5,000 feet.

Winterized Shelter

With harsh winter conditions already developing, CRS is focused on providing adequate winterized shelters to upwards of 20,000 households. After delivering over 5,000 winterized tents within a month after the earthquake, CRS transitioned its response to the provision of more durable forms of transitional shelter. The initial model was a barrel-vaulted transitional shelter that is constructed by stretching cloth-lined plastic sheeting over arched plastic tubing. Materials are available locally and have been distributed to an initial 2,500 households.



The other alternative created by CRS consists of a wooden frame formed around stone walls with metal sheeting serving as a roof. CRS anticipates providing resources for households to build these framed transitional structures. CRS is working with communities to build demonstration shelters that can be used to teach local workers to build additional shelters. To date, CRS has worked with partners to distribute shelter kits to over 9,400 households at a rate of up to 300 per day, making this the largest and most rapid emergency shelter distribution in the agency's history.

Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for March / April

March 5, 2006 (1st Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of baptism...that the people place their gifts, their resources – their selves – at God's service in and through the Church.

March 19, 2006 (3rd Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"You shall not covet" is perhaps a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer society, but as Christian stewards, we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. May this understanding that *all* is gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.

March 26, 2006 (4th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading, "created in Christ Jesus to lead the life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance.

April 2, 2006 (5th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"If anyone would serve me," says Jesus in today's Gospel, "let him follow me, where I am, there will my servant be," In what ways is Jesus inviting me to follow Him? What service is He asking of me?

April 9, 2006 (Passion Sunday)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Good stewards strive to conform their lives to that of Christ – emptying themselves of all pride and putting themselves at the service of others.

April 23, 2006 (2nd Sunday of Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The Christian community described in Acts today understood and practiced stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything in common, and distributed to each whatever was needed.

March 12, 2006 (2nd Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. St. Paul reminds us that God Himself "did not spare his own Son." Are *my* gifts to the Lord – of my resources, of my time, of myself – also sacrificial?

OR
March 19, 2006 (3rd Sunday of Lent YEAR A)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives.

OR
March 26, 2006 (4th Sunday of Lent YEAR A)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The blind man in today's Gospel was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message. Spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

OR
April 2, 2006 (5th Sunday of Lent YEAR A)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it," Every aspect of our lives-our sufferings as well as our gifts- can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessings for ourselves and others.

April 16, 2006 (Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Alleluia! Christ is risen and is victorious over sin and death! We are good stewards of our faith if, like St. Paul, we share this good news whenever and wherever we can.

April 30, 2006 (3rd Sunday of Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The disciples in today's Gospel came to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread. When we share what we have with those who are in need, we too, will discover Jesus in our midst.

Intercessions for Life

MARCH 2006

March 5th FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

For doctors and all who have assisted
in the abortion of a child,
or in the suicide of a person who was old or weak:
that they might turn from the shadow of death
and embrace the light of the Gospel of Life;
We pray to the Lord:

March 12th SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

For those who are old and sick and in pain:
that they might seek solace in the cross of Christ,
and trust every day in our love and respect
for the great gift which they are to us;
We pray to the Lord:

March 19th THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

That through the intercession of Our Lady of the
Annunciation,
all expectant mothers might trust
in the love of God for the child in their womb;
We pray to the Lord:

March 26th FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

That God might give us the grace
to repent of all sins against life,
to renounce all shadows of the culture of death
and to rejoice in the Gospel of Life which God has given to us;
We pray to the Lord:



“None of us knows what will happen on our planet, in our Europe, in the next 50, 60 or 70 years, but there is something of which we are certain: that the family of God will always be present and that those who belong to this family are never alone, but have the sure friendship of him who is life.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Homily for the Baptism of the Lord, 2006

MARCH 2006: BULLETIN BRIEFS

Prepared by the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities

God already sees the entire future of [the] embryo, still "unformed substance." ... The days which that creature will live and fill with deeds throughout his earthly existence are already written in the Lord's book of life. ... [The] greatness of this little unborn human creature, formed by God's hands and surrounded by his love ... [is] a biblical tribute to the human being from the first moment of his existence.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address, Wednesday General Audience, Dec. 28, 2005 (reflecting on Psalm 139)

Dios ya ve todo el futuro de ese embrión aún "informe": en el libro de la vida del Señor ya están escritos los días que esa criatura vivirá y colmará de obras durante su existencia terrena. También se manifiesta la grandeza de esta pequeña criatura humana, que aún no ha nacido, formada por las manos de Dios y envuelta en su amor: un elogio bíblico del ser humano desde el primer momento de su existencia.

Papa Benedicto XVI, discurso en la Audiencia General, miércoles 28 de diciembre de 2005 (reflexión sobre el salmo 139)

Children truly are the family's greatest treasure and most precious good.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address at Meeting on Family and Life Issues in Latin America, Dec. 3, 2005

Los hijos son la mayor riqueza y el bien máspreciado de la familia.

Papa Benedicto XVI,
discurso a los presidentes de las comisiones episcopales para la familia y la vida de América Latina, 3 de diciembre

[Everyone] must be helped to become aware of the intrinsic evil of the crime of abortion. In attacking human life in its very first stages, it is also an aggression against society itself. Politicians and legislators, therefore, as servants of the common good, are duty bound to defend the fundamental right to life, the fruit of God's love.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address at Meeting on Family & Life Issues in Latin America, Dec. 3, 2005